

PLANNING COMMISSION STAFF REPORT

DATE:

JUNE 8, 2016

SUBJECT: PALM SPRINGS AIR MUSEUM, FOR A MINOR ARCHITECTURAL APPLICATION FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A 20,230-SQUARE FOOT HANGAR EXPANSION AT THE PALM SPRINGS AIR MUSEUM LOCATED AT 745 NORTH GENE AUTRY TRAIL, ZONE A. (CASE

3.1412 MAA)

FROM:

Flinn Fagg, AICP, Director of Planning Services

<u>SUMMARY</u>

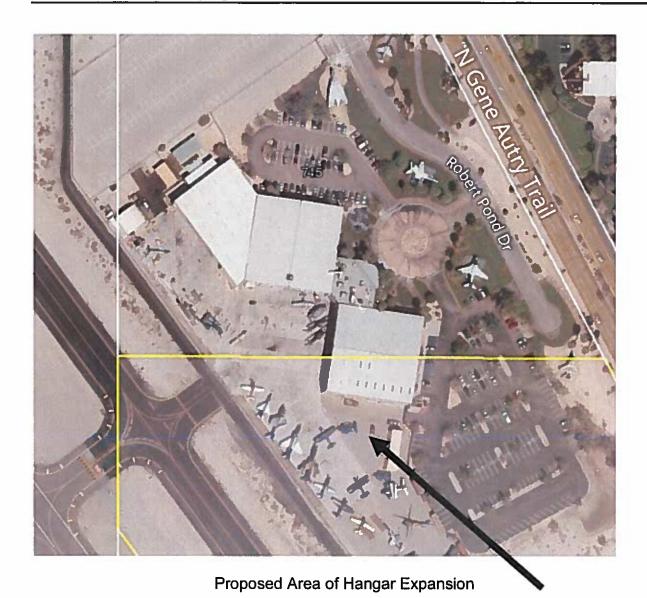
The Planning Commission to review a Minor Architectural Application to construct a 20,230-square foot hangar addition and associated parking lot revisions to the Palm Springs Air Museum.

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve as submitted with conditions.

BACKGROUND:

Related Releva	ant City Actions by Planning, Fire, Building, etc	
7/26/1996	Planning Commission approves Major Architectural Application for	
	Palm Springs Air Museum Master Plan	
Most Recent C	Ownership Ownership	
	City of Palm Springs	
Neighborhood	Notification	
	Email notification sent to Escena Neighborhood Organization	
Field Check		
May 2016	Staff visited site to observe existing conditions	
Notification		
	Notification not required.	
Site Area		
Net Area	9.95-acres	



ANALYSIS:

Surrounding Property	Existing General Plan Designations	Existing Land Use	Existing Zoning Designations
Subject	A (Airport)	Palm Springs Air	A (Airport)
Property		Museum	
North	A (Airport)	Airport - Vacant	A (Airport)
South	A (Airport)	Airport - Vacant	A (Airport)
East	l (Industrial)	Desert Sun	l (Industrial)
		Newspaper Building	
West	A (Airport)	Airport - Runway	A (Airport)

DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS:

	A - Airport	Proposed Project
Lot Area	No Requirement	9.95-acres
Lot Width	No Requirement	1,022 feet
Lot Depth	No Requirement	240 feet
Front Yard	25 feet	298 feet (conforms)
Side Yard	No Requirement	320 feet
Rear Yard	No Requirement	115 feet
Building Height	Minimum yard equal to	36 feet max
(max.)	height of building	
Bldg. Coverage	No Requirement	18.6 %
Off-street parking	1 space per 500-sq ft = 160	218 spaces (conforms)
Landscaping	Front Yard / Parking Lot	Landscape plan provided (conforms)

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The Palm Springs Air Museum has submitted a Minor Architectural Application to construct a 20,230-square foot hangar to house the "Major General Kenneth P. Miles" Vietnam & Korean War Gallery. The Museum has been conducting a major fundraising effort earmarked for the construction of the new hangar and will result in a 2.5 million dollar investment in the property. An opening target date of the first quarter 2017 is planned. The new hangar will display several large planes, along with other exhibits focusing on the Vietnam and Korean Wars.

