

*The Harriet Tubman Centennial  
Architectural Design Challenge  
Souvenir Program*



**School of Architecture and Design**



**School of Architecture and Planning**



**School of Architecture and Construction Science**

**KICK-OFF Monday September 9, 2013 3:00 P.M.**

William V.S. Tubman University  
Library Learning Resource Center  
E-brary Program, 09 September 2013

HEGIS Space Code	Space Description	No. Persons	NASF/ Person	NASF/ Room	No. of Rooms	Total NASF
<b>Main Library</b>						
310	Director of Libraries	1	200	200	1	200
310	Administrative Aide	1	125	125	1	125
310	Assistant Director and Head of Circulation	1	125	125	1	125
310	Coordinator of References and Instructional Serv.	1	125	125	1	125
310	Receptionist	1	120	120	1	120
315	Reception	10	25	250	1	250
310	Librarians	3	70	210	1	210
310	Coordinator, Collection Development	1	80	80	1	80
310	Acquisition Specialist/Technicians	4	60	240	1	240
315	Work/File Room	2	110	220	1	220
315	Circulation/Reserve Waiting Area	25	12	300	1	300
315	Circulation Desk/Reserve Shelving Area	2	60	120	1	120
315	Student Technology Center (Copy, Print, Scan, Et.)	n/a	n/a	200	1	200
350	Conference Room	20	20	400	1	400
<b>Sub-Total</b>						<b>2,715</b>
220	Open Computer Lab (with Lab Coordinator)	30	22	660	2	1,320
315	Server Room	1	n/a	100	1	100
<b>Sub-Total</b>						<b>1,420</b>
410	Resources Computer Lab (computer classes)	30	22	660	1	660
410	Group Study Room	8	15	120	5	600
410	Individual Study Room	1	50	50	5	250
315	Server Room	1	n/a	100	1	100
<b>Sub-Total</b>						<b>1,610</b>
420	Stacks (open area of library) Reference Stacks Periodical Display Area Archives	n/a	n/a	4,200	varies	4,200
420	Reserve & Media (DVD, Cassettes) Holding	n/a	100	100	1	100
420	Teacher Resource Room	4	50	200	1	200
<b>Sub-Total</b>						<b>4,500</b>
440	Reference Services Desks	2	45	90	1	90
420	Book Storage	n/a		200	1	200
420	Materials Processing Room	n/a		100	1	100
420	Receiving Area w/ Dock	n/a		300	1	300
420	Books Staging Area	n/a		200	1	200
<b>Sub-Total</b>						<b>890</b>
620	Exhibition/Display Area	n/a		250	1	250
<b>Sub-Total</b>						<b>250</b>
650	Staff Lounge	10	50	500	1	500
	Men's Toilet	6	30	180	1	180
	Women's Toilet	6	40	240	1	240
<b>Sub-Total</b>						<b>920</b>

