Portland State University (PSU) is always exploring new ways to meet the educational and instructional needs of our students and faculty. As an example, the beautiful new Academic and Student Recreational Ctr. was conceived and built through a public-private partnership between ASPSU, PSU, OUS, the City of Portland and Portland Development Commission (PDC).

Now, PSU has once again forged a unique collaborative partnership with Oregon Health and Science University (OHSU), Oregon State University (OSU), and the Oregon University System (OUS), with the planned construction of the Collaborative Life Science Building [OUS/OHSU CLSB or Colab] and Skourtes Tower on the South Waterfront’s Schnitzer Campus (where Cirque de Soleil used to be). The CLSB and Skourtes Tower, and the Schnitzer campus as a whole, are well situated for the campus community because of their proximity to the Portland Streetcar and future Tri Met Light Rail. In fact, the new bridge that will carry Light Rail across the river is to be built adjacent to the Schnitzer campus. (See artist rendering at the end of this article)

Originally conceived in two phases but now a single project, the Oregon University System/Oregon Health & Science University Collaborative Life Sciences Building and the OHSU Skourtes Tower will be a twelve story, approximately 650,000 square foot structure, to be designed and constructed at an estimated cost of $295 Million.

The building program is still being refined and will include health sciences and life sciences education and research, ground floor retail, and approximately 430 underground parking spaces. There will also be approximately 400 spaces for bicycle parking: 150 of these will be covered and secured. PSU’s Chemistry and Biology departments will have space in the building, and PSU will have one lecture hall in CLSB that seats 500 students! PSU is being allocated a portion of the building (approx. 40,000 square feet). Class
schedules will be arranged so that there is sufficient time for students to arrive at the Schnitzer campus before class and to return to the PSU campus for the succeeding class.

Construction started in October and is anticipated to be completed in the first quarter of 2014. Phased occupancy will allow for PSU classes to start in the building Fall term 2013. The building will be, at minimum, LEED Gold certified.

The funding sources for the project are:

- Article XI-F (1) Bonds $60M
- Article XI-G (1) Bonds $50M
- OHSU Donation $40M
- Public Funds $10M
- OHSU Funds $20M for Dr. Gray’s lab
- Skourtes Tower $116M OHSU Funds/Donations

The education and research programs identified to date for the Center include:

- PSU’s undergraduate biology and chemistry lectures and laboratories;
- Labs for education and research in biomedical collaborative efforts with applied science and engineering at OHSU, PSU, and OSU;
- Medical and dental education expansion for OHSU’s 1st and 2nd year medical and dental students, physician assistants, and radiation therapists;
- OSU’s College of Pharmacy students (a joint program with OHSU);
- Inter-professional state-of-the-art simulation center for training and certification/recertification of health care practitioner’s statewide;
- Shared instrumentation laboratories with electron microscopy, NMR and other specialized, sophisticated instrumentation and shared services that will be available for internal and external uses;

The project team includes many more people than can be listed here, but below are some of the significant contributors:

PSU Project Managers: Kate Vance and Ron Blaj;
PSU Project Support:
- FAP Accounting Department
- FAP Contracts Department
- Chemistry Department
- Biology Department

Architect: SERA/CO
Construction Company: JE Dunn
Project Partnerships: OHSU, OSU and OUS

Please send any feedback to kvance@pdx.edu. And Thank You for Engaging!