

Architectural Fact Sheet

Description

The home of the new Lucas Museum of Narrative Art is a 13-acre campus with a landscape consisting of trees, gardens, walkways, and architectural features that embrace an approximately 300,000-square-foot building — on a site that was formerly an asphalt parking lot in Los Angeles's Exposition Park. The five-story museum building includes approximately 100,000 square feet of dedicated gallery space, two state-of-the-art cinematic theaters, numerous spaces for education, a café and a restaurant, and retail and special events spaces. The rolling landscape of the new park creates much needed green space for South Los Angeles while providing the Lucas Museum with a variety of outdoor areas and incorporates architectural features throughout including a hanging garden, an amphitheater, a pedestrian bridge, and a waterfall-like fountain.

With an architectural vision for the building and site created by **Ma Yansong/MAD**, a dynamic design for the Park and Gardens created by Mia Lehrer of Los Angeles's **Studio-MLA**, and Michael Siegel of **Stantec** as executive architect leading a talented team through the process of realizing the vision and construction, the Lucas Museum's campus will be a new cultural landmark for Los Angeles.

Location

Exposition Park, Los Angeles, CA

Founders

George Lucas and Mellody Hobson

Key Dates

Architect Selection:	July 2014
Los Angeles Site Selection:	January 2017
Groundbreaking:	March 2018
Topping Out:	March 2021
Opening:	September 2026

Campus Size

13 acres

Building Size

Approx. 300,000 square feet
700 feet long x 270 feet wide x 108 feet high
Five stories
Approx. 100,000 square feet of galleries across three floors

Key Materials

Concrete, steel, fiberglass-reinforced polymer, glass, plaster

The Building

The Lucas Museum's state-of-the-art building will add to the rich legacy of architectural innovation in Los Angeles. Ma Yansong's architectural vision creates a building which is an organic sculptural form in a park that pushes the boundaries of architecture and creates a sense of wonder.

The building is lifted off the ground to create human scale at street level, fostering natural social interaction, preserving views, and enhancing the overall experience of the site. Central arched steel

beams spanning 185 feet form a lifted public plaza—a canopy that floats above people below and offers shade, protection against environmental elements, and a space of gathering. With the lifted building, the ground level connects with the landscape and surrounding streetscape, allowing it to function as part of the environment, and keeping more open, ground-level space for people. The plaza offers access to the museum's north and south lobbies whose grandeur, tall ceilings, and abundant natural light create inviting and spacious atmospheres. A central elliptical Oculus hovers four stories above the plaza, opening a view from ground to sky.

Principal public areas on the lower floors, aside from the lobbies, include two state-of-the-art theaters, each seating 299; a horseshoe-shaped library and learning space with floor-to-ceiling windows that look out onto the surrounding park; 10 studio and classroom spaces; a shop; a café; and an approximately 100,000-square-foot gallery space. Of the five public elevators on the building's north side, three cylindrical glass elevators in glass shafts provide transparency and visibility as they carry visitors from the north lobby to the vast galleries on the fourth floor, allowing visitors to see and understand their journey as they transition into the world of narrative art. Visitors' movement through the fourth-floor galleries, which span some 82,000 square feet, is choreographed by a path that effortlessly loops through exhibition spaces.

The fifth floor offers nearly 8,000 square feet of additional gallery space with a sculpted ceiling, a large event space, as well as a restaurant with indoor seating and an outdoor terrace with sweeping views.

The biomorphic form of the building is designed to cantilever far beyond the support of where the building touches the ground to give the impression that the building is floating over the park. To realize the design of the exterior, the building is clad in more than 1,271 panels of fiberglass-reinforced polymer (FRP), which was selected due to the material's ability to create smooth, flowing forms and minimal weight compared to other materials. The curved panels measure approximately 8 by 32 feet on average, and each of the 1,271 panels are uniquely shaped and placed to create the whole.

They were fabricated using a process which combines cutting-edge digital technology and robotics with handcrafting to fabricate and finish each unique panel to ensure smoothness and color consistency. The joint lines between the panels vary in width and orientation and were strategically designed to complement the building's organic geometry. An architectural ribbon of durable glass fiber reinforced concrete (GFRC) flows around the edges of the park.

