



Free Unlimited Access

Jobs Autos Pets Homes Classifieds Contests Deals Print Ads

Home > Homepagelatest

## \$1 million public fundraising effort launched for Central Library renovation

Story Comments (11) Image (2)

Print Font Size:

Posted: Saturday, May 17, 2014 2:00 am

By KIM ARCHER World Staff Writer | 11 comments

**Correction:** An earlier version of this story incorrectly reported the sources of funding for the library renovation. The story has been corrected.

Former Tulsa Mayor Robert LaFortune kicked off a \$1 million public fundraising campaign for renovations to Tulsa's Central Library on Friday by dropping a \$20 bill into a clear acrylic donations box.

"We're on our way," he said of the two-year "Tulsa Central Library Renewed" project.

Inside the nearly 50-year-old downtown building, demolition is already underway, said Gary Shaffer, CEO of the Tulsa City-County Library system. The building closed last August, and the Librarium, at 1110 S. Denver Ave., opened a short time later to provide services during the Central Library renovations.

"Libraries have transitioned. They are no longer warehouses. They are places where people can convene, collaborate and create," LaFortune said during the announcement outside Central Library at Fifth Street and Denver Avenue.



Karen Keith and Michael Dupont look over a model of the plaza renovations Friday during the Central Library's \$1 million fundraising kickoff. STEPHEN PINGRY/Tulsa World

[Buy this photo](#)



Former Mayor Robert LaFortune announces a

## OUTLOOK 2014

SPECIAL REPORT

### INSIDE AN F SCHOOL

An in-depth look at Tulsa educators and students trying to defy the odds.

[dailydealtulsa.com](#)

\$10 for \$20 Worth of Frozen Yogurt

[buy now](#)

### Daily Break: What's trending from around the Web

**New Hampshire police commissioner resigns in wake of Obama slur**

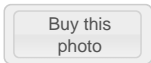
**Outrage erupts over 9/11 museum's gift shop**

**Utah lawmaker: Bring back firing squads for more humane executions**

**Saints sign Tulane's Walker to honorary contract**

**Photo gallery: Moore, Then and Now**

public fundraising campaign Friday for the Central Library renovations. STEPHEN PINGRY/Tulsa World



The library is raising \$23 million in its private fundraising campaign, kicked off with a generous donation from The Bezalel Fund/Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation, he said.

The \$48 million project includes replacing mechanical systems and adding a parking garage, a cafe with outdoor seating and other features.

The renovated library will have one entrance off Fifth Street with drop-off and pick-up parking, as well as a media production lab and a garden area for programs and film showings.

The Tulsa Library Commission earmarked \$15 million for the project, while another \$10 million is part of the Improve Our Tulsa funds that city voters approved in

November. Tulsa Library Trust, a nonprofit that supports the library system, is raising the remaining funds.

Shaffer said bids on the renovations will go out in June, and construction is set to begin in August.

Lynn Schusterman, founder and co-chairwoman of her family's foundation, said libraries are the "great equalizer that makes knowledge and learning available to all."

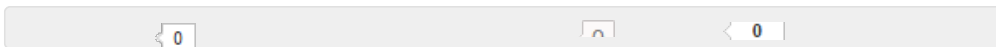
"This is so vitally important as we try to move into the 22nd century," she said.

Tulsa County Commissioner Karen Keith said she is particularly excited about the prospect of a new exterior for the building.

"This will be a wonderful interactive space for our public," she said.

Kim Archer 918-581-8315

kim.archer@tulsaworld.com



Discuss [icon] Print [icon]

### Similar Stories

- State of Oklahoma owes \$303,333 in plaintiffs' legal fees over Shariah law case
- Drillers win homestand finale over NW Arkansas, 4-3
- Oklahoma parents urge Fallin to sign reading bill
- Native Americans to hold Capitol protest

### Most Read

- Janet Barresi calls for school activities funds to be used for school employee health insurance
- Oklahoma Marine who detailed his suicide on Facebook faced familiar issues
- Smashburger stores giving away burgers today

**OSU to replace Boone Pickens Stadium turf**

**Oprah's network postpones Sam documentary**

**Oklahoma City man pretended to be unconscious in jail while hiding crack cocaine in his mouth, police say**

**Johnny Manziel texts Browns he wants to 'wreck' league**

**Churchill Downs wants money back from Wes Welker**

### Follow Us

Facebook [icon] Twitter [icon]

### Latest Local Offers

**Gifford Monument - Call for Rates!**

Proud to be of service to you and your loved ones. Visit us at our new location!



**Mainstreet Motorsports \$29.95 Oil & Filter change**

Mention this ad and get a \$29.95 Motorcycle Oil & Filter Change!



**Cimarron Meat Comany 10% OFF your 1st Purchase**

Mention you saw us on Find it and receive 10% off your first purchase!



**The Travel Group - Chicago 2014!**

The Travel Group, LLC is happy to announce the Chicago Group Trip!

