

Time-Lapse 'Movie' Shows Beginning-to-End Construction of Bush Presidential Center

April 2013 Editor- Judy Schriener

The George W. Bush Presidential Center, dedicated on April 25, began construction on Nov. 6, 2010, and [EarthCam webcams](#) documented the process every 15 minutes from then until April 14 of this year. The EarthCam editors sorted through 20,000 hours of imagery and some 156,000 photos to come up with a one-minute, 52-second time-lapse "movie." It is the first of its kind for a presidential center.

The [time-lapse movie](#) (shown below) was viewed more than 5,000 times the first day, and the center has not even opened to the public yet. It's scheduled to open May 1.

Two 12-megapixel cameras clicked away on the 226,500-sq ft center from their vantage points, one on the Southern Methodist University campus in Dallas, Texas, where the center is located, the other across the road overlooking the campus. One was straight-on, the other gave more of a bird's-eye view, and the cameras were constantly moving. Shots from the two cameras were edited together to create the movie. It looks as though more than two cameras were used, an effect achieved with the varying camera angles and digital zoom, so the views go back and forth from closer to farther away as the center expanded during construction. Because of the high resolution of the images—4272 by 2848 pixels—the editors were able to utilize as much as a 10x zoom and still end up with a high-quality image, and "we were able to do a lot of panning and changing angles," said Brian Cury, CEO and founder of Hackensack, New Jersey-based EarthCam.

EarthCam's project for the presidential center came about after the 16-year-old company showed former First Lady Laura Bush a similar time-lapse movie that EarthCam completed pro bono for the Flight 93 Memorial in Pennsylvania after the 9/11 terror attacks. She liked it, and EarthCam was tasked with the time-lapse camera work for the center. Manhattan Construction is the contractor for the center, their second presidential library project. Robert A. M. Stern Architects LLP is the project architect, and Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates is the landscape architect. The center has been awarded LEED Platinum certification by the U.S. Green Building Council, the first presidential library to earn it for new construction.

EarthCam's webcam projects are worldwide in 1,500 cities in 46 countries. They include the Panama Canal, museums in Abu Dhabi, the Santa Clara stadium project for the San Francisco 49ers, the Washington Monument rehab, the Smithsonian African-American Museum of History, San Francisco's Bay Bridge and numerous smaller venues. Project costs for the webcam services range from as low as \$3,000 to upward of seven figures. The webcams are used for basically one or more of three purposes, Cury said: documentation, collaboration and security. "That's the business aspect of it," he said. "Our clients use it as a business tool, but at the end of the day they walk away with a piece of art."

