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Speed, Security Mark Renovation of St. Louis' Gateway Arch Museum Store *By Curt Grandia*

Working as the general contractor on the Museum Store renovations at the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial Gateway Arch in St. Louis, Walton Construction Company, LLC recently completed the fast-paced, \$425,000 project on schedule in less than three months.

According to Walton Project Manager Craig Phillips, security at the National Park Service facility and the schedule provided challenges to overcome. Work on the project began in early December and Walton had less than three months to complete the work.

"With the fast schedule, we constructed a temporary store in the adjacent lobby to provide a facility the owner could operate from during construction," Phillips said. "One of the keys to the project was getting that temporary facility built as quickly as possible so we could start on the renovations."

With the iconic arch being such an important monument, the National Park Service was very clear about the security measures that had to be in place, Phillips noted, so one of the most important aspects of the project was maintaining production through those restrictions. "The tight security required us to manage the flow of materials and manpower in and out of the facility in an organized fashion and we were able to do that."

The project design consisted of a lot of high-end finishes including a complex reflected ceiling plan with lots of radius soffits as well as custom mill-work and terrazzo flooring.

Despite the complexity and challenges of the project, Walton Construction and its subcontractors completed the work on schedule, by the end of February. Key staff on the project for Walton Construction included Phillips and Project Superintendent Jeff Short.

Project Details

Principals in the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial Gateway Arch Museum Store Renovations are as follows.

- Tenant and Property Owner: Jefferson National Parks Association
- Executive Director: David A. Grove
- Property Owner and Manager: National Park Service
- Architect and Exhibit Designers: Peckham Guyton Albers and Viets Inc.
- Project Architect: Sara Tetley
- Design-Build Consultant: Ross & Baruzzini, Inc.
- General Contractor: Walton Construction Company, LLC
- HVAC Design-Build Contractor: Caldwell Mechanical, Inc.
- Electric Design-Build Contractor: Vision Electric and Systems
- Terrazzo Flooring Contractor: Missouri Terrazzo
- Millwork Contractor: Duggan Contracting Corporation
- Drywall and Ceilings Contractor: Hoelscher Interiors, Inc.