



STANDING BEAR MUSEUM & EDUCATION CENTER

Working with the museum's beautiful Standing Bear Park site, Ethos designed this facility with circular motifs representing equality, the unbroken protection of family, and spiritual resonances from dance and drum circles. The curve of the walls provides a softness that helps merge the building with its surroundings. The six area Nations including Osage, Pawnee, Otoe-Missouria, Kaw, Tonkawa, and Ponca have display spaces in the circular central great room, symbolizing the unity of native peoples.

The entry is designed with features representing the four sacred elements: earth (flagstone paving), water (fountain), air (skylight), and fire (fireplace). Windows are sized and located to merge the outside landscaping into the building, celebrating the tribes' ties to the land. The windows' strategic placements frame views of the Chief Standing Bear statue, the dance arbor, and other culturally-significant features of the park. The only opaque surface at the entry are floating feather door-handles, sculpted by the Standing Bear statue artist, Orelan C. Joe.

In addition to providing museum and archive-safe storage for important cultural artifacts, the facility supports the music, storytelling, and oral traditions of Native American tribes through the interactive classroom and the events and activities in the central multi-purpose room.

SERVICES

ARCHITECTURE
INTERIOR DESIGN
STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING
MASTER PLANNING
CONSTRUCTION ADMINISTRATION

LOCATION

PONCA CITY, OK

COMPLETION DATE

2007

TOTAL SQUARE FOOTAGE

8,500 SF

AWARDS

• AIA OKLAHOMA AWARD OF EXCELLENCE