The original site master plan for the Air Museum was approved by the Planning Commission in 1996 and included two phased additions attached to the original buildings (Building A on the North, and Building B on the South). One 15,753-square foot expansion hangar was built in 2000 adjacent to Building A. The new hangar will be attached to Building B located on the south end of the complex on an existing graded gravel area equaling 20,230-square foot. The original master plan approved an overall square footage of 72,045 and the proposed new hangar will increase the total to 80,558-square feet. Section 94.04.00(E)(2)(a) of the Palm Springs Zoning Code allows a project to be reviewed as a Minor Architectural Application (MAA) if the addition does not increase the existing floor area by 25%. The proposed hangar expansion does not reach this threshold. The siting of the new building will require a revision to the museum parking lot and will extend beyond the existing chain link fenced airplane exhibit area.

The new hangar will be constructed of Butler Panel metal walls with color "Cool Country Sand" and will match the existing exterior of the museum. A glass storefront system will be placed in the middle of the front façade to break up the building massing and to provide an emergency exit. The glazing is semi reflective with a green/blue tint. The height of the building varies from 36 feet as it connects to the existing building sloping downward to a low point of 30 feet. The west façade (facing the airport runway) will utilize a telescoping hangar door opening onto the museum concrete runway apron.

The location of the new hangar attached to Building B will extend into the existing parking lot resulting in the displacement of sixteen (16) parking spaces and a trash enclosure. The reconfigured parking lot will include two (2) new parking lot islands and the relocation of two (2) light poles resulting in an increase of ten (10) parking spaces for a total of 218 spaces provided. In addition, at peak times the museum can utilize an overflow parking lot which can accommodate 130 cars. Landscaping is proposed in the area between the new building and parking lot consisting of shrubs, and trailing plants. Several existing mature trees currently within parking lot islands or planter areas will be transplanted and saved. New trees of 36" box size will be planted if trees do not survive. The trash enclosure will be relocated to the south end of the parking lot.

ARCHITECTURAL APPROVAL

Although there are no required findings for applications for architectural approval which do not require environmental assessments, the Zoning Ordinance Section 94.04.00(D)(1-9) provides guidelines for the architectural review of development projects to determine that the proposed development will provide a desirable environment for its occupants as well as being compatible with the character of adjacent and surrounding developments, and whether aesthetically it is of good composition, materials, textures and colors. Conformance is evaluated, based on consideration of the following:

1. Site layout, orientation, location of structures and relationship to one another and to open spaces and topography. Definition of pedestrian and vehicular areas; i.e., sidewalks as distinct from parking areas;

The proposed hangar totaling 20,230-square feet is part of an approved phased master plan for expansion at the Palm Springs Air Museum. The new hangar will display several large planes, along with other exhibits focusing on the Vietnam and Korean Wars. The structure will be built on an existing flat; graded area currently used for airplane display and will be situated so as to take maximum advantage of the opportunities associated with fronting on the airport runway apron. Large doors will open up to the west and allow airplane exhibits to be changed regularly. The

siting of the building will result in a revision to the main museum parking lot with an increase in the total number of parking spaces provided.

2. Harmonious relationship with existing and proposed adjoining developments and in the context of the immediate neighborhood community, avoiding both excessive variety and monotonous repetition, but allowing similarity of style, if warranted;

The Palm Springs Air Museum is located on property owned by the City of Palm Springs with vacant parcels adjacent on both sides. The site fronts on a major thoroughfare at the traffic signal controlled intersection of North Gene Autry Trail and Tamarisk Road. In the immediate area several industrial park developments are located along Gene Autry Trail with the headquarters of the Desert Sun across the highway. The hangar expansion will allow the museum to continue to provide a high quality experience to the general public and will not be a detriment to the surrounding neighborhood.