The technologies needed to shape and fit the FRP panels, along with other advanced construction methods including a cloud-based modeling and collaboration system used by a team of more than

150 architects, engineers, and designers, only began to emerge a decade ago, making the Lucas Museum truly a building made for our time.

The Park

Inspired by the Museum's focus on narrative art, the Lucas Museum Park and Gardens—designed by Mia Lehrer of Studio-MLA— are central to the site's architectural vision, inviting visitors on a journey of discovery. Dynamic environments that change visually with the seasons offering a different experience during each visit. Replacing what was previously asphalt parking lots, this diverse and enriching park includes hundreds of indigenous and drought-tolerant plantings, more than 340 trees have been planted, and landforms created to evoke the terrain of Los Angeles as a plain nestled between mountains. A variety of spaces, from a hanging garden to an amphitheater, a meadow, and a fountain conceived as a broad, dramatic waterfall, will provide programmable areas, communal gathering spaces, and places for quiet reflection and enjoyment. The campus's green space continues on the top level of the building with almost an acre and a half of landscaped roof.

Sustainability

In addition to creating new park and garden space for an area of the city where more green space is needed, the museum has integrated sustainable elements throughout the campus. The Lucas Museum wears many of its sustainable elements on the outside, showcasing its commitment to both aesthetic and functional sustainability.

A grand waterfall-like fountain on the northwest corner of the campus provides not just a pleasing public amenity but also renewable cooling for the building, while using less energy and water than a standard cooling tower. The cooling created from the falling water connected with the building's expansive geothermal system that has 714 wells, each drilled to 365 feet deep, totaling 98 miles of piping, creates an invisible renewable cooling source. Additionally, integrated into the sloped roof's design are 24,000 square feet of monocrystalline solar photovoltaic cells (a type of solar panel), which cover 15% of the roof's surface, will be visible to the public, and will provide additional energy to the building.

Other highlights include the rain screen façade which incorporates a super insulated enclosure, displacement air throughout the building for optimal space conditioning, and LED lighting throughout.

In addition, the Lucas Museum is accessible by many modes of public transportation, with proximity to two major Metro stations and multiple bus stops, as well as providing ample parking for bicycles and electric vehicles.

Seismic Elements

The building uses a seismic isolation system more commonly found in structures like hospitals. The enormous building rests on a base isolation system that allows the ground to move 42 inches in any direction during a seismic event and recenter itself when the event is over. The building sits on 281 seismic base isolators, each consisting of a six-foot diameter concaved steel bowl with a large steel ball, which rests on top of the foundation. The perimeter of the ground floor is surrounded by an eight-foot “moat,” or moveable sidewalk, which allows the seismic motion of the ground surrounding the building. This cutting-edge earthquake technology protects visitors, staff, and art during a seismic event.

Underground Parking

The Lucas Museum is built on a site that was formerly asphalt parking lots in Exposition Park. The museum has two underground public parking garages, owned by the State of California, with more than 2,300 spaces total—about 600 more spaces than the previous asphalt lots it replaced.

Exposition Park

The location of the Lucas Museum within Los Angeles’s Exposition Park provides remarkable opportunities to collaborate and partner with other Los Angeles cultural institutions. Located southwest of Downtown Los Angeles, the 160-acre Exposition Park is home to cultural, educational, and recreational institutions including the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, the California African American Museum, the California Science Center and Dr. Theodore J. Alexander Science Center School, Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum, BMO Stadium, the Exposition Park Rose Garden, and EXPO Center. With more than a half a million people living within a three-mile radius of the park, Exposition Park is an important resource for its immediate communities, in addition to being a destination that is enjoyed by visitors from across the state, the nation, and the world. It is one of the top five tourist and visitor destinations in Southern California, attracting some four million visitors a year. The Lucas Museum is located at the northwest corner of Exposition Park.

Construction Hiring

Through extensive outreach and workforce development initiatives, the museum helped create pathways to employment for local residents, hosting community events attended by local businesses and more than 1,000 job seekers and partnering with organizations including Slate-Z, Los Angeles Trade-Technical College, the City of Los Angeles, local unions, and workforce development nonprofits.

