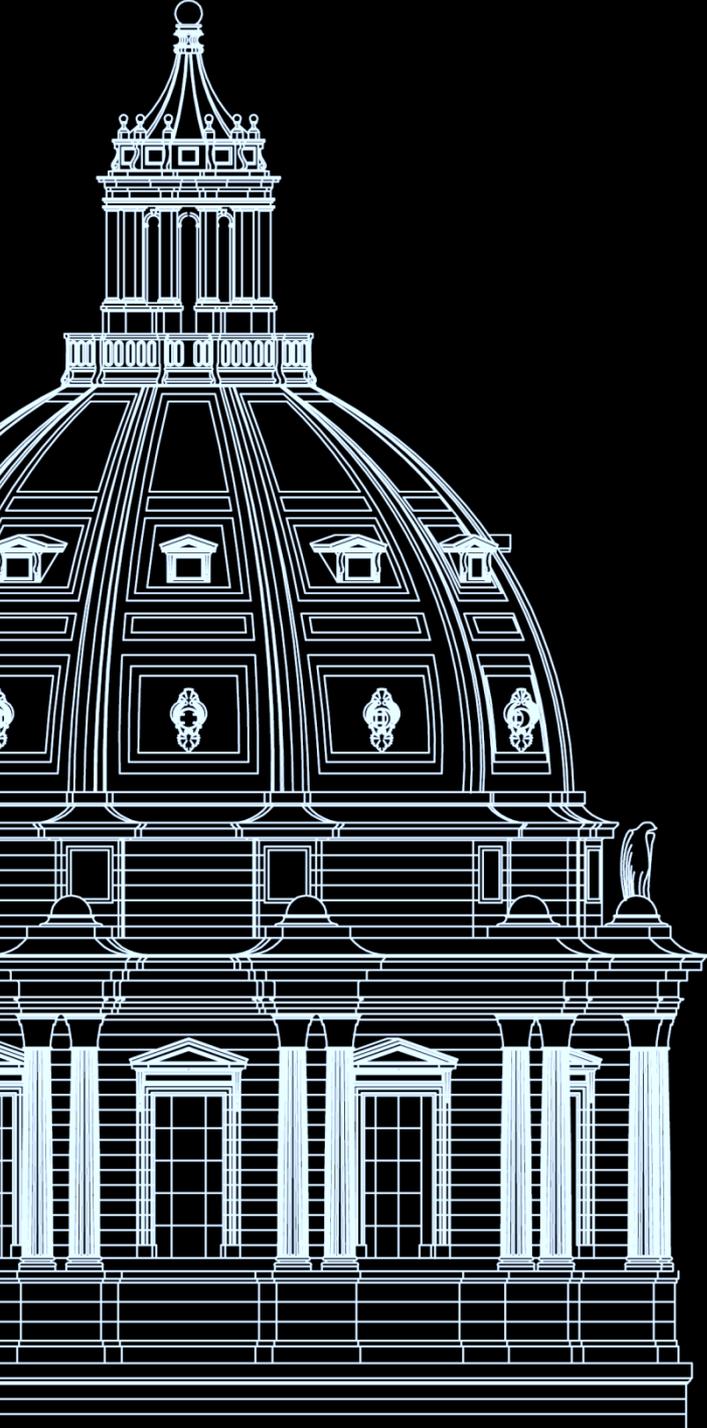
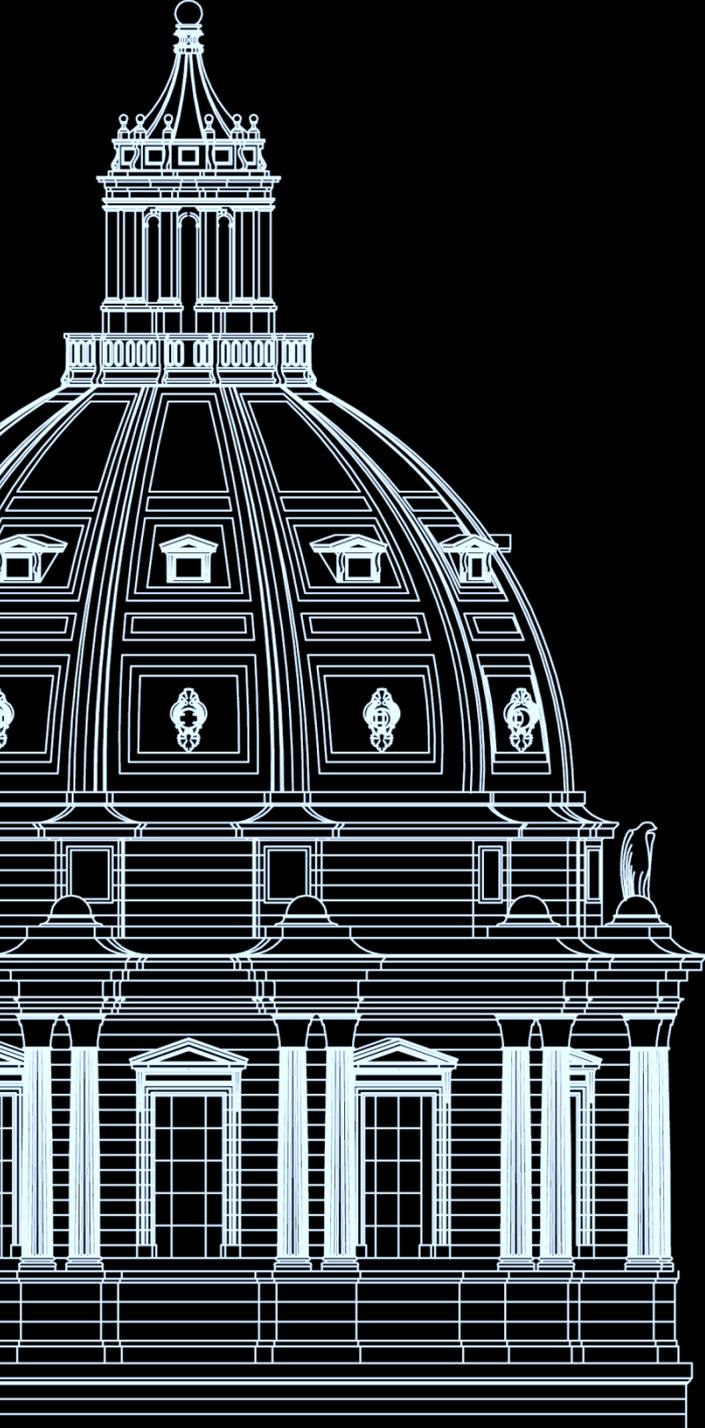


