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## National Museum of Industrial History breaks ground on park that will feature machinery from Bethlehem Steel

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Courtesy Glenn Koehler/NMIH

BETHLEHEM, Pa. - **The National Museum of Industrial History** in Bethlehem broke ground Thursday on a new outdoor park.

The 17,000-square-foot park, which is part of a \$275,000 project, will give visitors the chance to see industrial machinery from Bethlehem Steel and other places, according to a museum news release. The park will show the process of transforming raw materials into finished products and highlight innovations in industry, according to the release.

Construction on the park is expected to last about two months. Among the machines that will be at the park is an electric arc furnace, a miniature basic oxygen furnace, a 10-ton ladle, and a rare ingot mold, all donated by Lehigh University.



An 11-foot-tall Bement, Miles & Co. steam hammer dating to 1887 and a Wellman Engineering Co. charging machine, the last of its kind in the country, are both original to the plant and will be restored to operational status. A 1941 Whitcomb diesel-electric locomotive has already been installed and restored to working condition on a narrow-gauge track in the future park area.

The two furnaces will be situated with the locomotive and charging machine to approximate how a typical steel mill melt shop operated. Raw material mining will be showcased with several artifacts including a steam-powered hoisting engine and operable aerial cableway similar to those used in the slate and iron mining industries, as well as a rare Ingersoll-Rand channeling machine used to cut into solid rock.

Live interactive demos will include forging using the steam hammer, iron smelting, casting, and slate splitting.

“We’re very excited about this project. Being able to break ground on a significant new part of the museum, despite all of the hardships this year has brought, is a silver lining during a tough time,” said Kara Mohsinger, President and CEO of the museum. “We just celebrated the fourth anniversary of the museum and this is a perfect way to kick off our fifth year. This new park will allow us to bring even more history to life, host additional workshops and programs, and offer more artifact demonstrations than ever before.”

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