



Multnomah County Central Courthouse

February 23 Pre-Construction Public Open House

DATE: Thursday, February 23, 2017
 TIME: 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
 LOCATION: Central Courthouse Main Jury Room

The Multnomah County Central Courthouse Project hosted its sixth public open house on February 23, 2017. This pre-construction open house provided an opportunity for the public to view the latest construction plans and drawings, talk with members of the project team and submit comments and questions on construction and design issues.

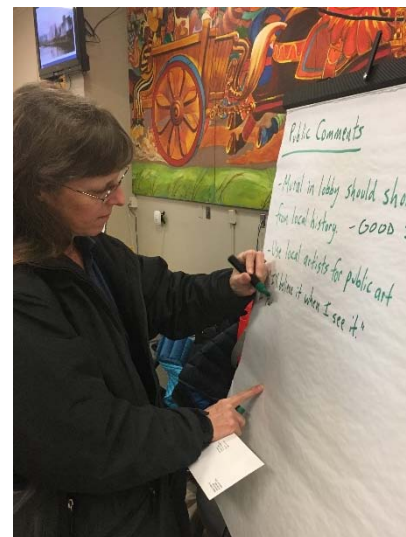


Nearly 100 people attended the open house, including representatives from county and state government, legal practices, the Multnomah County Sheriff and District Attorney's offices, nearby businesses, non-profit groups and members of the public. The open house was advertised through an email to the project mailing list and interested stakeholders, a media release, Multnomah County's social media accounts, the project website, mailed invitations to addresses neighboring the new courthouse site, and at a January meeting of the Board of County Commissioners.

Project team members from Multnomah County, SRG Partnership, Hoffman Construction, Day CPM Services and EnviroIssues staffed the event. Attendees were provided with a project fact sheet and comment form at a sign-in table. People were encouraged to view the displays, ask questions of project staff and contribute comments on comment cards, flip charts or via email following the event.

The stations at the open house included:

- **Welcome and sign-in**
- **Why a new courthouse?** – information about the need for a new, safer courthouse
- **Designing a courthouse for the 21st century** – displays and information about how the new courthouse will meet the current and future needs of the county
- **Interior public spaces** – details and renderings of courtrooms, corridors and other public areas
- **Construction planning** – information about construction protocols, sequence and impacts to traffic flow
- **Transportation** – information about transportation access and parking at the new courthouse site
- **Project schedule and financing** – information on estimated project cost, construction milestones and duration
- **Diversity** – information about the diversity goals of the project and efforts planned to achieve these goals.



- **Sustainability** – display featuring sustainability goals of the project and examples of implementation
- **Public input** – information about how public input has informed the project, including previous comment collected at previous open houses
- **Comment station**

Additionally, a construction sequence animation and a slideshow showing renderings from several perspectives played on loop for the public to view. The display boards can be viewed on the project website at: <https://multco.us/central-courthouse/courthouse-reports-and-documents>

Comment summary

Attendees asked questions and provided feedback to the project team. One person submitted a comment form, and several wrote notes on flip charts provided at the event. Comments and questions related to the following themes:

Theme	Comment
<i>Accessibility</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some comments mentioned compliance with ADA accessibility standards
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One person asked where people with disabilities or mobility issues will be dropped off at the new courthouse
<i>Provision of resources and interior spaces</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some mentioned concerns about the future of the law library. One comment suggested the new courthouse should include a library with print resources and a professional librarian as well as computer access.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Several asked questions about the location of courthouse employee offices in the new building.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One comment suggested a café with seating would provide a place for lawyers to work on cases.
<i>Transportation and parking</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some comments expressed a desire for indoor visitor bike parking. One person asked if the public garage at First Ave. and Jefferson St. has bike parking.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One person asked whether parking for motorized scooters and bikes will be provided.
<i>Construction planning and impacts</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some expressed skepticism about the construction plans due to uncertain funding.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some asked questions about impacts on traffic patterns due to construction.
<i>Design</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some commented on the “open” and “light” design.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comments included “spectacular!” and “I want to work there.”
<i>Existing courthouse</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some asked what will happen to the old courthouse once the new building is completed.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Several commenters expressed a desire to preserve the old courthouse.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One comment suggested adding a rooftop deck to the old courthouse when the building is repurposed.
<i>Public art</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some suggested a mural in the lobby should showcase scenes from local history.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One comment said public art involved in the courthouse design should be produced by local artists.

<i>Diversity</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• One comment suggested the project team staffing the event did not appear very diverse.
<i>Other comments</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Others asked about what has changed since the previous open house and for more information about the role of individual project team members.

