

Building a Court for the 21st Century

Art Installations



*Oregon Supreme Court Justice Adrienne Nelson, by
Jeremy Okai Davis*

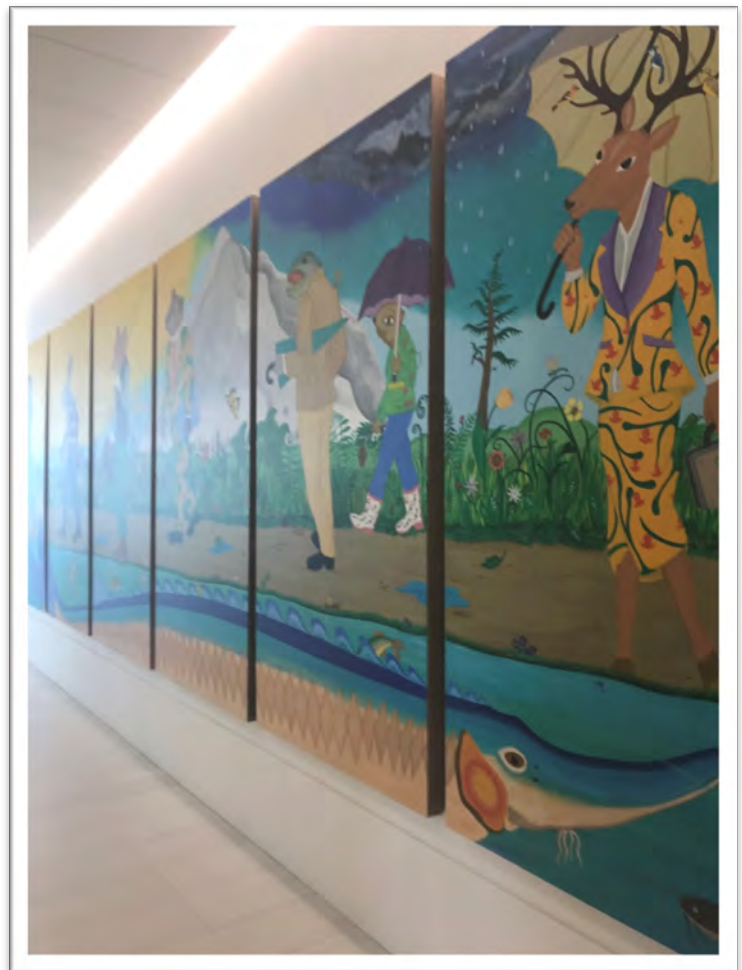
Courthouse visitors, judges, and staff will notice a significant amount of art in the new courthouse. Multnomah County requires a portion of new building project funds to be dedicated to public art. The Regional Arts and Culture Council (RACC) administers art acquisition and display for public buildings located in Multnomah County. The new Central Courthouse will have a variety of new artwork to adorn both the inside and outside of the building.

There are two large-scale permanent installations at the new courthouse. Semi-finalists for both projects met with an Artist Selection Panel, consisting of working artists, art professors, county staff, architects, Judge Albrecht, a state public defender with an art history degree, and a representative from RACC. To inform their understanding of the community that the new courthouse will serve, the artists also met with clients from several social service agencies. In addition to the large-scale permanent pieces, the Artist Selection Panel selected permanent pieces for each floor of the courthouse.

According to Judge Albrecht, “The selection committee for courthouse art was very intentional about identifying artists and works that can serve as a source of inspiration, comfort, and beauty and help vulnerable people find their voice when having to navigate the travails of the courthouse. That may sound ambitious for something framed on a wall, but studies show art can serve as a powerful catalyst for healing. The people who come to us for service deserve to be treated with the utmost in dignity and respect. Our physical environment is an important part of the trauma-informed justice we strive to provide.”

From the courthouse lobby, visitors will be able to view a 25’ x 75’ glass artwork created by artist Lynn Basa. The work is a series of 120 5’ tall x 3’ wide panels fabricated by Bullseye Glass Studio, so large that it will also be viewable on the second and third floors. According to the artist, “The focus of the artwork is a landscape that reflects the ripple effect of behavior and the passage to redemption and rehabilitation in the community justice process.” The banner on this newsletter is a rendering of the piece.

Another permanent art feature of the new Central Courthouse is a series of waterjet-cut stainless-steel privacy panels, located around the exterior of the first story of the building. The panels are intended to enhance the experience of those walking around the



Artwork by Baba Wagué Diákité

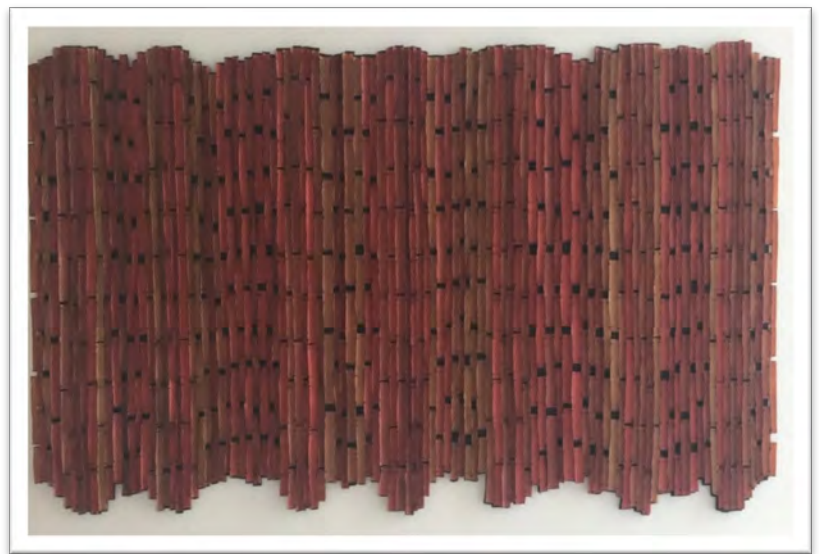
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Artwork by Barbara Earl Thomas

building. The panels were designed by Barbara Earl Thomas, a Seattle-based visual artist, and Rob Lewis, who lives and works in Portland.

Barbara's panels were influenced by a tour of East County and include Multnomah Falls, Overlook House, and various modes of transportation. Rob's panels are considered to be a "call and response" art installation and tie into a painted design that will be on the interior walls of the bike storage room.



Artwork by Brenda Mallory

Courthouse Video Tours

Due to COVID-19, court staff have worked to produce video tours of the new building for the public to view in lieu of physically visiting the building. A few videos are available for viewing now and are linked below. Others are still being produced and will be posted to the [court's webpage here](#) when ready.

- [Courthouse Introduction, Lobby & Judicial Suites](#)
- [Courtroom Audio/Visual and IT features](#)



Our new address:

Multnomah Central Courthouse
1200 SW First Avenue
Portland, OR 97204