

Nebraska State Capitol

Office of the Capitol Commission

Annual Report

2020

COVID19 Response/Adjustments

Office of the Capitol Commission November 2019-2020

The Office of the Capitol Commission worked to meet the needs of the three branches of Government as each responded to the novel coronavirus pandemic.

OCC has stepped up the fight to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. OCC staff are complying with the CDC guidelines. OCC procured masks and face shields for staff when social distancing (maintaining 6 feet distance) cannot be maintained, or when staff are required to enter occupied offices, and when providing tours.

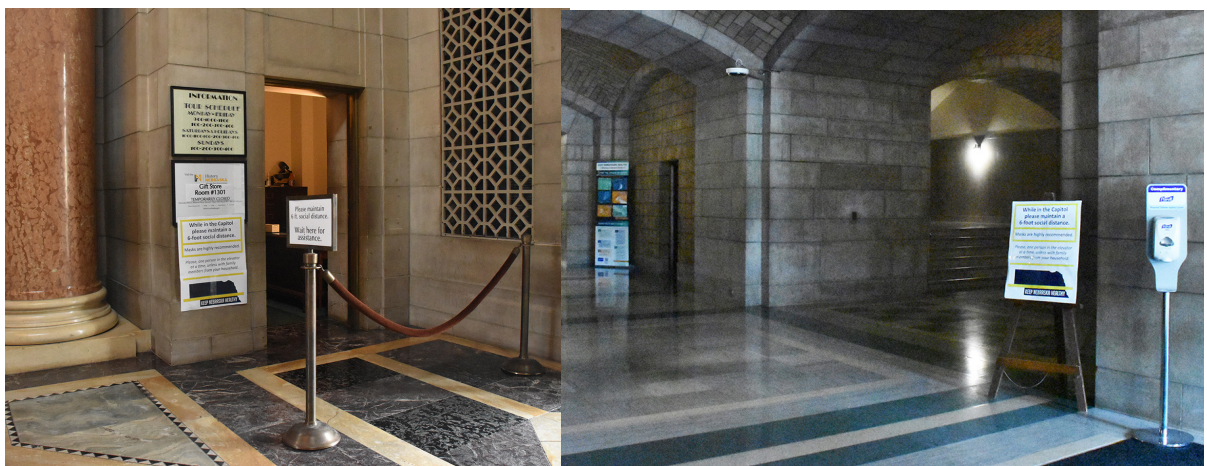
At the onset of COVID-19, OCC began procuring and providing hand sanitizer in public restrooms, first floor vending room, State mail room, and installed sanitizing stations at each Capitol entrance. The OCC custodial staff are also taking extra measures to wipe down frequently touched surfaces in public areas using a specific product designed to clean and then sanitize.

OCC has been faced with the same challenges as other State and Government entities, and the public, when procuring PPE and sanitizing products. PPE and sanitizing products have been in high demand and are frequently out of stock or temporarily unavailable. When PPE and sanitizing stock has been replenished, OCC has procured available products of similar quality, but has not over-stocked to ensure other government entities or companies have access to these products as they are in critical need of them as well.

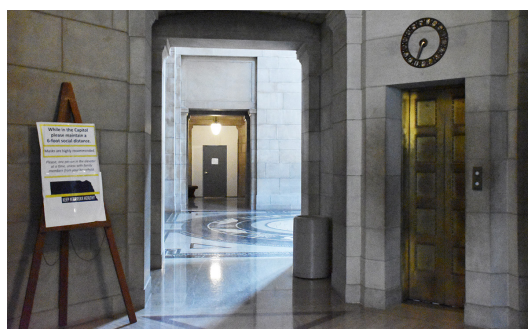
OCC Makes Changes

The Office of the Capitol Commission has made modifications to public spaces in response to the world-wide COVID19 pandemic. Staff with direct public interaction have modified their work schedules and routines to increase public safety during the pandemic.

Signage



Above and right, as visitors enter the Capitol they are greeted with signage to encourage them to follow guidelines, such as, wearing a mask is encouraged, practice social distancing, wash hands frequently and stay home when sick, as recommended by the CDC and Governor's Office .



Left, because the tower elevators do not allow proper social distancing, signs were placed to remind visitors and staff of the guidelines for slowing the spread of the novel corona virus, and encouraging only one rider at the time, unless family members from the same household.

Before anyone enters the Capitol they are reminded of the Center for Disease Control's guideline for social distancing to prevent the spread of COVID19.



Capitol COVID19 Response

Office of the Capitol Commission November 2019-2020

Meeting Room Modifications

The Nebraska Unicameral Legislature recessed in mid-March to prevent the spread of the novel corona virus; senators and staff began to work remotely. The Legislature completed their session mid-summer in a chamber outfitted with Plexiglas partitions to minimize the spread of the virus. Office of the Capitol Commission staff created a prototype barrier and worked with a contractor for fabrication. OCC staff then installed the barriers. Each

evening the Legislative Chamber was thoroughly sanitized by cleaning contractors. Below, OCC staff fabricated and installed Plexiglas partitions between the chairs in two of the Legislature's hearing rooms. These two rooms have been used for hearings and meetings. To meet similar COVID19 precautions during the 2021-22 Legislative session, OCC staff are building additional barriers for all Legislative Hearing rooms, to be installed before year's end.



