

**THE NATURE OF INVENTION** is an installation of interrelated art elements that weave together across the C3 lobby, lounge, and other public spaces.

**Wall reliefs** placed throughout the center are constructed from waterjet-cut aluminum. Three **stained-glass corbels** located in the lounge are powdercoated aluminum and glass.

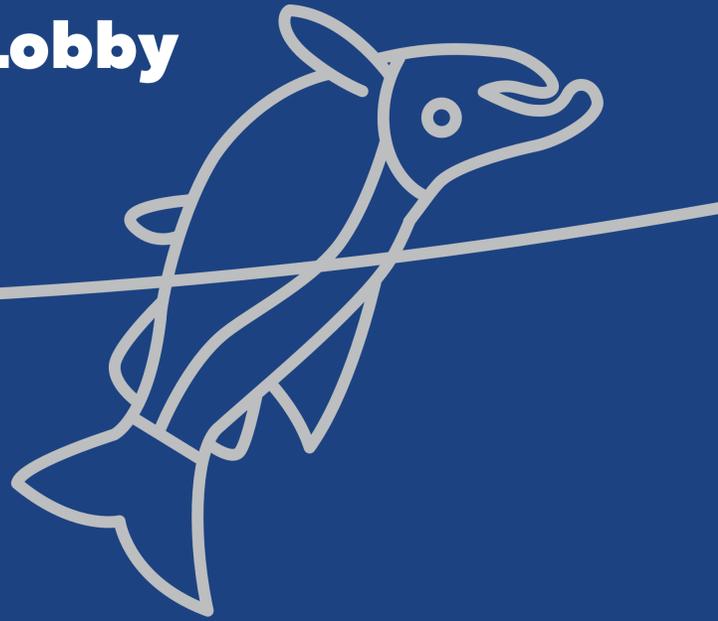
The pieces are all composed of a lattice-work of interconnected line drawings, celebrating various aspects of Corvallis' history, environment, and culture.

**Themes include:**

- Corvallis' longstanding history as a center for technological innovation;
- contributions to the development of regional identity by immigrants and people of color;
- the city's position at the forefront of bicycle culture;
- and the rich natural heritage and wildlife of Corvallis and the Willamette Valley.



## Artwork in the Lobby

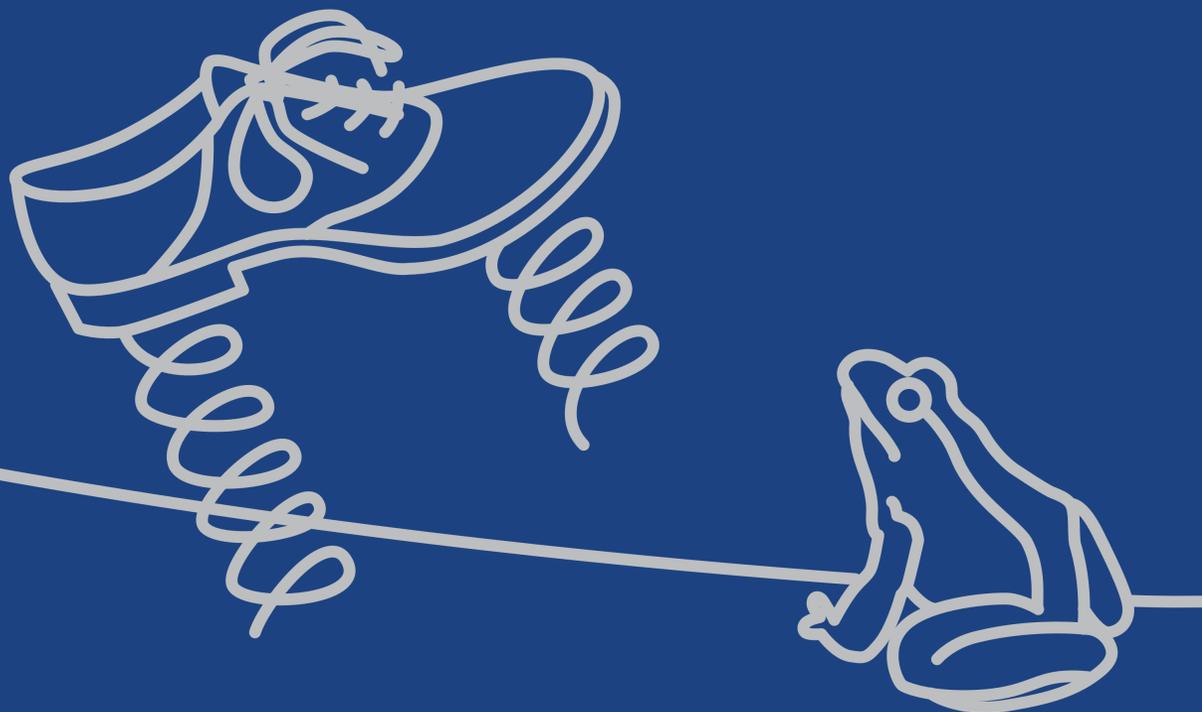


Salmon make several appearances in the C3 artwork. As a symbol of the inventive spirit of Corvallis, one energetic salmon welcomes visitors at the main entrance to the building. This fish honors the spirit of the **Fosbury Flop**, the revolutionary backwards high-jumping technique pioneered by Dick Fosbury as a student athlete (and engineer) at OSU.

The salmon's bar is placed at 7 feet 4 1/4 inches—the same record-setting mark Fosbury cleared with his 'flop heard round the world' at the 1968 Mexico City Olympics. While this unconventional technique appeared absurd to many at the time, it later became understood as a truly visionary innovation of tremendous impact in the evolution of the high-jump event.



**Dick Fosbury clears the bar during practice, 10 October 1968 in Mexico.**  
(STAFF/AFP via Getty Images)





## Elderberry Corbel



Corvallis was originally known by the local Kalapuya people as **Tcha Peenafu (the place where the elderberries grow)**. The blue elderberry was once a prominent plant in the region, drawing Kalapuyas from throughout the Willamette Valley, who collected and dried the berries to store for the winter.

The corbel design includes a Western Tanager, Stellar's Jay, and Western Bluebird, all of which rely on elderberries to some extent for their survival.

