

Public campaign in support of strategic plan is now under way

THE THOMAS Jefferson Foundation is conducting the public phase of a \$55 million campaign to support a strategic plan that includes the construction and endowment of a new visitor and education center on the grounds of Monticello.

During the initial, or "silent," phase of the campaign, Monticello received \$42.5 million in commitments.

The 42,000-square-foot Thomas Jefferson Visitor Center and Smith History Center will provide new and enhanced ticketing, educational, exhibition, service, dining, and shopping features in one location. Construction work on the facility began late last year and will continue into 2008.

During the initial, or "silent," phase of the campaign, which ended in June, Monticello received commitments totaling \$42.5 million.

This figure includes two significant contributions made recently by Mrs. Hunter J. Smith of Charlottesville – a \$3 million gift and a challenge gift in which she will donate \$3 for every \$4 Monticello raises, to a maximum of \$10 million.

Mrs. Smith, an emeritus trustee of the Thomas Jefferson Foundation, and her late husband, Carl W. Smith, were among the initial supporters of this effort. The Smith History Center is named in their honor.

"At the very beginning, Hunter and Carl Smith provided the vital support that enabled this project to come to life," said Jeffrey C. Walker, chairman of the Foundation's Board of Trustees. "Hunter's recent gifts are truly transformational. Her largesse will ensure that this wonderful center will become a reality, to the benefit of Monticello and all of its visitors."

Other leadership gifts have been contributed by Robert H. and Clarice Smith of Arlington; Howard P. and Abby Milstein of New York; John A. and Amy Griffin of New York; Mrs. Luella Davis of Greens Farms, Conn.; Walker and his wife, Suzanne, of New York; and H. Eugene and Terry Lockhart, Jr., of Keswick. Mrs. Davis is secretary of the Foundation's Board of Trustees; Milstein, Griffin, and Lockhart are members of the board.

"We are truly thankful for the generosity these major donors have shown, and we especially appreciate the creative approach represented by Hunter Smith's challenge gift," said TJF President Daniel P. Jordan. "We hope that these examples will generate broad-based support for this campaign, which is so important to Monticello's mission of education and preservation."

The Thomas Jefferson Visitor Center and Smith History Center will consist of five pavilions organized around a central courtyard. Designed



Welders at work on the frame of the center's cafe building.

TJF / Mike Merriam

to blend into the landscape at the site of Monticello's former ticket office and shuttle station, the center will feature natural building materials and numerous environmentally sensitive elements.

The five central components of the facility will be a reception pavilion for visitor information and ticket sales; a

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Thomas Jefferson
MONTICELLO

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COMMENTS?

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Campaign

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two-story exhibition pavilion with spaces for both permanent and changing exhibitions; the two-story Smith History Center with facilities for Monticello's education programs on the lower level and a multipurpose theater on the courtyard level; a cafe building with indoor and outdoor seating; and a retail pavilion with indoor and outdoor spaces. The complex also will feature a freestanding, all-season education pavilion, to be situated a short distance away and connected by a woodland path.

Additional information about the visitor center project and the campaign can be obtained by contacting Monticello Vice President for External Affairs Melissa A. Young at P.O. Box 217, Charlottesville VA 22092, myoung@monticello.org, or (434) 984-9824.



An artist's rendering of the Thomas Jefferson Visitor Center and Smith History Center.

TJF / Bob Kirchman

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