

Building a Better NOC Project

Transforming the Northern Oklahoma College Tonkawa Library into a Contemporary **NOC Student Learning Commons**

The library at Northern Oklahoma College Tonkawa is at a pivotal crossroads, with rows and rows of outdated books not being used by today's students, and the need for individual and small group study areas in a dynamic environment. The library could greatly benefit from a fresh look. This project is a perfect example of connecting NOC's core values of personalized education, continuous improvement and community and civic engagement into one transforming project.

The new NOC Student Learning Commons will improve the student and employee quality of life by bringing more access to current technology and increase distributed study areas. The new Student Learning Commons will possess the WOW! factor in student recruitment as prospective students and families tour the campus, while the new access to learning spaces will aid in retention and improved graduation rates. The Cultural Engagement Center (CEC) and current library will be blended into one space, while retaining the class dividing walls.

This will all happen from the efforts of the NOC Foundation and a generous donation from a Northern Oklahoma College supporter, as well as some funding from a private grant.

Building on Research

Why do students really go to the library? (Excerpt from Gensler Research Institute research study)
<https://www.gensler.com/gri/future-of-the-academic-library>

Academic libraries are at a pivotal crossroads. New technologies, changing study habits, and efforts to manage the rising costs of higher education put both their facilities and purpose in flux—questioning the utility of books in a digital age and even posing larger questions about the relevance and purpose of these storied institutions.

*While **digital and social media and ubiquitous access to the Internet** call into question the need to dedicate space to rows and rows of stacks, previous Gensler research points to some aspects—both symbolic and functional— of today's libraries that endure. Today's students prefer to study alone and seek quiet spaces to study most effectively. The **library is by far the favored place** for this activity, with the **majority of students ranking it as the best place to study or work alone on campus.***

What Is the Function of Libraries in Our New Wired World (<https://www.gensler.com/blog/what-is-the-function-of-libraries-in-our-new-wired-world>)

Will books go the way of papyrus scrolls—relics of another age kept in glass boxes? That's a question weighing heavily on the minds of many as our **world becomes progressively digitized**. Even the most devoted bookworms are wondering if their objects of affection can survive the era of Kindles, eBooks and BuzzFeed listicles.

Building on the NOC Core Values and Strategic Goals

NOC Strategic Goals:

- Student Quality of Life (including facility maintenance and renovation)
- Recruitment/Retention/Graduation (including program development and academic partnerships)
- Employee Quality of Life and Professional Development
- Increased Revenue Streams (including financial partnerships/sponsorships, grants)

NOC Core Values:

- Personalized Education
- Community and Civic Engagement
- Continuous Improvement

The intention of the Student Learning Commons project is to ...

1. Transform the library into a **vibrant student hub**, by **creating an environment** where students will work collaboratively and individually and be **inspired by the high-quality art** that surrounds them.
2. Create the Student Learning Commons that will have **access to current technology**, in the way of laptops to be used in the library, updated computer desktops, double monitors, collaboration tools and printer access.
3. Create the **WOW factor to impact visiting and current students** and their families. This will become a tool for recruitment of students and as a beautiful space to attract visitors to NOC and Tonkawa.
4. Provide the **resources that students need to do coursework**, and for employees to grow professionally.
5. Encourage **faculty to assist in determining books that are most beneficial for current NOC courses**, and to **remove the old, outdated, damages books** and other resources. Use a systematic approach to make the decisions, such as books older than 15 years that have not been checked out in ten years.
6. **Increase the budget for online resources**, such as databases, eBooks, eJournals, eMagazines, etc.
7. Look for opportunities to **collaborate across the State** with other college or public libraries to secure economy of scale in purchasing online resources.
8. Provide the **technical assistance to students and employees** to enable them to access digital resources.
9. The library at the **NOC Enid campus** will be a **Phase Two** of the project as funds are identified.

Tasks to accomplish the intention of the Student Learning Commons.

1. Develop a timeline to accomplish the project.
2. Secure donor to provide art and murals for the permanent collection in the library.
 - a. Work with Administration to determine the art that will be displayed.
 - b. Utilize donor to subsidize the construction of suitable art backing area.
3. Determine any construction and deconstruction needs to move the project forward.
 - a. Remove the current library reception desk area.
4. Research what books must be kept for HLC accreditation.
5. Develop the systematic approach to determine books and other resources to be removed.
 - a. Use library staff and student workers to remove unneeded resources.
 - b. Review all books, laser disks and resources in storage.
 - c. Store them for the time being, and develop a system to remove them from the library card catalog.
6. Hold an extensive book drive to acquire donations of books and related media.
 - a. Do a quick review of newer, updated materials that are appropriate to add to the collection & card catalog.
 - b. Put the books that are not appropriate for the college needs in a major book sale, along with the books removed from the collection.
7. Research other community colleges to determine highly utilized electronic resources, develop reasonable budget request for the electronic resources.
8. Determine the updates in physical technology, such as new computers, double 20" monitors, and collaboration tools.
 - a. Once the funding is available purchase the technology.
9. Train the library employees on the updated technology, databases, etc.
10. Identify what furniture is suitable to repurpose in the Student Learning Commons, and remove the very dated furniture. Sell at auction.
 - a. Identify some new chairs, tables, loveseats, soft chairs for the new purposing.
11. Remove and replace carpet, with carpet squares in design used in CEC.