The Nebraska Supreme Court and the Court of Appeals finished their sessions in the Supreme Court Chamber before adjourning for the summer recess. Upon their return in September the Court of Appeals Chamber, right, was ready for use and HVAC renovation began in the Supreme Court. The Court of Appeals was fitted with additional tables and Plexiglas partitions to allow social distancing and prevent the spread of the virus. Increased sanitation in the chamber has also been a part of OCC's work to keep everyone safe.



Capitol COVID19 Response

Office of the Capitol Commission November 2019-2020

Hand Sanitizer



To provide visitors and staff with hand sanitation options, hand sanitizer was placed in all restrooms. Automatic paper towel dispensers, pictured right, have been added in addition to traditional cloth towel dispensers in public restrooms on first and second floors. Left photo, meeting public health needs is nothing new to OCC, the red signs in each photo, were added 10 years ago during the H1N1 pandemic to remind Capitol occupants and visitors of proper handwashing technique.



Hand sanitizer has been placed at each of the Capitol's entrances, bottom right and left. There is a hand sanitizer station, right, in the first floor rotunda near the information desk. The public and staff in the Capitol are provided many opportunities to keep their hands clean, an important way to prevent infectious disease, including COVID19, seasonal flu and the common cold.



Capitol COVID19 Response

Office of the Capitol Commission November 2019-2020

Special Events

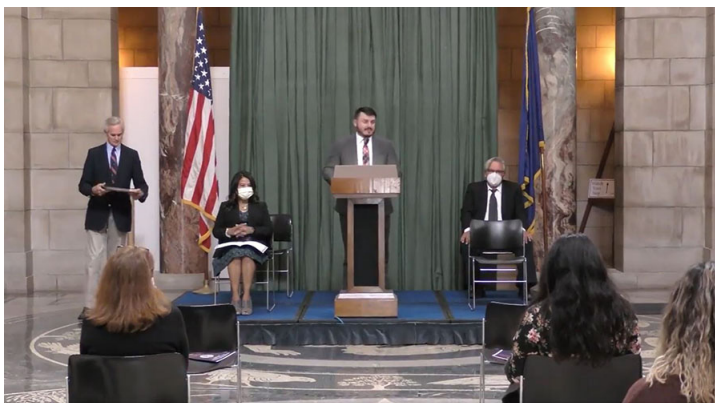
In an attempt to slow the spread of the novel corona virus numerous groups which usually hold special events and programs in the Nebraska State Capitol cancelled or went to virtual events. Those events held in the Capitol followed the Directed Health Measures (DHM) for proper social distancing and room capacity.



Early in the pandemic, DHM's were issued limiting the size of public gatherings and many Memorial Day events were cancelled. Honoring military sacrifice on Memorial Day is a tradition in all Nebraska communities. In place of community remembrances, the Department of Veterans Affairs held a day long memorial vigil in the Capitol Rotunda broadcast live across the State by NET. In this Veterans Affairs photo, two of the many Nebraska veterans who stood vigil are pictured.



The Nebraska State Patrol held their Camp 62 Graduation Ceremony in the rotunda in June. Capitol staff worked with the Patrol to allow small groups of family members to attend the ceremony within indoor capacity guidelines. Staff spaced chairs to allow for 6 feet of social distance between family groups.



The Nebraska Latino-American Commission held their 14th annual Hispanic Heritage Month Commemoration in the rotunda in October. The event was live streamed on facebook with a minimum of invited guests and award winners in attendance. Social distancing was practiced on stage and in the audience. Staff spaced seating to allow 6 feet between chairs.

Building Conservation-

Office of the Capitol Commission November 2019-2020

2020 Furniture Program Conservation/Restoration Activity -

Furniture Conservators, Dawn Hickmon and Lana Gabel

- All repairs and restorations of Capitol Original Furniture are documented and photographed. Physical reports are created and stored in Furniture shop files for reference. The reports are also entered into a digital Past Perfect program file for archival use.
- Ongoing computer skills training, upgrading skills to improve efficiency and productivity, and learning the history of Capitol.
- Yearly audit of Capitol Original Furniture in the Legislative and Judicial Executive offices completed
- Continued inventory and information process training in Past Perfect Program which tracks Capitol Original Furniture (C.O.F.)
- Researched and implemented traditional upholstery methods enhancing staff skills and saving money through in-house upholstery work
- Inventoried condition of all Gallery chairs in Court of Appeals and repaired as needed.
- Continued research on Heywood Wakefield history and products to aid in restoration of the Judicial branch's original Heywood Wakefield rattan furniture in the Capitol.
- HVAC Project - Removal of all construction area window blinds for cleaning, restoration and repair. Reinstalled when window restoration/installation was complete.
- Furniture Repaired, Conserved, restored or re-upholstered
 - 25 chairs of various types
 - 2 tables
 - 2 costumers (coat trees)
 - 1 phone stand
 - 2 desks
 - 2 sofas
 - 12 book cases
 - 13th floor podium repair
 - Initiated complete restoration of Supreme Court Judge's Bench Chairs involves disassembly, re-gluing, stripping, sanding, staining, and refinishing the rebuilt chair frames. Re-upholstery will be by outside contractors.

