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George Jacob

CEO, Currie Dinosaur Museum



Jun 29, 2015

by Michael Ganley



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George Jacob

The Philip J. Currie Dinosaur Museum is opening in Grande Prairie in September, and it's a big deal. First of all, it's housed in a striking timber and zinc building that architecture magazine *Azure* called one of the world's Top 10 Projects to Follow. Then there are the state-of-the-art exhibits which include multimedia, augmented reality and the country's only National Geographic theatre. But most important is the museum's purpose: to showcase dinosaur collections that were excavated in the region. "Some of the finds here have been globally significant," says George Jacob, the museum's president and CEO. "A considerable percentage of the exhibits at the Royal Tyrrell Museum are from the northern Alberta region." The finds include a new species discovered by a school teacher in 1974.

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“That piqued the interest of Dr. Currie, who had been coming here for decades,” Jacob says. “Subsequent to that, the more they dug, the more they found.” Indeed, the nearby Pipestone Creek bone bed is the largest horned-dinosaur bone bed in North America.

Jacob is pulling this project together in an exceedingly short time frame. “It’s so tight that there is absolutely no margin of error,” he says. “To finish the construction in 14 months and to finish the exhibits in eight-and-a-half months is an extremely fast-paced project, one of the fastest museum implementation projects ever in Canada.”

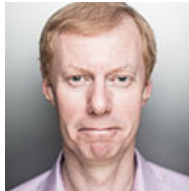
Fortunately, Jacob brings a wealth of experience to the job. He’s been planning, designing and leading museums for 26 years. His museum design-build portfolio spans 11 countries and exceeds \$400 million in investments.



Kent Brown



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