Coltsville National Historical Park Summer 2019 Newsletter

National Park Service (NPS) U.S. Department of the Interior



New Coltsville Superintendent

The National Park Service (NPS) is pleased to introduce the new Superintendent for Coltsville National Historical Park, Ms. Kelly Fellner. In her new role, Ms. Fellner is also the Superintendent of the Springfield Armory National Historic Site. Ms. Fellner holds a Master's degree in Public History and Museum Administration from Northeastern University and a Bachelor of Arts in History and Anthropology from the University of Colorado, Boulder.

Ms. Fellner has worked for the National Park Service for 30 years in a variety of positions, most recently as the Assistant Superintendent at Fire Island National Seashore, overseeing, partnerships, planning, and public affairs. Prior to that, she spent five years as the Northeast Region Youth and Volunteer Programs Manager. She was also the Chief of Visitor Services and Youth Engagement at Boston Harbor Islands National Recreation Area, Supervisory Park Ranger at Longfellow National Historic Site, Lead Ranger at Olmsted National Historic Site, Park Ranger at Lowell National Historic Park and Tsongas Industrial History Center, and Historian with National Register programs in the Intermountain Region.

"I look forward to working with the committed employees, volunteers, and community partners of Coltsville National Historical Park" said Fellner. "Parks rely on a complex network of municipalities, agencies, and community groups. Together, we can preserve the architecture and stories of technology and human innovation of Coltsville."



Kelly Fellner, Superintendent (NPS Photo)

Colt Park Establishment Update

The initial draft of the survey drawings of the two 1850's era brownstones is complete and is currently being reviewed by the NPS Realty team and cartographers. This is a great step forward in preparing the title and deed of the property for the official donation of the buildings to the NPS. The drawings are very technical and complex and will likely undergo many revisions and drafts to make the document acceptable for final approval. With the arrival of our new Superintendent, new guidance and strategic plans for the park are being developed and momentum is again building. Establishing a National Park takes time and the NPS is committed to getting it right from the start, which means due diligence, careful and inclusive planning with the city and community, and a strategic vision for not only today, but for the future.



(NPS Photo)

Potential Visitor Center Layout

Last summer, the NPS worked on a combined project for multiple parks to develop some proposed architectural and engineering studies of various historic rehabilitation projects. Coltsville was among those parks chosen to work with Davis Brody Bond (DBB), the architects who designed the 9/11 Memorial in New York City, to get some preliminary potential designs for what the future Coltsville Visitors Center might look like and cost to be developed. It is important to note that these are *conceptual* layouts for planning purposes. The closer the park gets to establishment and actual construction many more sessions will take place to gather input.



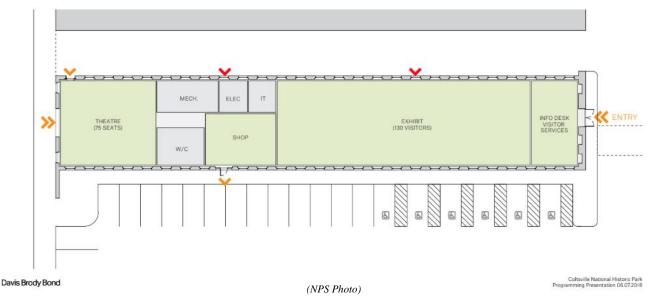
(Community Meeting - NPS Photo)

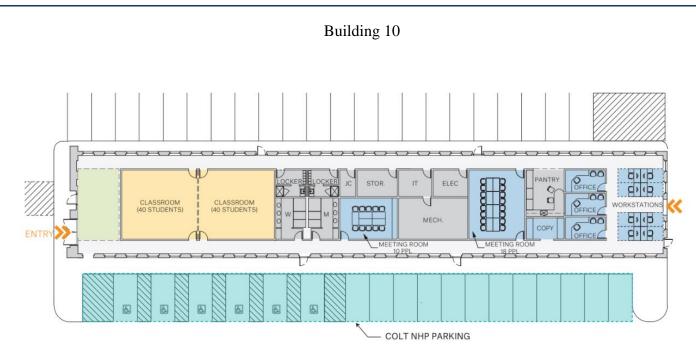
and feedback, both from the community and partners.

As part of this project, Coltsville staff hosted various community and partner sessions for gathering feedback and input for programming and space wants and needs. Coltsville staff also conducted surveys of potential partners and community members for what they might want to see in the future visitors center. DBB combined these surveys and after the various meetings provided the NPS with some initial conceptual layouts as well as how the construction could be broken into phases as well. The potential layouts are shown below.

Again, these are *conceptual* layouts for planning purposes and are not official. As the NPS and Coltsville staff move closer to establishment, working with our partners will be key to early years of the park while the buildings are under construction. Coltsville staff is working hard on planning and getting funding in line for the multimillion dollar rehabilitation project. The full report is available for the public upon request. Please email Ranger Andrew Long for a digital copy (andrew long@nps.gov).







(NPS Photo)

Upcoming Events See our website for recent events and details.

Ranger Walking Tours - (coming soon)

Each Tuesday and Friday, Jun 18 - Oct 29: 10-2pm: Old CT State House Farmers Market Location: Old CT State House

Thursday, Jul 11:

6-8pm: Sunset Sounds Concert Series Location: Butler-McCook House and Gardens

Saturday, Jul 13:

11-5pm: Riverfront Recapture Food Truck Festival Location: Mortensen Plaza

6:30 – 8:30pm: Simply Swing Band Location: Springfield Armory NHS



(Springfield Armory - NPS Photo)

Saturday, Jul 13:

8:30-10am: Colt Park Clean Up Location: Colt Park

Thursday, Aug 8:

6-8pm: Sunset Sounds Concert Series Location: Butler-McCook House and Gardens



(Colt Park Clean up - Friends of Colt Park Photo)

Saturday, Aug 10: 8:30-10am: Colt Park Clean Up Location: Colt Park



(Summer Concert Series – Butler McCook House Photo)

Contact Us



Andrew Long Management Assistant, Coltsville National Historical Park andrew_long@nps.gov 413-426-6658

Kelly Fellner Superintendent, Coltsville National Historical Park kelly_fellner@nps.gov 413-271-3980