



THE CAPITOL SOWER

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE CAPITOL COMMISSION | VOLUME TEN | NUMBER ONE | FEB 2018



HVAC Project Update

The two-year planning phase of the Nebraska State Capitol HVAC Project is nearing completion. Design documents are being finalized and contractors are being pre-qualified to bid once the design documents are complete. The first visible sign of the project is the relocation of several agency offices to space outside the Capitol. Secretary of State and Legislative support staff have moved to alternate locations. The eight-year construction phase will require the temporary relocation of every office in the Capitol to allow contractor access. Moving some agencies out of the Capitol will allow their first floor and tower office space to be temporarily used by others on a rotational basis.

The next visible phase of the project will be construction of the well field for the ground-source heating and cooling system. A state surface parking lot covering the entire block bounded by K and L Streets and 17th and 18th Streets will become a geothermal well drilling site on June 1, 2018. The well field phase of the construction project is expected to take 15 months. While the well field is being put in place, the pipes carrying the well water to and from the Capitol through a closed loop system will be installed under K Street using underground directional boring. At

the 16th Street corner of K the route of the pipes will turn south across the northeast Capitol lawn. The work on the Capitol grounds will become visible through a combination of open trenching and directional boring.

Following adjournment of the 105th Legislature on April 18, 2018, offices in the southwest quadrant of the Capitol will be vacated. Contractor's should be on site by June 1, 2018. Accommodations for contractor's offices are being made in the Capitol's basement, this will eliminate the visual intrusion of a construction trailer on the grounds. Once on site, contractors will construct temporary walls blocking public access to the southwest sections of 1st, 2nd and 3rd floors. After years of planning, the Capitol HVAC Project will soon be underway. 



The well field location northeast of the Capitol and the route under K Street to the Capitol are identified above.

Nebraska Capitol Commission Membership

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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

John Hanson
Congressional District 3

Robert C. Ripley
Administrator,
Office of the Capitol Commission
Secretary



The People of the OCC Office of the Capitol Commission

ADMINISTRATION

Bob Ripley, Administrator
Matt Hansen, Architect
Vacant, Architect
Mark Tonjes, 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
Rich Naber, Custodial Leader

GROUNDS

Heather Dinslage,
Groundskeeper Leader
Don Pracheil, Mechanic

MAINTENANCE

Michael Jordan, Shop Supervisor
Kent Bonebright,
Sheet Metal Fabricator
Tahir Karimi, Electrician
Jeff Gillett, Plumber
Zac Hanna,
Maintenance Technician

TOURS

Roxanne Smith,
Public Information Officer/
Tourism Supervisor/
Special Events Coordinator
Ted Haubrich,
Tourism Aide
Matt Hier,
Tourism Aide

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OCC AT WORK Experience and Service

The Office of the Capitol Commission thanks two staff who have retired from service to the State of Nebraska. Maintenance technician John Steele retired after 20 years with the Office of the Capitol Commission. John came to OCC after the Minden Beef plant closed; he had worked in the plant's maintenance department. At the Capitol he worked on most major projects providing much needed support to the plumber and electrician. John was actively involved with the annual change from steam to chilled water and back. John was OCC's insulation specialist, improving the energy efficiency of the Capitol's HVAC system. In retirement John plans to play cards with other retired Capitol coworkers and keep up with his target practice. During the summers he plans to boat and fish at Harlan County Reservoir.



Larry Simonson took a winding path to his second retirement at 80 years old. The Minnesota native was playing with a country music group when they travelled to Lincoln for a concert where he met his wife of 38 years. They settled in Texas. Larry worked repairing the large Caterpillar engines used in the oil industry and on large ships, travelling to South Africa, Indonesia and Iraq for the job. After retiring to Lincoln, Larry realized he needed to keep busy and wanted to earn extra money. Experience Works, a program funded by the Department of



Labor, helped the 68-year-old get back into the job market. He was referred to the State's temporary employment office, Specialized Office Services. SOS recruited him to help State Building Division on an office remodel. Then SBD put the mechanic to work on the small engines the SBD and OCC grounds crew use to maintain state property in Lincoln, including the Capitol and Governor's Residence. For ten years Larry kept the mowers, snow blowers and tractors in good running order. Following his wife's death, Larry decided to retire again. He will travel to Georgia and Florida to see his children and, if he likes the South, plans to move to be near them. 