- Additional work
 - Filled requests for occupant furniture updating inventory
 - Conservation work on wardrobes, doors, and door casings throughout the Phase 2 construction area of HVAC project
 - Repaired/in-painted/finished non-project area doors needing Attention due to graffiti and/or normal wear and tear
 - Ordered and installed replacement glass for desks and table tops as needed
 - Continued to practice and improve gold-leafing techniques for walnut door numbering
 - Touched up finish in tower elevators
 - Water mark and stain removal in West Legislative Lounge
 - Responded to and resolved work orders from Capitol occupants
 - Removed graffiti on 14th floor closet door
 - Supported Carpentry staff on Library Entrance Door restoration by Inpainting scratched areas.
 - Finished work on Court of Appeals windowsills
 - Helped refinish wood floor in Court of Appeals Room 2412A
 - Cleaned Court of Appeals light fixtures
 - Made skirts for tables added to Court of Appeals Chamber to accommodate Supreme Court use and social distancing during pandemic
 - Began to build blinds for Hearing Rooms 1524 and 1525.
 - Organize and re-organize furniture and drapery storage located in HVAC project area, remove and return drapery and furniture

Shop staff daily work-

- Responded to over 200 work orders in all specialties
- Helped with snow removal
- Machinist, John Mackichan
 - Ongoing key and lock maintenance program
 - Cast and hand finished replacement light fixture arrow design details for stair lamps
 - Window hardware repair and replacement for HVAC Project
 - Library window hardware cleaning and documentation
 - Made door kick-plates (4 units)
 - Replicated ornamental bronze tacks for West Chamber doors
 - Made compatible light fixture globe screws
 - Fabricated library door pull backplate
 - Assisted other staff with projects as needed

-Cabinetry, Mike Marshall

- Work with furniture shop on restoration of capitol furniture.
- Sand, repair, refinish Appeals Court robing room oak floor
- Prepare Appeals Court Room for court sessions following HVAC Phase 1 work.
- Coordinate furniture moves back into all rooms in HVAC first Phase work area.
- Coordinate moving furniture from offices rooms to hallway storage for second phase.
- Coordinate with Sampson Construction on HVAC Phase 2.
- Co-manage the window team on all Phase 2 windows.
- Respond to daily work orders, and Capitol agency urgent calls for service.
- Help with snow removal for the capitol.
- Made first floor south hall plaster crown mold repair template
- Supported furniture and mason shops

-Mason, Dan Kratky

- Coordinated and helped with installation of new bronze stanchions and chains on north plaza steps.
- Stabilized cracks in floors of Great Hall, and Rotunda.
- Helped with grounds shop staff shortage this summer trimming shrubs at "A" and Executive Parking lots, trimmed hedges at east entrance.
- Worked closely with window team on Phase 2 HVAC Project
- Core-drilled locations for new data/ power floor-ports in Supreme Court, mail room, offices in HVAC Project area
- Adjusted loose pavers on Promenade and 14th floor decks
- Removed graffiti following protests
- Responded to daily work orders from Capitol agencies.
- Helped with office and furniture moves during Phase 1 and 2 in HVAC Project areas.
- Help with punch lists in HVAC phase 1 construction area
- Attend construction meetings and mockup sessions
- Assisted carpenter in fabrication of new picture molding for HVAC Project area
- Support all other shops as needed
- Helped with snow removal

-Paint and Finish Restorer, Steve Janssen

- Refinish existing Supreme Court Room wood moldings, helped build room protection for work in Supreme Court Room during HVAC Phase 2
- Stained and finished new door name plaques,
- Painted West Lounge andirons, security cameras and camera Mounting hardware
- Researched new metallic finishes for wood and metal
- Assisted other shops in variety of tasks concerning the HVAC project, installed doors and trim
- Support other shops as needed
- Painted metal shelves for Library
- Repainted wood blinds for Library South Reading Room arched windows and the mechanical parts for blinds in hearing rooms #1524/ 1525.

Building Conservation

Office of the Capitol Commission November 2019-2020

Vandalism

Unfortunately the Nebraska State Capitol was not spared from the turmoil of the summer's demonstrations. Vandals broke glass and wrote graffiti on the Capitol. OCC's carpentry staff was able to replace the glass and remove the graffiti.



During and after weekend protests and vandalism, Capitol staff worked to secure broken windows and remove obscene graffiti spray-painted on the front of the Capitol, blurred in the photo above. On Sunday morning, using a fine spray of glass beads, OCC's mason removed the paint from the porous limestone. Quick action prevented the paint from adhering to the stone. Right, the graffiti is no longer visible in the cleaned area. Accumulated soiling and mineral deposits were also removed in the process.



Far left, broken glass on the west side of ground floor. In total over 10 window panes, single and double, had to be replaced.

