



MUSEUM of
NORTHERN
ARIZONA

Celebrating the Colorado Plateau

PRESS RELEASE

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MNA's unveils new dark-sky compliant, state of the art parking lot lighting system

(Flagstaff, Ariz.) March 25, 2016 – As part of the Museum of Northern Arizona's ongoing program of upgrading and enhancing the beauty and functionality of its exhibit building, the Museum is pleased to announce its new dark-sky compliant parking lot lighting system.

Designed by Flagstaff-based Lighting consultant, Robert Tant Lighting Design, the system is part of an overall parking lot repaving project made possible by Harry Easton and his late wife Betsy, which includes making the Museum's historic south entrance universally accessible, improving the Rio de Flag overlook and practicing reconciliation ecology with Terra BIRDS to improve the surrounding landscape. Tant reviewed the specific wavelength LED light source for the project made by Philips Lighting with Chris Luginbuhl, formerly of the U.S. Naval Observatory/Flagstaff Station, one of the country's best-informed and most-experienced experts on the science of the night.

The system includes twelve aluminum 23 foot tapered poles holding 17 LED lighting fixtures. The lamps on the fixtures, Philips Astronomer's Lights, are narrow wave length yellow-amber spectrum LED's, also known as AMBER Lumileds. The fixtures combine the energy savings of LED lights with the characteristics of dark-sky compliant lights and were originally designed to meet Florida Wildlife requirements for sea turtles and are specified by astronomers as being dark sky compliant.

Of the 150,000 lumens in the Museum parking lot permitted by city code, the Museum used a combined 65,038 lumens, or 43.4% of the allowable lumens for the site. All of the lights combined will put out 1344 watts. In addition, the LED lights have a 100,000 hour rating versus 30,000 for conventional low pressure sodium vapor lights.

"This new lightening system demonstrates the Museum's commitment and efforts to ensuring that our dark skies remain protected," said Director & CEO Carrie M. Heinonen. "Further, it refutes the allegations that protecting the 'World's First International Dark Sky City' is impossible because appropriate technology is unavailable.

Tant and the Museum worked with a manufacturer of genuine amber-spectrum fixtures.

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“MNA made a commendable effort to locate and install night-sky friendly technology that meets public-safety and design concerns while simultaneously protecting the night sky. The Museum has once again demonstrated leadership in recognizing and working to sustain the precious resources, both human and natural, of the Colorado Plateau,” said Lance Diskan of Flagstaff’s Dark Skies Coalition.

“This is the first large-scale utilization of these fixtures in Flagstaff,” said Heinonen, “and we hope others will be inspired to seek innovative solutions to the challenges by respecting the privilege of living in a dark sky city.”

The **Museum of Northern Arizona** inspires a sense of love and responsibility for the beauty and diversity of the Colorado Plateau. Founded in 1928, the Museum includes an historic exhibit building with nine galleries showcasing the geology, anthropology and art of the region; research and collections facilities; a museum shop and bookstore; and more than 450 public programs annually. To learn more, visit musnaz.org or call (928) 774-5213.