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Bethlehem museum's outdoor expansion will bring industrial history to life

By MORNING CALL STAFF
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Army Reserve Cpl. Von George speaks in front of the Steelworkers Veterans Memorial on Veterans Day 2008. The memorial will be moved a few blocks away as part of a \$275,000 park expansion going on at the National Museum of Industrial History in south Bethlehem. (The Morning Call file photo)

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Bethlehem's National Museum of Industrial History will mark the approach of its fifth year in operation with a major expansion set to open this fall.

Officials this week announced groundbreaking has begun on a \$275,000, 17,000-square-foot outdoor addition that will turn part of the museum's land into a park area. There, visitors will be able to view the process of transforming raw materials into finished products and highlight innovations in history, according to a news release.

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Construction is expected to last about two months. The park will nearly double the size of the 18,000-square-foot museum, which opened in 2016.

[National Museum of Industrial History to debut after 19 years »](#)

Several large-scale artifacts will be installed in the park, including a number of original Bethlehem Steel machines.

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“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,” museum President and CEO Kara Mohsinger said.

The park will also serve as the new home for the [Steelworkers Veterans Memorial](#), currently in the parking lot at Third and Polk streets, that needed to move to make way for a public garage.

The memorial was built by steelworkers and dedicated in 1989 to honor employees of Bethlehem Steel who served in the armed forces. The move was announced last year when museum officials first announced the expansion.

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Public funding for the park came from the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development, Northampton County and the Bethlehem Redevelopment Authority. Several Lehigh Valley companies are working on the project, including Allentown's Alvin H. Butz, Bethlehem's Albarell Electric and Bean Inc. Contractors of Wilson.

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