THE CAPITOL SOWER

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE CAPITOL COMMISSION | VOLUME TWELVE | NUMBER ONE | FEB 2020

HVAC Phase II Changes

The second phase of the HVAC project has closed the southeast quadrant of the Nebraska State Capitol, most impacting the Judicial Branch of Nebraska's Government. Court staff have been relocated to the tower, with all services except those of the Clerk of the Courts being conducted on the 10th floor via the northwest tower elevator. The Clerk's Office will be relocated to the southwest hall near the public entrance of the Court of Appeals where both Supreme and Appeals Courts will meet until Phase II is completed in Autumn 2021.

Contractors will be using the east entrance for material movement, but the entrance will be open for public access. The east and south stairs from first to second floor will be closed as those stairs and corridors are now in the construction area. History Nebraska's Gift Store will be temporarily located near the east entrance in Room #1301. Copy services and the mail room will join the cafe on the west side of first floor south center corridor.

The Legislature will not be as impacted as in Phase I, but six senators will still office in the tower. Access to the senators on 11th floor will require a phone call to their office first. One hearing room and the Warner Chamber will be out of service during Phase II, and there are still no rooms for meetings with groups of senators or school lunches.



Above, viewed from the Court of Appeals entrance, the Clerk of the Courts will use a temporary door installed in the Lawyer's Consultation Room to conduct business. All other court services will be on 10th floor.



Above, food service will continue in a section of the original Dining Room through the end of the Legislative Session. Then, new cafe equipment will be installed, a Request for Proposals published and a new food service contractor in place by the 2021 Legislative Session.



East entrance public access will still be allowed along side the contractors materials entrance.



South center corridor access will soon be limited to the west side, left in photo.

Nebraska Capitol Commission Membership

Pete Ricketts
Governor, Chairman

Jim Scheer
Speaker of the Legislature
Vice-Chairman

Michael Heavican
Chief Justice Supreme Court
Vice-Chairman

Katherine Ankerson
Dean
College of Architecture, UNL

Trevor Jones
Executive Director & CEO
Nebraska State Historical Society

Doug Carey
Congressional District 1

Thomas Sanderson
Congressional District 2

Trent D. Loos
Congressional District 3

Robert C. Ripley
Capitol Administrator
Secretary

EQVALITY BE FORE THE LAW

The People of the OCC
Office of the Capitol Commission

ADMINISTRATION
Bob Ripley, Administrator
Matt Hansen, Preservation Architect
Vacant, Preservation Architect
Vacant, Capitol Manager
Tammy Honnor, Facilities Construction Coordinator
Noelle Pinneo Administrative Assistant

ARCHIVE
Karen Wagner, Archivist

CARPENTRY
Brett Daugherty, Shop Supervisor
Lana Gabel, Furniture Conservator
Dawn Hickmon, Furniture Conservator
Steve Janssen, Finisher
Dan Kratky, Mason
John MacKichan, Hardware Conservator
Mike Marshall, Cabinet Maker

CUSTODIAL
Perry Shuman, Capitol Conservation Supervisor
Richard Mallam, Custodial Leader
David Hoelscher, Custodial Leader

GROUNDS
Heather Dinslage, Groundskeeper Leader
John Massa, Mechanic

MAINTENANCE
Michael Jordan, Shop Supervisor
Jeff Gillett, Plumber
Tahir Karimi, Electrician
Chris Lahmon, Maintenance Technician
Beth Barry, Maintenance Technician

TOURS
Roxanne Smith, Public Information Officer/ Tourism Supervisor/ Special Events Coordinator
Jessica Richard, Tourism Aide
Kirk Wiota, Tourism Aide
Vacant, Tourism Aide

OCC AT WORK

Experience and Service

Over 100 Years of Combined Service

Capitol Commission staff receiving years of service awards in 2019 have together provided over 100 years of service to Nebraskans. Capitol Administrator Bob Ripley appreciates the dedicated service of his team and congratulates staff on their longevity in the care and preservation of the Nebraska State Capitol. Through longevity, staff develop the skills needed to maintain the one of a kind features of the building and grow in their individual specialties. It is the dedication of the entire staff that allows team members to share knowledge and build a great preservation team.