Left, OCC's machinist removed the broken pieces, installed new glass, and added weather stripping before replacing the mullions. In addition to broken glass, there was some damage to the steel window frames which will be addressed during HVAC Phase 3 window repair.

Building Conservation

Office of the Capitol Commission November 2019-2020

Chair Work Continues

As Preservation Spaces shift functions to accommodate moves within the Capitol, furniture is placed in storage until needed at the end of the HVAC work in each construction phase.

While the furniture is in storage, OCC's furniture staff examines each piece for condition.

(1) Chairs needing repair are brought to the shop, repaired and returned to storage. (2) OCC staff routinely disassemble chairs and repair broken components, legs, arms and stringers, for example. (3) They repair scratches and lost finish. Re-upholstery work has usually been provided by an outside contractor. (4) During the HVAC project, the furniture staff is studying and learning the upholstery techniques needed to do some of the work themselves. With these additional skills, the furniture shop team is expanding the restoration work of the Office of the Capitol Commission and reducing the cost of the work.



(1) A chair from the Court of Appeals is stabilized before repair work begins.

(2) Once stripped of upholstery, a broken seat frame is exposed. Numerous tack holes from previous work weakened the structure.



(3) Because of the many tack holes, a new frame piece will be added for support, the chipped spindle will be repaired before reassembly.



(4) One of the furniture conservators applies a new skill, upholstery.



Building Conservation

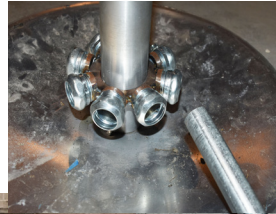
Office of the Capitol Commission November 2019-2020

Fountain Covers

To keep the fountains in the courtyards of the Capitol clean and protected during the winter months, the Office of the Capitol Commission's staff has experimented with different coverings. First, staff tried truck innertubes of various sizes to create a round pyramid to support a tarp. That system provided limited success. This summer, as the courtyard landscape project was underway, OCC's machinist devised a framing system which would cover the entire bowl to support the tarp and be installed by one staff person (an added benefit).



1. Left, the ingenious new framing system disassembled and in storage in a pump room. Below, each piece was created to be easily handled and put into place without power tools. The elegant simplicity of the design enhances its functionality.



2. Above, the new framing system in place with the original inner-tube system on the ground.



4. Above, cross bar spacers hold the frame legs for rigidity and are held in place with wingnuts.

3. Right, OCC's machinist fit the spider assembly to sit inside the fountain's spout. The legs are spaced to await the cross bars.



5. Finishing up, right, the tarp goes over the frame and is secured in place. The fountain is ready for winter.



HVAC/Electrical/Plumbing

Maintenance and Preventative Maintenance

Office of the Capitol Commission November 2019-2020

Michael Jordan, Shop Supervisor
Jeff Gillett, Capitol Plumber
Tahir Karimi, Capitol Electrician
Chris Lahmon, Maintenance Technician
Beth Barry, Maintenance Technician

Shop staff daily work-

- 261 daily rounds to inspect HVAC equipment for proper operation
- Hot/cold calls from Capitol occupants, lights out calls, etc.
- Sound system and electrical for Capitol events
- Seasonal heating/cooling change, work on steam and chilled water system pneumatic controls
- Monitor, support and assist HVAC contractors on project as needed
- Prepare offices in project area for occupancy
- Rewire Capitol chandeliers for reinstallation in HVAC project area

***Preventative Maintenance/ Work Orders**

- Responded to over 460 work order calls
- Staff performs approximately 1,050 Preventative Maintenance Work Orders annually
- Check and replace air filters
- Grease motor and fan bearings
- Check air handler belts
- Tear down and inspect hot water boilers
- Service air compressors for pneumatic system
- Inspect electrical system in Capitol
- Repaired leaks in existing office induction units
- Clean and inspect all roof drains semi-annually
- Inspect exterior lighting weekly to insure safety and security
- Re-lamp Capitol chandeliers, install special equipment
- Clean cooling coils in induction units in all Capitol offices
- Install power and lighting in newly renovated offices
- Monitor electric substation switch for HVAC Project

Capitol Maintenance

Office of the Capitol Commission November 2019-2020

Varied Tasks Kept Staff Busy

Even as the Capitol Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning Replacement Project is moving along, Office of the Capitol Commission maintenance staff continue to maintain the existing system. In the photo below, maintenance staff can be seen working in a mechanical room in the tower. Tower equipment will be replaced in Phase 5 of the project. Staff on the left in the photo is preparing to crawl into the air handler to vacuum and clean the ducts and fins inside. Staff on the right has completed changing the fan belts and waits to offer any assistance necessary. The pipes surrounding them carry steam into the tower offices.



Capitol Maintenance

Office of the Capitol Commission November 2019-2020

Varied Tasks Kept Staff Busy

The Office of the Capitol Commission's Maintenance staff are responsible for nearly all aspects of routine maintenance in the Capitol and upgrades to the mechanical systems in the building in conjunction with the HVAC project.



Left, the removal of the lowered corridor ceilings as part of the HVAC project exposes air ducts and communications wire. These systems will be eliminated or rerouted during the project.



