



North Carolina History Education Center - 2010

Tryon Palace Historic Sites & Gardens' mission is to engage present and future generations in the history of North Carolina from early settlement and development of statehood through the mid twentieth century by collecting, interpreting and preserving objects, buildings, landscapes and events that enrich understanding of the making of our state and nation.

With this mission in mind, Tryon Palace Historic Sites and Gardens will open the North Carolina History Education Center during the City of New Bern's 300th anniversary in 2010. The new center will encompass 48,000 square feet on six acres adjacent to the Palace gardens and Trent River. Visitors will find four major history museum galleries, a performance hall, other educational and conference spaces, and a waterfront exhibit and event area. The History Education Center's Great Hall and orientation area will become the new entry and introduction to all of Tryon Palace's historic attractions.

As a green project, the History Education Center will filter storm water run-off from an approximately 40-acre area of downtown New Bern, feature a cistern to recycle storm water runoff for landscape irrigation, and utilize recycled building materials.

With a \$35 million commitment in its 2007 budget, the North Carolina General Assembly has secured the opening of the North Carolina History Education Center. The state's

commitment to the \$60.6 million project brings its total to \$42.7 million, which has been matched by \$1.5 million from the City of New Bern and \$1.3 million from Craven County. Other public grants include \$1 million from the Clean Water Management Trust Fund, \$1 million from Golden LEAF Foundation, \$147,000 from Save America's Treasures, and \$75,000 from the Environmental Protection Agency.

Board members of Tryon Palace Historic Sites & Gardens have committed \$6.4 million. Other significant funding includes \$1 million from PepsiCo, \$1 million from the Harold H. Bate Foundation; a \$1 million endowment from the Robert P. Holding Foundation and First Citizens Bank; \$500,000 from the Cannon Foundation; and gifts from individuals ranging from \$1 million down. Additional revenues of \$2.5 million for the Center will be realized from 2006-2010 Tryon Palace ticket sales. The remaining balance of \$6.2 million will be raised over the coming months with major gifts and with a general public campaign beginning in 2008 that will provide appealing gift opportunities for all North Carolinians.

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