

Excitement Builds as Louisville Prepares for the World's Most Inclusive Museum

BY SARA BROWN, AMERICAN PRINTING HOUSE

Clifton is buzzing with anticipation. The world's most inclusive museum, The Dot Experience, is set to open its doors on Frankfort Avenue this October. The Dot Experience promises to reshape how we think about inclusion, innovation, and human potential. While there's plenty left to build, there's even more to celebrate.

Building a Vision, Brick by Brick

As the bold new front door to American Printing House (APH), construction on The Dot Experience is moving full steam ahead. Drywall is going up, windows are installed, and the once-abstract vision is becoming a tangible space with character and purpose.

"I can picture where all the exhibits are going to be," shares Erin Gibbons, The Dot Experience Project Specialist. "Big spaces have been created, and now specific details are being perfected to make sure things continue to align with the museum's vision."

The Dot Experience is a 28,000-square-foot attraction that blends museum, educational center, and factory tour elements into an accessible, hands-on environment where every detail, from flooring and lighting, to tactile displays, is thoughtfully designed for all visitors. To be completely inclusive, 3D printed replicas of fragile or inaccessible artifacts will be available to touch and explore.

A central feature is the American Foundation for the Blind's Helen Keller Archive, which traces Keller's journey from early childhood through her achievements as a multilingual scholar, advocate, and global change maker. In addition, guests can explore tactile books and braille writers, a 1922 Steinway grand piano once played by Stevie Wonder, and engage with interactive stations like the Weaving Wall, white cane tip pathway, LEGO® Braille Bricks, a giant abacus, and the latest assistive technology.



Milestones Worth Celebrating

October brought a major moment for the museum, as media, partners, and community members gathered for a press conference and hard hat tour, which included the announcement of a significant multi-year contribution from Louisville's own Zoeller Pump Company.

Jo Haas, APH's Vice President of Advancement and The Dot Experience, emphasized the boldness of the project. "By elevating the lived experiences of individuals who are blind or low vision, we can demonstrate what human potential really looks like," she said. "The Dot Experience will change perspectives about blindness and disability and empower individual action toward a world that welcomes everyone."

Zoeller Pump Company echoed that mission. "We believe that innovation starts with access and inclusion," said Dwight Newton, the company's Corporate VP of Human Resources and Chief People Officer. "This is more than a donation from us, it's a commitment."



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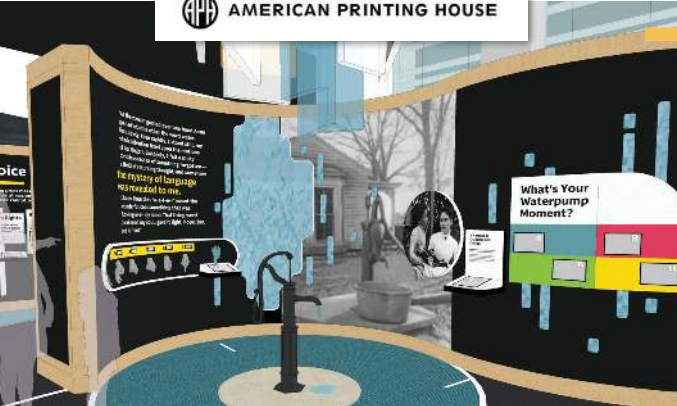
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The Dot Experience Concept:

« AFB Helen Keller Archive Water Pump

The Dot Experience Concept Exterior



« Jo Haas at Frankfort Avenue build site



Weeks later, The Dot Experience was awarded a \$250,000 Quality of Life Grant for 2025 from the James Graham Brown Foundation and a second equally sized gift from the Legacy Foundation.

As attendees walked through the developing gallery space, Haas helped them imagine where visitors will explore everything from the history of tactile literacy to hands-on demonstrations of accessible design. Even unfinished, the space radiated purpose.

Stay Connected While the Countdown Continues

As we look forward to the grand opening in October, there are many ways for people to learn more and get involved now.

Follow The Dot Experience's social media pages on Facebook and Instagram, and mark your calendar for the grand opening of what promises to be a world-changing museum.

For schools and community groups, The Dot Experience currently offers hands-on programs, great for home school or educational events. From tactile literacy to accessibility-focused workshops, our custom offerings bring the museum's mission to life long before opening day. Visit thedotexperience.org to learn more.

Join us as we count the days till opening!

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