Commission 2018 Schedule

The Nebraska Capitol Commission has set its schedule for 2018. The Commission meets quarterly in the Capitol to oversee and review maintenance and preservation of the Capitol, discuss and approve the upcoming budget and projects for the Office of the Capitol Commission, and set administrative rules for the use of the Capitol. The meetings are held in Hearing Room #1507 on ground floor of the Capitol. The last

meeting date of the year includes a joint Capitol Commission/Capitol Environs Commission meeting.

- February 13, 2018 at 10:00 a.m.
- June 5, 2018 at 10:00 a.m.
- August 7, 2018 at 10:00 a.m.
- November 15, 2017
Joint Meeting at 10:00 a.m.
Capitol Commission at 11:00 a.m.

The meetings are open to the public. 


CONSERVATION PROJECTS

Special Furniture Gets Special Treatment

Almost every office in the Capitol contains original furniture purchased during or immediately after the Capitol's construction. The very high quality desks, chairs and tables purchased for the Capitol are visible in almost every office. Hundreds of pieces of the same desk and the same chair are in use. But there are some locations in the Capitol where unique one-of-a-kind pieces are found. These preservation spaces are special and not the usual office spaces.

In addition to the Governor's Suite, the Judicial Branch has some special pieces. One suite of special furnishings was purchased for the Ladies Lounge in the Court's quadrant. Stick reed furniture from the Heywood Wakefield Company was used to give the Lounge a more relaxed ambience, providing an appropriate resting place for ladies then and now.

The original suite of Lounge furnishings included four arm chairs, two couches, side tables and a tea table and chairs. After years of use some of these pieces became worn and were taken out of service.

The upcoming Capitol HVAC Project will require the complete relocation of all furniture in the Capitol. Office of the Capitol Commission furniture shop staff are taking advantage of this opportunity to survey and restore as much furniture as possible. The wicker pieces retired to storage vaults are being brought out and restored. Any pieces previously repainted are being considered for restoration work also. This special Lounge furniture is unlike any other used in the Capitol and once restored will showcase OCC's finisher's painting skill. 



Left, two chairs removed from service years ago sit in a vault. The chair on the left was repainted in an earlier restoration attempt based on the original colors remaining visible on the chair beside it. Based on previous attempts to match colors and repaint the chairs, OCC worked to develop restoration techniques to follow. Right, OCC's finisher holds a mock-up of chair components created from wooden dowels by OCC's carpenter. The mock-up allows staff to test painting techniques before applying them to the originals. Careful study of the original revealed subtle shading between the dual spindles, which will be replicated.



Above, a Heywood Wakefield stick reed chair in original condition sits in the paint shop. The Chair on the right has been completely stripped, repaired and repainted based on the original scheme. Once cushions are made it will be returned to service.



Above, a newly painted table awaits the application of the green and black detailing.


Capitol vaults reveal their secrets.

The Past Makes a Comeback

Part of the Nebraska Capitol Commission's plan to construct a new Capitol for Nebraska in 1932, was the purchase of new furniture for the new building. Following the first phase of construction, as offices moved into the outer square from the old building, agencies brought first and second Capitol furniture with them. During the later phases of construction new furniture was purchased for the new spaces and most of the old furniture surplused; however several significant very high-quality pieces remained in use in the new Capitol.

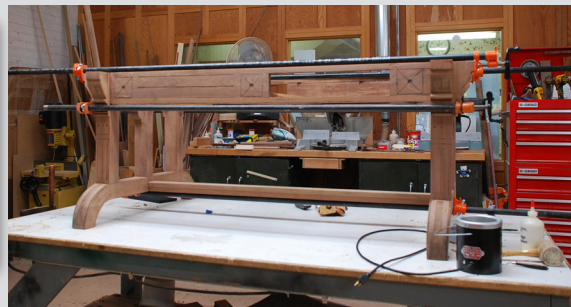
As agencies began to vacate the Capitol in the 1950's, and during the 1970's migration of agencies into

the newly completed Nebraska State Office Building, these older furnishings were left behind in basement vaults. Because they were not part of the third Capitol furniture inventory, they remained in the back of the vaults out of sight and mind.