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HEGIS Space Code	Space Description	No. Persons	NASF/ Person	NASF/ Room	No. of Rooms	Total NASF
<b>Main Library Total NASF</b>						<b>12,305</b>
<b>Lonestar Cell – MTN Student Success Center</b>						
210	Remedial Services Center (30 PC Stations)	30	25	750	1	750
211	ICT Resource Room (30 PC Stations)	30	25	750	1	750
<b>Sub-Total</b>						<b>1,500</b>
220	Individual Study Rooms	4	30	120	4	480
220	Career Center Workshop Room	15	30	450	1	450
220	Transfer Center – Cubicles	4	40	160	1	160
220	Tutorial Center	15	30	450	2	900
220	Student Engagement Lounge	20	40	800	1	800
<b>Sub-Total</b>						<b>2,790</b>
310	Director of Student Success Center	1	200	200	1	200
310	Success Coordinator	1	125	125	3	375
310	Student Success Specialist	1	125	125	2	250
310	Administrative Assistant	1	100	100	1	100
315	Reception (with additional peak waiting space)	8	60	480	1	480
315	Server Room	1	n/a	100	1	100
315	Work/File Room	n/a	n/a	150	1	150
350	Conference Room	15	25	375	1	375
<b>Sub-Total</b>						<b>2,030</b>
410	General Student Study Space	20	25	500	1	500
410	Student/Athlete Study Space	20	25	500	1	500
	Men's Toilet	4	30	120	1	120
	Women's Toilet	4	40	160	1	160
<b>Sub-Total</b>						<b>1,280</b>
<b>Student Success Center Total NASF</b>						<b>7,600</b>
<b>Center for Teaching and Learning Excellence (CTLE)</b>						
310	Director of CTLE	1	200	200	1	200
310	Program Coordinator	1	125	125	1	125
310	Teaching Specialist	2	125	250	1	250
310	Receptionist	1	120	120	1	120
315	Reception	20	25	500	1	500
315	Work/File Room	n/a	n/a	200	1	200
<b>Sub-Total</b>						<b>1,395</b>
210	Faculty Training Rooms	25	25	625	2	1,250
420	Faculty Resource Room	25	30	750	1	750
650	Faculty Break Room	8	40	320	1	320
680	Faculty Academy Presentation Room	25	40	1,000	1	1,000
<b>Sub-Total</b>						<b>3,320</b>
<b>Center for Teaching and Learning Excellence Total NASF</b>						<b>4,715</b>

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HEGIS Space Code	Space Description	No. Persons	NASF/ Person	NASF/ Room	No. of Rooms	Total NASF
<b>Main Library Total NASF</b>						<b>12,305</b>
<b>Information Technology Center (ITC)</b>						
310	IT Director	1	200	200	1	200
310	Assistant Director for Campus Resources	1	125	125	1	125
310	Network Administrator	1	150	150	1	150
310	IT Assistant	1	125	125	3	375
310	Network and Security Officer(s)	2	80	160	1	160
310	Lab Tech	4	80	320	3	960
310	Telecom Assistant(s)	n/a	n/a	200	1	200
310	IT Help Desk	2	80	160	1	160
315	Reception (with Receptionist)	8	50	400	1	400
315	Work/File Room	n/a	n/a	200	1	200
315	Staff Break Room	16	40	640	1	640
350	Conference Room	16	25	400	1	400
540	Computer Prep/Staging	n/a	n/a	150	1	150
710	Data Center Server Rooms	n/a	n/a	150	2	300
710	Network Test Room	n/a	n/a	100	1	100
<b>Sub-Total</b>						<b>4,520</b>
310	Media Services Manager	1	200	200	1	200
311	Media Services Assistant	2	125	125	2	250
530	Media Production Room	n/a	n/a	200	1	200
310	Media and A/V Equipment room	n/a	n/a	200	1	200
540	Media Storage/Repair Room	n/a	n/a	350	1	350
<b>Sub-Total</b>						<b>1,200</b>
	Men's Toilet	4	30	120	1	120
	Women's Toilet	4	40	160	1	160
<b>Sub-Total</b>						<b>280</b>
<b>Information Technology Center Total NASF</b>						<b>6,000</b>
<b>Shared Spaces</b>						
210	Community Training Room (30 PC Stations)	25	25	625	1	625
210	Video Conferencing Room (30 PC Stations)	30	25	750	1	750
630	Cyber Café	30	35	1,050	1	1,050
680	Medium Conference/Meeting Room	25	20	500	1	500
680	Large Conference/Meeting Room	35	20	700	1	700
730	General Storage	n/a	n/a	200	1	200
680	Auditorium	250	20	5,000	1	5,000
	E-brary Retail/Gift/Rental Shop	n/a	n/a	800	1	800
	Generator	n/a	n/a	500	1	500
	Men's Toilet	12	30	360	1	360
	Women's Toilet	15	40	600	1	600
<b>Shared Spaces Total NASF</b>						<b>5,085</b>
<b>Library Learning Resource Center NSF</b>						<b>40,705</b>
<i>Efficiency Factor</i>						<i>.75</i>
<b>Library Learning Resource Center Total NSF</b>						<b>54,273</b>

## **PROGRAM DESIGN CHALLENGE**

How do we envision a new and rephrase questions about the architecture of higher learning, information, education and technology in the Liberian context, and in tomorrow's Global context? The Harriet Tubman Centennial E-brary Learning Center Architecture Design Challenge is created to address that question by seeking critical design ideas and solutions from the creative and intellectual resources of select Historic Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) in collaboration with the Liberian and Liberian American professional architecture communities for the William V.S. Tubman University (TU).