Right, computer cable which originally hung within the dropped ceiling cavity will now run through conduit installed by OCC staff. Staff routed almost 100 feet of conduit from court offices on second floor through ground floor attic space to an existing chase leading to the basement. Notice the hole where duct work penetrated the wall has been filled with new material.



Above, as staff has time available, fixtures are cleaned and rewired.



Left, utility fixtures removed from the project area are labeled and stored for rewiring. Below left, cleaned and rewired the fixtures are identified with tags indicating the original location to which they will be returned.



Capitol Maintenance

Office of the Capitol Commission November 2019-2020

Varied Tasks Kept Staff Busy

The Office of the Capitol Commission's Maintenance staff are responsible for all aspects of routine maintenance in the Capitol.

Right, OCC's maintenance staff cares for over fifty Capitol rest rooms. The public rest rooms have multiple sinks, toilets and urinals in each. With over 900 people working in the Capitol on a typical day, plus visitors, taking care of the Capitol's plumbing is like caring for a Nebraska town. Unlike in some Nebraska towns, there is a local plumber available for immediate action. When a faucet leaks or gets plugged, the Capitol's plumber provides quick repairs to prevent damage to the rest rooms and building.



Left and below left, OCC's maintenance staff are called upon to set up the public address system used during ceremonies and programs in the Capitol's 2nd Floor Rotunda. During the set up activity, staff assemble the speakers and run wires from the sound equipment to the speakers and podium on stage. Covering the wires to minimize trip hazards finishes their set-up. Staff are on duty during the program to monitor the equipment and keep the sound on. Once the program is over staff help with tear down of equipment and everything is put away.



Above and left, when a sprinkler on the grounds stopped working, maintenance was called to locate and uncover the conduit and electrical box. They installed new control wires to power the sprinkler system on the northwest quadrant grounds.

Capitol Custodial

Office of the Capitol Commission November 2019-2020

Perry Shuman, Capitol Conservation Supervisor

Richard Mallam, Custodial Leader

David Hoelscher, Custodial Leader

-Five nights/week, 52 weeks/year OCC custodial staff cleans 70,000 sq. ft. of Preservation space, corridors and stairs. OCC oversees Service Master, our contract custodial services team in cleaning an additional 195,000 sq. ft. of adaptive use office space daily.

-OCC cleans carpet in the Capitol and does specialty cleaning of exotic finishes in all preservation spaces

-OCC staff manages recycling duties in the Capitol, primarily paper and cardboard, plastic and aluminum recycling annually.

-OCC staff handles approximately 10 tons of cardboard, 60 tons of office paper, 10 tons of newsprint, 2 tons of magazines, 6 tons of mixed paper and approximately ½ a ton each of aluminum and plastic

-OCC staff has all floor cleaning duties and works with the contractor to clean, strip, refinish, and restore the unique floors and finishes in the Capitol. Staff continues the floor renovation program which will eventually strip 20 - 30 years of old finish and apply new finish to all perimeter stone floors on first and second floors

-OCC custodial staff continues to be involved with event setups

-OCC implemented an extensive COVID19 disinfection routine to promote staff and public safety in the Capitol, including more frequent high touch surfaces in public areas

Capitol Custodial

Office of the Capitol Commission November 2019-2020

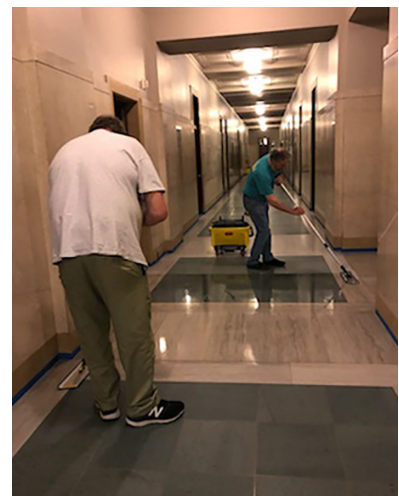
Second Floor West Hall Refinished

With almost 60,000 square feet of hard surfaced floors to maintain each day, Office of the Capitol Commission custodial staff are constantly busy. A long term goal of OCC's floor care staff is to remove the 30 year old finish from all the marble floors in the Capitol and put new finish down. Replacing the old uneven finish with new will bring out the beauty and color of the stone, especially the mosaics in the grand public spaces.



The corridor behind the West Chamber before refinishing, left, and after, right.

Below, staff uses the floor scrubber, left, to remove as much soiling and finish as possible. Then, center, staff uses another scrubber to focus on finish removal. Then, right, the first of four coats of new finish goes down.



Cafeteria Floor Refinished

The Capitol's Cafeteria and Dining Room will return to their food service function once Phase 2 of the HVAC project is completed. For over 90 years Capitol staff have been provided with food service in the space. During this time the configuration of the kitchen, serving lines and dining area have changed with renovations. While closed to allow heating, air-conditioning and ventilation upgrades, all existing equipment was removed revealing 50 years of grime underneath. After the HVAC work was done and before the installation of new equipment, Capitol custodial staff scrubbed and cleaned, removing the soiling and old finish as shown. The custodial shop has finished the final cleaning and refinishing of the floors bringing out the beauty of the Napoleon Gray marble.



