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Taking part in the ceremonial groundbreaking are, from left, St. Louis Mayor Francis Slay, St. Louis County Executive Charlie Dooley, U.S. Senator Claire McCaskill, Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx, Interior Secretary Sally Jewell, Ed Hassinger, chief engineer of the Missouri Department of Transportation, and Walter Metcalfe, chairman of the board of CityArchRiver 2015 Foundation.

‘United and Committed’

Groundbreaking Launches Transformation of Arch Grounds

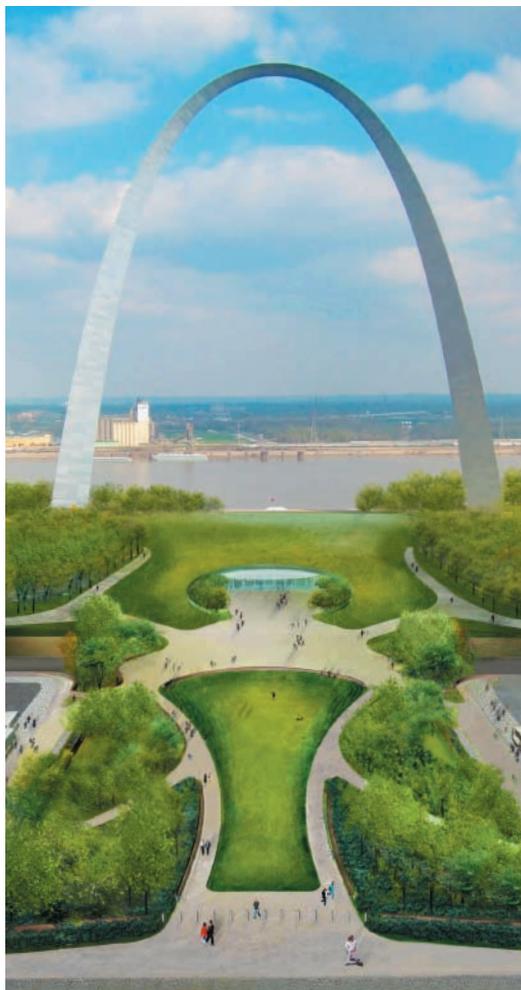
We’ve begun.

CityArchRiver 2015 Foundation hosted a ceremonial groundbreaking on August 2 to celebrate the start of construction on the Park Over the Highway. Two Cabinet Secretaries joined other federal, state, and local leaders to mark the extraordinary milestone.

“I am so proud to be a St. Louisan today,” said U.S. Senator Claire McCaskill. “I am proud of the people in this region for recognizing that government can be a positive partner, unleashing private capital, unleashing local and state investment, and unleashing a sense of togetherness in this region in our pursuit of making this park better for our grandchildren, and our great-grandchildren, and all who come behind them.”

The first step in the \$380 million CityArchRiver 2015 project is to refigure downtown streets and intersections, build better pedestrian connections and erect a landscaped park over Interstate 70.

These improvements will cost \$48 million and be funded in part with a grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation and matched by funds from the Missouri Department of Transportation and CityArchRiver 2015 Foundation. Work will begin north of the Gateway Arch between



Visitors to the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial today must walk through and over 10 lanes of traffic when they approach the Arch from downtown. The Park Over the Highway eliminates that challenge and creates green space from Fourth Street to the Arch.

Eads and Martin Luther King bridges.

Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx spoke at the groundbreaking and said the U.S. Department of Transportation is fulfilling its mission with its support of this project.

“It’s not just about moving people,” he said. “It’s about creating a sense of place and giving new meaning to this iconic symbol of American progress – the Gateway Arch.”

While the seed money from the Department of Transportation has been a catalyst for the project, collaboration with the National Park Service has been equally essential in realizing this vision for a connected and accessible Gateway Arch. Interior Secretary Sally Jewell spoke at the event on behalf of national parks.

“You are pioneers here in St. Louis – pioneers for public-private partnerships,” she said. “What you are doing on the private side – the fundraising – is incredibly impressive and something other communities will emulate.”

Every speaker celebrated the remarkable collaboration of government, businesses, and community that has made this project possible.

Said St. Louis Mayor Francis Slay: “We are united and committed as a region to succeed with this project by October 28, 2015.”



Our Mission

To assure that the Gateway Arch, its grounds, neighboring public space, and attractions will be a vital, welcoming, well-supported resource to the community and nation for generations to come.

Our Goals

Project partners adopted these design goals to serve as guiding principles for CityArchRiver 2015.

- Create an iconic place for the international icon, the Gateway Arch
- Catalyze increased vitality in the St. Louis region
- Honor the character defining elements of the National Historic Landmark
- Weave connections and transitions from the City and the Arch grounds to the River
- Mitigate the impact of transportation systems
- Embrace the Mississippi River and the east bank in Illinois as an integral part of the National Park
- Reinvigorate the mission to tell the story of St. Louis as the gateway to national expansion
- Create attractors to promote extended visitation to the Arch, the City and the River
- Develop a sustainable future
- Enhance the visitor experience and create a welcoming and accessible environment



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‘Giving new meaning to this iconic symbol of American progress – the Gateway Arch.’

Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx

Chuck Kalert with the National Park Service talks with Foxx and Jewell in the observation deck of the Gateway Arch. The secretaries and McCaskill toured the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial after the groundbreaking.

What’s to Come

Our celebration August 2 began a 27-month project to transform the Arch grounds, connect it to the Mississippi River and downtown St. Louis, and create an accessible and unforgettable experience for every visitor. Stay tuned for these developments:

RIVERFRONT REDEVELOPMENT The project will lift Leonor K. Sullivan Boulevard and improve it with new lighting, benches, trees, bike paths, and pedestrian walkways from Chouteau to Biddle.

EAST SLOPES/REFLECTING PONDS Visitors to Arch grounds, regardless of their mobility, will have pathways to approach the riverfront and explore the urban park. Reflecting ponds will be integrated into the park experience and undergo improvements to become the stunning reflections of the monument they were intended to be.

NORTH GATEWAY A grass amphitheater and children’s garden will replace the parking garage, open the national park to Eads Bridge and Laclede’s Landing, connect to the Confluence Greenway, and provide safe vehicle drop-off.

PROCESSIONAL WALKS AND ALLEES Tree-lined paths will be rebuilt. London plane trees will replace the 800 endangered ashes along the Arch approaches.

OLD COURTHOUSE New heating and cooling systems, greater accessibility and dramatically redefined exhibits will raise the profile of this historic building.

KIENER PLAZA The project includes new seating, play areas, water features, and landscaping for this plaza west of the Old Courthouse.

MUSEUM OF WESTWARD EXPANSION A west-facing entrance, light-filled entry hall, and state-of-the-art exhibits will transform the visitor experience under the Arch.

You received this newsletter because you are among the first to support **CityArchRiver 2015** Foundation. With your gift, you are making history. Thank you.