



Nebraska State Capitol

Office of the Capitol Commission

Annual Report
2016

Capitol Collections Program

Office of the Capitol Commission – November 2015-2016

Program Activity

- Provided copies of drawings from past Capitol projects in support of the upcoming HVAC replacement project. – To date: Scanned 24 sets of project drawings and 8 sets of original drawings. Provided project consultants with a total of 419 pdf files.
- Updated the Archivists Toolkit database with added detailed description of original construction correspondence.
- Added entries to the PastPerfect database; both new acquisitions and other objects previously acquired but not in the database.
- Provided tours of the Archives to various groups and hosted visiting scholars
- Processed image and information requests
- Scanned the Sid Spelts image collection and added the images to PastPerfect. (403 images)
- Scanning the Capitol Commission collection of glass lantern slides and glass negatives and adding the images to PastPerfect (263 images)
- Scanning the University of Nebraska Art Department collection of glass lantern slides negatives and adding the images to PastPerfect (68 images)

New materials added to our collections:

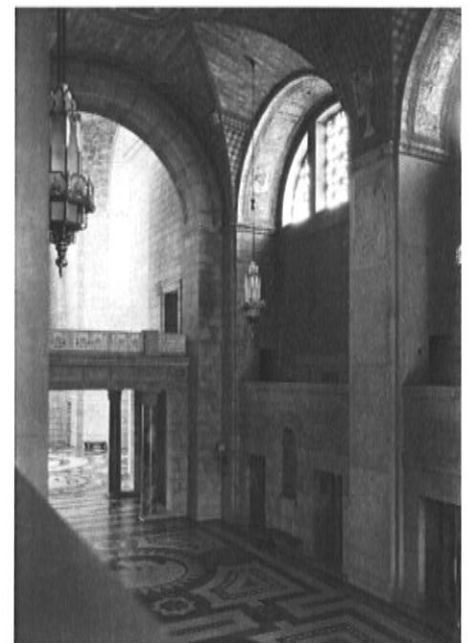
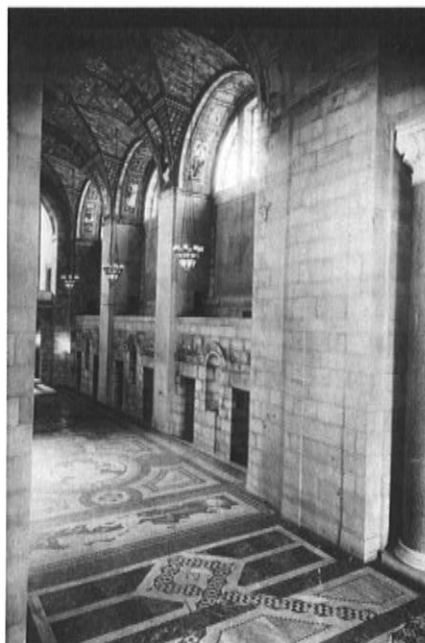
- Number of donors: 10
- Number of OCC purchases: 16
- Examples of items added to collections:
 - 4 period trade catalogs from companies who did business with the Commission.
 - 3 color slides from the 1950-60's documenting the building and grounds.
 - 14 assorted objects ranging from historic to modern (magazines, brochures, doilies, medallions) that show how the image of the Capitol has been used as promotion.

Photo Collection Grows

Nebraska Capitol Commissions, past and present, have found images of the Capitol important to their mission. The Commission, established to construct the building, used images to educate the public about original construction plans and progress during construction. The Commission authorized the creation of lantern slides for a program to be made available for communities to borrow and present to the public. The first slide show was created in 1925. The numbered slides were sent with a numbered script, with instructions that they were to read the corresponding entry on the script as the slide was shown. The slide show initially contained many images of sketches and maquettes to show what was proposed. As construction progressed, the prospective images were replaced with images of finished spaces and sculptures. The Archives also contains records of requests for images from individual citizens and companies, both in and out of Nebraska. The Office of the Capitol Commission, the administrative arm of the current Nebraska Capitol Commission, uses these same images of the Capitol for its educational, preservation and restoration efforts.