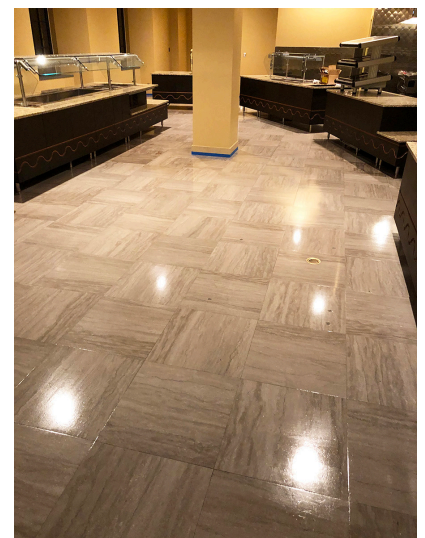
Above, the floor under the existing fixed drink station was stained by water and grime.



Above, with the drink station moved, staff scrubbed and removed the grime. The cleaned and waxed floor is ready for use.



Left, areas of the cafe's floor and ceiling were opened to install ducts for ventilation. A walkway protects the floor during construction work, unprotected areas were coated with layers of plaster dust resulting from the demolition work. Right, the new finish on the floor enhances the appearance of the room as it is readied for the cafe's reopening.



Capitol Tours and Special Events

Office of the Capitol Commission November 2019-2020

Roxanne Smith, Public Information Officer

(Tourism Supervisor/Special Events)

Jessica Richard, Tourism Aide, pandemic related leave without pay

Kirk Woita, Tourism Aide

Susan Myers, Tourism Aide

Sheridan Macy, SOS temporary Tourism Aide

Tours-

During the past year, even with the pandemic almost 900 tours were given.

- School tours were dramatically reduced due to the pandemic and school closings in March, April and May
- No Fall school tours due to pandemic
- Approximately 10,000 documented visitors in Capitol, very limited tour numbers, no tours given from mid-March through mid-June due to pandemic

Special Events-

- 20 News Conferences
- 47 Weddings
- 62 Wedding and Family Photography sessions
- 41 Rallies/Events on the Capitol North Plaza/ Grounds
- 21 Displays, First Floor Rotunda, State or Non-Profit Sponsored
- 6 Concerts, Second Floor Rotunda, including:
 - Nebraska Music Education Association Concert Series
- 8 Rotunda Ceremonies
- 5 Capitol exterior lightings
- 2 FAA sanctioned UAV flights
- 6 Capitol concerts
- 4 special video productions

- 38 scheduled events cancelled due to pandemic

Capitol Tours and Special Events

Office of the Capitol Commission November 2019-2020

Tours and Special Events Continue

The Nebraska State Capitol Tour Office continues to meet the needs of the public. Whether it is the touring public or groups holding special events, the tour staff has kept busy.



Tour staff have been giving tours following the regular schedule. Guides practice proper physical distancing and wear special gear for safety. Most visitors also follow COVID19 safety guidelines.



Tour staff provide support for special event set up, above staff arranges chairs to maintain a safe social distance between audience members.

Capitol Collections Program

Office of the Capitol Commission - November 2019-2020

Karen Wagner, Archivist

Program Collection—Both Archives (two dimensional) and Artifacts (three dimensional) in the Nebraska Capitol Collections total 200,000 unique items concentrated on Nebraska's third State Capitol designed by Bertram Grosvenor Goodhue

Program Activity

- Provided research and information in support of the HVAC replacement project.
- Research on original light fixtures in support of the restoration and cleaning of the fixtures temporarily removed from service during the HVAC project.
- Scanning images of the Capitol on loan from the Journal Star photo archive.
- Added new catalog entries to the PastPerfect database; both new acquisitions and other objects previously cataloged on paper but not in the database.
- Processed image and information requests.
- No tours this year due to HVAC project activity in the basement near the Archive.

New materials added to our collections:

