



**MEDIA / PRESS RELEASE**  
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**FLIGHT TEST MUSEUM  
FOUNDATION (FTMF)**

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**FTMF HAS CONCEPTUAL DRAWINGS OF THE NEW MUSEUM – Check It Out!**

FTMF partners with the “Gensler” architectural firm to design the new flight test museum.

**PALMDALE, CA – February 15, 2022** — The Flight Test Museum Foundation has several new strategic partnerships with many exciting professionals, companies, and organizations. Award-winning photographer Jim Krantz, who serves on the advisory board as the new creative director, has been instrumental in bringing aboard global architecture and design firm Gensler. Gensler has teamed up with the Flight Test Museum Foundation to develop a breathtaking conceptual design for the museum and assist in our Capital Campaign.

Here is the press release from Gensler announcing our partnership, including new museum concepts:

The Flight Test Museum Foundation enlisted Gensler to develop capital campaign assets to help raise funds for the creation of a new museum and STEM Center. The multi-disciplinary team brought together experts from brand design, architecture, and museum design to create a vision for the future of the Flight Test Museum.

The reimagination of the Museum coincides with the rise of commercial space exploration and the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the breaking of the sound barrier in this air space. The area has seen milestones like testing America’s first jet, the breaking of the sound barrier, rocket plane flights to the edge of space and the first glide flights of the space shuttle. The Antelope Valley remains a hub of developmental flight test to this day for all the same reasons. The skill and spirit of all those who participated in this incredible body of work shaped both the modern world and the American persona.

Much of this historic work is not known to the world outside the AV and much of what is known is surrounded by myth and legend because of the secret nature of the work. The new Flight Test Museum and STEM center will make that history accessible by literally bringing it outside the Edwards Gate.

A significant amount of space flight testing happens at the facility, with many outside experts coming to test new technologies. Additionally, the STEM education program is one of the most important elements of the Museum, as it inspires and enables young people to learn about aerospace and flight tests.

The design vision for the new Museum marries the rectangular shape of an airplane hangar with the dynamic geometry of a Nighthawk aircraft. The angular roof element funnels down to the ground floor entrance, which helps guide visitors to the main lobby and creates a dramatic sense of welcome. The linear sequence throughout the space leverages the 60,000-square-foot hangar and will add 15,000 square feet of multifaceted programming for a welcome lounge, gallery space, classrooms, library, and gift shop. A branded bar named Pancho Barnes Happy Bottom Riding Club Bar will pay homage to Florence Lowe “Pancho” Barnes, the legendary female aviator who founded the first movie stunt pilots’ union.

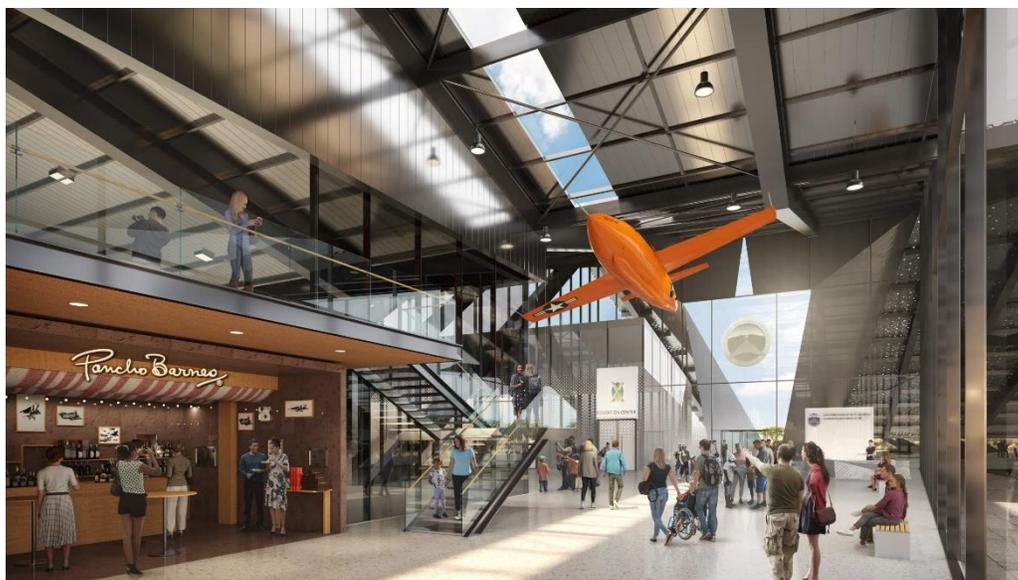
For more information about the Flight Test Museum Foundation, please visit [www.FlightTestMuseum.org](http://www.FlightTestMuseum.org) or contact Lisa Brown directly at: [Lbrown@FlightTestMuseum.org](mailto:Lbrown@FlightTestMuseum.org) or call 323.630.4789.

The gallery space will house more than 80 historic aircraft, as well as provide views of the outdoor exhibits for the Nighthawk and Black Hawk aircraft. An upper gallery space looks into the hangar, providing an alternate vantage point for viewing the artifacts from the Museum's collection. The unprogrammed gallery offers flexibility to host fundraisers, events, and rotating exhibits. Ultimately, the new Flight Test Museum and STEM Center will preserve and protect the rich history of the Aerospace Valley, while connecting it to a new generation.

### **ABOUT GENSLER**

Gensler is a global architecture, design, and planning firm with 49 locations across Asia, Europe, Australia, the Middle East, and the Americas. Founded in 1965, the firm serves more than 3,500 active clients in virtually every industry. Gensler designers strive to make the places people live, work, and play more inspiring, more resilient, and more impactful. For more information about, visit:

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**RENDERING PHOTOS:** Courtesy of Gensler

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**BACKGROUND** – The Flight Test Museum Foundation’s educational mission is to promote interest and generate excitement for K-12 students in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) through a focused educational outreach campaign about flight testing, aerospace, and Edwards Air Force Base.

To achieve this goal, the Flight Test Museum Foundation is committed to providing open-access educational resources in STEM subjects for teachers, students, and families. These resources enable them to engage in an exploration and understanding of STEM in aerospace and flight testing, build learning opportunities for Southern California students, and provide an educational center where students can learn and explore.

The mission of the Flight Test Museum Foundation (FTMF) is to raise funds to support the development of the Air Force Flight Test Museum at Edwards AFB. The FTMF’s fundraising efforts focus on museum improvements, exhibits, and aircraft acquisition/restoration. They are actively engaged in STEM education and the construction of a new, more accessible museum facility.

The Flight Test Museum Foundation (FTMF) is a private, tax-exempt 501(c)3 organization. Tax ID: 77-0003353. The FTMF is not a part of the Department of Defense or any of its components, and it has no government status.