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# Tulsa's Central Library unveils \$55 million renovations after three years of construction

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## Tulsa City-County Central Library Grand Opening

Tulsa World

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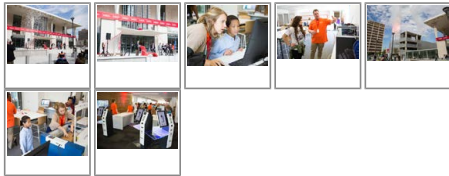
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Confetti is shot after the dropping of the ribbon from the building during the grand opening ceremony of the downtown Tulsa City-County Central Library on Saturday. JOEY JOHNSON/for the Tulsa World

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### Grand Opening

Tulsa's Central Library reopened its doors Saturday to hundreds of patrons eager to see the results of its \$55 million renovations after three years of construction.

The 50-year-old building previously had infrastructural, electrical, plumbing and heating and air issues. It now features energy-efficient systems, such as solar panels, chilled-beam cooling and rainwater collection for irrigating landscape.

Renovations also include state-of-the-art architectural design, expanded meeting spaces, a revamped children's play area, a 3-D printing station and a recording studio.

Rachel Brazelton, who teaches at the Union Alternative School, said the library provides an outlet for many underprivileged youth in the Tulsa community.

"It's not just library books they have here," Brazelton said. "They have hands-on activities for the students to try totally new and different things that they don't get to try in school."

Brazelton was particularly impressed with the library's recording studio, which she predicts will be a wonderful resource for students who aspire to be musicians and rap artists.

"I think that'll definitely boost their self-esteem and just open the world for something to do outside of school," Brazelton said.

The library's accessibility, Brazelton said, is also an important factor.

"They've never seen anything like this," she said. "And knowing that it's all at a public library downtown is going to open their world to something incredibly different."

Brazelton said she thinks the library provides a healthy environment for students.

"I think it's a great place for them to gather," Brazelton said. "Just some place for them to be besides the streets."


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### Library renovation highlights

- A children's area filled with play stations and book bins for easy access
- Study cubicles overlooking downtown
- Maker station for 3-D printing, soldering and digital recording lab
- Educator-intended meeting space with a kitchenette, movable furniture and magnetic board
- Pickup lockers for materials in the lobby for patrons to retrieve items when the facility is closed
- Expanded auditorium
- Various types of seating throughout the facility
- Expanded research and periodicals area
- Garden space between the library and parking garage for events
- Parking garage for 143 spaces, with lower cost for library patrons

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The library appeals to students and non-students alike.

Addison Cruz, who works as an engineer at Callidus Technologies, said his favorite part of the library is the 3-D printing lab.

He said that while some colleges, like his alma mater Oral Roberts University, offer similar services, the facilities are limited to current students and are only available for class-related projects.

"This is really cool because it's several machines that you're able to use to do whatever personal projects you have," Cruz said.

Professionally, Cruz said, engineers use 3-D printing to see scaled-down versions of real-life products, which in his case, would be combustion equipment.

But he said the best part of the library's lab is that it doesn't have to be professional work.

"You can print whatever you want," he said, gesturing to a table filled with 3-D printed dinosaur skulls, fish and even the Empire State Building.

Cruz's wife, Sarah Cruz, said she's happy to see a new resource for knowledge within Tulsa.

"I think it's really neat for the community to be able to learn about these things and get to experiment with them," she said.

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