



Embracing the Chaos of a New St. Louis Blues Museum Opening, An Enjoyable Experience

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It's been chaotic here since June 1st. I've always wanted to open a museum, but I've since learned that you have to be careful what you wish for.

From June, when I arrived, to today, we've made the leap from a big, empty space, to a 23,000 square foot museum that is 95% complete. We've come a long way quickly, but yet there are still so many details to still figure out – from the type of font to use in the brochure to what merchandise to order for the gift shop.

Despite the scramble toward our April 2 grand opening and the days when I look up and realize I haven't eaten, I wouldn't trade a minute of it. This is one of the most rewarding experiences of my life and I'm so proud to lead this organization.

If you've followed the national press, you've probably seen how the museum is *the* place for music lovers to visit in 2016. Even if you come to the museum with no prior knowledge about the Blues, you will leave wanting more. Several music and cultural institutions hold the Blues in high esteem, but the National Blues Museum is the only institution of its kind dedicated



exclusively to preserving and honoring the history, legacy, and international impact of Blues music.

With our performance space, we will be able to host live music three nights a week or to convene panel discussions on topics such as educating the public on the rich history of not just the blues, but the role African Americans played in influencing all forms of American music.

Our guests will be able to compose their own blues riff on one of several interactive exhibits and be introduced to history as they walk through time – and the gallery - taking them from the Mississippi Delta in the 1920s to today. Visitors will learn about the influence of icons such as Bessie Smith, B.B. King, the Rolling Stones, Janis Joplin and more through historic photos, instruments and other artifacts.

Yes, after April 2, the chaos of preparation will give way to the chaos of anticipation and learning our visitors will experience here.

I can't wait.

For more information, visit <https://www.nationalbluesmuseum.org/>