The Oklahoma State University Museum of Art is an ongoing project that encompasses the existing Gardiner Gallery and the renovated Postal Plaza Gallery — scheduled to open in fall 2013 — with a future goal that includes a potential on-campus museum.

Aligning with the goals of Oklahoma State President Burns Hargis and the university, the OSU Museum of Art provides spaces for student learning, faculty research and community outreach in Stillwater and the surrounding areas, raising awareness for the visual arts and increasing cultural opportunities.

OSU Museum of Art welcomes new director

Victoria Rowe Berry as the new director for the OSU Museum of Art. Berry will oversee the renovated Postal Plaza Gallery, existing Gardiner Art Gallery and all future museum-related facilities.

Prior to accepting the position at OSU, Berry spent 13 years at the Nora Eccles Harrison Museum of Art at Utah State University, where she served as the curator of education and most recently, as the executive director and chief curator for the past 10 years.

Berry says Oklahoma hospitality played a part in her decision to accept the position, receiving emails from Art Advisory Council members expressing their excitement about the project.

“It was such a warm welcome before I even left town,” Berry says. “It was a sign.”

OSU’s mission was another determining factor for Berry, who is coming from one land-grant institution to another.

“At my very core, I’m an educator. The connection to students is what appeals to me,” Berry says. “As part of a land-grant institution, we can use the collection as a primary opportunity to teach.”

As she crafts programs, Berry will utilize the university’s artworks as a teaching collection for students and the community to engage in the visual arts.

“Visual literacy is even more important today than it ever has been before,” Berry says. “It’s about understanding a visual culture and a history. It’s about how people allow us to connect in different ways and understanding the creative impulse.”

Berry is eager to join the project during the museum’s ground-level development and plans to build the university’s permanent art collection by emphasizing its strengths through exhibitions, which she hopes will encourage donors to give art in those areas.

She says it’s a unique opportunity to work on a project of this magnitude in the early stages, especially one with such strong support from the university president and provost.

“I’m extremely grateful for the professional level that the project has started with and that has been carried out through the planning stages by the entire team,” Berry says. “That’s what made this such a desirable position to accept.”

Berry brings passion for students and years of experience to position.

Oklahoma State is proud to announce Victoria Rowe Berry as the new director for the OSU Museum of Art. Berry will oversee the renovated Postal Plaza Gallery, existing Gardiner Art Gallery and all future museum-related facilities.

Prior to accepting the position at OSU, Berry spent 13 years at the Nora Eccles Harrison Museum of Art at Utah State University, where she served as the curator of education and most recently, as the executive director and chief curator for the past 10 years.

Berry says Oklahoma hospitality played a part in her decision to accept the position, receiving emails from Art Advisory Council members expressing their excitement about the project.

“It was such a warm welcome before I even left town,” Berry says. “It was a sign.”

OSU’s mission was another determining factor for Berry, who is coming from one land-grant institution to another.

“At my very core, I’m an educator. The connection to students is what appeals to me,” Berry says. “As part of a land-grant institution, we can use the collection as a primary opportunity to teach.”

As she crafts programs, Berry will utilize the university’s artworks as a teaching collection for students and the community to engage in the visual arts.

“Visual literacy is even more important today than it ever has been before,” Berry says. “It’s about understanding a visual culture and a history. It’s about how people allow us to connect in different ways and understanding the creative impulse.”

Berry is eager to join the project during the museum’s ground-level development and plans to build the university’s permanent art collection by emphasizing its strengths through exhibitions, which she hopes will encourage donors to give art in those areas.

She says it’s a unique opportunity to work on a project of this magnitude in the early stages, especially one with such strong support from the university president and provost.

“I’m extremely grateful for the professional level that the project has started with and that has been carried out through the planning stages by the entire team,” Berry says. “That’s what made this such a desirable position to accept.”

Victoria Rowe Berry
OSU MUSEUM OF ART DIRECTOR
Postal Plaza Vision
OSU Museum of Art expands to downtown post office, creates new university art gallery

Oklahoma State University is elevating the visual arts through the transformation of an iconic downtown structure, which will be called the Postal Plaza Gallery. Stillwater’s historic post office will be the new home of OSU’s permanent art collection and provide a cultural atmosphere that will bring the university and community together.

“We’re using the space as an opportunity to celebrate Stillwater’s richness and history,” says Louise Siddons, OSU Museum of Art curator. “The historic structure is critical to that. We’re not just abandoning the legacy of Stillwater’s art and architectural past.”