Three key collections house the majority of images used for Capitol promotion; the original Capitol Commission collection, the University of Nebraska collection, and the Spelts collection. Over the past year, the Capitol Archivist has digitized over 500 of these images adding the inventories of these collections to OCC's PastPerfect database and expanding the original cataloging information. The original Capitol Commission collection includes images of sketches by Austin Whittlsey, an architect with the Goodhue firm, which illustrated for the Commission and citizens what their new Capitol could look like. The Commission paid to have the slides colorized for public representations. Goodhue's office commissioned photographs of Lawrie's sculptural maquettes, these photographs are now part of the Collection. In 1995, the Office of the Capitol Commission hired Sid Spelts to photograph the Capitol in detail under ideal conditions to have documentation of the building for the Collection, these color negatives and transparencies have been scanned and entered also.

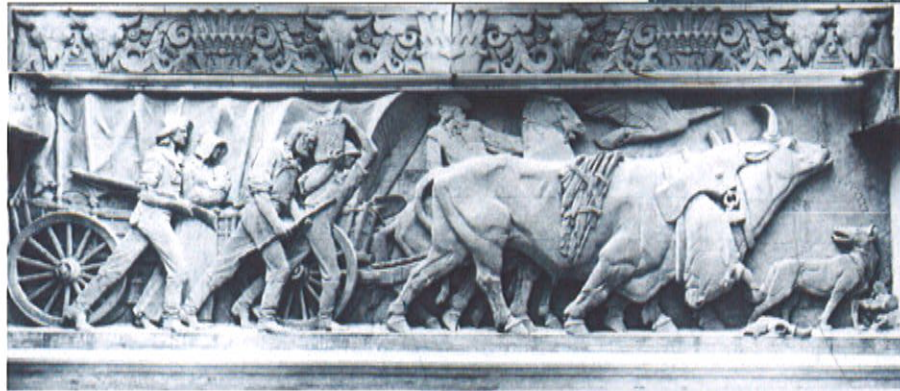
These two images of the Foyer were taken at different times by different photographers. The image on the left was taken in 1928 by J.B. Franco and is part of the Capitol Collection. The right image is part of the Library of Congress Gottscho-Schleisner collection and was taken in 1934. Notice the chandeliers were changed during construction.



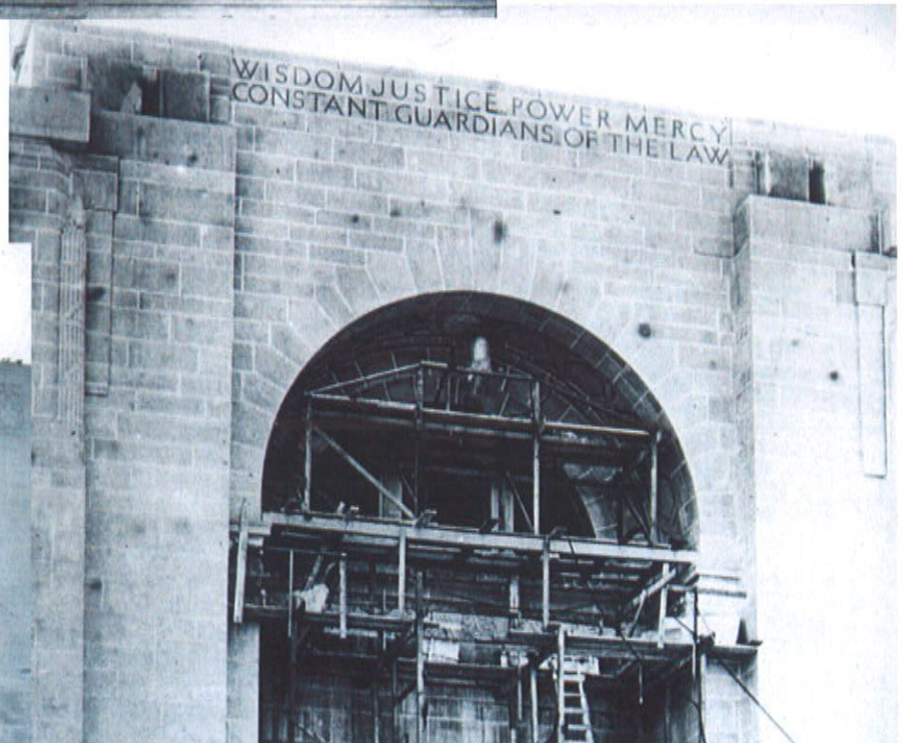
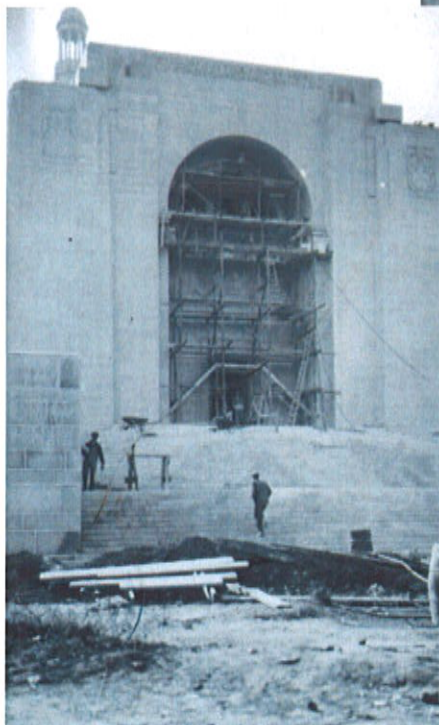
Capitol Collections