Details of the Project.

1. Current estimate of books is 40,000 books
2. Four large metal bookshelves with Reference, Oklahoma Collection, magazines (15'6" long, 2' wide, 7'6" tall, 5 shelving units, 5-7 shelves) (Remove)
3. Eight large metal bookshelves in back of library (27'2" long, 2' wide, 7'6" tall, 9 shelving units, 5-7 shelves)
 - a. Plan to keep seven or less of the large bookshelves total. Cut down to 48" tall
4. Three large wood bookshelves in back of library (27'2" long, 2' wide, 7'6" tall, 9 shelving units, 5-7 shelves) (Remove)
5. Two shorter wooden bookshelves in front of library with faculty course materials, and large coffee table books. (12' long, 1'8" wide, 41 1/2 "tall, 4 connected units) (Relocate)
6. Small student computer desks by printer (6' long, 2'wide, currently 2 computers each / change to one computer and two larger monitors)
7. Twelve curved student computer desks (5'11" long, 3'11" at wide part, currently 1 computer and 1 monitor, Update computers and change to two larger monitors)
8. Three wood tables in back of library (2 @10' long x 2'6" wide, 1@10' x 3') (Remove)
9. Much additional miscellaneous furniture (Remove most of it)
10. Replace all library carpet, match with carpet in CEC.
 - a. Rough carpet estimate is 9,150 ft², 1,017 yd², 3,287 2x2 carpet squares
11. Replace damaged window panes in Gathering Place and in SE corner of library
12. Have faculty put sticker on books that are most beneficial for current NOC courses. These will be kept in collection. Give faculty 40 stickers to identify books. Can give additional stickers.
13. Two collaborative rooms in CEC
 - a. Tables are 52" wide, 90" from wall, 68" tall with monitor, monitor 39" diagonal

Mural and Art Donations

1. Mural on East wall by Yatika Starr Fields (75'x20').....Not disclosed
2. Mural on Southeast wall by Yatika Starr Fields (25'x20')Not disclosed
3. Art for the entire library (Permanent donation, as art pieces can be exchanged with other art from the donor's collection with permission of the donor and NOC Not disclosed
4. Wall preparation for art collection (paint and wall covering) Not disclosed