 Maximum height, area, setbacks and overall mass, as well as parts of any structure (buildings, walls, screens towers or signs) and effective concealment of all mechanical equipment;

The maximum height of the proposed hangar varies from 36 feet as it connects to the existing building sloping downward to a low point of 30 feet. The west façade (facing the airport runway) will utilize a telescoping hangar door that will open onto the museum concrete runway apron. The height of the new hangar will be consistent with existing museum buildings with a parapet to conceal roof top mounted mechanical equipment. All setbacks based upon the building height have been met.

4. Building design, materials and colors to be sympathetic with desert surroundings;

AND

- 5. Harmony of materials, colors and composition of those elements of a structure, including overhangs, roofs, and substructures which are visible simultaneously, AND
- 6. Consistency of composition and treatment,

The new hangar will be constructed of Butler Panel metal walls with color "Cool Country Sand" and will match the existing exterior of the museum. All proposed materials will be consistent and match the existing museum buildings. A glass storefront system will be placed in the middle of the front façade to break up the

building massing and to provide an emergency exit. The glazing is semi reflective with a green/blue tint. The building design will be consistent with existing museum structures in massing, color, and composition.

7. Location and type of planting, with regard for desert climate conditions. Preservation of specimen and landmark trees upon a site, with proper irrigation to insure maintenance of all plant materials;

The planter areas adjacent to the new building will be landscaped with a combination of trailing plants and shrubs along with the transplanting of several mature trees into new parking lot islands. The proposed water-efficient plants are located in a manner that conforms to the topography of the site and will be consistent with desert surroundings. A trash enclosure will be relocated to the south end of the parking lot.

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION:

The proposed project is part of the Palm Springs International Airport Master Plan. In connection with the 2014 Airport Master Plan Update, the City Council approved a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND). The proposed hangar expansion was evaluated in the MND and will not result in any significant environmental effects.

Glenn Mlaker, AICF Associate Planner

Flinn Fagg, FAICP
Director of Planning Services

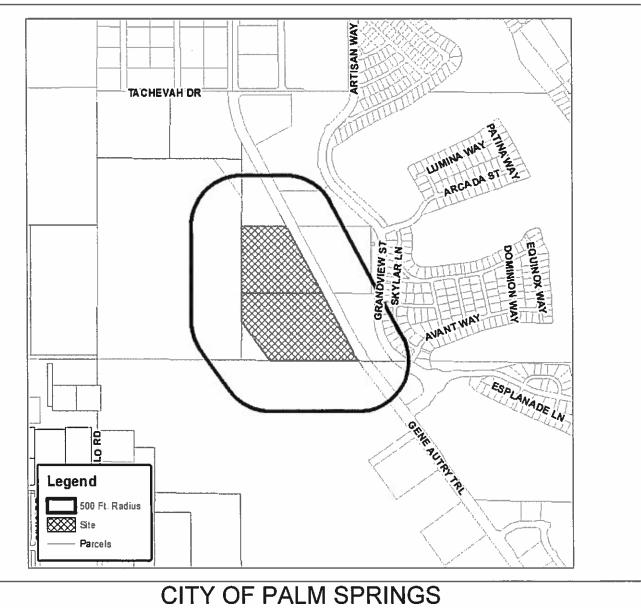
Attachments:

- 1. Vicinity Map
- 2. Resolution
- 3. Conditions of Approval
- 4. Justification Letter from Applicant
- Site Photos
- 6. Site Plan
- 7. Floor Plan
- 8. Landscape Plan
- 9. Grading Plan



Department of Planning Services Vicinity Map





RESOLUTION NO.