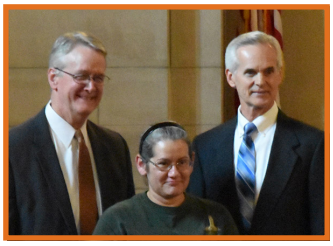


John MacKichan
10 years



Tahir Karimi
25 years

Staff photographed with Lt. Governor Mike Foley and Capitol Administrator Bob Ripley, left.



Dawn Hickmon
10 years



Michael Jordan
25 years



Roxanne Smith
35 years

Commission's 2020 Schedule

The Nebraska Capitol Commission will hold their first quarter meeting in Hearing Room #1507 on ground floor of the Capitol. Subsequent 2020 Commission meetings to oversee and review Capitol maintenance and preservation projects; discuss and approve projects and the upcoming budget for the Office of the Capitol Commission, and set administrative rules for the use of the Capitol will be held in Room #1510. The last meeting of the year includes a joint Capitol Commission/Capitol Environs Commission meeting. The meetings are open to the public.

- February 18, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.
- June 23, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.
- August 20, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.
- November 19, 2020
- Joint Meeting at 10:00 a.m.
  Capitol Commission at 11:00 a.m.

CONSERVATION PROJECTS

Court of Appeals Finishing Touches

Office of the Capitol Commission staff are putting the finishing touches on the Nebraska Court of Appeals Chamber in anticipation of its return to service. The Furniture Conservators are refinishing the window benches in the courtroom with the same care and attention they used to restore the Appeals Court Judge's Chairs early in the project. Under west windows, the benches enclosing the heating and cooling system suffered the ravages of sun and weather.

The previous addition of ultra-violet film, and improvements to the windows during the current project will help prevent damage to the benches in the future. During window repair, slight structural modifications to the windows were made to mitigate condensation, and the improved heating system will maintain uniform temperature in the room, preventing temperature fluctuations which facilitate window condensation. The conservation refinishing of the benches by OCC's furniture staff will provide long term service in the chamber.



Working together as a team, the furniture conservators , Lana Gabel, left, and Dawn Hickmon, right, first clean the window benches to remove years of accumulated grime and old finish.

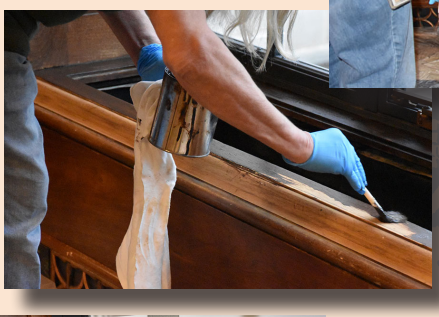
Below, as they clean, sun bleaching and water damage become apparent.

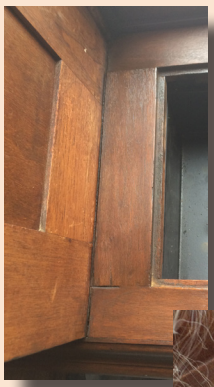






After cleaning and sanding, stain is applied. As one member of the furniture team applies stain, below, the other wipes away excess, right.





Once the wood is stained to properly match the undamaged wood surfaces in the room, shellac is applied, below. Staining and finishing take many days of work. Time must be allowed for proper drying and curing before another coat is applied. Between each coat the surface is lightly sanded for better cohesion of the finish.





The finished window bench shines like a piece of fine furniture.

Bracket Lamps Restored

Skilled staff restore lamps

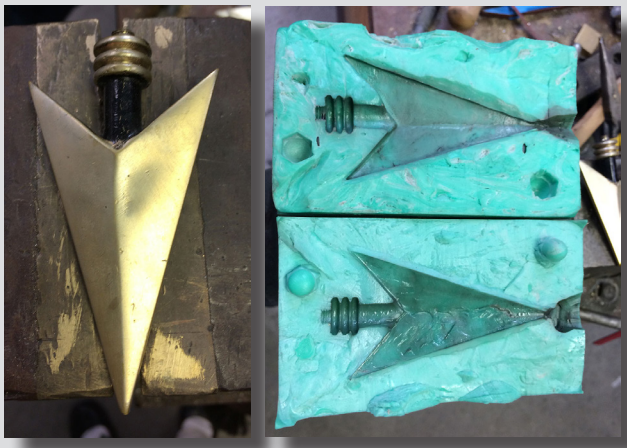
The Heating Ventilation and Air Conditioning Replacement Project is giving the Office of the Capitol Commission the opportunity to restore components of the Nebraska State Capitol removed to make way for the project. The bracket lamps in the west stair leading from first to third floor are an example. Unfortunately, some decorative elements in the Capitol have proven to be a temptation for vandals and thieves. Their loss damages not only the Capitol, but greatly diminishes visitor and staff experience in the building.

