

Building a Court for the 21st Century

This 120-panel mural by Lynn Basa adorns the new courthouse lobby

September Issue

- *Message from the TCA*
- *Visiting the New Central Courthouse*
- *Wayfinding and Directory Information*
- *COVID-19 & Air Quality*
- *Seismic Safety*
- *Technology for Court Patrons*
- *Art Installations*
- *Courthouse Video Tours*

Message from the Trial Court Administrator

The time has FINALLY arrived. We are closing the historic courthouse for good at the end of this month and opening our new central courthouse at 1200 SW First Avenue on Monday, October 5th. Due to the changes in plans, the delays, and the general uncertainty in all our lives right now, the opening of the new courthouse seems almost anticlimactic. We can't open with the public celebration we'd hoped for, but let's not forget what a big deal this is.

A new courthouse for Multnomah County had been in the planning stages for over 30 years when finally, in 2013, and, thanks especially to the efforts of then Presiding Judge Nan Waller and our former Trial Court Administrator Doug Bray, the legislature passed Senate Bill 5506 establishing the Oregon Courthouse Capital Construction Improvement Fund and allowing up to 50% in state matching funds to be allocated for replacing unsafe courthouses. This opened the door for construction of the new Multnomah County Central Courthouse. OJD made funding requests to the Oregon State Legislature in four consecutive biennia, and we were successful in securing over \$140 million in state bond funding to supplement Multnomah County's investment in the construction of the courthouse.

In 2015, the project scope and reference design were developed; Hoffman Construction was selected as the general contractor; and the architecture team of local Portland firm SRG and New York-based Ricci-Greene Associates was also hired. We finalized the building design and broke ground in late 2016, and major construction began in 2017. After nearly 4 years of construction, installation and testing, furnishing, and finishing, the new courthouse is ready.

I'm proud to say that I believe we have effectively achieved the mission we established at the outset of this project: To design and build a sustainable, accessible landmark courthouse that is a symbol of the importance of the justice system and a source of civic pride. The new courthouse incorporates 21st century building practices in operations, security, and design, and is capable of adapting to changing needs over a 100-year life span.

In spite of the enormous obstacles 2020 has thrown in our path, we are also well on our way to achieving the vision that this new courthouse will enhance confidence in the justice system, inspire civic engagement and urban vitality, and provide a restorative human experience. During the design process, we carefully deconstructed many of our existing business processes to evaluate whether there were ways to improve the delivery of services to our customers. We consolidated and reorganized the court's operational units, and developed an innovative plan for the use of technology including contracting with specialized audio visual



Building a Court for the 21st Century

consultants and incorporating new software applications for interacting with customers and displaying information.

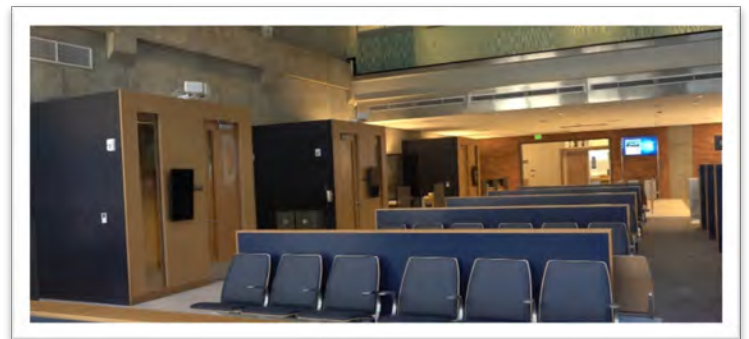


Customer Service area, with Public Information and ticketing kiosks

For example, the central public service area in our new facility features self-help kiosks and terminals (with interfaces available in multiple languages and for those that are sight-impaired), 18 public service windows, an electronic check-in system, and a seated waiting area. Courthouse customers requiring the least amount of personal assistance can conduct business transactions quickly and limit their need to wait in line for a court clerk.

Another example is the Crane Room on the 2nd floor which is dedicated to the highest volume functions for the court including traffic and parking citations, small claims, and landlord/tenant matters. In the Crane Room, you'll find a seated waiting area, terminals with orientation videos to explain procedural options, consultation areas offering privacy for parties attempting to resolve cases, and monitors directing parties to the four Crane Room courtrooms as their cases are called. The Crane Room is in the remodeled historic structure incorporated into the central courthouse, and the area is named for the twenty-ton crane that was used to move equipment in the original electrical substation for the Portland Railway Light & Power Company. The crane remains in place and is visible in the public waiting area.