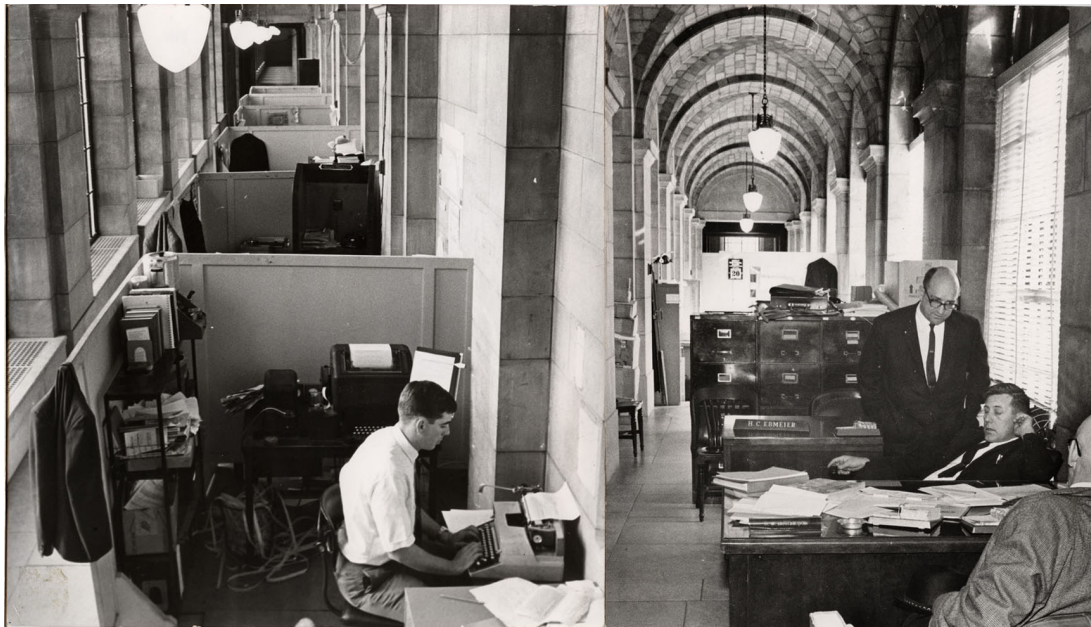
- Number of donors: 7
- Number of OCC purchases: 8
- Examples of items added to collections:
 - Capitol related images scanned from the photo archive of the Lincoln Journal Star, approx.. 400 or 600 photo scans completed.
 - Framed photograph of the plaster maquette of the statue of Abraham Lincoln sign by sculptor Daniel Chester French
 - Photo postcard of Capitol from the south, postmarked 1940. Mailed by Lincoln City Library in response to a request.
 - Orchard and Wilhelm Omaha Neb Catalog No. 39 (March 1929)

Capitol Collections

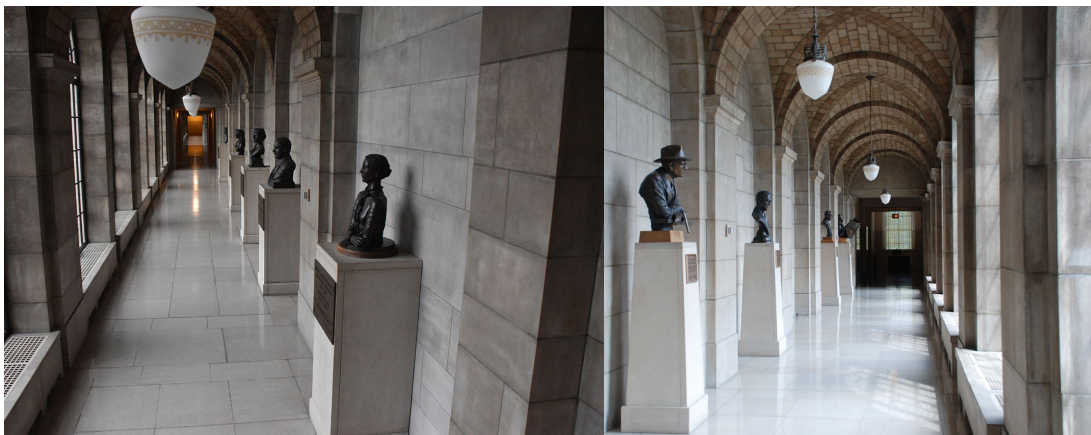
Office of the Capitol Commission November 2019-2020

Historic Reference Material

The Office of the Capitol Commission is charged with the restoration, preservation, enhancement, and promotion of the Nebraska State Capitol, Grounds and environs. The Nebraska Capitol Collections are an indispensable tool for that work. Recent access to the photo archive of the Lincoln Journal Star has given OCC's Archivist the opportunity to scan and preserve photographic images of the conditions in the Capitol that have been erased with time. Stories of how over-crowded the building was prior to the construction and occupation of the State Office Building become more real when seeing photographs taken at the time. The photos document the changes made by preservation architects as they restored public corridors to their original grandeur. The photos remind us of the need for ongoing preservation of our monumental building. All black and white photos are courtesy of the Lincoln Journal Star.



The above photos appeared in a November 23, 1964 Lincoln Journal article about proposals to improve the appearance of the Capitol. The photos below show the same locations today, with the dignity and integrity of the Capitol restored and preserved.



Capitol Collections

Office of the Capitol Commission November 2019-2020



The Lincoln Journal photo on the left, dated January 1973, two years before the State Office Building was completed, shows the west end of the southwest gallery, adjacent to the Norris Legislative Chamber. A door and transom had been installed and a small break area created for what was sometimes called press row. As with all courtyard gallery corridors at that time, the northeast gallery, overlooking the southwest courtyard was partitioned for offices. These courtyard galleries are now part of Nebraska's Hall of Fame.

The box inserted in the photo below frames the location of the photo above. Since the 1970's the Capitol Preservation Architects have removed non-original doors, walls and wiring, filled holes left by wall anchors, repaired plaster and at each opportunity stripped the many layers of paint and restored original wall colors. Work to restore and preserve the Capitol is ongoing.



