



CITY OF NORMAN

University of Oklahoma – School of Architecture X Norman Parks Partnership

Council Study Session – Aug 4, 2026

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Building an Inclusive Community



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American School Design-Build University of Oklahoma, College of Architecture

American School Design-Build (ASDB) at the University of Oklahoma is an immersive two-semester studio and lab course where 5th-year Architecture students team up with senior Construction Science students to design, construct, and **deliver** a small-scale facility project for a local community partner. ASDB has partnered with non-profits, housing agencies, schools, Native American tribes, and private philanthropists across the state to deliver a range of projects over the past ten years.





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American School Design-Build University of Oklahoma, College of Architecture

The City of Norman and the University of Oklahoma School of Architecture are partnering to create a student-designed and student-constructed outdoor shelter in Reaves Park, developed in conjunction with the upcoming TSET Kids Space Playground Project. This collaboration provides OU architecture students with an applied learning opportunity while delivering a valuable new amenity to one of Norman's most active public parks.

The project will center on designing and building a small, functional, and aesthetically integrated shelter adjacent to or near the TSET Kids Space Playground project. The structure will provide shade, seating, and weather protection for families and visitors. Students will work closely with City of Norman Parks & Recreation staff throughout all phases, including conceptual design, coordination, materials evaluation,





Mobile Clinic Wichita/Affiliated Tribes Completed Spring 2021

This mobile studio unit was designed in collaboration with the Wichita and Affiliated Tribes. The design process began with an exploration of the tribe's material history, spatial traditions, and connections to land and collective memory. Understanding the significance of the grass house, the tribe's traditional architectural form, became central to the design inquiry, not as a nostalgic reference, but as a structural and conceptual framework adaptable to contemporary fabrication methods and design tools.





Engage Learning Greenhouse Completed Spring 2022

This project builds upon a tradition of experiential architecture for under-resourced schools; OU students previously constructed similar greenhouses for Mark Twain Elementary and Crutch Public Schools, supporting Engage Learning's mission to integrate practical, creative STEAM experiences across the OKC area





Crutcho Greenhouse Completed Spring 2023

Designed and built by University of Oklahoma Design+Build students in partnership with Engage Learning, this project reimagines a greenhouse as a stacked, prefab plywood “cassette” system—assembled like LEGO bricks—and clad in dual-layer polycarbonate to serve as a hands-on educational grow lab for Crutcho Elementary School students.





John Rex Greenhouse/Urban Farm Completed Spring 2024

The Urban Learning Greenhouse at John Rex Charter School in Oklahoma City serves as a space for education, sustainability, and community engagement. The design-build project was created in response to the need for urban agriculture education, showcasing a commitment to both education and community involvement.





SunHive Collective Community Space Completed Spring 2025

The SunHive Collective Community Space is a light-filled, flexible hub fostering connection, skill-building, and independence for young adults with disabilities. Its barn-inspired gable form, wrapped in corrugated metal, references Norman's agricultural landscape while signaling strength, durability, and familiarity. A translucent polycarbonate vestibule brings a slice of regulated, patterned southern sun at entry, while a continuous north facing skylight washes the interior with indirect light, casting a soft glow that subtly shifts through the day conveying openness, transparency, and welcome.





WildCare Bat/Chimney Swift Enclosure Completed Spring 2026

The native bat and chimney swift enclosure is a dedicated facility at WildCare in Noble, OK who's mission is to rehabilitate native Oklahoma wildlife. This pressure treated wood-frame and polycarbonate skin completes an innovative oval design intended to accommodate continuous in-flight rehab of injured species.





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Reaves Park – Kids Space Area



Kids Space Shelter Build

Cost

- \$75,000 Material & Supplies
- \$7,500 Admin Fees

Scope

- Design & Construct Shelter (Approx 1,500 sqft)

Schedule

Late August:	First Meeting with City
Mid-September:	Concept Design and Cost Estimate
Late September:	Design Revisions and Cost Estimate
Early October:	Start On-site Work
Mid-December:	Foundations Complete
Mid-January:	Framing Commences
Spring Break:	No On-Site Work
Early May:	Project Completion



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QUESTIONS



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