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For Immediate Release

**American Express awards Grand Canyon Association \$100,000 grant to renovate historic Kolb Studio at Grand Canyon National Park**

Grand Canyon, AZ: Grand Canyon Association (GCA) announced a \$100,000 grant from American Express to help restore Kolb Studio, a historic building that is built into the side of Grand Canyon at the Bright Angel Trailhead. This area requires restoration and stabilization work to ensure it can continue to serve and inspire Grand Canyon visitors. With extreme weather conditions found on the rim at Grand Canyon National Park these structures require a significant amount of maintenance and care.

First built in 1904, Kolb Studio was site to legendary Kolb brothers' (Emery and Ellsworth) photography studio where they captured early tourists on treks into Grand Canyon. Later, it was expanded to include a theater and the family residence until Emery's death in 1976 when the building came under National Park Service ownership. As a historic building, the Grand Canyon Association took stewardship of the building and it is now an integral part of the visitor experience at Grand Canyon, housing a GCA bookstore and a gallery for rotating exhibits that are free and open to the public.

Millions of people from around the world have been introduced to Grand Canyon's history from Kolb Studio. Unfortunately, as Kolb Studio advances past its 100 year anniversary, its suitability for public visitation is at risk. Without significant renovations the studio would soon close to the public.

"Over the past 100 years, erosion and overall wear and tear require the building to be restored with some significant restoration ..." said Dave Uberuaga, Superintendent of Grand Canyon National Park. The restoration will cost almost \$500,000 and is targeted for completion by the end of fall 2013.

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Now, thanks to American Express' great corporate citizenship Kolb Studio may continue to engage park visitors in Grand Canyon's history and culture. "GCA is proud to partner with American Express given their leadership in the area of historic preservation of America's treasured landmarks," Susan Schroeder, Executive Director, Grand Canyon Association.

"Historic preservation has long been the hallmark of American Express' involvement in the communities where our employees and customers live, work and explore," said Timothy J. McClimon, President of the American Express Foundation. "American Express is proud to support the preservation of Kolb Studio, so that future generations may access and enjoy this historical site."

#### About American Express:

American Express is a global services company, providing customers with access to products, insights and experiences that enrich lives and build business success. The mission of the American Express Foundation is to bring to life the company's value of good corporate citizenship by supporting communities in ways that enhance the company's reputation with employees, customers, business partners and other stakeholders. Learn more at [americanexpress.com/](http://americanexpress.com/) and connect with us on [facebook.com/americanexpress](https://facebook.com/americanexpress), [twitter.com/americanexpress](https://twitter.com/americanexpress) and [youtube.com/americanexpress](https://youtube.com/americanexpress).

#### About Grand Canyon Association:

Founded in 1932, the Grand Canyon Association (GCA) is the National Park Service's official nonprofit partner raising private funds to benefit Grand Canyon National Park, operating retail shops and visitor centers within the park, and providing premier educational opportunities about the natural and cultural history of the region. GCA works to help preserve and protect Grand Canyon National Park by cultivating support, education and understanding of the park. To learn more about this and other projects visit [www.grandcanyon.org](http://www.grandcanyon.org)

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