## **SITE AND CONTEXT**

William V.S. Tubman University is a nationally accredited comprehensive, government sponsored four-year degree granting institution with a local, national and international focus. Tubman University serves a broad constituency. Located in Maryland County, Liberia, it is the only public institution of higher education in southeastern Liberia and one of only two public institutions in the Country. TU's allegiance is not just to Maryland County and the southeastern region, but also to all of Liberia as well as the world beyond. Tubman University has a local, national and international focus with emphasis on the celebration of diversity and promotion of equal opportunities. While its vision is to be a center of quality and excellence, TU's mission is to transform lives for worthy service through quality educational experiences.

Established as a university in 2009 with nearly 300 students, more than 900 students are expected to begin the 2013-14 school year. This growth requires enhanced facilities for the student body. To this end, TU President, Dr. Elizabeth Davis-Russell presented to the William V.S. Tubman University Foundation Board the need for an expanded Library and learning center. The Board accepted the challenge and began discussions about the vision of what was to be created.

TU's vision for the project is that it is innovative both in physical, conceptual and operational design. Discussions of the project advisory team suggested that innovation would require that technology plays a major role in its design. This would better accommodate the creation of a 21st Century, state-of-the-art learning and information center with the title "E-brary".

The year 2013 marks the 100th Anniversary of the great emancipator, Harriet Tubman. Although born in enslavement in the State of Maryland, United States of America, and denied education, her commitment and determination led hundreds of enslaved persons to freedom. Therefore, the TU Foundation commemorates the life of Harriet Tubman with the Harriet Tubman Architectural Design Challenge & Project involving Howard, Morgan State and Tuskegee Universities. After the Challenge the selected schematic design, shall result in the building of a facility which will have united American and African Universities and professionals in the quest for knowledge. This quest shall foster relationships that are transformational for students, professionals and communities across the globe.

It is not an exaggeration to state that this Project could become a model for international cooperation between Africans and African Americans. Tubman University would like to see ideas that embrace the African nature of the University while also incorporating a U.S and futuristic world vision in the design of what is to be far more than a "library".

The facility is to be a learning and information center for the campus and community at large. Space must be provided for student as well as community gatherings and "brainstorming". While quiet areas are to be included, there also needs to be provision of "social" interaction in the process of information sharing in the tradition of the "Palava Hut", i.e., a traditional place where communication and problem resolution occurs. A portion of the Center should be devoted to digital technology. In addition, the design should incorporate TU's current nexus of focus for future projects which are renewable energy, agriculture and technology. Connecting all of these is TU's commitment to internationalization and the entrepreneurial spirit to produce empowered global citizens.

## **E-BRARY CONCEPT AND PROGRAM**

E-brary is a platform that provides online access to textbooks and other reference materials in a digital format on site. Areas in the E-brary facility would include multiple internet computer labs for different subject areas with space for downloading, printing and/or copying within the lab; an interactive digital window wall to perform internet searches about books, data and authors or creative citations to the publications; management and maintenance staff offices, computer and server hardware service area, storage and building support areas. The facility may also include an E-brary Shop for the sale and/or rental of laptops, and other digital accessories.

Environmental climate control is paramount. Computers and servers have different environmental requirements for people. The hardware must be protected from light, heat and moisture with a dry bulb temperature different from people-occupied spaces. Back-up servers must be archived within a magnetically sealed area.

## **LEARNING CENTER**

To encourage people to utilize the E-brary, and as spaces and areas that work to complement the E-brary are available, a Learning Center component that consists of study areas and more social spaces may be incorporated into the facility, including study areas with varied types of seating video/Skype conferencing, meeting spaces, auditoriums, exhibit areas, multimedia recording and broadcasting studios, and a wired lounge or café. The E-brary and Learning Center facility must integrate into the evolving fabric of the campus with a dynamic contemporary building with forms and shapes respectful of the Liberian/African Heritage. The entrance should orientate you to all that the facility may have to offer the public with an information/reception area for assistance.

