



**YALE PEABODY MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY  
DAVID FRIEND HALL FACT SHEET  
(As of September 14, 2016)**

**MEDIA CONTACT:**

Maria Kucinski  
617-275-6533  
[mkucinski@greenough.biz](mailto:mkucinski@greenough.biz)

- PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** The Yale Peabody Museum of Natural History is constructing a new, 2,300-sq. ft., state-of-the-art gem and mineral gallery and multipurpose programming space. David Friend Hall is named for the philanthropist and alumnus who donated \$4 million to underwrite the project. The project's completion is timed to coincide with the Peabody's 150th anniversary in October 2016. David Friend Hall builds on the tremendous legacy of mineralogical history at the Peabody and represents the first step in the next chapter of the Museum's history.
- LOCATION:** 170 Whitney Ave, New Haven, CT 06511
- SIZE:** 2,300 square feet
- DATES:** Thursday, October 13 – Ribbon-cutting ceremony  
Sunday, October 23 – Public opening
- FUNDRAISING:** Yale alumnus and Carbonite founder and executive chair David Friend donated \$4 million to underwrite the project.
- ARCHITECTS:** Architect: Christopher Williams Architects  
Consultants: Atelier Ten; Form Function Light
- MUSEUM LEADERSHIP:** David Skelly, Director, Frank R. Oastler Professor of Ecology, Yale School of Forestry & Environmental Studies  
Richard Kissel, Director of Public Programs  
Laura Friedman, Exhibit Designer
- PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS:**
- Features more than 150 premier mineral and gem specimens rarely seen by the public from significant private collections across the U.S.
  - Dynamic display integrates free-standing, large-scale minerals with small-scale specimens.
  - Customized lighting and cabinetry showcases each specimen's unique features.
  - The 126-seat capacity hall also serves as a multipurpose programming space for the more than 300 annual public programs.
  - With reduced signage and wall text, the hall educates visitors with interactive cloud-based software accessible via smart phone or tablet.
  - Located adjacent the Hall of Minerals, Earth and Space, further advancing the museum's mission to communicate one's understanding of Earth's history.

## **PEABODY COLLECTION**

The Peabody houses one of the nation's oldest and most comprehensive collections of gems and minerals, including over 40,000 mineral specimens and over 400 meteorites. The collection originated with Yale geologist and mineralogist Benjamin Silliman, whose pioneering teaching of chemistry, mineralogy, and geology was largely responsible for the preeminence of Yale in 19<sup>th</sup>-century scientific education. Silliman's mineralogy and geology collection predated the Peabody but came under its care after the museum was established.

Silliman's student, James Dwight Dana, succeeded Silliman as the pre-eminent geologist of his time, keeping Yale and the Peabody at the forefront of scientific education in geology, mineralogy, and related fields. Dana's 1848 "Manual of Mineralogy" became the standard text on the subject and, with updates and revisions, is used to this day.

The collection features prime examples of mineral specimens from localities no longer accessible, such as sites from Manhattan, or from Barringer Hill, Texas, which since 1939 has been at the bottom of the man-made Lake Buchanan. Specimens used by James Dwight Dana in his seminal "A System of Mineralogy" (first published in 1837, with its 8<sup>th</sup> updated edition published in 1997) are also part of the collection, as are 38 mineral type specimens, including those of the nine new mineral species described between 1878 and 1890 by George Jarvis Brush and Edward Salisbury Dana from Branchville (now part of Redding), Connecticut.

## **150th ANNIVERSARY**

The Yale Peabody Museum of Natural History celebrates its 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary on October 22, 2016. The museum has a series of initiatives to mark this special occasion. In addition to the opening of David Friend Hall, the museum is presenting "Treasures of the Peabody: 150 Years of Exploration & Discovery," an exhibition on view through Jan. 8, 2017, featuring 150 artifacts and specimens from the collection showcasing the museum's contributions to our understanding of the world today; and "Dinosaurs & Dioramas: A History of Peabody Education and Exhibitions," which is on view through Jan. 8, 2017 and focuses on the influential exhibitions and educational initiatives from throughout the museum's history. An offsite gallery located at 1 Broadway in New Haven — called Peabody2 — opened on August 15 to further celebrate the sesquicentennial, featuring objects from the Peabody's Southeast Asian and Australian collection. The museum's fall lecture series and film series will also tie thematically into the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

## **MISSION:**

The mission of the Peabody Museum is to serve Yale University by advancing one's understanding of earth's history through geological, biological and anthropological research, and by communicating the results of this research to the widest possible audience through publication, exhibition and education programs. Fundamental to this mission is stewardship of the Museum's rich collections, which provide a remarkable record of the history of the earth, its life, and its cultures.