

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)
Osher Lifelong Learning Institute Relocation

November 4, 2025

Relocation

California State University, Fullerton (CSUF) has provided guidance to relocate the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) from the Ruby Gerontology Center (RGC) to Titan Hall.

OLLI has a mutual and positive understanding with the university that reflects our shared commitment to partnership and student success. In the spirit of collaboration, we have formed an Advisory Group to address key relocation issues that have been raised — including safety, accessibility, parking, cost, and continuity — and to identify solutions that best serve our campus and OLLI.

This group consists of five members from the university and five members from OLLI. John Beisner, CSUF Executive Director for Risk Management and Compliance will serve as the group’s facilitator. A representative from Auxiliary Services Corporation (ASC) and three others comprise the university team. President Vickie Hite will lead the OLLI team.

As OLLI and the university move forward, our goal is to work together productively and in consultation with one another. To support this process, the university has also extended the relocation timeline to no sooner than June 2026, allowing time for continued discussion and review.

We will shape a path forward that both honors OLLI’s legacy and aligns with the university’s mission and long-term needs. And we are committed to maintaining open, respectful communication and engaging in this work with a spirit of collaboration.

Why is OLLI being relocated

The university credits the request of this relocation to the admission of a record student body of over 45,000 this year, the largest in the CSU system.

“With only 14 large classrooms on campus, including Mackey Auditorium in the Ruby Gerontology Center (RGC), we are now operating at near-maximum use of available instructional space,” the university said in a recent statement to the Daily Titan.

“Repurposing facilities such as RGC could create thousands of additional class seats each semester – capacity our students urgently need.”

“I’m working hard, not only to be collaborative, but to be responsive to human needs, but I would not neglect what I know to be true about the future of this campus as it pertains to student success,” said CSUF President Ronald Rochon.

“I’ve offered OLLI an opportunity to sit down with members of our campus... to sit down and talk about what can we do,” Rochon said. “How can we potentially look at the existing space, look at new space and actually find a win-win in the room with regard with how we provide access and continued success for all Titans.”

Where and what is Titan Hall

Titan Hall consists of two buildings at the corner of State College Boulevard and Dorothy Lane. It is the former Western State University College of Law, now owned by the Auxiliary Services Corporation (ASC). See this Daily Titan article for background:

https://dailytitan.com/news/campus/titan-hall-set-to-open-to-students-in-may/article_5233e9c6-7ff2-5fe0-96bc-a4150513ac21.html

What are some of OLLI’s most important relocation concerns

- Classroom, office and storage space equivalency
- Costs - the impact to OLLI’s finances and membership
- Occupancy terms
- Parking and pedestrian/trolley access to a facility adjacent to an arterial road (State College Blvd.)
- Information technology parity, including audio/video equipment
- Operation and security procedures in buildings with other tenants

What is Osher Lifelong Learning Institute

The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute has been a CSUF chartered program since 1979 and is currently administered through the Office of Academic Programs. We are a thriving branch of a national senior learning organization with 1,200 + members from a broad cross-section of the community. All institutes are affiliated with universities. OLLI at CSUF ranks among the top of the 125 locations nation-wide for membership levels, programming strength, and the long-standing, close connection to and significant contributions for student success at our host university.

What is the Ruby Gerontology Center

The Ruby Gerontology Center is a 15,000 square foot stand-alone building on the campus of Cal State Fullerton. It opened in 1988 and has been the ‘center of gravity’ for OLLI, the location of its administrative offices and most classes, events, and social activities. The facility includes the Shapiro multi-purpose rooms, kitchen, restrooms, storage areas, computer lab, Mackey Auditorium, classrooms, offices and patio. OLLI members have the use of the adjacent OLLI parking lot. The construction of the RGC was a legacy of the

Continuing Learning Experience (CLE), OLLI's predecessor organization, and was named after major donors Charles L. and Rachael E. Ruby. From its opening day 37 years ago, the RGC was designed to operate as a hosted multi-purpose facility. Many classrooms and the auditorium have been shared for years with the university for student classes and faculty programs.

University leadership requested that OLLI conduct a space utilization study of the RGC to determine how classes and events were being scheduled and spaces used. This study was completed and forwarded to the university in August. It was found that OLLI uses all space available to it at the RGC. Continuing along the current growth path, OLLI anticipates reaching 1,600 members soon with the demand to provide additional on-campus classes and a corresponding need for more room space than the RGC can provide.