While removed to allow contractors use of the stairway, the four decorative bracket lamps with an arrow motif will be cleaned and missing parts replicated. OCC's expert staff handled the job with skill and dedication to the long term integrity of the building. The lamp restoration project involves OCC's machinist, John MacKichan; finisher, Steve Janssen; electrician Tahir Karimi and consulting conservator, Anne El-Omami.



The damaged lamps are photographed and tagged with original location. Below, the lamps after conservation, clean and refinished where necessary, await the installation of missing pieces. See architect's sketch on page 6. They will be returned to original location once HVAC work allows.





Above, an original arrowhead, left, was used to create a silicon mold, right, for casting duplicates to replace those missing.



Above, pewter ingots were used to cast the replacement arrowheads because it was easy to work with on site. The castings, below right, were finished to match the profile of the original, below left. The missing fletching will be replicated in the same manner as the arrowheads.





Above, once the arrowheads were created, the finisher painted the pewter with gold and black paint to match the original brass arrowheads.

BEHIND THE SCENES

Powering the HVAC System

The Heating Ventilation and Air Conditioning Replacement Project required upgrading and expanding the Nebraska State Capitol's electrical system as well. Two existing substations were upgraded and rebuilt in Phase I, and a new substation was added to the Capitol electrical system to support the extensive system of pumps moving water and refrigerant through the building. As well, the new air handlers and heat exchangers in the project require additional electricity. Lincoln Electric System worked with the contractors and Capitol staff to provide the additional service.

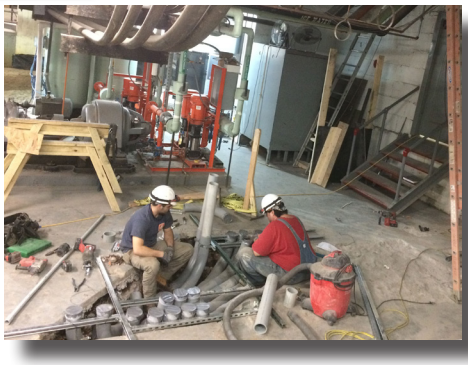
To maintain continuation of government services the Office of the Capitol Commission and the Office of the Chief Information Officer joined forces with the Department of Administrative Services State Building Division to cost share on a new back up generator. The backup system will protect the functions of government in case of a city wide power outage, allowing state government to operate during a disaster.



Left, the backup generator is located behind government buildings. Right, a new electrical service enters the Capitol through a basement wall.







Far left, the electrical contractor prepares the floor for pipes and wiring for the new substation in the main mechanical room of the Capitol. Left,electricians begin to pull the cables into place for the 480 volt transformer.



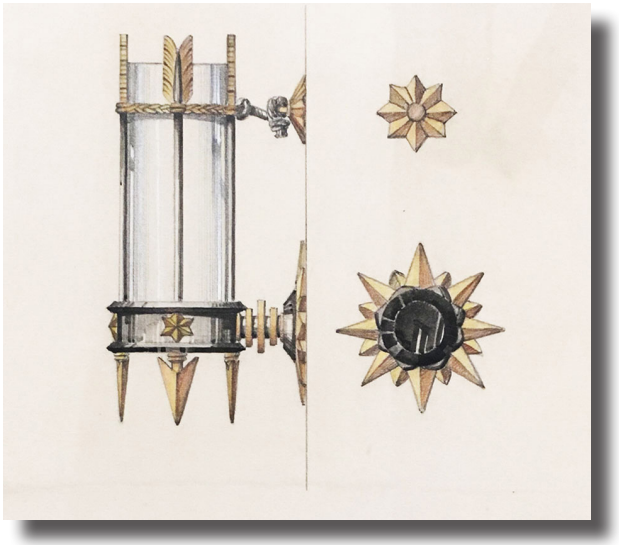
Left, after the conduit was prepared, a footing to hold the 8 ton transformer was installed.

The transformer, right, is running the portion of the system installed in the first phase of the project.