- Authorities arrest four following late night robbery, pursuit

- Hillcrest Medical Center security guard fatally shoots man
- Local districts begin notifying parents of lowest scoring third-graders on state reading test

## Welcome to the discussion.

Screen Name or Email

Password

[Forgot?](#)

Remember me on this computer

[Need an account? Create one now.](#)

**11 comments:**

Jean Taylor posted at 11:53 am on Sun, May 18, 2014.

Posts: 3416

The TCCL had \$25 million sitting in its bank account last report I saw. Why not use some of that surplus for the Central Library remodeling? And too, the TCCL's property tax allotment is too big a chunk if it's able to sock away \$25 million in bank account. Give them less of a percentage, and put the money towards other worthy causes and institutions under the property tax's umbrella of designated entities. I'd say give a portion of TCCL's allotment to TPS, but until and unless illegals are out of the TPS system, I don't want them to get another dime. Illegals are taking up 30% of TPS student seats. When is our country going to start obeying the immigration laws that are written in the U.S. Constitution? 2016? Check out: AZ park ranger shot drug cartel.

| [Link](#)

Gordon Mills posted at 1:17 pm on Sat, May 17, 2014.

Posts: 2716

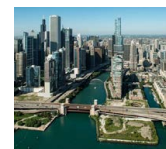
Let George do it.

| [Link](#)

John Sakelarlis posted at 11:02 am on Sat, May 17, 2014.

Posts: 662

Libraries "are no longer warehouses?" Does this imply a lowering of priority for maintaining books and other archival materials in favor of attractive "places where people can convene, collaborate and create?" A



Avon - Introducing Femme  
MAKE MOM SHINE LIKE A STAR



Bella Vita Spa and Salon -  
French Polish  
Free French Polish with Spa  
Pedicure!



[View more local offers](#)

## Featured Businesses

**VOCA - Voice of China and Asia**

918-392-0560  
<http://www.voiceofchinaandasia.com>



**CB Select**

918-496-3333  
<http://www.cbtulsa.com>



SELECT

**Reveal Salon**

918-891-9634  
<http://www.revealtulsa.com>



**Woodland West Pet Resort/Care Centers**

918-299-5720



<http://www.woodlandwestpetresort.com>

**Alpha Awards & Engraving**

918-394-4300  
<http://www.alphaawardstulsa.com/>



[Find a local business](#)

Question Of The Day

public dialog is needed about what might actually be discarded in this library of the future.

In any event, I hardly see downtown Tulsa as the best place for this new investment of library money.

 | [Link](#)

**Kathryn Jennings** posted at 8:01 am on Sat, May 17, 2014.

Posts: 7

Actually, in response to one of the comments here about the location: major cities do have a large library downtown - because that is where city libraries started as was the case with TCCL which grew into a system thanks to A Beth Martin and then Pat Woodrum and many in Tulsa County. This is being renovated - finally- and redesigned to be a place for information and discussion which is what libraries are all about - and what this system should continue to be. There is a large library library out south and two east; a large branch North and probably over time, depending on the population and services needed others will be expanded. (retired librarian)

 | [Link](#)

**Beau McElhattan** posted at 7:59 pm on Fri, May 16, 2014.

Posts: 120

"Lynn Schusterman, founder and co-chairwoman of her family's foundation, said libraries are the "great equalizer that makes knowledge and learning available to all."

BOOM! Right on the money. Most everything I've ever learned came from hours and hours at the Central library.


 | [Link](#)

**Ann McWhortor** posted at 5:57 pm on Fri, May 16, 2014.

Posts: 1459

Once it's renovated are they still going to charge to park?

 | [Link](#)

Print comments 

### Vote for your favorite caption for this week's (5/12/2014) Bruce Plante Cartoon Caption Contest.

We have chosen the best submissions and now it's time for our online community to vote for the winner. As of April 28 pseudonyms are not allowed for entries. The voting deadline is noon Thursday. The winning caption will be published on Mondays along with the new cartoon for the week. The person with the winning caption will receive the original cartoon with their caption added by Bruce.

Today the sun, tomorrow the air!

It's not the heat , it's the stupidity !

Thats done, moon here we come!

One way to take advantage of global warming.

Well, on the bright side....

Uh Oh, I thought it said "SIN" tax when I voted for it.  
My Bad

### Calendar

today's events

browse

submit



### Today's E-Edition



**Newsroom:** 918-581-8400,  
[news@tulsaworld.com](mailto:news@tulsaworld.com)

**Website:** [web@tulsaworld.com](http://web@tulsaworld.com)

**Place a display ad:** 918-581-8510

**Place a classified ad:** 918-583-2121

**Address:** 315 S. Boulder Ave.  
Tulsa, OK 74103

Communities   Obits  
Blogs   Contests  
Opinion   Classifieds

Site Index  
Add Search Toolbar  
Privacy Policy  
Advertise  
Store

News	Weekend
Sports	Photovideo
Business	Investigations
Scene	Obituaries
Communities	Photos
Blogs	Video