

## **9/11 memorial site opens near World Trade Center**

August 27, 2009

The National September 11 Memorial & Museum today opened a 9/11 Mem:orial Preview Site near the World Trade Center. The Preview Site provides the public with the opportunity to learn about the Memorial and Museum, view real-time images of the construction progress at the World Trade Center site, and participate in the creation of the Museum by sharing their 9/11 stories.

The Preview Site will offer visitors a unique opportunity to learn about and participate in the creation of the Memorial and Museum at the World Trade Center," 9/11 Memorial & Museum President Joe Daniels said.

- Through models, renderings, films, and real-time images of construction, visitors can understand the plans and progress being made at the site. They will be able to take home with them a photograph of the construction as a personal record of their visit to the World Trade Center while history was being built. We are also inviting people to come to the Preview Site to share their 9/11 stories. These recordings will be included in an introductory exhibit once the Museum opens."

- The hundreds of thousands of visitors who already come to the World Trade Center are a clear indication of the tremendous public interest in the remembering the events of September 11th," 9/11 Memorial & Museum Board Member Monica Iken said.

Iken lost her husband, Michael, in the September 11 attacks.

- It's important that until the Memorial and Museum are open, people have a place to go to learn about the events and share their thoughts and reflections on what happened. The collective stories from family members, survivors, first responders and witnesses both here in New York and from around the world, are what will preserve the history of 9/11 and make the Museum a very special place."

- The opening of the new 9/11 Memorial Preview Site will provide visitors with an interactive way to connect to the historic events of September 11 while acquiring a better understanding of the plans for the forthcoming 9/11 Memorial and Museum," said George Fertitta, CEO of NYC & Company.

The 9/11 Memorial Preview Site will work with the nearby Tribute WTC Visitor Center to promote visitor resources to the public. Through walking tours, exhibits and programs, the Tribute WTC Visitor Center offers "Person to Person History," linking visitors who want to understand and appreciate these historic events with those who experienced them.

### 9/11 Preview Site Content

Filmmaker Jim Whitaker and his Project Rebirth team have crafted a four-minute film especially for visitors to the Preview Site. Drawing on footage from Project Rebirth's 14 35mm film time lapse cameras sited around Ground Zero, and interviews of nine people directly affected by the 9/11 attacks, Project Rebirth's Preview Site film chronicles wrenching personal stories combined with powerful time-lapse images. It highlights the journey of the New York community rebuilding through the years following the 9/11 attacks.

Through a partnership with [EarthCam](#), a webcam view of real-time images from above the World Trade Center construction will be displayed at the Preview Site, allowing visitors to view current progress and to print images or e-mail them to friends.

Visitors to the Preview Site will have the opportunity to be a part of history by sharing their 9/11 stories with Museum. An on-site recording booth will allow the public to contribute to the Museum's planned introductory exhibition that will include a soundscape of people remembering, in multiple languages, where they were on September 11, 2001, and how they learned of the attacks. The Preview Site will help collect these remembrances through 3-minute recorded stories. The recording booth will also be used periodically to record 40-minute remembrances with the national oral history project, StoryCorps. In 2006, the 9/11 Memorial and StoryCorps formed a partnership to collect at least one StoryCorps interview

for each of the victims of the September 11, 2001 and February 26, 1993 attacks. The recording booth interface was designed by Local Projects, the media designer for the Museum.

In addition, selected artifacts from the Museum's growing permanent collection will be presented. Currently on display is a replica Statue of Liberty that was covered in the aftermath of the 9/11 attacks with tributes such as uniform patches, miniature American flags, money, mass cards, rosary beads, condolence notes, and souvenir postcards, among others. In 2006, the nearly eight foot tall statue was donated to the Museum's permanent collection by the Fire Department of New York Engine 54, Ladder 4, Battalion 9 firehouse.

As part of a partnership with MyGoodDeed to encourage people to perform acts of service in the name of 9/11, and in support of NYC Service, the public will have the opportunity to pledge to volunteer or perform good deeds through kiosks accessing the [911dayofservice.org](http://911dayofservice.org) and [nycservice.org](http://nycservice.org) websites. MyGoodDeed was founded in 2003 by 9/11 victims' family members and friends that helped successfully advocate for 9/11 to be recognized as a national day of service and remembrance.

Additional opportunities to support the creation of the Memorial and Museum will be available at the Preview Site through donations and the sale of 9/11 books, dvds, and Memorial merchandise, with all net proceeds dedicated to the development of the Memorial and Museum.

The Preview Site is located at 20 Vesey Street, between Broadway and Church Streets in lower Manhattan and is open Monday through Wednesday and Friday through Saturday from 10am to 7pm; Thursday from 10am to 9pm; and Sunday from 10am to 6pm.