PALM SPRINGS AIR MUSEUM, FOR A MINOR ARCHITECTURAL APPLICATION (MAA) FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A 20,230-SQUARE FOOT HANGAR EXPANSION AT THE PALM SPRINGS AIR MUSEUM LOCATED AT 745 NORTH GENE AUTRY TRAIL, ZONE A. (CASE 3.1412 MAA), SECTION 7.

THE PLANNING COMMISSION FINDS AND DETERMINES AS FOLLOWS:

- A. The Palm Springs Air Museum, ("Applicant") has filed an application with the City pursuant to Section 94.04.00 of the Zoning Ordinance for the construction of a 20,230-square foot hanger as an expansion of the Palm Springs Air Museum at 745 North Gene Autry Trail, Zone A, Section 7.
- B. On June 8, 2016, a public meeting on the application to consider Case 3.1412 MAA was held by the Planning Commission in accordance with applicable law.
- C. The proposed project is part of the Palm Springs International Airport Master Plan. In connection with the 2014 Airport Master Plan Update, the City Council approved a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND). The proposed hangar expansion was evaluated in the MND and will not result in any significant environmental effects.
- D. The Planning Commission has carefully reviewed and considered all of the evidence presented in connection with the hearing on the project, including, but not limited to, the staff report, and all written and oral testimony presented.
- E. Pursuant to Section 94.04.00 of the Palm Springs Zoning Code, the Planning Commission finds:
- 1. Site layout, orientation, location of structures and relationship to one another and to open spaces and topography. Definition of pedestrian and vehicular areas; i.e., sidewalks as distinct from parking areas;

The proposed hangar totaling 20,230-square feet is part of an approved phased master plan for expansion at the Palm Springs Air Museum. The new hangar will display several large planes, along with other exhibits focusing on the Vietnam and Korean Wars. The structure will be built on an existing flat; graded area currently used for airplane display and will be situated so as to take maximum advantage of the opportunities associated with fronting on the airport runway apron. Large doors will open up to the west and allow airplane exhibits to be changed regularly. The siting of the building will result in a revision to the main museum parking lot with an increase in the total number of parking spaces provided.

2. Harmonious relationship with existing and proposed adjoining developments and in the context of the immediate neighborhood community, avoiding both excessive variety and monotonous repetition, but allowing similarity of style, if warranted;

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3. Maximum height, area, setbacks and overall mass, as well as parts of any structure (buildings, walls, screens towers or signs) and effective concealment of all mechanical equipment;

The maximum height of the proposed hangar varies from 36 feet as it connects to the existing building sloping downward to a low point of 30 feet. The west façade (facing the airport runway) will utilize a telescoping hangar door that will open onto the museum concrete runway apron. The height of the new hangar will be consistent with existing museum buildings with a parapet to conceal roof top mounted mechanical equipment. All setbacks based upon the building height have been met.

4. Building design, materials and colors to be sympathetic with desert surroundings;

AND

5. Harmony of materials, colors and composition of those elements of a structure, including overhangs, roofs, and substructures which are visible simultaneously,

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6. Consistency of composition and treatment,

The new hangar will be constructed of Butler Panel metal walls with color "Cool Country Sand" and will match the existing exterior of the museum. All proposed materials will be consistent and match the existing museum buildings. A glass storefront system will be placed in the middle of the front façade to break up the

building massing and to provide an emergency exit. The glazing is semi reflective with a green/blue tint. The building design will be consistent with existing museum structures in massing, color, and composition.

7. Location and type of planting, with regard for desert climate conditions. Preservation of specimen and landmark trees upon a site, with proper irrigation to insure maintenance of all plant materials;

The planter areas adjacent to the new building will be landscaped with a combination of trailing plants and shrubs along with the transplanting of several mature trees into new parking lot islands. The proposed water-efficient plants are located in a manner that conforms to the topography of the site and will be consistent with desert surroundings. A trash enclosure will be relocated to the south end of the parking lot.

