

TROUBLE HEARING? EARLY DETECTION IS THE BEST TREATMENT [FIND OUT MORE >>](#)
CALL TODAY 918-838-1000 **clear-tone**
DIVERSE IN BELIEF. UNITED BY LOVE. **ALL SOULS**
Love beyond belief

Make us your home page Newsletters My Subscription E-edition Subscribe

Contact Us Welcome back, jfanch-208 Logout | My Dashboard

TULSA WORLD 27°

NEWS SPORTS SCENE WORK & MONEY COMMUNITIES BLOGS OPINION WEEKEND WEATHER PHOTO VIDEO DATABASES
 OBITS CALENDAR

Free Access: Jobs Autos Pets Homes Classifieds Contests Deals Display Ads Special Sections Best In The World Legals Advertise

Home > News > Columnist Ginnie Graham

Ginnie Graham: Central Library Christmas tree offers art perspective

Story Comments (1) Image (4) Print Font Size: - +

Posted: Sunday, December 11, 2016 12:01 am | Updated: 12:35 am, Sun Dec 11, 2016.

[Previous](#) [Next](#)



This Christmas Tree art is the focal point of holiday decorations at the Central Library downtown. MIKE SIMONS/Tulsa World

[Buy this photo](#)



Central Library's Peggy V. Helmerich Christmas Tree

Designers: Susie Tatum Woody and Susie Wallace

Fabricators: Susie Tatum Woody, Nick Easter, Susie Wallace, Lynda D. Brownson, Cade Easter and Plastic Engineering Company of Tulsa

Materials: 3 Form Varia Ecoresin (gild silver)

By Ginnie Graham News Columnist | **1 comment**

Any list of must-see Christmas lights should include a stop at the Central Library.

The tree at the entrance isn't the traditional lush green with ornaments and bows. It's different.

"It's a work of art. It's not just a Christmas tree. It will be here to adorn the holidays for a long time," said Lynda Brownson, chairwoman of the Peggy V. Helmerich Distinguished Author Award gala.

Modern look: After three years and \$55 million in renovations, the downtown library opened in October. The planning committee of the gala wanted the decor for the event to match the building.

Because the gala is held during the first week of December, it sets the holiday look. The job eventually fell to the decoration committee of the group planning the event.

"For 31 years, the library had a faux Christmas tree. We knew going in it was time for a change," Brownson said. "We wanted something new and different to go with the new library."

The committee received Peggy Helmerich's blessing to go ahead and find a piece of art to

SPLENDID
Resale & Consignment

GREAT HOLIDAY ITEMS GREAT PRICES

L. Denise Stephens - Owner
1616 E. Apache Street • Tulsa
(918) 520-0532

TOBACCO POUCH

Fully Stocked Humidor
Over 100 Pipe Tobacco Blends
Xikar Lighters & Cutters
Comfortable Smoking Lounge
Peterson Pipes

Kingspointe Village | Tulsa, OK

SHOP NOW

FEATURED JOBS

Work At Osage Casinos
Osage Casino
12.03.16 | Tulsa, OK (74103)

Health Data Analyst II
Community Care
12.03.16 | Tulsa, OK (74103)

EAP Assessor I
Community Care
12.03.16 | Tulsa, OK (74103)

Concrete Mixer Drivers
Shelton Redi-Mix, Inc
12.03.16 | Tulsa, OK (74145)

and regency silver), steel framework in a natural finish and LED strip lighting in natural white.

Dimensions: 15 feet in height and 6 feet on each of the three sides

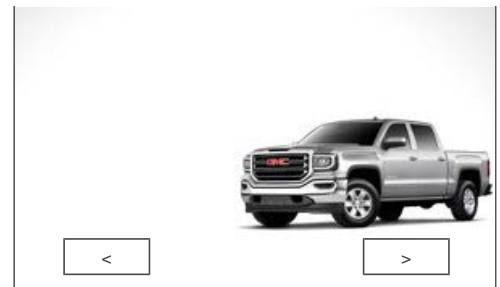
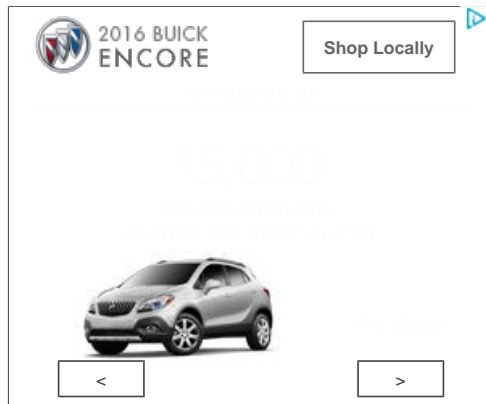
Stanchions: Galvanized pipe and fittings welded to plate steel base with nylon cord threaded through fittings

be the focal point. Her only request was that it be in the form of a Christmas tree.

“It is the beginning of the Christmas season for her and a lot of Tulsans,” Brownson said. “Our new library has an aesthetic that is modern, clean and pristine, and we wanted a tree like that.”

Discussions about the tree started in February. For months, the committee members looked for something available, but nothing grabbed their attention. In the summer, they agreed on a basic silhouette.