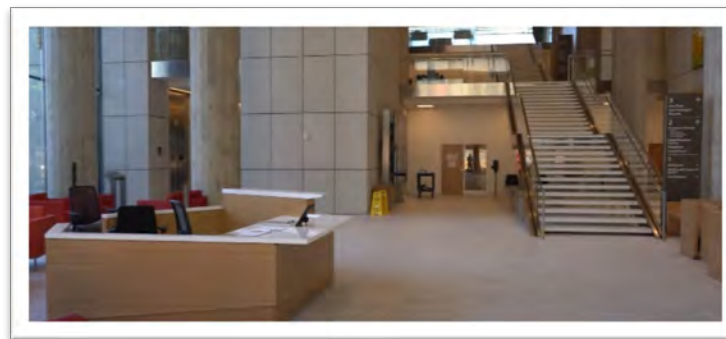
As we are opening the central courthouse during a pandemic, many areas will have additional plexiglass barriers, there will be signage indicating that distancing is required and reducing room capacities, and some areas such as our jury deliberation rooms or small conference rooms may not be usable for a while. Even with these limitations, our new facility will provide a better overall experience, protect the physical safety of those in the courthouse, and improve access to justice in Multnomah County. You're finally going to have an opportunity to experience it for yourselves.



Crane Room (High Volume Waiting Area)

Visiting the New Central Courthouse

The new Central Courthouse is seventeen stories and was built to embody the concept of transparency to foster trust in the legal system and improve access to justice in Multnomah County. Visitors to the Central Courthouse will notice a vastly improved experience when entering the building. The building has a large covered entrance and was designed with an inside waiting area so court patrons don't have to stand in the rain while they wait for security screening. After passing through security, a large lobby area has room for people to gather their belongings and put their shoes/belts/etc. back on, helping to reduce the stress of entering the courthouse.



Lobby, with Information Desk at left

If visitors don't know where to go in the courthouse, much improved signage and "way-finding" technology will help them navigate the building. Digital display monitors and docket displays are located throughout the courthouse. If a visitor needs more assistance in finding their way, an information desk is centrally located in the lobby. This desk will be staffed from

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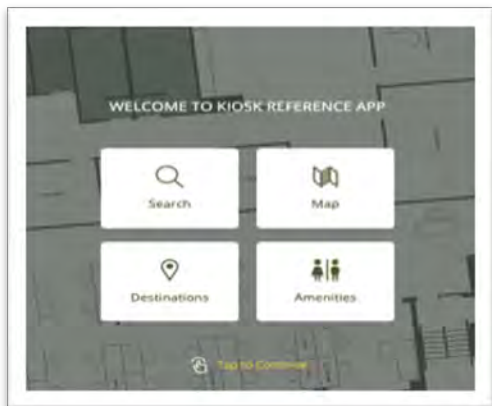
7:30am to 2:30pm by a court navigator, who will be able to provide basic court information and offer directional assistance. This new position was graciously funded by the Multnomah Bar Foundation and employed by Volunteers of America.

Many court visitors will be able to take care of their court business in the Customer Service Area on the Second Floor. Kiosks and terminals in this area will allow visitors requiring the least amount of personal assistance to process business transactions quickly and limit their need to wait in line for a court clerk. Visitors needing more assistance will be able to use an electronic check-in system and wait in a seated area for a number to be called to a customer service window. More complicated questions will be directed to the new Legal Resource Center or the court operations areas on upper floors when necessary.

Most of the trial courtrooms are located on floors 8-17. Visitors will want to take one of the six public elevators to those floors. There is a new standard courtroom design throughout the courthouse, including built-in displays for video conferencing and evidence presentation and improved acoustics for maintaining the audio record. If visitors are looking for a judge's office, they will go to the Judicial Chambers area which has a list of all judges on a particular floor. The areas have a vestibule for visitors, with seating areas and service counters.

Wayfinding & Directory Information

The term "Wayfinding" refers to navigation tools in the new building, such as physical signage and a new directory application (app), which empower visitors to easily find their destination. The Wayfinding app is an easy to use directory that will be available on the first floor of the new courthouse. The Wayfinding kiosks are located between the public elevators and stairs to the second floor, along with DocketCall (cases scheduled for the day) displays. Court Visitors will be able to search by destination name or room number, keyword, amenity, or view a list of publicly accessible locations in the building.



Wayfinding app displays are located in the 1st floor lobby,

- a. **Search** - Touchscreen search by keyword such as a Judge or Department name.
- b. **Map** - See a map of publicly accessible locations in the building.
- c. **Destinations** - See a list of all possible destinations.
- d. **Amenities** - Quickly find restrooms, exits, public elevators and stairwell, etc.