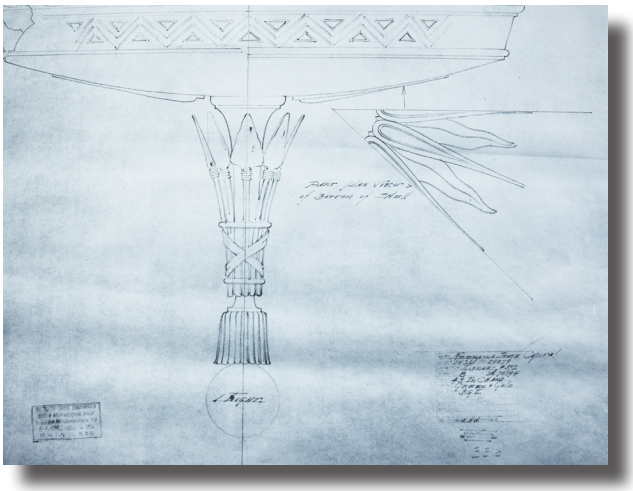
WHAT'S OLD IS NEW

The designers who worked on the Nebraska State Capitol united art and architecture to create a building unique to Nebraska. The light fixtures and chandeliers in the preservation spaces of the Capitol beautifully represent the First People who came to call Nebraska home. The arrow motif is used in many of the fixtures. Created during different phases of construction and reflecting the Beaux Arts and Art Deco styles, the fixtures are as beautiful today as when installed during the 1922-32 construction period. The Nebraska Capitol Collections archive the architectural materials including sketches and blueprints for most of the chandeliers and light fixtures in the Capitol.



Above, a color rendering of the bracket lamps illuminating the west stair. The actual lamp fabricated differs in slight ways, but looks very similar.

Below, a mylar print of the original full scale blueprint used to fabricate the torchieres in the great hall. The blueprints in the Capitol Archive confirm great attention was given to customizing the Capitol's light fixtures to fit the themes of a Nebraska specific building.

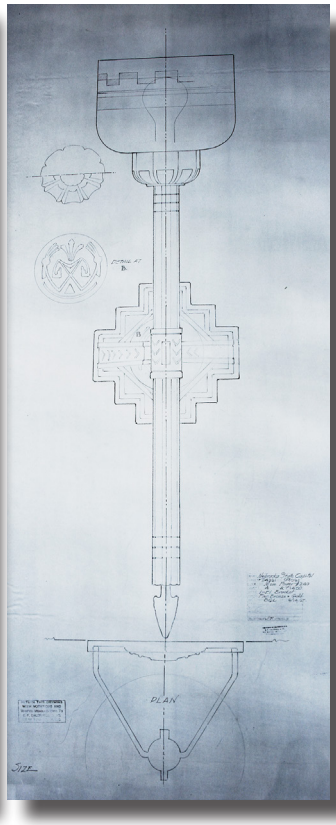


Above, the mylar copy of the blueprint for the Law Library chandeliers. Below left, one of eight balcony chandeliers in the Law Library. Below right, detail of the arrow motif.









CAPITOL EVENTS

NDCS Opportunities Display
February 2-17, 2020
The Nebraska Department of Correctional Services will have a display in first floor rotunda promoting Corrections careers.

Social Work Week Display
February 2-17, 2020
The Nebraska Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers will have a display in first floor rotunda.

Capitol Concerts
February 24 - 27, 2020
The Nebraska Music Education Association will hold noon concerts featuring student musical ensembles in the 2nd floor rotunda.

Statehood Day Awards
February 29, 2020
The NebraskaLAND Foundation will honor distinguished Nebraskans in the 2nd floor rotunda. The Capitol will be closed to allow for this event.

Statehood Day Radio Broadcast
March 1, 2020
The Southeast Nebraska Ham Radio Club and Nebraska Hams will celebrate Statehood Day with a special Capitol broadcast from 1:00 and 5:00 p.m.

University Singers
March 5, 2020
A Nebraskan Music Education Association concert at noon in the 2nd floor rotunda.

"I Love NU Day"
March 6 - 13, 2020
The University of Nebraska will share information in a first floor rotunda display.

Youth Art Month
March 8 - 21, 2020
The Nebraska Art Teachers Association will display student art in the 1st floor rotunda.

Suicide Prevention Partnership
March 11 - 13, 2020
The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention will have a display in the first floor rotunda.