Office of the Capitol Commission November 2014-2015

Half-scale maquettes were created by sculptor Lee Lawrie for all the exterior relief panels on the Nebraska State Capitol. The surviving maquettes used by the on-site sculptors are in the Capitol Collection. Photographs of these plaster panels and construction photographs document work on the building. *The Spirit of the Pioneer* relief above the main entrance is an iconic image of westward migration.



The image above is the finished relief soon after the sculpture was completed. Left, the maquette which was partially destroyed after use.



These two photographs in the Collection document the creation of the pioneer panel. Notice the blocks flanking the inscription above. Wisdom, Power, Justice and Mercy will be carved on site, while the inscriptions were carved into the Indiana limestone at the quarry. In the photograph on the left the cupola of the old Capitol is visible in the upper left corner of the image.

Building Conservation-

Office of the Capitol Commission November 2015-2016

2016 Furniture Program Conservation/Restoration Activity -

- Repair window blind in Rm 1305E, broken tilter.
- Replaced torn/worn leather on 16, C043A chairs.
- Touched up the 8 benches on 14th floor.
- Made slip covers for a few archived pieces.
- Re-glued all joinery on 13, C009 chairs.
- Total restoration of 6, C023A chairs for Rm 2309.
- Help with renovations in Rooms 2311, 2313, and 2315, wood work and furniture needing attention.
- Re-arrange vault 14 and Room 52 moving furniture around to make way for the courtyard fountain mechanical rooms.
- Removed graffiti on 2nd floor men's room stall door, twice this year.
- Repair Supreme Court Chief Justice Office ceiling, Mike Marshall.
- Repaired window blind from 9th floor.
- Restored 2, C043A chairs discovered during the re-arranging of vault 14.
- Cleaned and repaired two bookcase stacks for Attorney General's area.
- Restored Macey Desk for Legislature.
- Restored conference table for Attorney General's area.
- Repaired a C014 Costumer (coat tree).
- Cleaned and waxed all the leather furniture in both the East and West Lounges.
- Restored the color and finish on the doors for the West Lounge.
- Restored a small table from Accounting
- Restored 2, C077 chairs
- Assisted in the renovations of Rooms 1116-1118 door touch-up, blinds, and removal and replacement of furniture.
- Restored 2, C14A chairs.
- Restored a circa 1950 stand/credenza.
- Restored small one drawer pedestal desk rescued from being sent to surplus for Legislature.
- Cleaned, touched up, and waxed all of the West Chamber senator's desks.
- Replaced broken mechanism under a senator's chair in the West Chamber.
- Made chair type identification chart.
- Repaired/conserved desk CAP0908 for Room 1315.
- Restored 2, C172 chairs for Room 1315.
- Restored 3, Latsch Brothers chairs from Room 19.
- Restored 1, Murphy chair from Room 19.