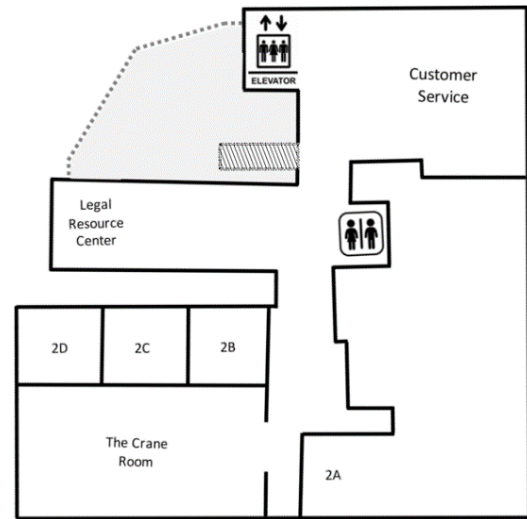
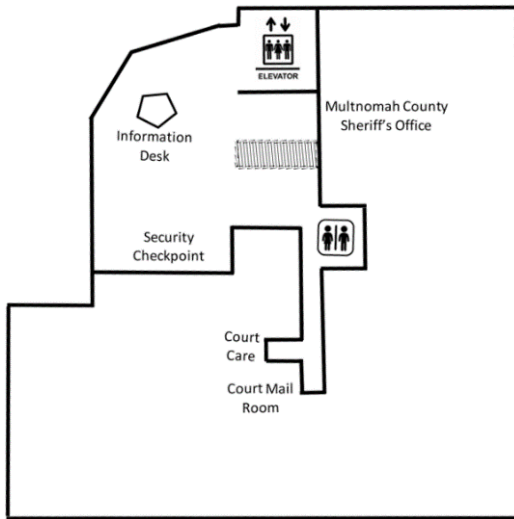
Building Highlights

In the new Multnomah Central Courthouse most publicly accessed areas are located on floors 1 – 4. On the first floor is a grand staircase that connects floors 1, 2 and 3. Near the public elevators is the large wall of displays including DocketCall and the Wayfinding application.

The second floor includes the Customer Service area, Legal Resource Center, High Volume Courtrooms, and the Crane Room. Our new Customer Service area has 18 service windows where Court Clerks will assist customers with financial transactions in all case types, filing of documents, setting up payment plans, and so on. Also on the second floor are the High Volume Courtrooms and the Crane Room. High Volume Courtrooms include Traffic, Parking, Landlord Tenant, and Small Claims matters. Prior to entering the Crane room our new Check in for Court application is available to parties appearing in person to indicate they are present for their hearing. The Jury room and Coffee Bar are located on the 3rd floor at the top of the grand staircase and were designed to be a comfortable area for jurors and includes floor to ceiling windows that provide an impressive view of the river. Courtrooms and judges' chambers start on the 7th floor, where the Presiding Judge and Court Administration offices are located. On each judicial floor, several Judges and their staff share one conveniently located judicial suite, with a visitor reception room located near the public elevators. Courtrooms are in the same location on each floor and are labeled A, B, C or D. Each judicial floor has a public seating area with views of the river and Mt. Hood in the distance.

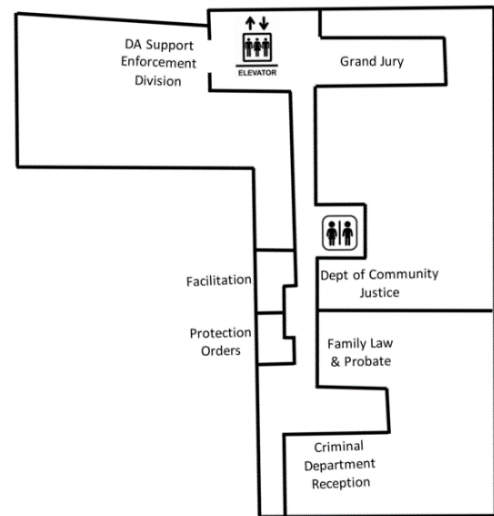
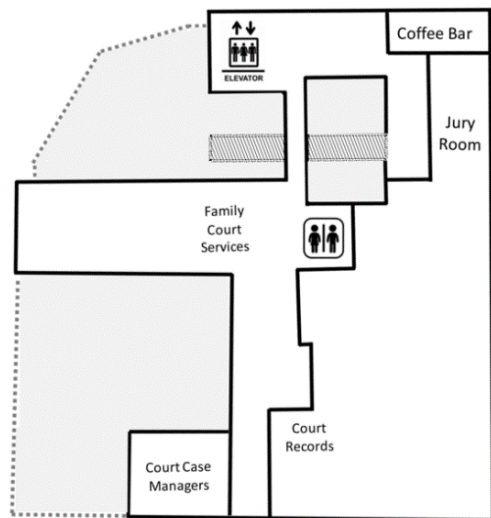
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Public Services & Operations Floors