THE PLANNING COMMISSION RESOLVES:

Based upon the foregoing, the Planning Commission hereby approves Case 3.1412 MAA for the construction of a 20,230-square foot hangar as part of a phased expansion of the Palm Springs Air Museum located at 745 North Gene Autry Trail subject to the conditions of approval attached herein as Exhibit A.

ADOPTED this 8th day of June, 2016.

Director of Planning Services

AYES: NOES: ABSENT: ABSTAIN:	
ATTEST:	CITY OF PALM SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA
Flinn Fagg, AICP	

RESOLUTION NO.

EXHIBIT A

Case 3.1412 MAA

Palm Springs Air Museum

745 North Gene Autry Trail

June 8, 2016

CONDITIONS OF APPROVAL

Before final acceptance of the project, all conditions listed below shall be completed to the satisfaction of the City Engineer, the Director of Planning Services, the Director of Building and Safety, the Chief of Police, the Fire Chief or their designee, depending on which department recommended the condition.

Any agreements, easements or covenants required to be entered into shall be in a form approved by the City Attorney.

ADMINISTRATIVE CONDITIONS

- ADM 1. <u>Project Description</u>. This approval is for the project described per Case 3.1412 MAA, except as modified by the conditions below.
- ADM 2. Reference Documents. The site shall be developed and maintained in accordance with the approved plans on file in the Planning Division dated May 26, 2016, except as modified by the conditions below.
- ADM 3. Conform to all Codes and Regulations. The project shall conform to the conditions contained herein, all applicable regulations of the Palm Springs Zoning Ordinance, Municipal Code, and any other City County, State and Federal Codes, ordinances, resolutions and laws that may apply.
- ADM 4. <u>Minor Deviations</u>. The Director of Planning or designee may approve minor deviations to the project description and approved plans in accordance with the provisions of the Palm Springs Zoning Code.
- ADM 5. Indemnification. The owner shall defend, indemnify, and hold harmless the City of Palm Springs, its agents, officers, and employees from any claim, action, or proceeding against the City of Palm Springs or its agents, officers or employees to attach, set aside, void or annul, an approval of the City of Palm Springs, its legislative body, advisory agencies, or administrative officers concerning Case 3.1412 MAA. The City of Palm Springs will promptly notify the applicant of any such claim, action, or proceeding against the City

of Palm Springs and the applicant will either undertake defense of the matter and pay the City's associated legal costs or will advance funds to pay for defense of the matter by the City Attorney. If the City of Palm Springs fails to promptly notify the applicant of any such claim, action or proceeding or fails to cooperate fully in the defense, the applicant shall not, thereafter, be responsible to defend, indemnify, or hold harmless the City of Palm Springs. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the City retains the right to settle or abandon the matter without the applicant's consent but should it do so, the City shall waive the indemnification herein, except, the City's decision to settle or abandon a matter following an adverse judgment or failure to appeal, shall not cause a waiver of the indemnification rights herein.

- ADM 6. Maintenance and Repair. The property owner(s) and successors and assignees in interest shall maintain and repair the improvements including and without limitation all structures, sidewalks, bikeways, parking areas, landscape, irrigation, lighting, signs, walls, and fences between the curb and property line, including sidewalk or bikeway easement areas that extend onto private property, in a first class condition, free from waste and debris, and in accordance with all applicable law, rules, ordinances and regulations of all federal, state, and local bodies and agencies having jurisdiction at the property owner's sole expense. This condition shall be included in the recorded covenant agreement for the property if required by the City.
- ADM 7. <u>Time Limit on Approval</u>. Approval of this Conditional Use Permit shall be valid for a period of two (2) years from the effective date of the approval. Once the use is implemented, the Conditional Use Permit does not have a time limit, provided the project has remained in compliance with all conditions of approval.
- ADM 8. Right to Appeal. Decisions of an administrative officer or agency of the City of Palm Springs may be appealed in accordance with Municipal Code Chapter 2.05.00. Permits will not be issued until the appeal period has concluded.
- ADM 9. <u>Cause No Disturbance</u>. The owner shall monitor outdoor parking areas, walkways, and adjoining properties and shall take all necessary measures to ensure that customers do not loiter, create noise, litter, or cause any disturbances while on-site. The owner and operator shall ensure that at closing time, all customers leave the property promptly and that the property is clean and secure before the owner/operator leaves the premises. The Police Chief, based upon complaints and/or other cause, may require on-site security officers to ensure compliance with all City, State, and Federal laws and conditions of approval. Failure to comply with these conditions may result in revocation of this permit, temporary business closure or criminal prosecution.

