

# Friends of the Capitol



July 2010 – March 2012 Report

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## **Our Mission Statement:**

*Friends of the Capitol is a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) corporation that is devoted to maintaining and improving the beauty and grandeur of the Oklahoma State Capitol building and showcasing the magnificent gifts of art housed inside. This mission is accomplished through a partnership with private citizens wishing to leave their footprint in our state's rich history.*

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## **Education and Development**

In 2010, 2011 and 2012 Friends of the Capitol (FOC) participated in several educational and developmental projects informing fellow Oklahomans of the beauty of the capitol and how they can participate in the continuing renovations of Oklahoma State Capitol. In April 2011, FOC representatives made a trip to Shawnee and met with several organizations within the community and illustrated all the new renovations funded by Friends of the Capitol supporters. Additionally in 2010 FOC participated in the Oklahoma City Public Schools' Professional Development Day. We had the opportunity to meet with teachers from several different communities in Oklahoma, and we were pleased to inform them about all the new restorations and how their school's name can be engraved on a 15" x 30" paver. Their paver would be placed below the Capitol's south steps in the Centennial Memorial Plaza to be admired by many generations of Oklahomans.

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Gratefully Acknowledging the **Friends of the Capitol**  
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Wewoka

## Friends of the Capitol Recent Projects

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Before



After

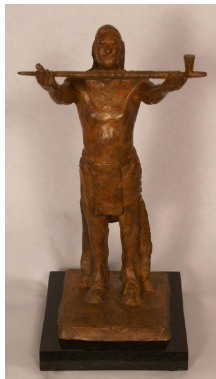
In 2011, Friends of the Capitol funded the reconditioning (cleaning and application of wax) of the 23 Governors bust located in the Hall of Governors at the Capitol.

The base plate of the column for the governor's statue pedestal was replaced and installed for a cost of \$635. Repairs to the south plaza were also made, resulting in a cost of \$1,080. These costs were paid for by FOC.

Restoration was made to the *Te Ata* portrait by Nellie Ellen Shepherd, along with the purchase of bronze maquettes (entries in the Capitol dome selection): "**The Blessing**" by Mike Larsen, \$4,894, and "**The Oath II**" by Harold T. Holden, \$3,302.78. These will be installed in the Capitol later this year



*Te Ata*



*The Blessing*



*The Oath II*

**Unveiling of “*John Hope Franklin*”**  
**portrait by Everett Raymond Kinstler**

On February 22, 2012, **Friends of the Capitol** assisted in the unveiling of the portrait of **John Hope Franklin**. Project oversight responsibility was a shared endeavor. Executive Director of **Friends of the Capitol**, **Mary Marshall Eilerts**, oversaw project revenues and expenditures; the Oklahoma Arts Council, the managers of the Capitol Art Collection, managed the commissioning process; and the volunteer project committee included **Robert Henry, William G. Kerr, Susan Savage and Suzanne Tate**. **No outside contracted facilitators were involved.**

John Hope Franklin was an African American civil rights leader who devoted his life to correct the iniquitous injustices in a racially segregate society. His life story is on display next to his portrait, telling of his humble beginnings and later accomplishments.



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One new initiative undertaken by **Friends of the Capitol** is the purchase of **five new benches**, cost \$5,400. Two of the benches are placed at the base of the Capitol's first floor Grand Staircase that leads to the Guardian statue on the second floor. These new benches compliment the new rug and runner that had been funded by FOC in 2008. Donors are invited to visit and take enjoyment in the revitalization of this historic architectural artistry.



**Friends of the Capitol** also pays the insurance on all non-state owned works of art at cost of \$1264.00

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## Friends of the Capitol

### Upcoming Projects

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In 2012, **Friends of the Capitol** is undertaking the remodeling and refurbishing of the “*Old Information Center*” located in the first floor rotunda to the “*New Media Center*”.



These are the before pictures of the *Old Information Center*. The proposed *Media Center* on the first floor of the Oklahoma State Capitol will offer visitors the chance to gain historical facts about the Capitol through “visual tours” by the help of several display screens. The Media Center will provide comprehensive and educational displays depicting the Capitol as it first appeared at the beginning of statehood and show the changes and enhancements as it has evolved through the years. The Media Center will not only explore the rich architectural history of Oklahoma’s Capitol, but also provide viewers an intimate study of the artwork housed within.