Floor	Destination Name	Room #
1	Child Care (aka CourtCare)	01500
	Court Mail Room	01107
	Information Desk	01004
	Multnomah County Sheriff	01200

Floor	Destination Name	Room #
2	Customer Service	02100
	Crane Room	02500
	Legal Resource Center	02307
	High Volume Courtrooms	2A, 2B, 2C, 2D



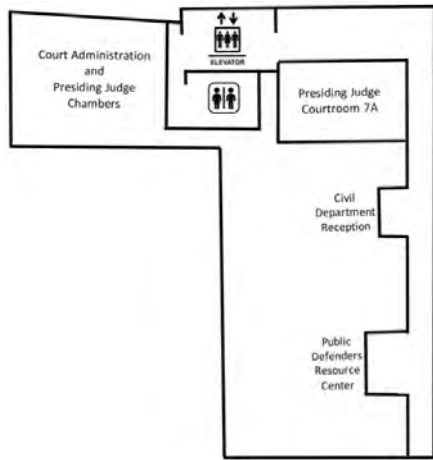
Floor	Destination Name	Room #
3	Jury Assembly Room	03203
	Coffee Bar	03005
	Court Records	03315
	Court Case Managers	03500
	Family Court Services (Mediation & Parent Education)	03400

Floor	Destination Name	Room #
4	Criminal Department Reception	04500
	Department of Community Justice	04401
	MCDA Support Enforcement Division	04200
	Family Law and Probate Department	04500
	Grand Jury	04300
	Protection Orders	04516
Facilitation	04518	

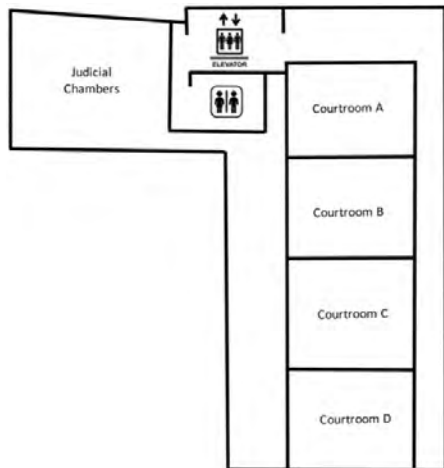
Floor 5 & 6 (not shown): Multnomah County District Attorney's Office Reception on 5th floor

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Administration & Courtroom Floors



Floor	Destination Name	Room #
7	Court Administration	07201
	Civil Department Reception	07510
	Presiding Judge Chambers	07200
	Presiding Courtroom	07A



Floors 8 through 17 are largely the same, with the exception of floor 8, which has no “C” courtroom. Judicial chambers for each judge are on the same floor as their assigned courtroom.

Floor	Courtroom	Judicial Department
8	08A	Judge Kathryn Villa-Smith
	08B	Judge Heidi Moawad
	08D	Civil Commitments
9	09A	Spare courtroom
	09B	Judge Francis G. Troy
	09C	Judge Melvin Oden-Orr
	09D	Judge Christopher J. Marshall
10	10A	Judge Leslie G. Bottomly
	10B	Judge Patricia L. McGuire
	10C	Judge Christopher A. Ramras
	10D	Judge Eric J. Bergstrom
11	11A	Judge Beth A. Allen
	11B	Judge Stephen Alexander
	11C	Judge Angela F. Lucero
	11D	Judge Leslie M. Roberts
12	12A	Judge David F. Rees
	12B	Judge Kelly Skye
	12C	Judge Xiomarra Y. Torres
	12D	Judge Jerry B. Hodson
13	13A	Judge Cheryl Albrecht
	13B	Judge Amy Baggio
	13C	Judge Morgan Long
	13D	Judge Kathleen Dailey
14	14A	Judge Angel Lopez
	14B	Judge Patrick Henry
	14C	Judge Andrew M. Lavin
	14D	Judge Eric J. Bloch
15	15A	Judge Amy Holmes Hehn
	15B	Judge Eric L. Dahlin
	15C	Judge Shelley D. Russell
	15D	Judge Nan G. Waller
16	16A	Judge Judith H. Matarazzo
	16B	Judge Benjamin N. Souede
	16C	Judge Katherine von ter Stegge
	16D	Judge Susan M. Svetkey
17	17A	Judge Thomas M. Ryan
	17B	Judge Gregory F. Silver
	17C	Judge Michael A. Greenlick
	17D	Judge Michael S. Loy



Central Courthouse artwork, by James Lavadour

COVID-19 & Air Quality

With the continuing prevalence of the novel coronavirus in our communities, there is understandable concern about air quality in indoor spaces and the possibility of airborne, aerosolized virus particles being transmitted via building HVAC (heating, ventilation and air conditioning) systems. Court patrons from the general public, staff from partner agencies who are frequently in court, and court staff themselves are eager to know what measures are being taken in the new Central Courthouse to minimize the risk of HVAC-caused virus transmission.