## History and Geography of Maryland County, Liberia

The William V.S. Tubman University is located in Maryland County, nestled in the southeastern corner of Liberia between the shores of the Atlantic Ocean to the South and the Cavalla River, which is also Liberia's border with neighboring Côte d'Ivoire, to the East. Maryland County in Liberia has a rich and complex history.

The *oral traditions* of the Kru speaking peoples of the southeastern region of Liberia inform us that they began to arrive in this area as early as the fourteenth century following political upheavals in the Mali Empire which led to the arrival of waves of refugees fleeing south. Up to that point, Kru power had been centered on the Nyanja Confederation which flourished on the eastern shore of the Cavalla River. It was the disruption caused by the influx of this new element from the north that prompted the migration of various Kru speakers - including the Grebo, the Krao, the Bassa, the Dei, the Kuwaa or Belle, and the Krahn, among others – west across the river into what would eventually become Liberia. The Grebo people crossed the river first and established places like Barrobo, Pleebo and Sodeken. They farmed, fished, traded, re-established their political, social, cultural and religious institutions, and practiced their ancient arts and crafts. Today, Grebo culture, in its many linguistic variations, sits at the very foundation of Maryland County, and has contributed significantly to the national fabric of Liberia.

The *recorded history* of the area that became Maryland County in Liberia begins in the middle of the fifteenth century with the appearance of the vanguard of the Portuguese mercantile interests as they advanced down the coast of West Africa in their search for an alternative route to the fabled gold mines of the African interior. When they came upon it, they named the area *Cabo das Palmas* or the Cape of Palms, after the ubiquitous palm trees that dotted the low lying coastal landscape as well as the promontory jutting out into the Atlantic. The Cavalla River they re-named because of the abundance of mackerels (called *cavalla* in Portuguese) found in the river. The river also marks the western end of the Gulf of Guinea. On their maps, Europeans gave various names to the coast – the *Malaguetta* or Pepper Coast, the Grain Coast, the Windward Coast – reflecting their commercial and other interests. West of the Cavalla River, the area of the sea closest to the shore is marked by many shoals which made shipping in the early period treacherous and provided a small measure of protection against the European slave ships plying the West African coast. However, the odious traffic in humans dominated the commerce of the West African coast and the area around Cape Palmas was no exception.

The Grebo people had been interacting with Europeans for over three hundred years by the time African Americans arrived at Cape Palmas in the 1830s. Some Grebo were casualties of the trans-Atlantic slave trade. According to oral tradition, one such individual was Anthony Wood, a young Grebo boy who had been captured and enslaved and shipped to the West Indies, but who returned via Baltimore to Cape Palmas in 1834 to help set up the new “Maryland in Africa” colony that was founded for African Americans with support from the Maryland State Colonization Society, an auxiliary of the larger American Colonization Society or ACS.

Liberia itself was founded in 1822 with the arrival of African Americans at Cape Mesurado, some 300 miles and one day's sail north of Cape Palmas. Under the auspices of the ACS and the United States government, the African Americans first established a series of settlements – Monrovia being the largest – along the coast and inland along the St Paul River. The new colony was given the name Liberia (a derivation from the Latin word, *liber*, which means free) to signify it as a place where blacks escaping slavery and oppression in the United States could live in freedom. United States General Robert Goodloe Harper, a prominent white Baltimorean and leading member of the American Colonization Society, is credited with coming up with the name. The capital city of Maryland County, Harper, was subsequently named in honor of the General after his death.

When the Maryland State Colonization Society, under the leadership of Baltimore's John H.B. Latrobe, decided to set up its own colony in West Africa, they turned to Dr. James Hall and asked him to lead the effort. Dr. Hall was an energetic and resourceful white medical doctor from Baltimore, and a man of liberal views, who at the time had been living for some years in Monrovia and making his services available to that colony. With Hall appointed as Agent and Governor of the new and separate “Maryland in Africa” colony, he and 31 colonists including Anthony Wood, who was also a blacksmith, headed to Cape Palmas to commence setting up the new colony. Negotiations were held with the local Grebo people to acquire land for the settlement.