## Dedication of “Beyond the Centennial” Mural and Annual Event



The May 10, 2010 Friends of the Capitol annual event was particularly special this year. This meeting set the stage for the dedication of **Carlos Tello's** mural *Beyond the Centennial*, which is showcased in the Capitol's Hall of Governors. **Lt. Governor Jari Askins** accepted the mural on behalf of the State of Oklahoma. **Paul Meyer, Chairman of Friends of the Capitol** and **Gean Atkinson** were the masters of ceremony. *Beyond the Centennial* adeptly captures Oklahoma's rich heritage and exciting future, with glimpses of our historical land run and space exploration. The mural celebrates the people of Oklahoma, our Native American heritage, the natural beauty and natural resources of our state and even the unpredictable Oklahoma weather.

Event guests were entertained by local musician **Kyle Dillingham**. Following the dedication, a reception was held and guests were given free posters of the mural and they were also autographed by Carlos Tello, the mural's artist.

**Friends of the Capitol** purchased the custom rugs and sofas that were designed by **Katie Byers**, with **MA+Architecture**; and the special lighting that illuminates the busts of past governors on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Oklahoma Capitol. **The entire project cost was over \$150 thousand and was totally funded by Friends of the Capitol.**



*Dedication Ceremony*



*Honoring of artist Carlos Tello*



*artist, Carlos Tello*

A native of Mexico, Carlos Tello received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Graphic Communication from the Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana in Mexico City in 1985. He continued his studies and obtained a Certificate in Airbrush Techniques and Lithography. Tello is an autodidactic fresco painter and has honed his skills with the assistance of famous muralist Diego Rivera. Tello relocated to Oklahoma City in 1992 at the invitation of various organizations. Since his relocation, he has participated in many individual and group exhibitions at IAO Gallery, City Arts Center, the Kirkpatrick Center Gallery, Firehouse Art Center in Norman and the Oklahoma City Museum of Art.



*Local musician Kyle Dillingham*



## SCULPTURE RENOVATION

Allan Houser's fifteen-foot bronze sculpture, *As Long As the Waters Flow*, was **restored** by **Friends of the Capitol** in 2008. The Shidoni Foundry, which originally cast the sculpture in 1989, sent their specialist Vince Maggiore to clean and wax the sculpture. Vince removed the excess wax buildup on the entire surface with a torch, applied finishes to smooth out the surface color and waxed the sculpture to seal it for future preservation. The total funded cost for the equipment rental and conservation fee was approximately \$6,000.

This tribute to Native Americans, dedicated on June 4, 1989, is located at the South entrance on the Centennial Memorial Plaza on the Oklahoma State Capitol grounds.

*As Long As the Waters Flow*



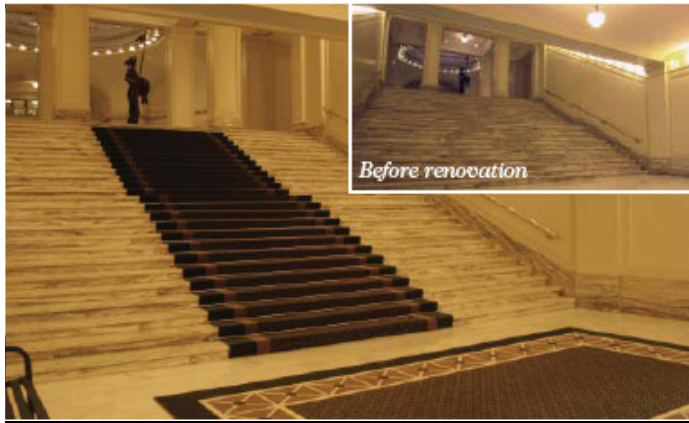
*(before restoration)*



*(as restored by FOC)*



## THE GRAND STAIRCASE



A 2008 initiative undertaken by **Friends of the Capitol** was a facelift for the Capitol Building's first floor Grand Staircase. The staircase was adorned with a rug designed by **Katie Byer** with **MA+Architecture** at the base of the staircase and a runner in the center leading to the Guardian statue on the second floor. The runner is held in place with brass rods. **Friends of the Capitol** funded the entire cost of the facelift, \$21,000. Visitors are invited to view and revel in the revitalization of this historic architectural artistry.

## “OKLAHOMA, OH WHAT A BEAUTIFUL MORNING” MURAL



**Friends of the Capitol** also funded the \$1,300 cost for special lighting that was placed over **Mike Larsen's** painting, "Oklahoma, Oh What a Beautiful Morning." The painting was loaned to the Capitol from the Chickasaw Nation. The Chickasaw artist was inspired by the view from **Bison Bluff in Payne County**. The Cimarron River is the main feature in the artist's painting. Chickasaw Nation Governor **Bill Anoatubby** said, "The selection of this image by this artist is symbolic of the dawning of a new and even brighter century of progress for all people in the state."