The Centers for Disease Control uses Air Changes per Hour (ACH) as a metric for indoor infection control. Most hospitals, for example, are designed to have 6-12 ACH in their indoor spaces for infection control, meaning that entire volume of air in the space is exchanged with fresh, outside air 6 to 12 times per hour (or once every 5-10 minutes). Most standard office buildings are much lower, with 1-2 ACH. The new Central Courthouse has the benefit of being state of the art in this regard, with the spaces most used by the public reaching 4-6 ACH.

Central Courthouse Indoor Air Quality Facts

- 2 to 2.5 ACH on Court Floors (8-17), or once every 24-30 minutes
- 3.5 – 6 ACH on floors 1-7, or once every 10-15 minutes
- MERV-13 air filters, which capture most small droplets, depending on their size:

0.3 – 1 microns	About 50% efficiency
1 to 3 microns	About 85% efficiency
3 to 10 microns	About 97% efficiency

Virus particles remain in the air by attaching to respiratory droplets, which the CDC states are typically 1-5 microns (or micrometers) in size. The new Central Courthouse HVAC system utilizes MERV-13 filters which are capable of filtering out such droplets, with varying levels of efficacy, down to 1 micron. Additionally, the building was designed in such a way that air is *not* simply recirculated inside; instead fresh air is pulled into the building and the interior air is vented to the outside.

When added to the other safeguards the court has put in place, such as requirements on face coverings, social distancing, hand sanitizer stations and sterilizing wipes for high-touch surfaces, and remote hearings where possible, we hope that that this information provides the public and OJD partner agencies peace of mind while using the new building.

Seismic Safety Features

It's no secret that we live and work in the vicinity of the Cascadia Subduction Zone. Experts predict about a 37 percent chance that an earthquake of 7.1+ magnitude will occur in the fault zone in the next 50 years. The current courthouse was built between 1909 and 1914, long before the Cascadia Subduction Zone was discovered in the 1970s and modern building codes were put in place. The current courthouse's significant safety problems were a major impetus for the new Central Courthouse being built with a state-of-the-art quake-softening system. The system will keep building occupants safe during a seismic event and allow the courthouse to remain a functional building in the aftermath of an earthquake.

The chance of a significant earthquake in the Portland area has not been lost on many judges, employees, and the members of the public that use the current courthouse. According to Judge Nan Waller, "Around the time that I was appointed to the bench there was an earthquake in Portland. Following the earthquake, the then-Presiding Judge Ellis



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was on the news showing cracks in the foundation of the courthouse. He explained how a more sizeable earthquake would cause the courthouse to crumble, with a considerable loss of life. My youngest was 10 at the time, saw the news and questioned me intensely about whether I was going to be in the building where everyone was going to die in an earthquake. I did my best to reassure him. That exchange contributed to my desire to assure that we have a safe courthouse for everyone who comes through the doors. After I saw the enormous earthquake shocks installed in the foundation of the new courthouse, I was able to report back to my son (now 28) that the new courthouse will indeed be safe.”



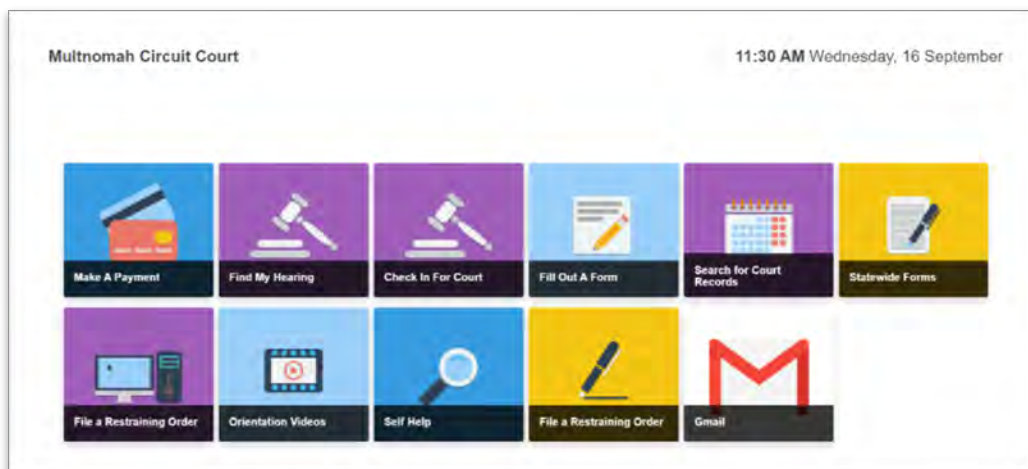
Viscous dampers are built into the steel and concrete structure of the building.