Now that the vaults are being cleared to allow access during the HVAC project, these pieces are being rediscovered. A table dating from the late 19th century was found in pieces. Recognizing its quality, shop staff are repairing it for reuse. The compatible walnut table will make an excellent conference table in a private office. 



The age of the table was determined by the drawer detail. This joinery was used from the 1870's to 1900.



Above, the puzzle pieces of the table were stripped and reassembled, including the drawers. An interior support frame, right, was fabricated to strengthen the table and support a new table top, as the original was missing.



After the frame was restored, OCC's cabinet maker took stock walnut lumber, straightened and planed the pieces, left, and then, right, glued the pieces together to make the table top.



Using his knowledge of fine furniture OCC's cabinet maker customized the edge of the new table top to match the existing detail of the table legs, left, to visually tie the two together. The final step is applying finish, below and right.



The drawers, inset above, and table below await reassembly. The final task will be to find compatible pulls for the drawers.



BEHIND THE SCENES

Learning Opportunity

Caring for the original furnishings purchased specifically for use in Bertram Goodue's Nebraska Capitol, is an important task for Office of the Capitol Commission staff. Using and maintaining this very high-quality furniture saves money and reduces damage to the Capitol. Capitol Preservation Architect Tom Kasper began the furniture inventory in the 1970's and, with OCC staff support, took the next 40 years to assemble the Circulating and Permanent Collections of furnishing within the Nebraska Capitol Collection. Throughout the years of developing the inventory, currently kept in PastPerfect, a computer program used by museums, the one constant was Kasper's knowledge.

Furniture shop staff, using Kasper's system, can identify each piece by manufacturer and model number. They use Pastperfect to record the condition of each piece, record repairs needed and performed, and the location of each piece. With Kasper's passing, OCC furniture staff will take over the responsibility of keeping the inventory current. The HVAC Project will provide OCC furniture staff the opportunity to learn as much as possible about

the inventory system and each piece in it as they move all Capitol original furniture out of offices and into storage during the eight-year project. Each of the over 5,000 pieces of Capitol original furniture has been or will be assigned an associated file number. Staff will be able to confirm the type, manufacturer and condition of each piece and update its location in the Capitol. As needed updated photographs of each piece and documentation of repair or restoration will be added to the file.

The upcoming furniture moves will allow OCC furniture restoration staff to inspect each piece removed and stored during the project. If, during inspection, condition issues are found, OCC restoration staff will have the opportunity to repair and restore the furniture before it is returned to service. Furniture shop staff are excited to have the opportunity to inspect original furniture while it is not being used and without disrupting office staff. The holistic inspection of the entire original furniture inventory over the next eight years will improve staff efficiency and provide much needed information for our archive records. 🏠



Left, Dawn Hickmon, furniture conservator and furniture shop supervisor, uses an inventory file to check for any past repair on a chair currently in the shop.

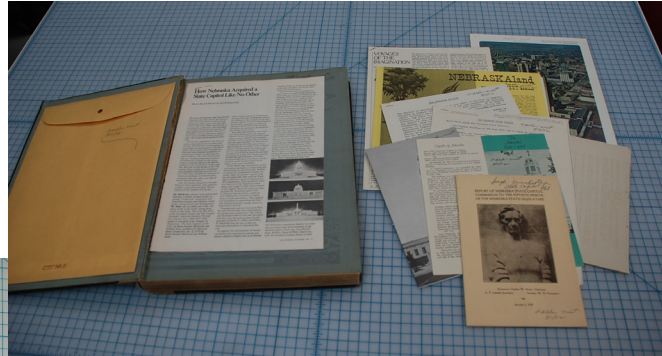


Right, Lana Gabel, furniture conservator, begins the restoration process on a chair in the shop. An identification card is kept near the piece for reference and photo documentation of the process.