ADM 10. Grounds for Revocation. Non-compliance with any of the conditions of this approval or with City codes and ordinances, State laws; any valid citizen complaints or policing and safety problems (not limited to excessive alcohol consumption, noise, disturbances, signs, etc) regarding the operation of the establishment; as determined by the Chief of Police or the Director of Building and Safety, may result in proceedings to revoke the Conditional Use Permit. In addition, violations of the City Codes and Ordinances will result in enforcement actions which may include citations, arrest, temporary business closure, or revocation of this permit in accordance with law.

PLANNING DEPARTMENT CONDITIONS

- PLN 1. Approval is to be pursuant to plans date stamped May 26, 2016.
- PLN 2. Original Conditions of Approval for Case 3.1412 shall remain in full effect.
- PLN 3. Applicant to submit Form 7460 to the Federal Aviation Administration seeking building height approval and compliance with all regulations.
- PLN 4. Applicant to provide construction drawings and hold pre-construction meeting with Executive Director of the Palm Springs International Airport at time of Building Permit submittal.
- PLN 5. Applicant to comply with all regulations as determined by the Riverside County Airport Land Use Commission (ALUC)
- PLN 6. Water Efficient Landscaping Conformance. The project is subject to the Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance (Chapter 8.60.00) of the Palm Springs Municipal Code and all other water efficient landscape ordinances. The applicant shall submit a landscape and irrigation plan to the Director of Planning for review and approval prior to the issuance of a building permit. Landscape plans shall be wet stamped and approved by the Riverside County Agricultural Commissioner's Office prior to submittal. Prior to submittal to the City, landscape plans shall also be certified by the local water agency that they are in conformance with the water agency's and the State's Water Efficient Landscape Ordinances.
- PLN 7. <u>Smart Controller for landscape irrigation.</u> The applicant is to use "smart controllers" available from the Desert Water Agency for water efficiency in the irrigation system.

FIRE DEPARTMENT CONDITIONS

FID 1. Prior to any construction on-site, all appropriate permits must be secured.

ENGINEERING CONDITIONS

ENG 1. Prior to any construction on-site, all appropriate permits must be secured.

BUILDING DEPARTMENT CONDITIONS

BLD 1. Prior to any construction on-site, all appropriate permits must be secured.

END OF CONDITIONS



Preserve

Educate

Honor

May 25, 2016

To Whom it May Concern:

The Palm Springs Air Museum has entered an exciting time in its history. Since our humble beginnings nineteen years ago the Museum has been able to grow and prosper. From those early days our mission has grown to walk in the footsteps of the Greatest Generation and use our collection to educate visitors about the entire spectrum of military aviation. The Museum has marked many milestones:

