

School of Social Work to relocate downtown in August

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Social work's downtown home is the 1917-era building at 127 Elk Place. (Photos from the Tulane School of Social Work)

The Tulane [School of Social Work](#) is heading to downtown New Orleans, and dean Ron Marks says the move in August will benefit students, faculty and alumni alike.

The school has been located on the uptown campus for nearly 60 years, but with the move, the school will almost triple its office and classroom space as well as walk into a state-of-the-art facility at 127 Elk Place.

"This is our return to our community roots," Marks says. "It's a chance to move into a completely renovated facility that has a long history. We'll have the space we need to continue to grow while also being embedded in the community that our profession strives to help on a daily basis."

Located just steps from Canal Street, adjacent to the Joy Theater, the school will be housed on the third and fourth floors, which include 20,000 square feet compared to its current 7,000-square-foot home.

Nearby are the Tulane School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine and the School of Medicine.



Eskew + Dumez + Ripple architects, who drew this rendering of the new reception area, are leading the building renovation.

The former Elks Lodge and headquarters for Gulf Oil Co. was built in 1917 and is being transformed into a modern learning space via a multi-million dollar renovation headed by the Eskew + Dumez + Ripple architectural firm, along with Donahue Favret Contractors Inc.

The facility will house state-of-the-art smart classrooms while the two student lounges will provide ample space to study and socialize.

"The architects and interior designers have crafted a first-class space," Marks says. "This facility will not only feel welcoming, but it will provide our faculty and students with a top-notch learning space.

"Our updated smart classrooms and interview spaces will enhance our students' learning while our location will make us more accessible to our community partners."

As part of the project, the university plans to upgrade the first floor entrance, making it compliant to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), as well as adding additional meeting space.

Joseph Halm is marketing/communications coordinator for the Tulane School of Social Work.