Dr. Hall was supported in his initial efforts by a cast of remarkable individuals including his good friend John Brown Russwurm, and George McGill and his family, who were originally from Baltimore's free black community. The McGills became the wealthiest merchants in Cape Palmas and the family produced Liberia's first trained medical doctor. Russwurm, who was born in Jamaica, was one of the first African Americans to receive a university degree – Bowdoin College, class of 1826 – and was a co-founder of the first African American owned and operated newspaper, *Freedom's Journal*, which was published in New York. Russwurm was also the founding editor of the *Liberia Herald*, Liberia's first newspaper. After Dr. Hall returned to the United States in 1836, Russwurm was appointed Governor of Maryland in Africa and he served in that capacity until his death in 1851. Russwurm's regime was progressive for that era. For example, colonists found guilty of beating their wives had to serve time in jail.

Both the Hall and Russwurm administrations forged strong links with the Grebo people, led at the time by the illustrious Bede Sia Pah Nyema or “King Freeman” as he was called by the African American settlers. However, relations between the Grebo and the African American settlers deteriorated after the deaths of Russwurm and King Freeman. In 1854, the settlers, hoping to consolidate their control over the area, declared Cape Palmas an independent state, calling it Maryland State. Three years later, in 1857, as relations between the two groups deteriorated even further, the African American settlers at Cape Palmas agreed to be annexed to the Republic of Liberia, thus becoming Maryland County.

The ensuing years were marked by both conflict and cooperation, beginning with the Liberia-Grebo War of 1875-76 and continuing with the 1893 Grebo uprising led by the messianic evangelist Prophet William Wadé Harris. Matters were made worse by the regular interference of France, who had colonial ambitions in the region and coveted Liberian territory. France would eventually seize Liberian land between the San Pedro and Cavalla Rivers and annex the seized land to the French colony of Côte d'Ivoire. It was at that point that the Cavalla River became the eastern boundary of Liberia, effectively cutting the Grebo people in two, half of them residing in Liberia, the other half in Côte d'Ivoire.

However, the low point in Maryland County history occurred in the late 1920s when it was revealed that high ranking Liberian government officials, including Vice President Allen Yancy, a prominent resident of Harper, had been involved in a self-enrichment scheme to forcibly recruit and ship people off to work in slave-like conditions on the coffee plantations in the Spanish colony of Fernando Po, an island off the coast of Nigeria. In perhaps their finest hour, Marylanders from all walks of life came together and protested against this great injustice and appealed to countries around the world. Yancy was forced by the protests and foreign pressure to resign his office in shame, along with President Charles D.B. King.

Yet conflict was only part of Maryland County's history. Influenced by the determined missionary activities of the eminent nineteenth century Grebo evangelist Thomas Gabla Brownell and others, many Grebo converted to Christianity and adopted English names. Inter-marriage between the indigenous and settler populations also took place. In addition, Maryland County was a pioneer in setting up educational institutions in Liberia. Cuttington College was established there in 1889 by Bishop Samuel David Ferguson, the first black man to hold that position in the Episcopal Church, and it was accessible to a broad swath of the population. Cape Palmas High School and Bishop Ferguson High School were always among the best secondary schools in the country. It is no accident therefore that Maryland County has produced a disproportionately high number of distinguished figures in Liberian history including three Presidents, the country's first indigenous Liberian Vice President, H. Too Wesley, and many of its leading jurists, theologians and educators.

Maryland County, like other parts of Liberia, was deeply affected by the Liberian Civil Wars during the period from 1989-2003, but recovery has begun. Today, Maryland County, with its 140,000 residents and 900 square miles, is a hub for food production and its soil and climate make it potentially an important source of cash crop production for export to the world market. Liberia's timber industry is also centered in that part of the country. Harper, the administrative capital and principal port of the County, and Pleebo, its largest city, are bustling areas of commerce. Harper is one hour by air from the nation's capital, Monrovia, and 15 minutes from Tabou, a border city in Côte d'Ivoire, and because Harper is a coastal city, it has miles of beautiful white sandy beaches and lagoons making it a potential tourism haven.