How was the RGC constructed

The RGC is sited on land authorized by the California State University Board of Trustees for a campus gerontology and learning center. Design and construction of the building was achieved through a capital fund raising project spanning seven years (1980-1986) led by OLLI President Leo Shapiro. It raised several million dollars and required thousands of hours of CLE member volunteer effort working in concert with university leaders. No state funds were expended - it was the first major building on campus to be built with private, corporate and foundation funds. An OLLI member contributed his time to act as the Project Manager. OLLI President Shapiro and the Project Manager were honored as university volunteers of the year for their efforts. Over the years, OLLI has invested hundreds of thousands of dollars' worth of RGC infrastructure renovation and IT upgrades paid for by membership fees and donations. The RGC was gifted to and is owned by CSUF.

What is the significance of the RGC to OLLI

OLLI has been deeply attached to this legacy campus home, our headquarters for decades of lifelong learners who serve our communities and provide significant financial and intergenerational learning support to the university. Our members are woven into the fabric of the university. The RGC has been a critical component of OLLI's existence. It was purpose-built to accommodate the needs of a world-class gerontology center and CLE/OLLI learning hub. It is not just a collection of rooms – it is a dynamic space where seniors learn (including through courses taught by CSUF faculty and by student performances), stay healthy, socialize, and thrive. A base for most of activities that drive the feeling that we, as OLLI members, are a key part of the CSUF campus and family. This distinguishes OLLI from other learning and socialization options available to members, like

community and senior centers, religious organizations, and brotherhood/sisterhood programs.

In March 1986, President Jewel Plummer Cobb provided assurance in a written statement that “...CLE (*now OLLI*) would continue to be provided space in the building as long as it remained a viable and growing organization. Speaking personally as well as for the entire university, our relationship is a valued one and we look forward to a continued close relationship in the building that we have worked together to bring to realization.”

And in 1989, the CSUF Academic Senate passed a resolution expressing their deep appreciation of the efforts of the members of CLE (*now OLLI*) for their generosity, leadership and dedicated work on behalf of the RGC.

CSUF received a prestigious designation in 2021 by the Age-Friendly University Global Network as an “Age-Friendly University”. “At CSUF, we embrace our wide-ranging diversity, not as a hollow talking point, but as a strength we can and must leverage to create collaborative and vibrant learning communities,” said Fram Virjee, then President of Cal State Fullerton. OLLI and the RGC were important factors in achieving that designation.

Some perspective on other OLLIs

There are about 125 other Osher Lifelong Learning Institutes nation-wide, each hosted by a local college or university.

https://www.osherfoundation.org/olli_list.html

Many are located on campus in single-use or shared facilities as OLLI CSUF has been fortunate to maintain for so long at the RGC. However, other OLLIs around the country must use or rent space in less suitable off-campus facilities throughout their communities, including at libraries, senior centers, schools, churches, and commercial buildings.

Our future

We believe that our shared future at Cal State Fullerton is bright.

OLLI is a passionate community of dedicated lifelong learners who enrich the organization and the university with their knowledge, skills and life experiences. Intergenerational learning, mentoring and philanthropic opportunities provide us with a rewarding way to ‘give back’ to students who represent our future. We also enhance the university’s relationship to local communities and boost their reputation as an institution committed to quality education and intellectual exploration.

The institute at the RGC has been in a long (47 year) and mutually beneficial partnership with our host Cal State Fullerton. This is a deeply valued relationship that both parties wish to continue by OLLI's continued presence on campus.

Orange County is expected to see significant increases in its older adult population in years to come, boosting the need for a strong and vibrant OLLI. Our membership levels are expected to increase over time.

To address this changing demographic, OLLI has a vision to provide active older adults with opportunities to continue learning in a university setting, engage with peers, serve our communities, and support and enhance the activities of the university. OLLI will:

- Provide lifelong learning opportunities in courses and activities desired and determined by the membership.
- Collaborate with CSUF colleges and schools, University Advancement, ASC, ASI, Alumni Association, Emeriti, and other campus organizations (e.g. Basic Needs Services).
- Provide members the means to coordinate, teach, and participate in activities and to thereby share their wealth of knowledge and expertise.
- Create a social milieu that enables members to enjoy fellowship with their peers.
- Provide volunteering opportunities within the university.