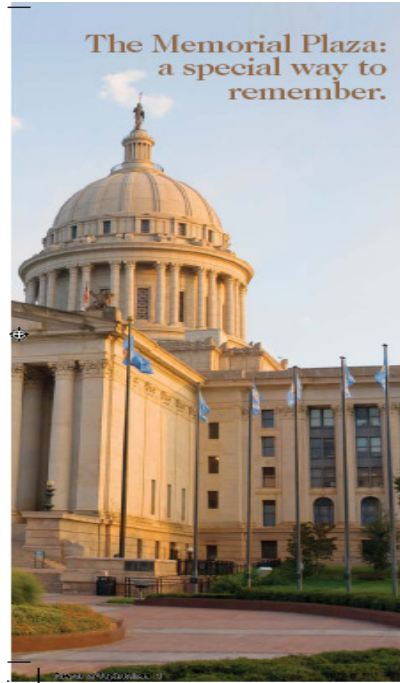
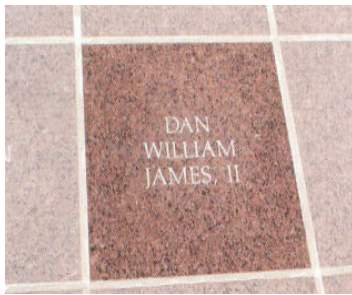
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## FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES

**Friends of the Capitol** is involved in a variety of fundraising activities, each offering a unique and lasting opportunity to our donors. We offer **engraved pavers**, *Art Treasures* book, *The Oklahoma State Capitol* book, Oklahoma Postcard Collection, and the *Oklahoma Black Gold*, *The Flight of the Spirit* and *Beyond the Centennial* Poster Collection. We welcome new and renewed annual sponsorship in addition to supporting these activities directly. We've taken the opportunity to provide a brief summary of some of our fundraising activities.

### ENGRAVED GRANITE PAVERS

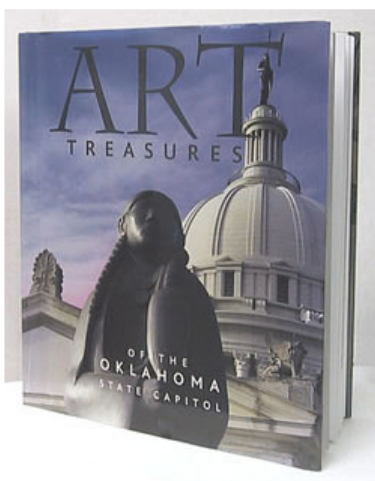
Stately granite pavers line the plaza of the Oklahoma Capitol. These beautiful 15" x 15" pavers are engraved with the name of the donor or the donor's honoree and will remain on the plaza permanently. Pavers may be purchased by making a \$300 tax deductible donation through our website, [www.friendsofthecapitol.com](http://www.friendsofthecapitol.com) or by calling (405) 843-2443.



A touch-locator screen in the main entrance of the Capitol, allows you to locate your honoree's paver as well as read their biography, was provided by **Friends of the Capitol** at a cost of \$9,700.

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## ART TREASURES BOOK

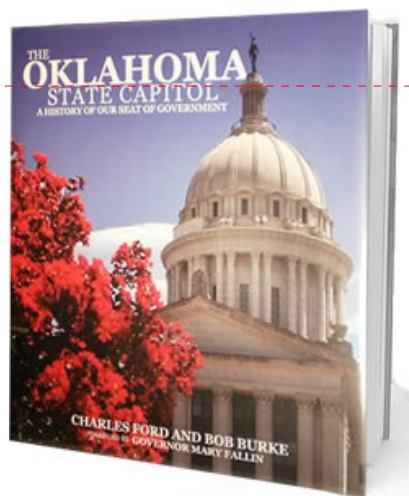


For those who would love unending opportunities to savor the beauty of the artwork on display in our state Capitol, we offer the Art Treasures book. Art Treasures, a book written by Bob Burke, Betty Crow, and Sandy Meyers brilliantly depicts the wealth of artistic expression seen in the Oklahoma Capitol building. Proceeds from the sale of this book benefit the Friends of the Capitol. The cost is a \$25 donation and can be purchased through our website, [www.friendsofthecapitol.com](http://www.friendsofthecapitol.com) , or call (405) 843-2443.