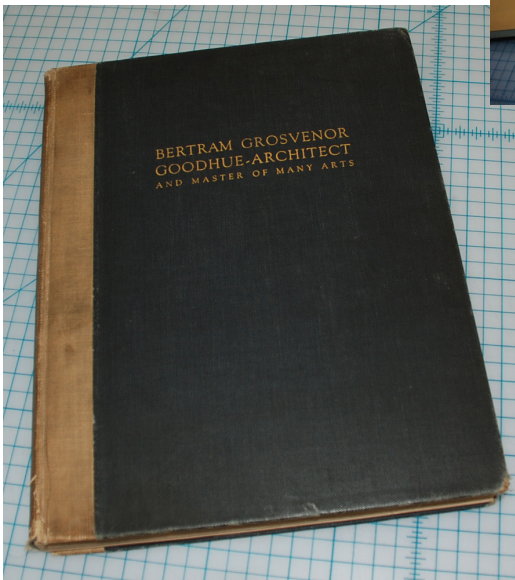
WHAT'S OLD IS NEW

The value of a positive tour experience cannot be overstated. A couple from Indiana, aware of Capitol architect Bertram Goodhue from time spent in San Diego's Balboa Park, was travelling across Nebraska and stopped to see Goodhue's Nebraska State Capitol. The excellent personalized tour given by the OCC tour guide stayed with them after they returned home. Several years later, they found a book about Goodhue at a library used book sale. Recently, they contacted Capitol Archivist Karen Wagner, mentioned their Capitol experience and offered to donate the book to the collection. After phone conversations with the couple, Wagner determined it was appropriate to the collection. The couple sent the book to Lincoln, and upon inspection Wagner discovered it contained Capitol promotional materials gathered by the book's previous owner in the 1970's.

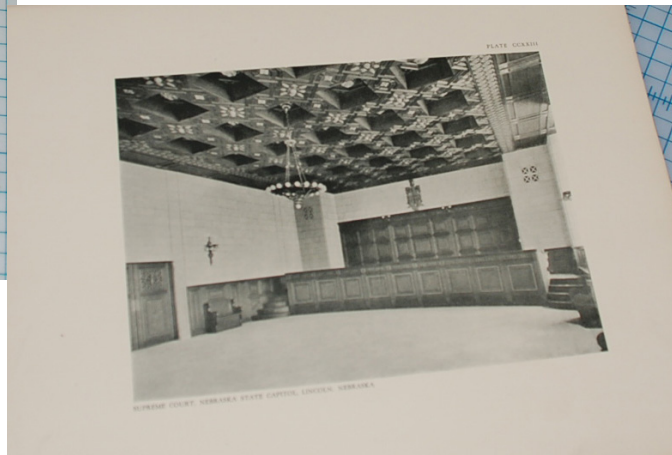
The Office of the Capitol Commission is statutorily obliged to provide free public tours and to develop educational and promotional materials about the Capitol. Tours of the Nebraska State Capitol were given before the Capitol was completed. One of the first books written about the Capitol was by Leonard Nelson, one of the first Capitol tour guides. Since 1931 guides have relied on Nelson's descriptions about the Capitol's themes including passages about artwork not yet installed. Not only does this book *Bertram Grosvenor Goodhue-Master of Many Arts* showcase his talent and career, it also contains early images of the Capitol's interiors which supplement tour guide's understanding of the construction. The publications tucked inside document the promotional materials used by the tour staff at that time and help track changes in the promotional program through the years.



The book *Bertram Grosvenor Goodhue: Master of Many Arts* was written as tribute to Goodhue in 1931. The recently donated copy contained promotional materials collected in the 1970's. Of note, the Nebraska Capitol Commission's Report to the Fiftieth Legislature, with a cover image of the north facade Lincoln sculpture dated January 1, 1935, was still being distributed at that time.



Among the images of Goodhue's life's work, the book contains photos of the yet-to-be-finished Nebraska State Capitol. The image of the Supreme Court, right, shows the court room with only the Judge's bench installed.



CAPITOL EVENTS

Lincoln Birthday Vigil

February 12, 2018

The Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War will post an honor guard at the Lincoln Monument.

NU for NE Display

February 12-15, 2018

The University's first floor rotunda display will feature all campuses.

Speech-Language-Hearing Display

February 14, 2018

The Nebraska Speech-Language-Hearing Association will have a display in the first floor rotunda.

Presidents Day

February 19, 2018

The Capitol will be open for tours from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Utility Contractors Display

February 23, 2018

The Nebraska Utility Contractors Association will have a day long display in the first floor rotunda.

Noxious and Invasive Plant Display

February 26-March 2, 2018

The Nebraska Weed Control Association will educate the public about noxious and invasive plants in a first floor rotunda display.