- We have been named one of the top five Air Museum's in the U.S. by CNN. This ranking included the Smithsonian Institution, The Boeing Museum, The Air Force Museum, and The Pima Air Museum. In ranking Air Museums in the World, our facility was ranked 14th CNN. We were the smallest and only private facility to make the list.
- Over the last five years the Air Museum has sponsored nearly twenty five thousand school children
 from throughout Coachella Valley. In that time the Museum has raised nearly one million dollars to
 cover attendance, transportation, lunch, and program costs for the kids.
- We have hosted one of a kind exhibits that have received national recognition. Such as the Bob Hope
 Tribute, The Traveling Scale Replica of the Vietnam Wall, and most recently the Ansel Adams
 photography of Manzanar.
- The Museum is consistently the second highest recommended paid attraction behind the Aerial Tramway in all social media outlets.
- According to the Greater Palm Springs Area Convention and Visitors Bureau 40%* of our visitors stay eight nights or more in local hotels and spend \$500 per day*. If one assigns one of those nights for the Air Museum that equates to \$17 million dollars per year to the local economy. One day visitors spend \$257* which adds another \$12.8 million dollars to the equation based on our attendance. In total the Air Museum contributes almost \$30 million dollars to the area in visitor spending per capita per year.

RECEIVED

MAY 2 6 2016

^{*}Source Greater Palm Springs Convention and Visitors Bureau 2013 Economic Impact Study/2014/2015 on site Visitor Impact Survey.

The Museum reached a point where expansion is now critical to continue to prosper:

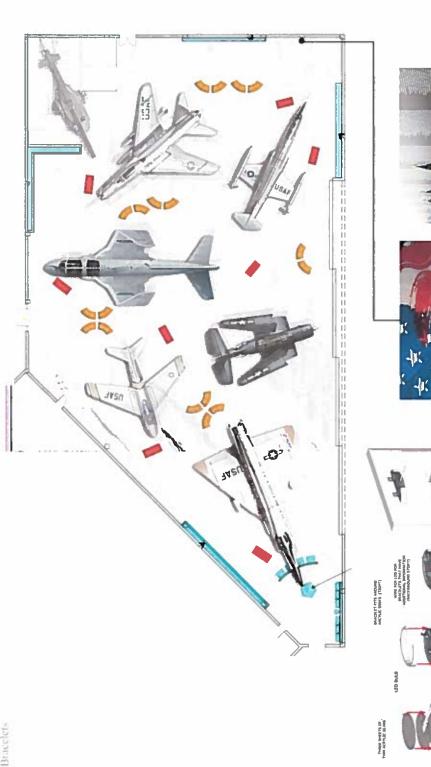
- We have undertaken development of a 20K Sq. Ft. "Major General Kenneth P. Miles" Vietnam & Korean hangar gallery expansion and are happy to report that our fundraising has progressed to the point that the Museum has begun the construction process with the target date of opening the facility in the first quarter of 2017 to the general public. We will be moving our existing Vietnam and Korean collection aircraft into the new Hangar to allow the Museum to better interpret the artifacts and get them out of the weather.
- In total the facility will represent an additional \$2.5M investment in the leasehold when the project comes to fruition.
- Since the inception of the ground lease the Museum has invested \$6.5M in building and improvements on the raw property. With the proposed expansion the improvements to the property in non appreciated dollars will total \$9M dollars.
- The expanded wing incorporates the standard aircraft hangar construction of the rest of the facility. The wing design is based on the approved 1998 Master Plan for the Property and represents the balance of contemplated construction on the original ground lease.

The Museum would thank the City of Palm Springs for, what we believe, has been a mutually beneficial partnership over the past nineteen years. Both entities have been growing and dealing with the impacts from that growth. We are confident that we can find a way to work out these infrastructure issues as the Museum matures into a nationally recognized facility that compliments the City's brand.

Sincerely,

Fred W. Bell Vice Chairman

The Palm Springs Air Museum





SECULTS SPECTS Sector I' GLAS IN AL DESCRIPES

Big - St - Catto

The Salaton court

The Barrelland ----

BLOT COMMET BACKET TO ACTIVITY BESCH

6 3

DIGITAL MEMORIAL WALL
LED Screens listing names on the
Memorial wall, coinciding with the
POW bracelets



POW BRACELETS
Donated Bracelets put in display
with Audio Stories and historical
background

of Thusen Kenneth P. Miles Hangar