Exactly what features make the new Central Courthouse seismically safe? There are about 80 steel braces located throughout the building, with fluid viscous dampers at their ends. The damping system is designed to absorb much of the shaking that occurs during an earthquake. It is the first new building in Oregon to use this advanced technology. While the steel braces won't be visible to users of the building, people will notice the concrete pillars spread throughout the courthouse, which will provide additional structural support in the event of an earthquake.

Technology for Court Patrons

The new Central Courthouse represents a giant leap forward in terms of the public-facing technology to help patrons navigate the building, locate and use court in-person and online court services, and in managing customer service queues. New public-facing technology features include the following:

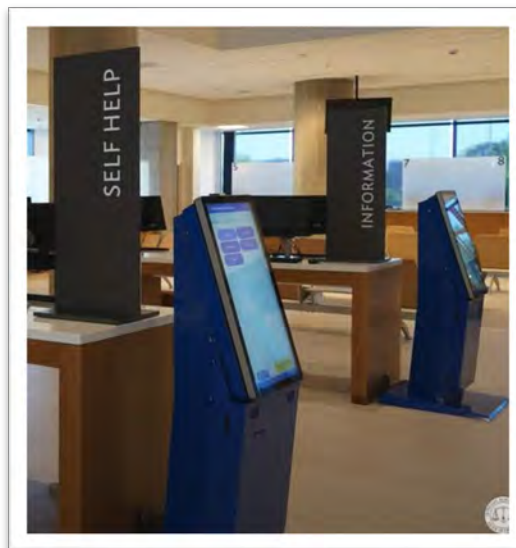
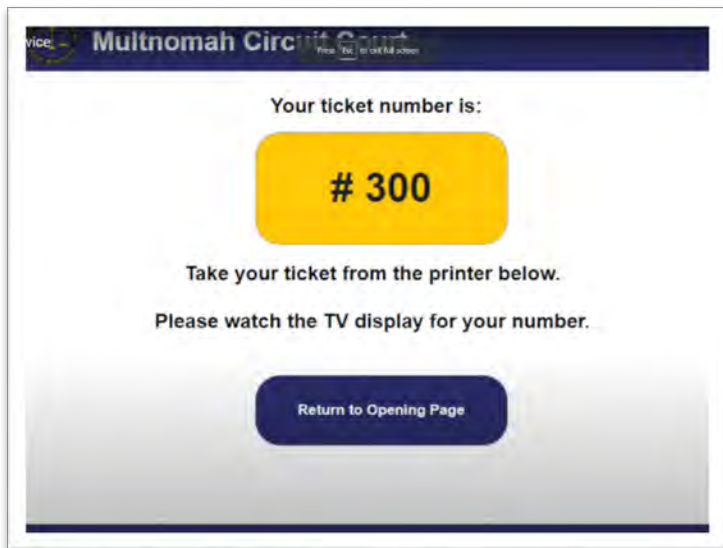
Public Information Kiosks – Located throughout the building, each group of kiosks offers access to self-service features relevant to their location in the Central Courthouse. For example, outside the high-volume courtrooms, kiosks offer self-service check-in for litigants to let staff know they have arrived for their hearing. In the Customer Service area, a full suite of applications is available, from looking up court records, to making online payments, to filling out online forms. Several kiosk groups, particularly those that permit access to online court records, allow patrons to submit a print job to be paid for and picked up from either the Records Department on the 3rd floor or the Customer Service area on the 2nd.



Example of the Public Information Kiosk interface with a complete set of apps.

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Customer Service Ticketing – Much like you might find at the DMV, the new Central Courthouse has three customer service ticketing kiosks (2 on the 2nd floor, and one outside the Family Law department on the 4th) that allow patrons to tap a few basic buttons for what services they need and obtain a ticket to be called by a clerk at a customer service window. This ticketing system, called QFlow, will allow more efficient and organized customer service in multiple locations.



Customer Service Ticketing Kiosks on the 2nd floor dispense numbered tickets for the 18 service windows.