## THE OKLAHOMA STATE CAPITOL

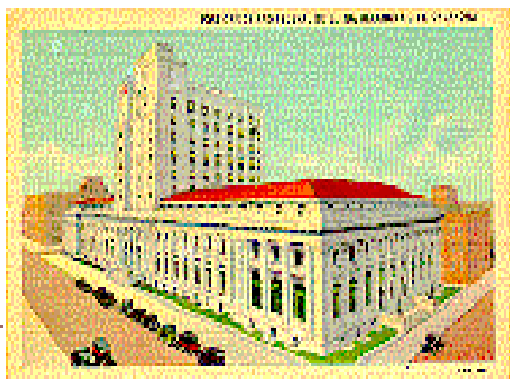
"The Oklahoma State Capitol" was written by Charles Ford and Bob Burke. The book tells how the Capitol honors our historic diversity by majestically preserving art treasures and displaying them in the building. Oklahoma's Capitol is rich in artistic wealth and is revealed by monumental bronze statues and beautiful and colorful murals and canvases.

The cost for the book is a \$29.95 donation with free shipping. You may also obtain a copy of this book from the OK Tourism Centers throughout the state



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## OKLAHOMA POSTCARD COLLECTION



Donors to this program are allowed to select a historical postcard from the Capitol collection and sponsor it. The postcard selected will be enlarged to 40" x 60" and hung in the lower level of the west entryway of the Oklahoma State Capitol building. An engraved plaque, listing the sponsor's name, will be hung beside the postcard. The postcard collection provides an expressive walk through momentous times in our state's past.



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**Poster Collections** are replicas of Oklahoma State Capitol murals that can be seen from the fourth floor rotunda area. Posters may be purchased, \$25 each, by calling our office at (405) 843-2443 or going to our website at [www.friendsofthecapitol.com](http://www.friendsofthecapitol.com).



### **Oklahoma Black Gold**

In 1996, Jeff Dodd was commissioned to create a mural for the Oklahoma State Capitol in celebration of the oil and gas industry. The mural is located above the Oklahoma State Senate Chamber and can be seen from the rotunda area on the fourth floor. *Oklahoma Black Gold* celebrates the 100th anniversary of the oil and gas industry in Oklahoma. The wooden structure on the left side of the twenty-two foot mural represents Oklahoma's first attempts at drilling. The oil rig on the right side represents the boundless future of the state. The two roughnecks in the middle of the epic piece display the physical strength and stamina necessary to work in the oil patch as the Oklahoma state flag blankets the state through "booms" and "busts."



### **Flight of Spirit**

In 1991, artist **Mike Larsen** reached a milestone in his career when he was commissioned to paint a permanent mural for the Oklahoma State Capitol. Named *Flight of Spirit*, the painting is a tribute to five world-renowned Native American ballet dancers from the state of Oklahoma. *Flight of Spirit* merges the tragic history of Native Americans with the hope and renewal of modern accomplishments. Behind the illuminated ballerinas is Larson's depiction of the Trail of Tears. Five geese soar over the displaced Native Americans. The geese symbolize the grace and spirit of the five ballerinas.





### **Beyond the Centennial**

As Oklahomans reflected on our first century of statehood in 2007, members of **Friends of the Capitol** envisioned Oklahoma's next 100 years. Out of this inspiration they commissioned the mural, "Beyond the Centennial" for the half-circle alcove in the Hall of Governors, based on the Centennial theme, "A unique history. An extraordinary future," artist Carlos Tello has rendered an insightful, yet dynamic mural that reflects upon our distinct history, contemporary culture, and limitless future.

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## Friends of the Capitol

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The official website of **Friends of the Capitol** is <http://www.friendsofthecapitol.com>. Visitors to the website are offered opportunities to become members and sponsor any of the ongoing efforts offered by our organization. Visitors who chose to purchase personalized granite pavers through the website are also afforded the opportunity to enter their biographical information and find the placement of their paver through this site.

**Friends of the Capitol** supporters and sponsors are also invited to contact us by telephone at 405-843-2443, or FOC mailing address is 7100 N. Classen Blvd. Suite 100 Oklahoma City, OK 73116. Executive Director, Mary Marshall Eilerts is available to answer questions or provide additional information. You are also encouraged to contact us by email. Our email address is [customerservice@friendsofthecapitol.com](mailto:customerservice@friendsofthecapitol.com).

We encourage you to visit your state Capitol building and observe and share the majesty. The Capitol is open for visitors Monday through Friday from 7am until 7pm, and Saturday and Sunday from 9am until 4pm.

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*We are proud to be*  
**Friends of the Capitol**

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