OSU President Burns Hargis called the WPA building a masterpiece that is being conserved as a work of art in its own right. An ironwork eagle roosting above the entrance and the building’s brick facade will stay intact as the interior is reworked into an art gallery.

“It’s really important, not just for Stillwater, but for the entire state,” says Hargis, who takes pride in the university’s goal to promote the arts.

Architects, the university and museum staff are developing a facility that will encourage learning and exploration by using a unique design that allows guests to peek into different areas through the use of glass walls. This new endeavor will allow OSU’s academic programs to weave teaching, research and outreach together in a way that will enhance student education and faculty research.

The Postal Plaza Gallery is an important addition to the OSU Museum of Art that establishes the university’s credibility in the art world, says Shawn Yuan, associate curator and director of the Gardiner Gallery. Joining the ranks of university art museums throughout the country, the Postal Plaza Gallery will be equipped with storage and exhibition spaces.

The building will include two multi-purpose galleries, measuring 4,000 square-feet and 2,000 square-feet, along with ample storage for the university’s entire permanent collection — see existing naming opportunities to the right. The renovated space will give students, faculty and the community a chance to interact with the artwork and engage in programs.

Students will experience hands-on learning and gain curatorial skills while working with the more than 1,500 objects in the permanent collection, says Siddons.

The Postal Plaza Gallery will enable the art department to accommodate new programs including a master’s degree in art history. The museum-quality storage and display areas will give students practical application to supplement their education, and graduate students will perform additional research on individual artworks that will increase knowledge about the collection.

Outreach will also be a primary focus for the new facility sharing the permanent collection and traveling exhibitions along with student and faculty shows with the public. Visitors can go beyond typical museum viewing by learning about the proper care for these pieces, which tell stories ranging from the university’s first artists to ancient dynasties across the world.

As the building transforms into a new gallery, President Hargis believes the OSU Museum of Art will infuse the visual arts throughout campus, adding to the already robust art culture of Stillwater.

“The Postal Plaza Gallery will be a significant addition to the new, vibrant downtown Stillwater,” says Hargis. “This is an exciting time for Oklahoma State University.”

Naming Opportunities for the Postal Plaza Gallery

Postal Plaza Gallery Building | $2 million
A $2 million gift will secure naming rights for the entire Postal Plaza Gallery Building at the historic building in downtown Stillwater. The Postal Plaza Gallery will provide museum-quality space for the university’s permanent collection and will be essential to the overall museum project, which will eventually include a campus art museum.

Galleries
Main Gallery | $1 million
Secondary Gallery | $250,000

Naming opportunities exist for the Postal Plaza’s two galleries. The main exhibition gallery serves as the primary and most prominent display area while the secondary gallery provides supplemental space for additional exhibitions.

Research Library and Study Center | $500,000

This area is essential to the success of the Postal Plaza Gallery and its mission to provide permanent research and outreach opportunities for students, scholars and the community.

OSU Museum of Art expands to downtown post office, creates new university art gallery
Postal Plaza Construction: New art gallery takes shape

Downtown’s historic post office once bustled with sounds of shuffling mail, but its brick walls are now echoing the buzz of drills and thuds of hammers as crews install new life into the structure that’s soon to become the Postal Plaza Gallery.

Construction started Labor Day weekend in 2012 and has since begun the transformation into a modern art gallery. Elliott + Associates Architects — located in Oklahoma City — is using a raw design approach that will complement the combination of a contemporary space with original elements from the building.

Initial steps included the two-week process of removing tiles and tar to reveal concrete flooring, which was finished with a clear treatment. Lowered ceilings and crisp white walls will be juxtaposed with exposed brick from the 1930s while skylights, windows and a catwalk encircling the main gallery will remain intact.

“By creating the opportunity for people to poke into the back-of-house to see how to care for art,” says Rand Elliott, principal of Elliott + Associates Architects and OSU alum (’73, architectural studies).

Once completed, the Postal Plaza Gallery will offer a vibrant space for students, faculty and the community to view and learn about OSU’s robust art collection and be exposed to traveling shows from across the country.

The secondary gallery shares a floor-to-ceiling window with museum-quality storage space, allowing guests to view the artworks not on display. Small class groups will also utilize the storage area to learn how to care for and conserve art.