Capitol Collections

Office of the Capitol Commission November 2019-2020



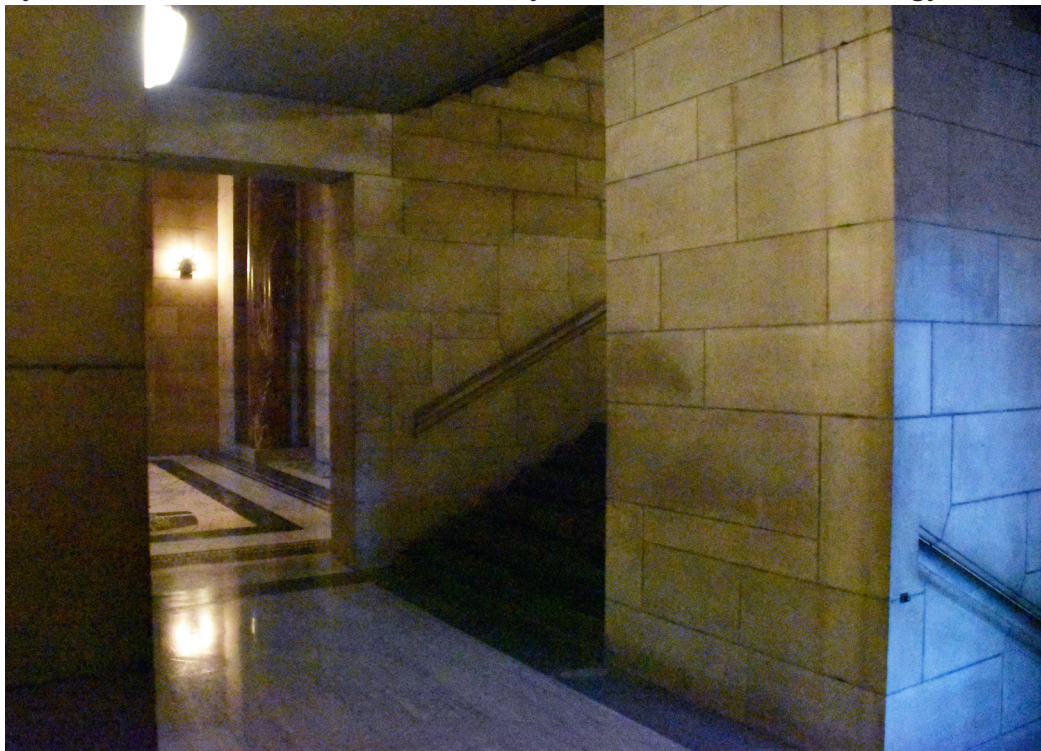
The 1973 Lincoln Journal photo above, shows the southwest corner of the first floor rotunda. A wall and door were installed to create a location for the electronics associated with the addition of security after-hours-access cameras in the building. Commercial phone booths placed in the rotunda area. Left, after security was given another location and equipment moved, the area was cleared, restored and phone booths more compatible with the building installed.

Capitol Collections

Office of the Capitol Commission November 2019-2020



During the late 1960's and early 1970's periods of civic change, security became a concern across the country. Glass walls were installed at the second floor rotunda stairs to control access to the Legislative Chamber. The glass wall in the back of the Norris Chamber, upgraded during the 2008 West Chamber Restoration Project, is all that remains from that time. Security in the Capitol today is provided by full-time Nebraska State Patrol Security staff and enhanced technology.



Grounds Maintenance

Office of the Capitol Commission November 2019-2020

Craig Kreiner, Horticulturalist/ Supervisor, State Building Division

Lee Briggs, Groundskeeper Leader, State Building Division

Kirby Baird, Groundskeeper Leader, State Building Division

Heather Dinslage, Groundskeeper Leader, Office of the Capitol Commission

Vacant, Automotive Mechanic II, Office of the Capitol Commission

- Daily maintenance of 2.5 million square feet (58 acres) of landscape and hardscape by a combined Office of the Capitol Commission and State Building Division grounds staff includes mowing, chemical application, aeration, seeding, manicuring, sidewalk edging within turf and snow removal for the 90,000 sq. ft. of Capitol hardscape.
- Support OCC Capitol special events with Rotunda set up/take down
- Participate in furniture and office moves during Capitol renovation projects
- Continue modified irrigation schedule
- Select, cut, decorate, maintain and remove Capitol Holiday tree
- Supervise planting of new trees and shrubs on east side of 501 Building
- Mulched all plantings at Capitol and other sites
- Worked with contractors to thin out branches in trees in south A Lot and Governor's Residence
- Supervised removal of Capitol original oak damaged in windstorm
- Supervised removal of two large cottonwood trees at Governor's Residence
- Staff did minimal maintenance of equipment and contracted major repairs.
 - Six vehicles (four pickups with snow blades and two stock trucks)
 - Three Toro riding mowers with snow broom attachments in winter
 - Three John Deere tractors, one with a front-end loader, snow blower, aerator, and forklift attachment and two smaller tractors
 - Seven push mowers
 - Self propelled and pull type aerator
 - Two riding spreaders for the lawn and smaller push spreaders
 - Assorted weed whips and edgers
 - Tennant floor sweeper for cleaning parking lots and garages
 - Three lawn sprayers
 - Five snow blowers and three self-propelled snow brooms