- Restored 6, C098 chairs, 2, C014A chairs, 1, H001 Costumer, and a conference table from Room 1315C.
- Restored 8 foot conference table for use in the Governor's private office as a temporary desk.
- Preformed paint touch up in Room 2122.
- Cleaned the glass on all the tables in the Supreme Court, Court of Appeals, and Room 2122.
- Restored the color and finish on north and west entrance doors of the Supreme Court, the South entrance doors to the Court of Appeals, the secure glass entrance doors to the Judges suites, doors to Rooms 2201, 2202, 2203 and the east door to Room 2122. Also the doors on first floor 1511 and 1514.
- Restored the doors of the renovation area Rooms 2213 and 2215.
- Restored 8 miscellaneous armless chairs for on-call service.
- Repaired and conserved a small table for Room 2213.
- Cleaned and repaired the blinds in the renovation areas.
- Restored 1 compatible phone stand for Room 2311, 2 walnut phone stands for service and one walnut stand for preservation.
- Restored a Macey desk for use as a temporary desk to permit repairs on other desks that are in service.
- Restored 2, C011A chairs for Judge's suite.
- Repaired 2, C041A chairs with broken stretchers.
- Restored leather on the seat cushion of a C010 chair.
- Repaired many blinds, drapery rods, and bookcase sections.
- Helped with numerous furniture moves and work orders.
- Ordered and installed glass for many desk and table tops.
- Documented and took pictures of all repairs, restorations, and conservation of all our projects that were done by our shop.

Shop staff daily work-

- Responded to work orders
- Helped with snow removal
- Machinist, John Mackichan
 - Ongoing key and lock maintenance program
 - Manufacture blind hardware
 - Repaired and cleaned door and window hardware for office renovation
 - Fabricate bronze pieces for entrance security devices
 - Lock work at all four entrances

-Cabinetry, Mike Marshall

- Restored original Governor's Desk
- Restoration work in #1116 and #1118
- Worked on north stairs handrails
- Helped furniture shop
- Restoration in Court Quadrant Restrooms
- Lt. Governor Office restoration
- Removed blinds in northwest tower for wall repair
- Fabricated two wardrobes for Lt. Governor's office
- Supported furniture shop with Governor's Hearing Room chair seats
- Carved new finials for Governor's Hearing Room chairs
- Fabricated custom easels for Governor's Hearing Room

-Mason, Vacant

- Cleaned fireplace in Governor's Office & Governor's Reception Room
- Cleaned front entrance vestibule of Warner Legislative Chamber

-Paint and Finish Restorer, Steve Janssen

- Refinished doors, jambs, casings for office renovations in Rooms # 1116, #1118, #2213, #2215, #2311, #2313
- Refinished and waxed cafeteria tables
- Finished new wardrobes for office renovation
- Prepared and repainted Capitol South Entrance Door

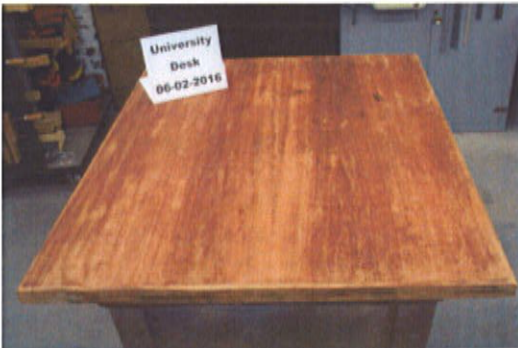
Building Conservation

Office of the Capitol Commission November 2015-2016

Saving a Desk Saves Money



Above, a damaged walnut desk surplused by the University enters the carpenter shop in rough shape. The desk with its missing drawer and damaged top will be expertly restored by OCC's furniture restoration staff.



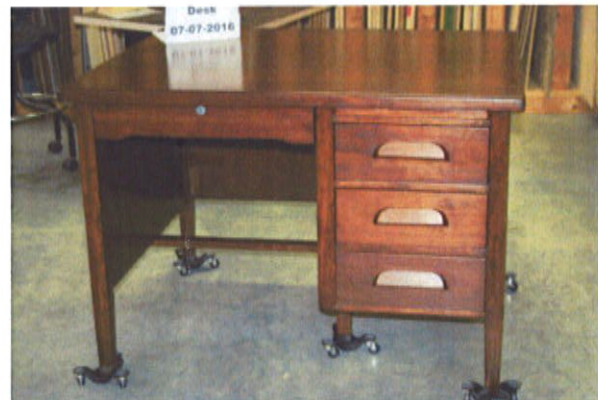
Above and below, OCC staff restores the damaged top revealing the beauty of the very durable walnut desk.



