

Multnomah County Central Courthouse Project

FACT SHEET #1 | APRIL 2016

A critical facility for our community

Most Multnomah County residents will enter the Central Courthouse at one time or another —for everything from jury duty to fulfilling legal obligations by paying a parking ticket or serving as a trial witness. Did you know, for example, that more than one in 10 county residents receive a jury summons each year?

Built between 1909 and 1914, the existing Central Courthouse is structurally and functionally obsolete. The Central Courthouse doesn't meet current seismic codes. Its unreinforced masonry walls mean the courthouse has a safety ranking of "poor." Limitations of space and century-old design also create regular security concerns for court personnel, crime victims, witnesses and the general public because in-custody defendants walk through the public pathways.

Greater demand from a much larger population, coupled with a century's worth of use, means the courthouse has developed serious safety and operational problems that must be addressed. The new courthouse will incorporate 21st century best practices in operations, security, and design and it will be capable of adapting to changing needs over a planned 100-year useful life.

A safer, more accessible Central Courthouse

Multnomah County needs a new Central Courthouse to provide a safe and functional facility for critical services and due process. The new Central Courthouse will:

- Accommodate the high level of use expected by all user groups.
- Incorporate best practices for design of a courthouse.
- Meet current seismic codes to remain functional even in a major catastrophe like an earthquake.
- Be accessible for all County residents by including stairless entry ramps and elevators.

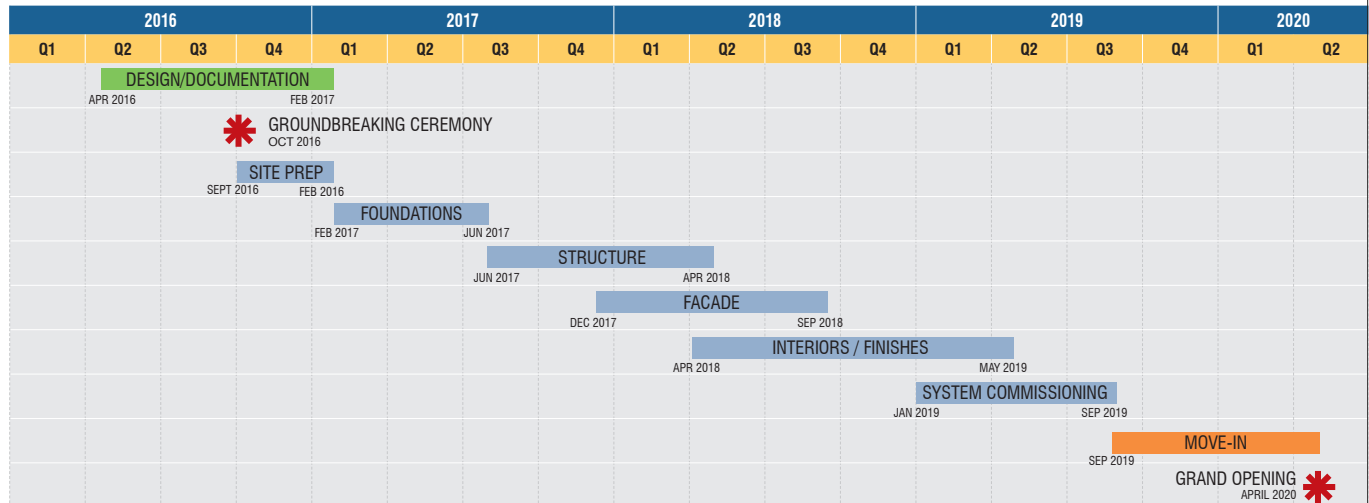
A wide-angle photograph of the Portland, Oregon skyline across the Willamette River. The sun is low in the sky, creating a hazy, golden glow over the city. Several prominent skyscrapers are visible, including the Wells Fargo Center. The river reflects the buildings and the sky. A bridge is visible on the left side of the frame.

THE NEW COURTHOUSE WILL JOIN PORTLAND'S SKYLINE AND SERVE THE COMMUNITY FOR THE NEXT 100 YEARS.

Schedule

The site for the new courthouse is at SW First Avenue and SW Madison Street, at the west end of the Hawthorne Bridge. The design phase is underway. A team led by SRG Partnership was selected for architecture and engineering services, while Hoffman Construction was selected for the Construction Manager/General Contractor (CMGC) contract.

Construction is slated to begin in 2017 and the new courthouse is expected to open in 2020. The 17-floor courthouse will include 44 court rooms and cost approximately \$300 million. Funding is being split between Multnomah County and the State of Oregon.



Learn more and stay involved

Public input has, and will continue to inform project development. Feedback received to date was factored into the selection of the project site and courthouse users – including employees, lawyers and judges – have informed the interior design of the new courthouse. The project has held open houses, conducted surveys, and met with bike and pedestrian groups and local businesses. Additional public involvement opportunities will occur as the design is finalized in 2016.

There are many ways to stay informed during the design phase and as construction is planned:

- The web: multco.us/central-courthouse/
- Twitter: @CentralCourthou
- Facebook: Multnomah County Central Courthouse
- Contact the project team and sign up for project updates by emailing courthouse@multco.us.

THE PUBLIC WILL ENTER
THE NEW COURTHOUSE
AT 1ST AVENUE AND
MADISON STREET.

