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High-tech webcam streams coverage of Broad Museum construction

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DOWNTOWN LOS ANGELES — The three-story, Grand Avenue Broad Museum is expected to be completed in 2014 -- but for those of us who can't wait that long, one company is streaming coverage of the museum's construction online.

EarthCam, a company which uses high-tech, HD webcams to monitor places and projects throughout the world, has now taken on DTLA's own Broad Museum. There's a public webpage where you can watch the current action or jump backwards in time, to a day and time from earlier in the construction process.

The installation and service of this camera is paid for by the Broad Foundation. In addition to providing the public with insight and a birds-eye-view to the building's progress, it can also be used to coordinate the construction process. Architects, engineers and others involved in the building's development can all be watching and discussing the process from anywhere in the world.



"From entertainment and promotional applications for tourism, to monitoring and documentation for the construction industry, EarthCam provides hosted infrastructure to stream video to public websites and social media outlets, as well as archive high resolution megapixel images for producing cinematic time-lapse movies," the company's website explains.

EarthCam has cameras in New York, Bangkok, Amsterdam, Boston and other locations throughout the world. There have been cameras in the Bay Area since 2008, recording the construction of the Oakland-Bay Bridge; and there have been multiple camera locations throughout Los Angeles, from the beaches to the heart of Hollywood.

According to the company's website, they have had cameras in 192 countries -- streaming images of scenic views such as the Abbey Road Crossing in London and the Statue of Liberty, while also working with various corporations and government groups to document and promote certain projects.

The Broad Museum is expected to open next year with 2,000 pieces of contemporary art. Philanthropist Eli Broad is the namesake and funder of the new museum and said he hopes it will contribute to the continuing revitalization of DTLA.

"I've always believed that every great city needs a vibrant center – and Los Angeles didn't have one," said Broad. "But starting about 30 years ago, it started - and it's accelerated. More and more people are living Downtown; more and more people want to move downtown. It'll be great for the region."