As a privately funded institution, the museum set out to meet the local hiring commitments typically expected of publicly funded projects and ultimately exceeded those benchmarks. These efforts resulted in more than half of the project’s 6,400 construction workers being recruited from Los Angeles County, with a majority identifying as Latino or Hispanic and representing neighborhoods across the city. Hundreds were first-time apprentices, many from communities surrounding Exposition Park, who gained valuable skills, certifications, and hands-on experience to support long-term career growth.

In this way, the Lucas Museum is truly “built by L.A.” The people who helped bring the museum to life reflect the diverse communities it will serve for generations to come.

- 65% — Local worker hours — more than double its initial 30% goal
- 6,401 — Workers employed on the Lucas Museum construction project
- 3,876 — Workers residing within Los Angeles County
- 1,438 — Workers residing within city of Los Angeles
- 584 — Workers residing within a 5-mile radius of museum
- 72% — Local apprentice utilization — far exceeding the 20% minimum set-in project labor agreement with local unions

Location / History

In 2014, George Lucas and Mellody Hobson initiated an international competition for the design of a new museum of narrative art, which was to be located in Chicago. Ma Yansong/MAD’s winning design was chosen for its innovative approach and the firm’s ability to connect a building’s architecture with its surrounding nature and society. However, in 2015 due to disagreement over the use of the Chicago site, it was decided that the museum would move to a location in California.

Los Angeles and San Francisco were evaluated to see which city best aligned with the museum’s mission and vision. MAD created unique designs for locations in both San Francisco’s Treasure Island and Los Angeles’s Exposition Park. In Los Angeles, the Exposition Park site was selected for its location within large, diverse surrounding communities and proximity to more than 500 schools in a five-mile radius. In 2017, Los Angeles was selected as the future home of the museum.

Design and Construction Team

The architectural vision for the Lucas Museum of Narrative Art is achieved through strong collaboration between talented and innovative architecture, construction, and engineering teams.

Design Architect

MAD

Beijing, China; Los Angeles, CA; and Rome, Italy

Ma Yansong, Dang Qun, Yosuke Hayano – Principal partners in charge

Founded in 2004, MAD is an award-winning global design practice led by founder Ma Yansong and partners Dang Qun and Yosuke Hayano. MAD pioneers across architecture, urbanism, interior and product design, fashion, and art. Ma Yansong/MAD's portfolio is a testament to their innovative, thoughtful, and reflective approach. Each project demonstrates a deep understanding of complex issues and a forward-looking perspective, integrating nature in dreamy ways to create beautiful, experiential spaces that are accessible and inclusive to all. MAD's designs foster a deep connection between humanity, the city, and the environment, promoting physical, intellectual, and spiritual well-being.

Architect of Record

Stantec

Chicago, IL and Los Angeles, CA

Michael Siegel, Senior Principal
Gayle Soberg, Senior Technical Designer

Landscape Design Architect

Studio-MLA

Los Angeles, CA

Mia Lehrer, Founder and President
Kush Parekh, Principal

Construction Manager

Diversified Project Development

Cory Langer, Principal

JLL

Chicago, IL and Los Angeles, CA

**General Contractor
(Base Building)**

Hathaway Dinwiddie

Los Angeles, CA

Structural Engineer

LERA

New York, NY

**Mechanical, Electrical,
Plumbing, Fire Life Safety**

Alfa Tech

Los Angeles, CA

Exhibitions

WHY Architecture (Design)

Los Angeles, CA

Empty (Build Out)

Madrid, Spain and Santa Monica, CA

Glasbau Hahn (Casework)

Frankfurt, Germany

	<u>Rudolf & Sletten (General Contractor, Exhibitions)</u> <i>Los Angeles, CA</i>
Restaurant	<u>Rockwell Group (Design)</u> <i>New York, NY</i>
	<u>Build Group (General Contractor, Restaurant)</u> <i>Los Angeles, CA</i>
Retail	<u>Drinkall Dean (Design)</u> <i>London, UK</i>