Digital Docket Displays – In the main lobby on the first floor, there is a large docket display wall that shows the proceedings scheduled for that day. This display wall also integrates the wayfinding and building directly displays mentioned in the article above for ease of navigation to the right courtroom or floor. Additionally, each courtroom has a display just outside that shows the upcoming proceedings in that courtroom. Some of these displays also serve as digital signage. For example during an emergency they can display messages regarding evacuation, etc.

Docket displays are located in the lobby and outside each courtroom and are automatically updated from the court's case management system.

DOCKET			
PARTY NAME	ROOM	TIME	CASE NUMBER
[REDACTED]	3	9:45 AM	18CR60005
[REDACTED]	3	2:10 PM	20CR27733
[REDACTED]	3	2:10 PM	20CR27927
[REDACTED]	3	2:10 PM	20CR19324
[REDACTED]	4	8:50 AM	18CR10062
[REDACTED]	3	2:10 PM	20CR27739
[REDACTED]	Courtroom 9B	1:30 PM	20PO05748
[REDACTED]	Courtroom 9B	1:30 PM	20PO05501
[REDACTED]	3	2:10 PM	20CR27749
[REDACTED]	4	2:00 PM	19CR26666
[REDACTED]	2	9:15 AM	14CR28752
[REDACTED]	3	2:30 PM	19CR43658
[REDACTED]	3	2:30 PM	20CR27121
[REDACTED]	3	9:30 AM	20CR37077
[REDACTED]	2	9:15 AM	16CR20320
[REDACTED]	2	9:15 AM	16CR32606
[REDACTED]	2	9:15 AM	17CR01923
[REDACTED]	3	9:45 AM	20CR33141
[REDACTED]	3	9:30 AM	20CR37076
[REDACTED]	4	2:00 PM	20CR24008
[REDACTED]	4	2:00 PM	20CR24008
[REDACTED]	4	8:50 AM	20CR14452
[REDACTED]	4	8:50 AM	19CR71449
[REDACTED]	4	8:50 AM	19CR81089
[REDACTED]	4	8:50 AM	20CR26463
[REDACTED]	2	9:05 AM	20CR03436

Page 2 of 3

NOW HEARING		
CASE NUMBER	HEARING TIME	
19CR27598	2:00 PM	
DEFENDANT		
[REDACTED]		
UPCOMING HEARINGS		
HEARING TIME	DEFENDANT(S)	CASE NUMBER
2:00 PM	[REDACTED]	19CR27598
2:00 PM	[REDACTED]	19CR66262
2:10 PM	[REDACTED]	20CR27905
8:45 AM	[REDACTED]	19CR22188
9:20 AM	[REDACTED]	20CR15932

Tuesday, September 1, 2020 11:19 AM

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Art Installations



*Oregon Supreme Court Justice Adrienne Nelson, by
Jeremy Okai Davis*

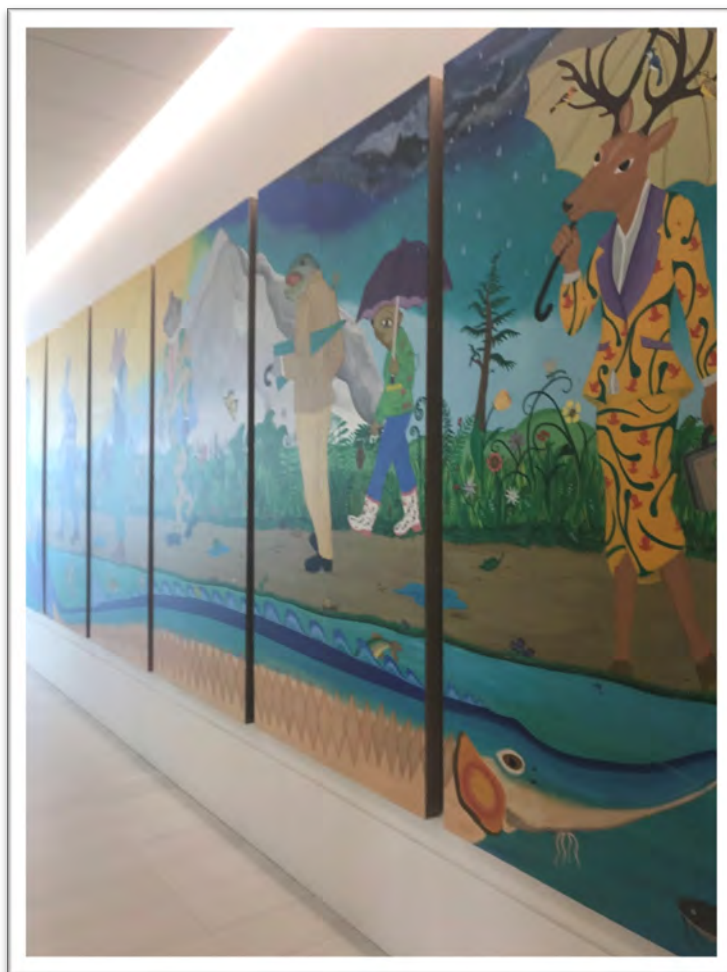
Courthouse visitors, judges, and staff will notice a significant amount of art in the new courthouse. Multnomah County requires two percent of new building project funds to be dedicated to public art. The Regional Arts and Culture Council (RACC) administers art acquisition and display for public buildings located in Multnomah County. The new Central Courthouse will have a variety of new artwork to adorn both the inside and outside of the building.