## **About the University**

William V.S. Tubman College of Technology, then known as TC, opened its doors to students in August of 1978 prior to the formal Legislative Act, which occurred on 20 of September, 1978. It was named for William Vacanarat Shadrach Tubman, who hailed from Maryland County and served for 27 years as Liberia's 19<sup>th</sup> President, from 1944 until his death in 1971. He is generally considered as 'the father of modern Liberia.' TC provided technical education for the middle level manpower needs of Liberia until June 1990 when the college was forced to close its doors as a result of the Liberian civil conflict. The college produced over 50% of Liberia's technical manpower needs in architectural, civil, electrical, electronic and mechanical engineering technology. Many of the graduates are currently serving in Liberia, Africa and other parts of the world. In August 2009, an Act to repeal the Act of 1978 and to create the William V.S. Tubman University was enacted by the national Legislature. Subsequently, Tubman University opened its doors to students in September 2009 with five colleges: College of Agriculture and Food Sciences, College of Education, College of Health Sciences, College of Management and Administration, and the College of Technology. A total of 287 students were enrolled during the first semester. Tubman University has a population close to 346 general and professional staff and roughly has 774 students enrolled in the five colleges for the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester of school year 2013. The university occupies about 294 acres of highly vegetated low hills and plains along the Harper-Pleebo highway; and is located five miles from Harper City. Under the leadership of Dr. Elizabeth Davis-Russell, former Provost at SUNY Cortland, N.Y., the administration is committed to creating a 21st century university characterized by quality and excellence.

**The William V.S. Tubman University Foundation is committed “to generate support for quality educational opportunities at Tubman University that can transform lives in service to Liberia, Africa and the world.”**

**The Foundation commemorates Harriet Tubman Centennial with this design challenge as it expands the quest for knowledge leading to transformation for worthy service to humanity.**

**Harriet Tubman's inspiration to break past limitations to shoot for the freedom of intellectual pursuits, knowledge to explore new territories, reach across aisles of delineations, reach back to bring the less fortunate forward should be one of the challenges of this extraordinary opportunity for HSBC architectural students to show case their creative talent for future generations.**



## Program

Invocation	Rev. Rita Townsend, Vice President, Tubman University
Introduction to the Challenge	Prof. Brad Grant and Chairman Edward Dunson, Howard University
Introductory Comments	Dean Mary Ann Akers, Morgan State University Ms. Daya Irene Taylor and Mr. R. Fluker, Tuskegee University Dean, Dr. Barbara Simmons, Tubman University
Presentation of TU Master Plan	Nathaniel Baker, Advisor to Project
Questions and Answers	Moderator, Prof. Grant
Project Perspective - Architects	I.W. Wallace, Collaborating Liberians
Historic Overview of Liberia	Introduction of Film “Africa’s Maryland”
Questions and Answers	Moderator Prof. Grant
Conclusion Statement	Dr. Wille Bragg, Morgan State University
Closing Statement	Gerald F.B. Cooper, William V.S. Tubman Foundation Board

**September 9, 2013, 3:00 P.M.** via Video teleconference link, Howard University, Washington DC; Morgan State University, Baltimore, MD; Tuskegee University, Alabama, and William V.S. Tubman University, Maryland County, Liberia.

### *Milestone Dates*

- November 1, 2013**.....Final three project teams selected from each school (Three students per College).  
**November 8-9, 2013**.....Presentation of work/Blending of teams. Cultural emersion at Morgan State.  
**January 13-23, 2014**.....Travel to Liberia, Charette, presentation and winning team selection.  
**March 2014** .....Awards Gala, Washington DC Metro area.

**Thanks to all who are working to make this historical event happen.**

## Organizer



## Promoter



**Marylanders For Progress (Liberia), Inc..**

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