

= Oregon Civic Justice Center =

The Oregon Civic Justice Center is a three @-@ story former library building on the campus of Willamette University in downtown Salem , Oregon , United States . Built in 1912 as a Carnegie library for the city of Salem , the building now houses several programs of Willamette University College of Law . Prior to the law school 's moving into the facility in 2008 , the building was used by the adjacent Young Women 's Christian Association ( YWCA ) from 1971 to 2006 .

Willamette purchased the old library in 2003 and later selected the College of Law as the program at the school to gain use of the building . The university began renovations in 2007 to restore part of the original layout and modernize the facility to accommodate the needs of modern education . After the brick @-@ faced , Beaux Arts style structure was remodeled , community oriented programs from the law school relocated to the renamed Oregon Civic Justice Center . This center houses programs such as a legal clinic and the school 's law review journal .

= = History = =

On October 12 , 1901 , the Salem Woman 's Club was organized with the wife of Oregon Governor Theodore Thurston Geer serving as president of the organization . Two years later the group started the Salem Public Library at Geer 's home , and then later located at Chemeketa and High streets in downtown Salem in the then city hall , with the library 's collection totaling 50 books at that time . The library group hired a librarian , Miss F. Phillips , for a salary of \$ 20 per month to run the library . In 1907 , the group explored options to build a stand @-@ alone library building using funds provided by Andrew Carnegie , who was providing funds for building libraries around the world .

In May 1909 , the Woman ? s Club purchased an option to buy the property on the southwest corner of Winter and State streets for \$ 5500 , which was located across State from Willson Park ( a city park at that time ) . This group then raised the funds to purchase the land for \$ 12 @,@ 000 , and Salem applied for a grant from the Carnegie foundation . The city was allotted \$ 14 @,@ 000 by the foundation to build a library , but the Women ? s Club which owned the existing library and land had not been involved in the process . The organization was able to get the money rescinded , and in November 1910 , worked with the city to increase their maintenance fund for the library . Carnegie then raised the grant to \$ 27 @,@ 500 at the lobbying of Lulu Bush ( daughter @-@ in @-@ law to Asahel Bush ) and the Woman ? s Club deeded the lot and the other library assets to the city of Salem .

On September 12 , 1912 , the new library opened on the property near Willamette University and the Oregon State Capitol , though construction on the structure was not completed , and much of the furniture had not been installed in the building . The completed structure included hardwood floors , crown molding , windows that were two @-@ stories tall , and a fireplace . The library cost \$ 30 @,@ 000 to build , and within a year of operating had expanded to serve nearly 7 @,@ 700 patrons with a collection of nearly 10 @,@ 500 books . On January 4 , 1920 , a small fire damaged the furnace room and about 50 books at the library .

In 1914 , the YWCA of Salem was organized by the same Salem Women 's Club . Located in downtown on Cottage Street Northeast , the YWCA moved in 1954 to the lot adjoining the library . By the 1960s , the small library had a collection in excess of 100 @,@ 000 volumes , but needed a larger facility . A public campaign to build a new library began in 1968 , with the library to be part of a larger government center that included a city hall and fire station . In 1971 , the YWCA purchased the adjacent Carnegie library building for \$ 150 @,@ 000 , and on July 6 , 1972 , the Salem Public Library vacated the Carnegie building and moved to Salem ? s new Civic Center located west of the old library . Located next to the YWCA 's existing home , the old library was turned into the organization 's youth center . The building was remodeled from 1990 to 1991 .

= = = Legal center = = =

In 2003 , Willamette University purchased the old building from the YWCA . The \$ 1 @.@ 35 million

purchase included the main YWCA building adjacent to the former library for a total of 54 @, @ 000 square feet ( 5 @, @ 000 m2 ) , with the YWCA continuing their operations in the building for three years after the sale . After that group left the building in 2006 , Willamette spent \$ 4 @. @ 6 million ( \$ 2 million more than originally planned ) to remodel the old library building over a year 's time and convert it into the Oregon Civic Justice Center as part of the College of Law . The remodeling project began in the summer of 2007 and included removing a swimming pool structure that had been added to the south of the building , while also adding a new entrance to the former library on the same side as where the pool was located . Renovations also removed a mezzanine that the YWCA had added to the upper portion of the main floor . Other renovations included new heating , cooling , and ventilation systems , upgrades for technology , all while retaining the historical look and feel of the original 1912 building .

On September 12 , 2008 , the building was re @-@ dedicated exactly 96 years after the original dedication in a ceremony featuring sitting Associate Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court Ruth Bader Ginsburg . The ceremony was part of the College of Law 's 125th anniversary festivities and featured Oregon dignitaries such as Oregon Supreme Court Chief Justice and Willamette alum Paul De Muniz . Willamette President M. Lee Pelton , who also attended the ceremony , selected the law school as the new tenants after other departments and programs at the school submitted proposals for the use of the old library .

= = Amenities = =

The Beaux Arts style brick structure includes a portico on the State Street entrance on the north side . The façade includes an inscription , " PUBLIC LIBRARY " , in Roman type over the entryway , which is sheltered by a rigid metal awning on this north front . The roof of the square @-@ shaped structure is constructed of both metal and tile . Stone is used for architectural accents of lintels and cornices on the exterior . The building remains connected to the neighboring former offices of the YWCA , which is a Pietro Belluschi designed building also owned by Willamette University .

Inside , the main room is a conference room on the main floor that includes a large projection system that can be used for remote feeds , such as from the state capitol across the street . A painting by John Fery is displayed over the fireplace , which the fireplace was part of the original structure in the conference room . The remainder of the interior of the building has a modern look with glass @-@ enclosed offices surrounding an open common area . Artwork owned by the university 's Hallie Ford Museum of Art is displayed in this area . The main floor of the three @-@ story building is the second floor , which rests atop the look @-@ out basement . A small meeting room is located above a small portion of the main floor .

= = Programs = =

The center is utilized to connect the College of Law and Willamette as a whole to the larger Salem community . In this capacity , the center houses several law school programs with community outreach aspects . These include the Oregon Law Commission , the Center for Democracy , the Center for Religion and Law , the Center for Dispute Resolution , Willamette 's Clinical Law Program , the Center for Law and Government , and the school 's law journal , the Willamette Law Review . Each of these programs were chosen to be housed in the center due to having community outreach programs , with the goal of the center being to create a community atmosphere between students , faculty , and the community at large .