There are two large-scale permanent installations at the new courthouse. Semi-finalists for both projects met with an Artist Selection Panel, consisting of working artists, art professors, county staff, architects, Judge Albrecht, a state public defender with an art history degree, and a representative from RACC. To inform their understanding of the community that the new courthouse will serve, the artists also met with clients from several social service agencies. In addition to the large-scale permanent pieces, the Artist Selection Panel selected permanent pieces for each floor of the courthouse.

According to Judge Albrecht, “The selection committee for courthouse art was very intentional about identifying artists and works that can serve as a source of inspiration, comfort, and beauty and help vulnerable people find their voice when having to navigate the travails of the courthouse. That may sound ambitious for something framed on a wall, but studies show art can serve as a powerful catalyst for healing. The people who come to us for service deserve to be treated with the utmost in dignity and respect. Our physical environment is an important part of the trauma-informed justice we strive to provide.”

From the courthouse lobby, visitors will be able to view a 25’ x 75’ glass artwork created by artist Lynn Basa. The work is a series of 120 5’ tall x 3’ wide panels fabricated by Bullseye Glass Studio, so large that it will also be viewable on the second and third floors. According to the artist, “The focus of the artwork is a landscape that reflects the ripple effect of behavior and the passage to redemption and rehabilitation in the community justice process.” The banner on this newsletter is a rendering of the piece.

Another permanent art feature of the new Central Courthouse is a series of waterjet-cut stainless-steel privacy panels, located around the exterior of the first story of the building. The panels are intended to enhance the experience of those walking around the



Artwork by Baba Wagué Diákité

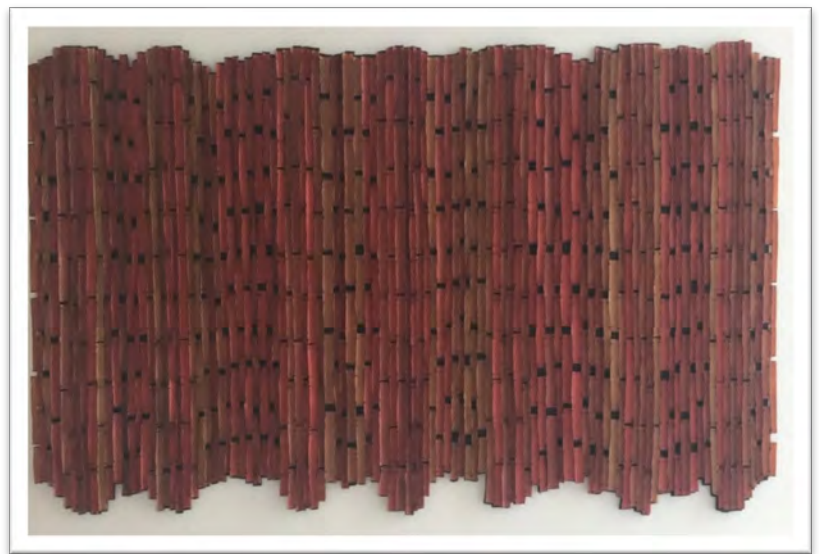
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Artwork by Barbara Earl Thomas

building. The panels were designed by Barbara Earl Thomas, a Seattle-based visual artist, and Rob Lewis, who lives and works in Portland.

Barbara's panels were influenced by a tour of East County and include Multnomah Falls, Overlook House, and various modes of transportation. Rob's panels are considered to be a "call and response" art installation and tie into a painted design that will be on the interior walls of the bike storage room.



Artwork by Brenda Mallory

Courthouse Video Tours

Due to COVID-19, court staff have worked to produce video tours of the new building for the public to view in lieu of physically visiting the building. A few videos are available for viewing now and are linked below. Others are still being produced and will be posted to the [court's webpage here](#) when ready.

- [Courthouse Introduction, Lobby & Judicial Suites](#)
- [Courtroom Audio/Visual and IT features](#)



Our new address:

Multnomah Central Courthouse
1200 SW First Avenue
Portland, OR 97204