OSU Fundraising Priorities

Founding Patrons

Founding Patrons are individuals, foundations and corporations whose gifts will support the Postal Plaza Gallery and the long-term growth of the OSU Museum of Art. Their assistance will ensure an integrated infusion of the visual arts into the educational experience at OSU, the Stillwater community and beyond while funding exhibition galleries and storage crucial to the art collection. The Founding Patrons will provide vital support with gifts of $25,000 or more during the opening year, providing the foundation for a distinctive and renowned collection. The funds will ensure the Museum capitalizes on new opportunities and provides funds for the year-long opening exhibitions, educational activities and events.

Gifts of Art

Oklahoma State University gratefully accepts gifts of art that meet the museum’s criteria to be included in its permanent collection. Gifted pieces will be featured in exhibitions at the Postal Plaza Gallery, and donors will be perpetually recognized in the artwork’s description and analysis. The university will rely on gifts of art to grow its collection until an acquisition fund is established.

Artist-in-Residence | $10,000 ANNUALLY | $10,000 ACQUISITION FUND

OSU’s artist-in-residence will participate in student programming and exhibitions for both the Postal Plaza Gallery and Gardiner Gallery. The funding will be split, with $10,000 allowing the artist-in-residence to teach technique. The remaining $10,000 will be used as an acquisition fund for the selected artist’s completed works during his or her residency.

Summer Internship | $4,000 ANNUALLY

This position will provide undergraduate students unique learning opportunities and on-the-job training for future vocation in the art museum industry.

Graduate Fellowships | $15,000 EACH | 2 ANNUALLY

Fellowships for students in the new master’s of art in art history program will be a yearlong commitment and will provide graduate students curatorial experience while they research the university’s permanent collection.

Postal Plaza Gallery Exhibitions | $30,000 EACH

Four exhibitions are planned for the Postal Plaza Gallery. Sponsorships will help fund the costs associated with setting up and curating each exhibition.

FOR PICTURES AND UPDATES ON THE POSTAL PLAZA GALLERY’S PROGRESS, VISIT MUSEUM.OKSTATE.EDU.

ALSO, TO WATCH A VIDEO OF OSU PRESIDENT BURNS HARGIS SPEAK ABOUT THE POSTAL PLAZA GALLERY, VISIT OSUGIVING.COM/ARTMUSEUM.
Curator Letter

Many of you were present when, on January 26, 2012, President Burns Hargis announced his vision for an art museum at Oklahoma State University on the floor of the downtown Postal Plaza building — which is currently under construction and will become the first step toward the OSU Museum of Art!

As the OSU Museum of Art curator, I have inherited a diverse and inspiring collection — and I work on a daily basis with students and faculty whose passion for the arts reminds me of the importance of this project at every turn. OSU has been collecting art since the 1930s, but only in the last two years have we begun serious planning for a university art museum. Establishing an art museum is an unusual event for any university.

Choosing to do so in this particular historical moment is a vital sign of OSU’s commitment to a well-rounded liberal arts education and to hands-on learning. The unprecedented support we have already received from alumni and friends makes it clear that this commitment to the arts is not just wise, but long overdue.

At the moment, our primary exhibition space is the Gardiner Art Gallery in the Bartlett Center for the Visual Arts. Our first step forward is the renovation of the historic Postal Plaza building in downtown Stillwater, which will become a state-of-the-art venue for exhibitions, collections storage, research and teaching. The Postal Plaza is scheduled to open to the public in the fall of 2013. As our facilities grow, so do our collections: in 2011, we received gifts of more than 500 works of art, and in 2012 we have sustained this impressive level of giving.

Gifts of art and funding for programs significantly enhance our ability to teach art history, studio art, graphic and industrial design, cultural history, and many other subjects directly from objects, artists and scholars.

Until the Postal Plaza’s transformation is complete, the easiest way to explore our collection is through the art collection blog, which is updated weekly. You can also follow us in a variety of social media. Soon, thanks to a dedicated and growing staff, you’ll be able to see the collection in person, just as many of our students already do. I hope you will join us on this incredible journey.

Louise Siddons, Ph.D.
CURATOR, OSU ART COLLECTION

Highlighted Donors

Donated gifts and future commitments enrich OSU’s permanent collection

A university art collection strives to contain a breadth of artwork that educates students, facilitates faculty research and exposes the community to the visual arts.

The pieces in OSU’s permanent art collection provide students, faculty and the community a chance to experience art culture without leaving Stillwater.

Thanks to donors, including those who gave in 2012, the university continues to expand its collection, through both gifts of art along with cash and estate gifts. OSU greatly appreciates all the donations that make this cultural learning opportunity possible.