The Nebraska State Capitol was furnished with high quality materials intended to last for decade; this solid walnut furniture is still in use. Through the years, as government has grown, compatible walnut desks, chairs and tables have been purchased to furnish offices. The Office of the Capitol Commission looks for less expensive ways to furnish offices with the same high quality furniture as originally purchased. One way OCC saves money is to use surplused pieces. With restoration, a solid walnut desk surplused by the University will continue to serve and save the state money.



Above and below, after disassembling the desk, OCC staff strips the old finish. OCC's cabinet maker easily fabricates a drawer and handle to match those in place. The last step is applying the finish which will protect the desk as it is placed into service in a Capitol office.



HVAC/Electrical/Plumbing

Maintenance and Preventative Maintenance

Office of the Capitol Commission November 2015-2016

Michael Jordan, Shop Supervisor

Jeff Gillett, Capitol Plumber

Kent Bonebright, Sheet Metal Fabricator

Tahir Karimi, Capitol Electrician

John Steele, Maintenance Technician

Shop staff daily work-

- 261 daily rounds to inspect HVAC equipment for proper operation
- hot/cold calls from Capitol occupants, lights out calls, etc.
- sound system and electrical for Capitol events
- seasonal heating/cooling change, work on steam and chilled water system pneumatic controls

***Preventative Maintenance/ Work Orders**

- responded to over 450 work order calls
- staff performs approximately 1,050 Preventative Maintenance Work Orders per year
- check and replace air filters
- grease motor and fan bearings
- check air handler belts
- tear down and inspect hot water boilers
- service air compressors for pneumatic system
- service ice makers and café kitchen equipment
- inspect electrical system in Capitol
- clean and inspect special A/C units in computer server and hearing rooms
- clean and inspect all roof drains semi-annually
- inspect exterior lighting weekly to insure safety and security
- re-lamp Capitol chandeliers
- change ballasts for office lighting upgrades
- clean cooling coils in induction units in all Capitol offices
- install power and lighting in newly renovated offices

Capitol Maintenance

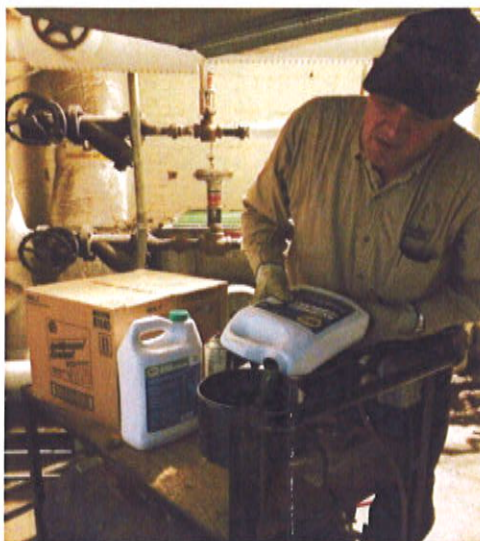
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Seasonal Change

The current HVAC system in the Nebraska State Capitol requires a complete changeover of the system from season to season. As steam is brought into the Capitol for the heating season, the chilled water system is shut down for winter. This involves draining chilled water from the system and using a compressor to blow the remaining water out of the coils. Once the coils are empty, anti-freeze is added for winter. This process is repeated 15 times throughout the various mechanical rooms in the Capitol, and in reverse each spring to bring chilled water into the Capitol.



Above, OCC maintenance staff begins the process by attaching a compressor hose to the intake valve and then opening the out put valves to eliminate any remaining water from the coils in the galvanized box in the center back of the image. The air handler which circulates air through the coils is behind staff. The two insulated pipes in front of staff are the chilled water supply and return lines from the main system in the basement. Below left, once the coils are empty, staff fills a tank with anti-freeze which is then forced into the system using the pump in front of the cart. After the anti-freeze is installed the valves and system are closed for winter.



Capitol Custodial

Office of the Capitol Commission November 2015-2016

Perry Shuman, Capitol Conservation Supervisor

Richard Mallam, Custodial Leader

Rick Naber, Custodial Leader

-Five nights/week, 52 weeks/year OCC custodial staff cleans 70,000 sq. ft. of Preservation space, corridors and stairs. OCC oversees Service Master custodial services cleaning an additional 195,000 sq. ft. of adaptive use office space daily.

