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Tulsa's Central Library pushes back grand reopening to Oct. 1

Other community events moved the event to Oct. 1, the CEO says.

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Posted: Thursday, June 9, 2016 12:15 am | Updated: 3:21 pm, Thu Jun 9, 2016.



Construction continues at Tulsa's Central Library on Friday. The library is expected to reopen this summer. CORY YOUNG/Tulsa World

By PAIGHTEN HARKINS World Staff Writer | 1 comment

[Related story: Tulsa's newly renovated Central Library slated to open by late summer](#)

The grand reopening of Tulsa's Central Library, which had been expected this summer, has been pushed back to the fall.

More than two years and \$50 million have gone into renovating downtown's 51-year-old Central Library.

Central Library, part of the Tulsa City-County Library system, will hold its grand reopening Oct. 1, with staff and furnishings likely moving into the updated building in mid-August, CEO Gary Shaffer said.

The library, located at Fourth Street and Denver Avenue, was built in 1965 and is approximately 135,000 square feet.

The grand reopening was initially scheduled for mid- to late summer, but other community events caused organizers to push back the opening date into the fall, Shaffer said.

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"You have to get that perfect date," he said. "You only get to do the grand opening once."

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The updated building will include an open floor plan, eight glass-encased study rooms that overlook downtown, a lab with 3-D printers and a sound recording booth, and a large children's library space. Other renovations include updating and replacing the building's 50-year-old heating, cooling and electrical systems, Shaffer said.

"It's a new building inside the shell of the old building," he said. "It is beautiful."

Library officials announced the Central Library renovations in September 2013, and officials anticipated that the project would take about two years and cost \$47.8 million, according to a news release on the [library system's website](#).

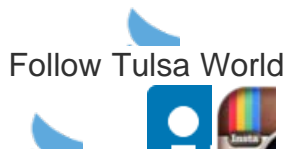
While construction has been ongoing, part of the downtown library's collections and programs have been moved to a building that once housed a grocery store.

That building, called The Librarium, is at 12th Street and Denver Avenue.

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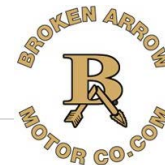
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