

# MONA / 2023

MUSEUM OF NEBRASKA ART



Instead of getting ready to plant flowers this month, we're cultivating lots more growth at the construction site! Prep work for the foundation is wrapping up, and we are eagerly awaiting the massive cement pour at the end of March. The slab will incorporate 1.5 million pounds of concrete, executed in one continuous pour over the course of 12 hours. Once complete, this will give the community an even better perspective of the expansion's footprint.

While we all know what a large-scale construction project looks like — the equipment, workers, cranes, scaffolding, and fences — you may not be aware of the detailed mock-ups that are created between the initial drawings and the finished project. This recent image (shown at left) shows a physical portion of the project, created by the construction and architecture teams, allowing everyone to make sure the work is being built to expectations and to evaluate the work's appearance before construction.



In our case, the mass timber mock-up is not full-size representation because it was built to fit inside the building! The mock-up's ceilings are 9 feet, but the actual finished first floor of the museum's expansion will have 16-foot ceilings. MONA's mock-up replicates the construction of the mass timber frame, which is built from engineered wood products that function as the load bearing element (akin to a steel beam). As you can imagine, the assembly of this type of structure is highly detailed and must be done to precise specifications. The mock-up will also include interior finishes, such as the walls and lighting, providing our team with another opportunity to judge the look of the galleries prior to construction.

In addition to all that is going on outside, we are beginning to see new walls raised inside. This is where the vision, renderings, and countless hours of planning begin to turn into reality. The historic building has served its purpose well over the years and contains countless memories for Kearney. From those dropping off mail in it's grand space, to young men climbing the steps to the second floor to fill out their military registration cards, to the thousands of little feet that have visited MONA through school tours and classes, we hold our story dear.



While the old gives way to the new, we look forward to the countless opportunities that our community will enjoy in the reimagined Museum — and to the new memories that will be made in the years to come.

Happy Spring,

**NEBRASKA  
MARVELS**

THE CAMPAIGN FOR MONA AND  
THE FUTURE OF NEBRASKA ART