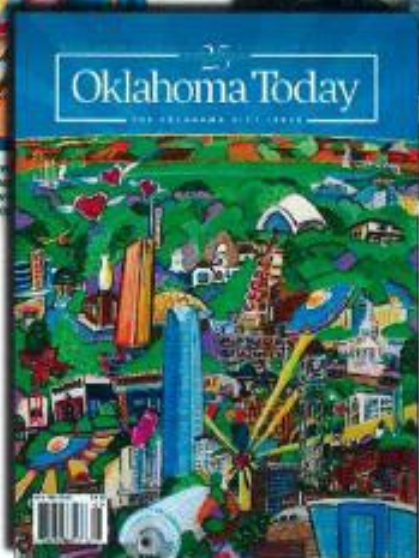
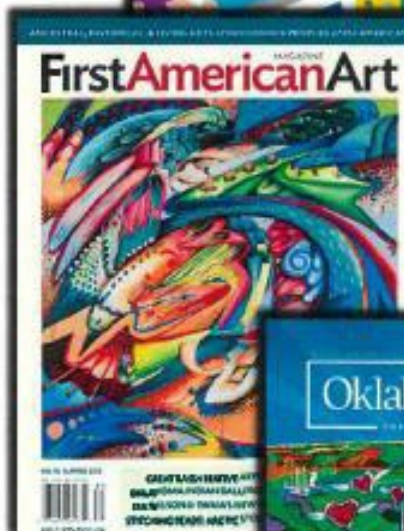
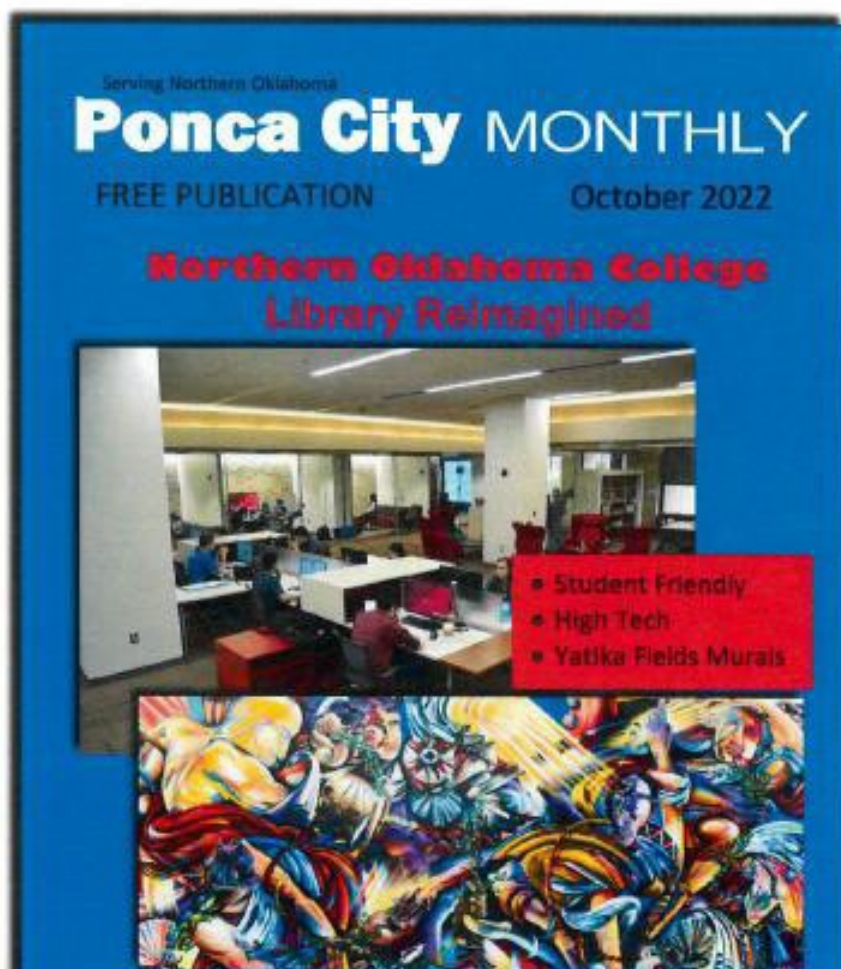
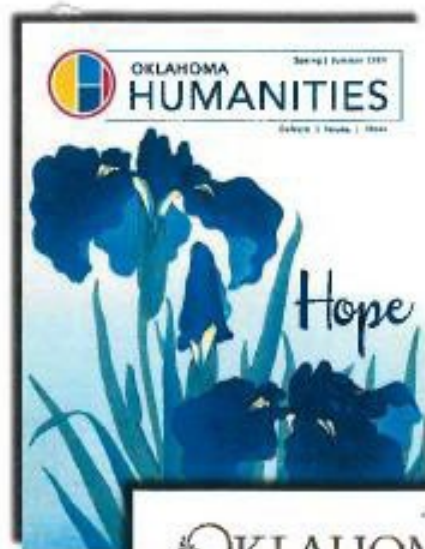
Equipment/Furniture Needs/Construction (ROUGH ESTIMATE)

1. 48 20" monitors (8x2) + (12x2) + (4x2 in CEC) (48x\$150).....\$7,200
2. 20 Updated computers (20x\$900).....\$18,000
3. Three collaboration desks and chairs (1 for Career Resource Area).....\$8,000
 - a. Three large monitors.....\$2,000
4. 10 smaller tables (one or two individuals)\$3,000
 - a. (chairs may be available in PT building)
5. 8 larger tables and chairs for 4 individuals\$12,000
6. 4 loveseats.....\$4,000
7. 20 upholstered chairs (\$600x20).....\$12,000
8. New reception area\$12,000
9. Three sets of modular no-back seating (\$2,600x3).....\$7,800
10. New carpet, estimated 3,287 2x2 squares\$47,440
11. Misc. deconstruction and construction\$10,000
12. Electrical lines relocated\$10,000
13. Painting.....\$3,000
14. Glass replacement.....\$6,000
15. Shelf moving & reduction24,000
16. Miscellaneous expenses\$33,560
17. **TOTAL**.....**\$220,000**

Funding Sources are Committed:

- Private donation (Through NOCF) In-kind items (art & construction) Amount not disclosed
- Private donation (Through NOCF)\$200,000
- Private grant funding for Career & Transfer Resource Center\$20,000

Possible magazines to promote the art in the transformed Student Learning Commons



Potential Furniture Items to consider in the remodeling project



Transformation of the Northern Oklahoma College Library to a Contemporary Student Learning Commons

(Additional art pieces will be displayed throughout the Learning Commons from the Hugh & Dr. SJ Pickens Collection.)