-OCC staff has increased corridor cleaning in the areas of interior renovation this past year and has cleaned office suites after construction renovation

-OCC cleans carpet in the Capitol and does specialty cleaning of exotic finishes in all preservation spaces

-OCC has increased custodial presence in the Law Library Preservation Space and new office space due to increased use by the Judicial Education Division.

-OCC staff manages recycling duties in the Capitol, primarily paper and cardboard, the amount of recycling within the Capitol has increased by 10% over the past year, plastic and aluminum recycling continues to increase

-OCC staff handles approximately 7 tons of cardboard, 50 tons of office paper, 10 tons of newsprint, 2 tons of magazines, 6 tons of mixed paper and approximately ½ a ton each of aluminum and plastic

-OCC staff has all floor cleaning duties and works with the contractor to clean, strip, refinish, and restore the unique floors and finishes in the Capitol. Staff continues the floor renovation program which will eventually strip 15 - 20 years of old finish and refinish all perimeter stone floors on first and second floors

-OCC custodial staff continues to be involved with event setups as more groups discover the beauty of the building and have events in the Capitol

Capitol Custodial

Office of the Capitol Commission November 2015-2016

Floor Work Ongoing

Caring for ten acres of flooring is only part of the Office of the Capitol Commission's Custodial crew's responsibility. In addition to general floor cleaning, sweeping and scrubbing, staff is called upon for specialized floor cleaning. During office renovations, while offices are vacated, custodial staff is called upon to strip and refinish original linoleum flooring. In the before and after images below the differences are apparent. On the left, the area around the perimeter of the room shows years of wear. The newly stripped and finished floor on the right shines and is ready for office staff to return.



Built for durability, the Nebraska State Capitol's beautiful marble and limestone floors have withstood years of use. In the 1980's, after 60 years of wear, some of the softer stone used in the ornamental floors was beginning to scratch and wear away. A layer of finish was applied annually as a barrier between the ornamental stone and foot traffic, wheeled carts, and the debris carried in on shoes. After 30 years, the layers of finish have chipped and started to discolor. In addition to their daily floor care and renovation work, OCC custodial staff are stripping sections of ornamental and corridor floor and applying new sealer as time allows. This time consuming process of removing the old discolored finish and replacing it is bringing the marble and limestone back to its original beauty. Corridor by corridor, section by section staff are working their way around the Capitol.



Preparation for floor stripping begins after the weekly scrubbing is completed, left. A different machine and technique are used to slowly remove layer after layer of finish without damaging the stone.



Grounds Maintenance

Office of the Capitol Commission November 2015-2016

Craig Kreiner, Horticulturalist/ Supervisor, State Building Division
Lee Briggs, Groundskeeper Leader, State Building Division
Kirby Baird, Groundskeeper Leader, State Building Division
Heather Dinslage, Groundskeeper Leader, Office of the Capitol Commission
Don Pracheil, Automotive Mechanic II, Office of the Capitol Commission

- Daily maintenance of 2.5 million square feet (58 acres) of landscape and hardscape by combined Office of the Capitol Commission and State Building Division grounds staff, including mowing, chemical applications, aerating, seeding, manicuring, mowing and edging of sidewalks areas within turf and snow removal for 58,000 sq. ft. of Capitol hardscape.
- Support OCC Capitol events with set up/take down
- Participate in furniture and office moves during Capitol renovation projects
- Continue modified irrigation schedule
- Select, cut, decorate, maintain and remove Capitol Holiday tree
- Plant and maintain flower boxes on promenade of 1526 Building
- Supervised new plantings at State Lab
- Mulched all plantings at Capitol and other sites
- Oversaw resurfacing and restriping of parking lots
- Removed original Pin Oak on southeast lawn due to failing condition
- Oversaw installation of new drip irrigation line at Governor's Residence
- Oversaw replanting of areas along completed portions of Centennial Mall
- Mechanic and assistant maintained:
 - Six vehicles (four pickups with snow blades and two stock trucks)
 - Three Toro riding mowers with snow broom attachments in winter
 - Three John Deere tractors, one with a front end loader, snow blower, aerator, and forklift attachment and two smaller tractors
 - Seven push mowers
 - Self propelled and pull type aerator
 - Two riding spreaders for the lawn and smaller push spreaders
 - Assorted weed whips and edgers
 - Tennant floor sweeper for cleaning parking lots and garages
 - Three sprayers for the lawn
 - Five snow blowers and three self-propelled snow brooms

