

Ontario College of Art & Design

This has been another busy and exciting year for Ontario College of Art & Design (OCAD). A new addition to the OCAD campus was announced in September 2007. The acquisition of 205 Richmond Street West celebrated another innovative way OCAD is addressing its ongoing space shortage. Historically known as the New Textile Building, this seven story building will provide 70,000 square feet of much needed space for Graduate and Research Studies. The new building is located just down the street from OCAD's main campus at 100 McCaul Street.

During the last year the following significant projects involving the Finance Department were:

Major Projects (completed)

Prior to start of the current academic year, the University set up a dedicated videoconferencing facility with high quality scalable solutions that supports research-based videoconferencing using Access Grid as well as standards-based videoconferencing using a commercial solution. IBM was awarded the contract for the installation, service and maintenance of Tandberg products. Project included three 50" Plasma HD monitors, one HD videoconferencing unit, two pan-tilt cameras and one high-end graphics workstation. The implementation has allowed OCAD to conduct lectures with Dawson City in Yukon.

In November 2007 OCAD signed a forty-eight month contract with Xerox Canada for the lease of the entire fleet of digital photocopiers and Equitrac card readers. This contract was based on the uniform platform of digital photocopiers across the campus but it has also addressed the accessibility issues previously faced by our students with disabilities relative to print and copy services at OCAD.

Major RFPs/Major Projects (planned)

Infrastructure Consulting-OCAD is currently in the process of interviewing short-listed finalist candidates for its Infrastructure Consulting RFP. This consulting engagement is planned to conduct an independent review of OCAD's Computer Infrastructure, Systems and Service Delivery in relation to a Digital Futures Initiative, the new Ecology of Learning and OCAD's Strategic Plan.

Security upgrades-At the end of the year OCAD awarded the contract for Phase 1 of security system upgrades to AC Technical Systems. The contract will continue into 2008 with the integration of all existing zones on Europlex system to C-Cure 800 system. This first phase of the project includes the installation and set up of the software and intrusion alarm conversion for the main campus building.

Sustainability

In light of OCAD's commitment to sustainability, it was decided to purchase green electricity from Bullfrog Power for OCAD Student Centre. This is OCAD's first building that would be "Bullfrog Powered". OCAD will pay a premium for the supply of clean, renewable electricity in order to reduce its carbon footprint, help clean up air quality and support the local development of renewable energy.

Graduate and Research Studies

In August 2008 OCAD will begin to offer its first graduate programs in three disciplines: Interdisciplinary Master's in Art, Media and Design, Master of Fine Arts in Criticism and Curatorial Practices and Executive Master of Design in Advertising.

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