Charles Scott
Charles Scott graduated from Oklahoma State in 1956, and since then has been giving back to his alma mater. His most recent gift added to the future of the OSU Museum of Art through an estate gift. His generosity will enable the museum to expand its resources over time. Scott has also given a variety of artworks, including a previous gift of design books.

Drs. Alexander and Svetlana Salerno
Ranging from ancient Greek and Roman coins to Egyptian sculpture and Tang dynasty Chinese ceramics, gifts from the Salernos have enriched the historical and geographical breadth of the Museum of Art collection.

The classical world is an important aesthetic forbear for much modern art, and the Salerno collection has broad relevance for our students and visitors.

Larry and Mattie Harms
OSU alumni Larry and Mattie Harms donated their extensive African art collection as a way to expose students to a new genre. The Harms’ understand the importance of variety in a university art collection and also recognize the learning opportunities associated with such artworks. Mattie points out that several of the less ornate pieces can be handled by students and gallery visitors for an interactive learning experience.

Robert Navin
As a friend of the university, Robert Navin found inspiration in the Harms’ gift and donated his own collection of African metalwork to the OSU permanent art collection. Thanks to Navin’s collection, students will have the opportunity to view and research African knives among other objects. Navin’s gift in combination with the Harms’ donation greatly expands the African art holdings.

Robert Flynn Johnson
Robert Flynn Johnson, former colleague of OSU Curator of Collections Louise Siddons, donated more than 132 artworks to support the OSU Museum of Art. His gift included photographs and prints ranging from French artist Nadar to German photographer Riefenstahl. Johnson’s gift greatly adds to the university’s print and photograph collection.
Council Guides
Museum of Art

The Art Advisory Council works to ensure the future of the OSU Museum of Art aligns with the university’s overall vision for the arts. Council members include the following arts leaders from across the country:

Victoria Rowe Berry
• OSU Museum of Art director
Malinda Berry Fischer
• chair
Jack Titus
Senator Charles Ford
Brewster Fitz
Ken Ferguson
Bill Goldston
Ann and Burns Hargis
Ben Jr. and Barbara Harjo
George Kravis II
Desmond Mason
Chuck Schroeder
Charles Scott
Louise Siddons
Robert Sternberg
Sonya and Mark Terpening
Carl and Marilyn Thoma
Jim Vallion
Laura Warriner

Gardiner Gallery continues exhibitions, events as an integral part of the OSU Museum Project

The Gardiner Gallery currently serves as the only major art venue on campus. Originally created in 1965, the gallery is housed in the Bartlett Center for the Visual Arts and showcases five traveling exhibitions annually.

The gallery offers internships for three students each semester who have the opportunity to manage parts of the art gallery, install exhibitions, manage data and archives, and work with real art in a professional setting. Various areas of the university use the gallery as a learning environment, including the English, Journalism and History departments.

Used as a space to explore the visual arts, the Gardiner Gallery prides itself on introducing new and unique exhibitions for faculty, students and the public. The Gardiner Gallery is free and open to the community for all shows and related promotional events. See below for naming opportunities during the 2013-2014 opening exhibitions in conjunction with the Postal Plaza Gallery.

GARDINER GALLERY EXHIBITIONS
$5,000 each

Five traveling exhibitions are planned for the Gardiner Art Gallery on the OSU Stillwater campus. Sponsorships will help fund the costs associated with setting up and curating each exhibition.

Wings: Kinetic Sculpture and Jewelry by Dukno Yoon
Feb. 4 - March 1

Senior Studio Capstone Exhibition
March 4 - March 15
Reception and gallery talk | March 7 | 5 - 7 p.m.

Graphic Design: Senior Portfolio Exhibition
March 27 - April 5
Reception | March 31 | 2 - 4 p.m.

Annual Juried Student Exhibition
April 10 - April 30
Reception and award ceremony | April 14 | 2 - 4 p.m.

Art History Senior Symposium
April 13

Gardiner Gallery Schedule

CONTACT

Debra C. Engle
Senior Consultant, Campaign and Principal Gifts
Oklahoma State University Foundation
400 South Monroe | Stillwater, OK 74074
405.385.5600 | dengle@OSUgiving.com

Victoria Rowe Berry
Director, OSU Museum of Art
508 Scott Hall | Stillwater, OK 74078
405.744.2780 | victoria.berry@okstate.edu