Social Work Week Display

February 26-March 2, 2018

The Nebraska Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers will have a first floor display.

Statehood Concert

March 4, 2017

The Nebraska Choral Directors Association is sponsoring a NE150 Nebraska Prairie-Memories Last concert in the 2nd floor rotunda at 2:00 p.m.

Youth Art Month Display

March 4-17, 2018

The Nebraska Art Teachers Association will display student artwork in the first floor rotunda.

Music Education Week

March 5 - 9, 2018

The Nebraska Music Educators Association is sponsoring a series of noon concerts in the second floor rotunda featuring vocal and instrumental groups from across Nebraska.

Unclaimed Property Outreach

March 12-18, 2018

The State Treasurer's Office will share their newest unclaimed property publication in the first floor rotunda.

Problem Gambling Display

March 12-16, 2018

Choices Treatment Center, a DHHS contractor, will have a first floor display in association with the Governor's proclamation of March as Problem Gambling Month.

Youth Art Awards Ceremony

March 17, 2018

The Nebraska Art Teachers Association will hold a celebration of Youth Art Month at 2:00 p.m. in the 2nd floor rotunda of the Capitol.

Environmental Trust Display

March 18-24, 2018

The Nebraska Environmental Trust celebrates its 25th anniversary with a display in the first floor rotunda featuring projects from across the state.

No Limits Youth Rally

March 21, 2018

No Limits Nebraska is sponsoring an anti-smoking Kick Butts Day rally on the West Plaza of the Capitol from 8:00 a.m. to Noon.

Behavioral Health Display

March 26-30, 2018

The Nebraska Association of Behavioral Health Organizations will have a display in the first floor rotunda.

Capitol Forum

March 27, 2017

The Nebraska Secretary of State hosts a student poster display in the 2nd floor rotunda focusing on current events.

World Autism Awareness

April 2, 2018

The University of Nebraska Medical Center Munroe-Meyer Institute is lighting the Capitol blue to begin World Autism Month.

Officer Candidate Graduation

April 7, 2018

The Nebraska National Guard will hold a graduation ceremony in the second floor rotunda at 10:00 a.m.

Soundsational Singers Concert

April 10, 2018

O'Neill Public School students will sing at noon in the second floor rotunda.

UNL Research Presentation

April 12-20, 2018

The University of Nebraska Office of Undergraduate Research will display student projects in the first floor rotunda.

State Holocaust Commemoration

April 15, 2018

The Institute for Holocaust Education and the Jewish Federation of Lincoln will remember the Holocaust in the 2nd floor rotunda at 3:00 p.m.

Arbor Day Holiday

Tree Dedication

April 27, 2018

The Capitol will be open for tours from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Worker's Memorial Day Vigil

April 28, 2018

The United Support Memorial for Workplace Fatalities will be held at 6:30 p.m. on the north side of the Capitol.

Memorial Day

May 28, 2018

The Capitol will be open for tours from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

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

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Guided Tours are offered Monday-Friday hourly from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., except at noon. Saturday and Holidays from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., except at noon and Sunday from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. Please call 402.471.0448 or visit www.capitol.nebraska.gov

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>](mailto:roxanne.smith@nebraska.gov) for more information.

Please contact us if you have any questions or comments about the content. All images are property of the Office of the Capitol Commission.

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Capitol Architect
Bertram Grosvenor Goodhue, 1869-1924

Agencies Relocate for HVAC Project

During the 10-year HVAC Renovation Project, several agencies currently in the Capitol will move to other locations to accommodate the internal movement of offices as quadrants are vacated for HVAC equipment removal and installation.

The Accountability and Disclosure Commission has moved to the Centre Terrace Building at 1225 L Street Suite 400. The Commission will be joined there by the Ombudsman's Office in Suite 300, and later by the Legislative Performance Audit Office in Suite 500 and the Transcribers Office in Suite 502, once the Legislative session is completed.

The Secretary of State has moved its Business Services and Elections Division to offices on N Street. Business Services, including the Notary Division and Apostiles, Licensing, and Rules and Regulations are at 1201 N Street Suite 120. Elections Division is located at 1221 N Street Suite 103.

Parking for these offices can be found in nearby city-owned parking garages where the first hour is free. 