It was then the committee members decided to work on it themselves. Volunteers Susie Tatum Woody and Susie Wallace, who are designers, suggested using ecoresin, which resembles plexiglass but is made of 40 percent recycled materials. The two colors chosen are light and airy, matching the library’s open floor plan.



“One looks like sequins and one looks like snow,” Brownson said.

The steel frame has been left in its natural color. The committee — including Nick Easter, Cade Easter and fabricators Plastic Company of Tulsa — assembled the pieces.

The result is a three-sided, 15-foot sculpture that glistens a wintry white at the entrance. It is named after Peggy V. Helmerich.

“The new tree is whimsical and a lot of fun. It’s modern, inviting, professional and really pristine,” Brownson said.

‘21st century tree’: Tulsa has a history and reputation for being supportive of the arts. Residents are accustomed to seeing an artistic perspective on traditional objects. For years, local artists would display their take on holiday arbor for the Philbrook Museum’s Festival of Trees.

“We’re not afraid of change. We just thought that we have a new library, so let’s jazz this up and make something to complement it for years to come,” Brownson said. “People here in Tulsa have an open mind and are willing to try new things.”

Admittedly, the change may not be to everyone’s liking.

“As a work of art, some people will like it and some people don’t,” Brownson said. “It’s something to talk about. It’s a focal point. It’s not for everybody, and some people like the bows and ornaments. We want people to talk about the new library and what’s in it.”

Librarians in the children’s section used the tree as inspiration for programming, having children make their own little trees.

“They can talk architecture and building with this Christmas tree,” she said. “This goes with the non-traditional look of the library. This is a library for the 21st century and is a perfect backdrop for the gala. It’s a 21st century tree.”

The tree will be removed in January and stored in a safe place. Next November, the piece will be re-installed.



Latest Local Offers

Silver Dollar Jewelry - Just Arrived!
Just Arrived David Yurman Jewelry!!! Shop with us today!

Southern Agriculture \$6 OFF
\$6 OFF Any \$30 Purchase or more (before tax)

Key Personnel - Your Job Search is Over!
Apply at Key Personnel 9717 E 42nd St, Suite 200 on Mon-Fri between 8am-3pm for these great opportunities or email resume to keyind@keyjobs.com.

[\\$ View more local offers](#)

Popular Commented

“Every year, it will be treated like a work of art,” Brownson said. “The tree will be installed, not put up.”

The tree sits at the entrance rather than near the grand stairway, which had been the Christmas tree’s spot for more than three decades.

“It will be an invitation to go farther into the library,” she said. “We didn’t want anything to be distracting and needed something that wouldn’t block the entrance. We wanted it to be part of the library so your eye would see everything as you went in. If we had all the greenery, it would have been distracting,” she said.

“Our library is the jewel this year; the tree is the invitation.”

Ginnie Graham 918-581-8376

ginnie.graham@tulsaworld.com

Twitter: @GinnieGraham

Follow Tulsa World News Columnist Ginnie Graham





Follow Tulsa World






Recommend 67 Share [Tweet](#) [0](#) [Pinterest](#) [0](#) Share1 [0](#)

[Discuss](#) [Print](#) 

Similar Stories

- Ginnie Graham: Court decision in Mixon case is about openness, not football
- Ginnie Graham: Tulsa at forefront of childhood trauma research after OSU lands major grant
- Ginnie Graham: Need for gifts for foster children is growing
- Rally planned to reassure youth peace, unity are the way
- Ginnie Graham: Holiday celebration gives foster care alumni feeling of togetherness

Most Read

- Video of OU football player Joe Mixon punching a woman must be released, State Supreme Court rules
- Jarod Mendenhall is out as Broken Arrow superintendent; Janet Dunlop to fill position in interim
- Twice arrested on domestic violence complaints, OU's Dede Westbrook took a complicated route to stardom
- Oklahoma State football: Is Mike Gundy no longer as happy in Stillwater as he was in August?
- Man shot in head at Owasso Whataburger Thursday evening

1. South Carolina police: Man killed amid gunfire with officers
 2. Broken Arrow police officer killed in motorcycle crash
 3. Irish Mobster put in restraints after conviction for murdering man trying to leave gang
 4. Chief: 'We are broken hearted' after Broken Arrow police officer killed in motorcycle crash
 5. Owasso child abuse case described as worst nurses, doctor had ever seen
- [More](#)

Report A Correction

Report a correction to editors when you see inaccurate content at tulsaworld.com/corrections.

Featured Businesses

State Farm Insurance Agent - Ed Martinez
918-742-3131
<http://www.edmartinez.org>

Cecil & Sons Discount Tires
918-245-9655
<http://www.cecilandsons.com>

Advantage Audiology & Hearing Aids
918-721-9990
<http://www.advantage-audiology.com/>







[Find a local business ▼](#)

Today's E-Edition

Join the conversation.

Anyone can post a comment on Tulsa World stories. You can either sign in to your Tulsa World account or use Facebook.

[Sign in to your online account](#) . If you don't have an account, [create one](#) for free . To comment through Facebook, please [sign in to your account](#) before you comment.

Read our [commenting policy](#).