Grounds Maintenance

Office of the Capitol Commission November 2015-2016

Holiday Tree

As the Grounds Maintenance staff switches their focus with the changing seasons, moving from mowing lawns to scooping snow from sidewalks, they also help prepare the Capitol for the holiday season. Each year, the Capitol's Grounds staff are responsible to locate, cut, install and decorate a holiday tree for the Capitol.



Left, the holiday tree arrives and is ready to be brought into the Capitol. In addition to the grounds crew, all OCC staff and others are involved in bringing the tree into the building. Below, the tree is in position to be raised. It takes many strong arms to lift up the almost one ton tree.



Above left, after being placed in the custom tree stand and raised, staff pulls the tree into position. Left, the bare tree settles in place and awaits decoration with ornaments representing the 93 counties of Nebraska. Right, after the tree lighting ceremony, the holiday tree brightens the Rotunda and is enjoyed by staff and visitors throughout the holiday season. Many families have photographs taken with the tree.



Capitol Tours and Special Events

Office of the Capitol Commission November 2015-2016

Roxanne Smith, Public Information Officer
(Tourism Supervisor/Special Events)

Theodore Haubrich, Tourism Aide

Tours-

During the past year almost 1800 tours were given.

- over 20,000 school children during Spring 2016
- Almost 100,000 total visitors in Capitol
- Special tours for guests of Executive, Legislative and Judicial branches, trade mission tours, Mayor's Committee for International Friendship, groups traveling with US State Department, classes from colleges across Nebraska to meet curriculum needs, art and architecture tours, pre-school and day care tours

Special Events-

- 23 News Conferences
- 32 Weddings
- 80 Wedding and Family Photography sessions
- 33 Rallies/Events on the Capitol Grounds
- 36 Displays, First Floor Rotunda, State or Non-Profit Sponsored
- 14 Concerts, Second Floor Rotunda
 - Music in Our Schools Concert Series
- 18 Rotunda Ceremonies, including:
 - Martin Luther King Ceremony
 - Youth Art Month Award Ceremony
 - Girls and Boys State Events
 - State Bar Association Swearing In Ceremony
 - Governor's Employee/Supervisor of the Year Ceremony
 - Department of Education Ceremonies and Programs
 - Hispanic Heritage Month Commemoration
 - Department of Corrections Awards Ceremony
- 4 special exterior lightings of Capitol
- 2 road race events at Capitol

Capitol Tours and Special Events

Office of the Capitol Commission November 2015-2016

Capitol Concerts

Capitol architect Bertram Goodhue's decision to create a Gothic inspired marble and limestone interior for the Nebraska State Capitol has proven a benefit for Nebraska's choirs. The beauty of the space and the amplification of the voices by the domed rotunda space provide an ideal venue for choral music. Annually the Nebraska State Capitol is host to numerous scheduled and an occasional unscheduled concert. Concerts are held during the noon hour so as to not disrupt official functions of state government. The Nebraska Music Educator's Association celebrates Youth Art Month with a series of noon time concerts in March each year. Music teachers will make special requests to bring in choral groups for a tour and concert. The holidays bring joyful music to the Capitol as citizens gather for the annual tree lighting and carol sing; tuba and horn ensembles featuring University of Nebraska students fill the rotunda with music. In addition to the scheduled musical performances as part of ceremonies and programs, choirs traveling across the country to competitions have been known to stop and provide brief impromptu concerts for their own enjoyment. Providing an excellent venue for music is just one more way the Capitol serves Nebraskans.



Above left, musical director Molly Jennings brings her Soundsational Singers 200 miles from O'Neill to the Capitol for a special concert experience and Capitol tour. Above right, parents make the trip to witness their children performing in the Capitol rotunda.



Above left, the Lincoln Men's Chorus performs a noon concert in the rotunda. The wonderful acoustics of the space highlighted the men's voices. Above right, almost 100 people gather in the rotunda to hear the annual tuba concert featuring holiday music and carols.