Women's March
March 14, 2020
Nebraska women will gather at the Capitol for a rally from 1:00 - 5:30 p.m.

NBDC Day at the Capitol
March 18, 2020
The University of Nebraska Business Development Center will have a display in the first floor rotunda.

Kick Butts Day Youth Rally
March 18, 2020
No Limits Nebraska will host an anti-smoking rally on the West Plaza from 8:00 a.m. - noon.

Youth Art Month State Celebration
March 21, 2020
The Nebraska Art Teachers will recognize student achievement in the arts in the 2nd floor rotunda at 2:00 p.m.

Governor Arts Awards
March 27, 2020
The Nebraska Arts Council will hold the Governor's Arts Awards ceremony in the 2nd floor rotunda at 3:00 p.m.

Light it Blue
April 2, 2020
The Capitol tower will be lit blue for World Autism Awareness Month.

OCS Class 63 Graduation
April 4, 2020
The Nebraska Army National Guard will hold a graduation ceremony in the 2nd floor rotunda.

Public Health Week Opening
April 6, 2020
The Nebraska Association of Local Health Directors will have a program in the second floor rotunda at noon.

Soundsational Singers
April 14, 2020
O'Neill Public Schools will bring students for a noon concert in the 2nd floor rotunda.

Victims Rights Week Display
April 15 - 24, 2020
MADD will have a display in the first floor rotunda about lives lost to drunk driving.

End Rape on Campus Rally
April 19, 2020
PREVENT will march from the University to the Capitol for a rally at 2:00 p.m.

All events at the Nebraska State Capitol are free and open to the public.

Swearing In Ceremony
April 21, 2020
The Nebraska Supreme Court will hold a ceremony for newly admitted members of the Nebraska Bar Association in the 2nd floor rotunda.

Arbor Day Holiday
April 24, 2020
The Capitol will be open for tours from 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

State Holocaust Commemoration
April 26, 2020
The Jewish Federation of Lincoln and the Institute for Holocaust Education will hold a ceremony in the 2nd floor rotunda.

Out of Darkness Walk
April 26, 2020
The American Society for Suicide Prevention UNL Campus Chapter will hold a vigil on the north plaza at 2:00 p.m.

Worker's Memorial Day Vigil
April 28, 2020
The United Support Memorial for Workplace Fatalities will hold vigil on the North Plaza at 6:30 p.m.

Cornhusker Girls State
June 4, 2020
The Girls State Inauguration program will be in the 2nd floor rotunda at 2:00 p.m.

State Patrol Camp Graduation
June 19, 2020
The Nebraska State Patrol will hold a graduation ceremony in the second floor rotunda at 10:00 a.m.

Star City Pride Parade
June 20, 2020
Star City Pride will parade around the Capitol between 8:00 a.m. and noon and then gather on the north plaza.

Guided Tours are offered Monday-Friday hourly from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, except at noon. Saturday and Holidays from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm, except at noon and Sunday from 1:00 to 4:00 pm. Please call 402.471.0448 or visit www.capitol.org for more information.

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Capitol Architect
Bertram Grosvenor Goodhue, 1869-1924

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The Capitol Sower, published by the Office of the Capitol Commission, is available online at www.capitol.org. Contact the Tourism Supervisor at <roxanne.smith@nebraska.gov> for more information.

Please contact us if you have any questions or comments about the content.

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Former Legislators Fund Courtyard Landscape Project

The Former Legislators of the Nebraska Unicameral embarked on a bold campaign this past year and raised the funds to return the four courtyards inside the Nebraska State Capitol to their original floral beauty. Following the installation of the Unicameral Legislature's Sesquicentennial gift to Nebraska, the courtyard fountains, the Former Legislators began a private fund raising effort to replant the original Ernst Herminghaus landscape and finish the courtyards. Understanding that Herminghaus' plan requires seasonal planting of bulbs and annuals for color every year, the Formers not only raised the funds for the initial landscape planting, they also raised funds for an endowment. The endowed fund is expected to generate interest income each year and fund the plant materials needed to keep the courtyards looking their best. Future generations of Nebraskans and visitors will benefit from the gifts of those who contributed to beautification of the courtyards.



Capitol Administrator Bob Ripley accepts a check from former State Senators, DiAnna Schimick, center, and Vickie McDonald.