

Heritage Education Campus

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Canyon National Park



WHAT IS IT?

The Grand Canyon Heritage Education Campus (HEC) will be located in the heart of historic Grand Canyon Village and easily accessed from Canyon View Information Plaza by the transit system (public transit and the Greenway). At the HEC, visitors will be able to explore in-depth information on geology, Native American culture, and natural and human history, enjoy art inspired by the grandeur of the canyon, or wander over to the rim for another spectacular view. Also available will be food service, restrooms, and an area where visitors can relax and enjoy the surroundings.

While Canyon View Information Plaza provides visitor orientation and an introduction to the educational themes of the Grand Canyon, the HEC will offer in-depth opportunities for interpretive and environmental education. The focal point of the HEC will be the historic landmark Powerhouse building with its rugged random rock architecture. Connected by a central plaza, four other historic structures will create the core of the campus. These buildings are the historic Livery Stable, the Mule Barn, the Laundry Building, and the Community Building. The campus will be characterized by its adaptive reuse of these prominent historic structures to provide a range of opportunities for visitors. An accessible pedestrian bridge spanning the railroad tracks will link the HEC with the rim. A transit station will be situated adjacent to the campus providing visitors easy access to the transit system.

WHAT DOES IT INCLUDE?

Planning and design are still in the preliminary stages but the following represents the potential emphasis and opportunities available at the HEC:

- The **Powerhouse Building** will be the centerpiece of the HEC showcasing the canyon's geology, natural history, human history, and natural resources themes. It will be where visitors will go to find in-depth orientation to the opportunities in the area and to start their visitor experience in Grand Canyon Village. The Powerhouse will be a gateway to the rim and to other educational opportunities at the HEC. Up to 17,000 square feet of usable space can provide an information/orientation area, lobby, exhibits, and sales area.
- The **Livery Stable** will preserve a true, turn-of-the-century, cultural monument to early visitor over-land travel. It has the potential to support an open exhibit and learning center that could have large historic objects related to transportation and river exploration, living history demonstrations, and a learning lab with hands-on demonstration space.



- The **Mule Barn** will be a complement to its partner, the Livery Stable, in providing open areas for a cultural center that could include fine art, craft, music, and dance presentations. It could also have a learning laboratory, demonstration space, and workshop area for special events and curriculum offered at the park.
- The **Laundry Building** with its clerestory windows can provide natural daylight for exhibiting art inspired by the Grand Canyon in a stewardship gallery. Collections of additional art, including traveling exhibits, could also be showcased here and the facility could house an artist in residence program. The building could be a center for artistic expression and promote environmental sensitivity for the unique canyon environment.
- The **Community Building**, rehabilitated in 1999 to be an **Education Center**, is used as a facility for education when a more formal classroom setting is needed. It includes facilities for the Grand Canyon Field Institute, classrooms, meeting rooms, a visitor study area for public programs, and a multimedia conference room that may eventually host a distance learning program.

WHAT'S NEXT?

Preliminary planning is underway on the HEC. Park staff are completing a park-wide Comprehensive Interpretive Plan that will include themes for the HEC. Once this is complete, a specific interpretive plan will be developed for the HEC. At the same time a Cultural Landscape Report will be written to provide guidance for designing the improvements, taking into consideration the historic significance of the buildings and landscape. The HEC-specific interpretive plan and the Cultural Landscape Report will serve as the foundations for a master plan for the campus. Once this has been completed, the National Park Service will start designing improvements to the Powerhouse which will serve as a centerpiece for the campus.



FUNDING?

Most of the funding for HEC is expected to come from monies raised by the Grand Canyon National Park Foundation (a non-profit fundraising organization). Additional funds may come from federal sources whenever appropriate.