Partnership as a Strong Foundation

A Courthouse Vision Session Reinforces the County and Circuit Court Partnership

Lane County Circuit Court is a vital partner with Lane County Government in the effort to construct a new Courthouse. A strong partnership between the two agencies is critical to creating a facility that truly serves the needs of the community for decades to come.

On June 8, 2017, the National Center for State Courts facilitated a session to identify the values and vision that Court judges and staff hold for the new Courthouse. The facilitated session was a first step toward a shared community vision. Ultimately, broad engagement of partners and stakeholders, community members, and public officials will ensure that the Courthouse has a meaningful place in the Lane County and downtown Eugene landscape for years to come.

Fourteen circuit court judges participated in the session, as well as a county commissioner, county administrator, county operations officer, county capital construction manager, the trial court administrator, and court administration staff. The cross-agency participation reflected the ongoing trust and strong relationship between the County and the Court. Throughout the day-long facilitated discussion, attendees shared their distinct perspectives and arrived at both a vision and key principles the Courthouse should embody.

Important considerations such as tradition, simplicity, dignity, trust, community needs, and Lane County values emerged. These guiding values will help to ensure that each decision going forward will be based on principle, rather than expediency or personal preference.

“This was an incredible first step in a broad and collaborative process to create a vision for a future Lane County Courthouse. I am pleased with the collaboration between the Court and the County, as well as the shared values that we discussed, including a facility that will stand the test of time; the need to honor history while embracing the future; a public space that is open and welcoming for all people; a facility simple in function with an eye toward serving our customers; and ensuring accountability and value to the public.”

Steve Mokrohisky
Lane County Administrator
Lane County Circuit Court’s Vision for New Courthouse  
June 8, 2017

The new Lane County Courthouse represents our community’s commitment to fair and impartial justice. The Courthouse reflects the diversity of the community by consciously providing accessibility to all people. As the independent and impartial third branch of government, the court provides a secure and respectful Courthouse environment for the entire community.

Courthouse Guiding Principles – Lane County Circuit Court

Public Service

The Courthouse is a public building that is accessible to all. The public is greeted and welcomed. Information staff and clear way-finding are available near the entrance. The Courthouse provides for the health, safety, wellness, comfort, and convenience of patrons and occupants. Appropriate placement of the most visited offices in easy-to-access spaces demonstrates respect for citizens’ time.

Public Trust

The Courthouse supports public trust and confidence in the Court with spaces that are configured to respect the importance of the proceedings. The Courthouse is arranged to respect the deeply personal nature of the proceedings and the privacy of parties. Courtrooms are equally provisioned for all parties in a case. Judges have ready access to the resources and reference materials that they need to fairly and efficiently decide matters that come before them.
Dignity

Without ostentation, the Courthouse preserves and affirms the dignity of the citizens who appear in court. Courtroom environments and configurations encourage proper decorum and respect. The dignity of the justice system is supported by provision of an efficient and high quality facility for judges and court staff to perform the service of the court.

Celebration of Lane County

The Courthouse embodies the culture, heritage and values of Lane County. It incorporates the traditions of this vast timber county and the natural resources and materials of the area. Citizens feel the Courthouse belongs to all in the Lane County community and take both ownership and pride in the building.

Flexibility

The Courthouse has rooms that are flexible and adaptable for a variety of current uses. The Courthouse is future-proof by being flexible for growth and adaptable to changing court practices. It can be reconfigured for the future justice needs of the community. Through leveraged technology and adaptable spaces, the building remains relevant for generations.

Tradition

The Courthouse is timeless representation of justice; respecting tradition and embracing the future. It is a durable structure that speaks of justice to current and future generations of the community. It looks like a courthouse and is called the Lane County Courthouse.