

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY FACILITIES AND OPERATIONS

MEMORANDUM

TO: LOW LIBRARY OCCUPANTS

FROM: Elizabeth Ramsey, Project Manager
Nick Na, Project Manager

DATE: July 15, 2021

RE: ***Low Library Monumental Window Replacement and Roof Repairs***

Beginning this month, Facilities and Operations will commence two separate exterior projects at Low Library: one to restore the original historic cast-iron framed monumental arch window on the west side of the Rotunda, and a second to repair and replace a portion of the roof following the removal of mechanical equipment no longer in use.

What's happening

Monumental Window Restoration

This summer, a three-phase, year-long restoration of the monumental cast iron windows by the west gallery in the Rotunda will commence due to deteriorating conditions. The scope of work includes the removal of existing window frames and parts, offsite restoration, and reinstallation of the restored window frames and parts. Upon completion, the project will improve weather proofing in addition to restoring the conditions of the window frame and parts.

For the first phase, taking place this summer into the fall, the window parts will be removed and sent off-site to a cast-iron specialist for fabrication (phase 2). Next spring/summer, we will receive the window parts back for the third and final, reinstallation phase, with final project completion anticipated by end of summer 2022.

During this summer's removal phase, sheds and pipe scaffoldings will be erected on the interior over the west gallery, with an additional soundproof barrier installed adjacent to the interior scaffolding to minimize construction noise. On the exterior, pipe scaffolding will be installed at roof level adjacent to the monumental window, and protective shedding, a hoist and stair tower will be erected on the exterior at Low's northwest corner. When the window is removed for fabrication, in its place will be a custom-built,

plywood barrier with double insulation providing noise and thermal protection, painted to match the color of the roof.

Work hours for the removal phase will be 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., with some work occurring during overnights between 10:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. to reduce disruption to work areas and event spaces. Once the first phase is complete, the ground level shedding, hoist and stair tower at the northwest corner will be removed and reinstalled for the project's conclusion in 2022. The interior and roof-level scaffolding will remain in place for the project's duration.

The west monumental window restoration follows the previous restoration of the south and east windows, with the north window to be restored in the future.

Equipment Removal and Repair/Replacement of Portions of the Roof

On the north side of Low Library, Facilities and Operations will remove decommissioned mechanical equipment on the roof. Following the removal of the old equipment, sections of the roof where the equipment resided will be repaired and replaced to mitigate water penetration to the interior, with additional roof repairs to be made on the east, west, and south elevations. Pipe scaffolding has been erected on the northwest corner of the building to perform this work. The pipe scaffolding for the roof and windows projects are separated by the building's northwest corner entryway.

Work on the roof will commence this week. Regular work hours will be 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, with work taking place on Saturdays as needed. The roof project is anticipated to be completed in October 2021, weather permitting.

What to expect during construction

Expect some noise and other impacts typically associated with construction projects. Some abatement will be conducted at the roof. The roof abatement work, anticipated to be performed in early August during the morning hours, will be restricted to the roof level only and is anticipated to be the noisiest portion of the roof repair project.

Ongoing communications

We will prepare and provide periodic construction updates to keep building occupants apprised of the progress for both projects.

In addition to work in Low this summer, Facilities and Operations is taking the opportunity to complete other projects this summer ahead of the anticipated return to higher density on campus in the fall. For a complete list and an interactive map of all 2021 summer construction projects, please visit cufo.columbia.edu/summer2021construction.

If you have any questions or concerns about these projects, please email projx@columbia.edu or call the Columbia University Facilities Services Center at (212) 854-2222, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. We apologize for any inconvenience and thank you for your patience while we complete this necessary work.

Reference photos of scaffolding locations



Protective shed and pipe scaffolding location at west galley



Protective shed and pipe scaffolding location at roof level



Sidewalk shed and pipe scaffolding location at ground level, northwest corner of building