Welcome!

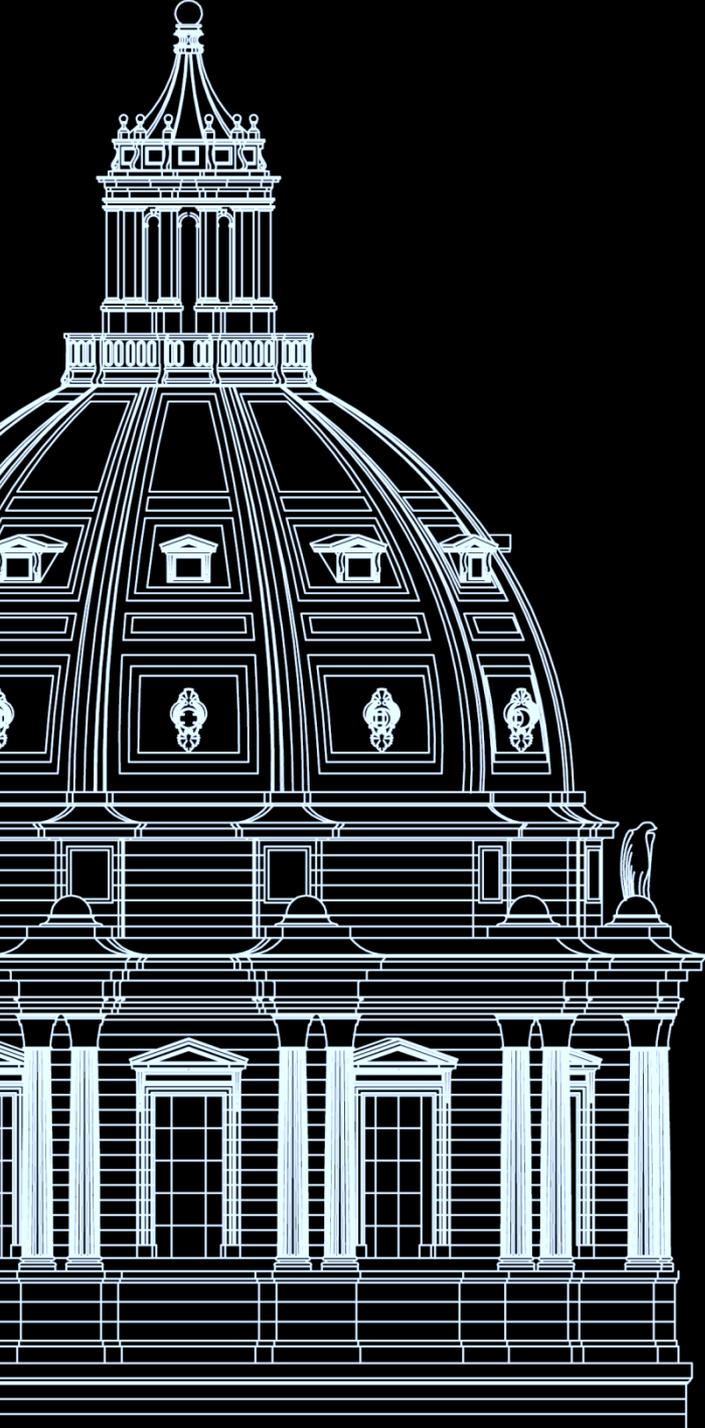
Public Input Meeting on Art in the Capitol



Introductions



Why we are having this meeting



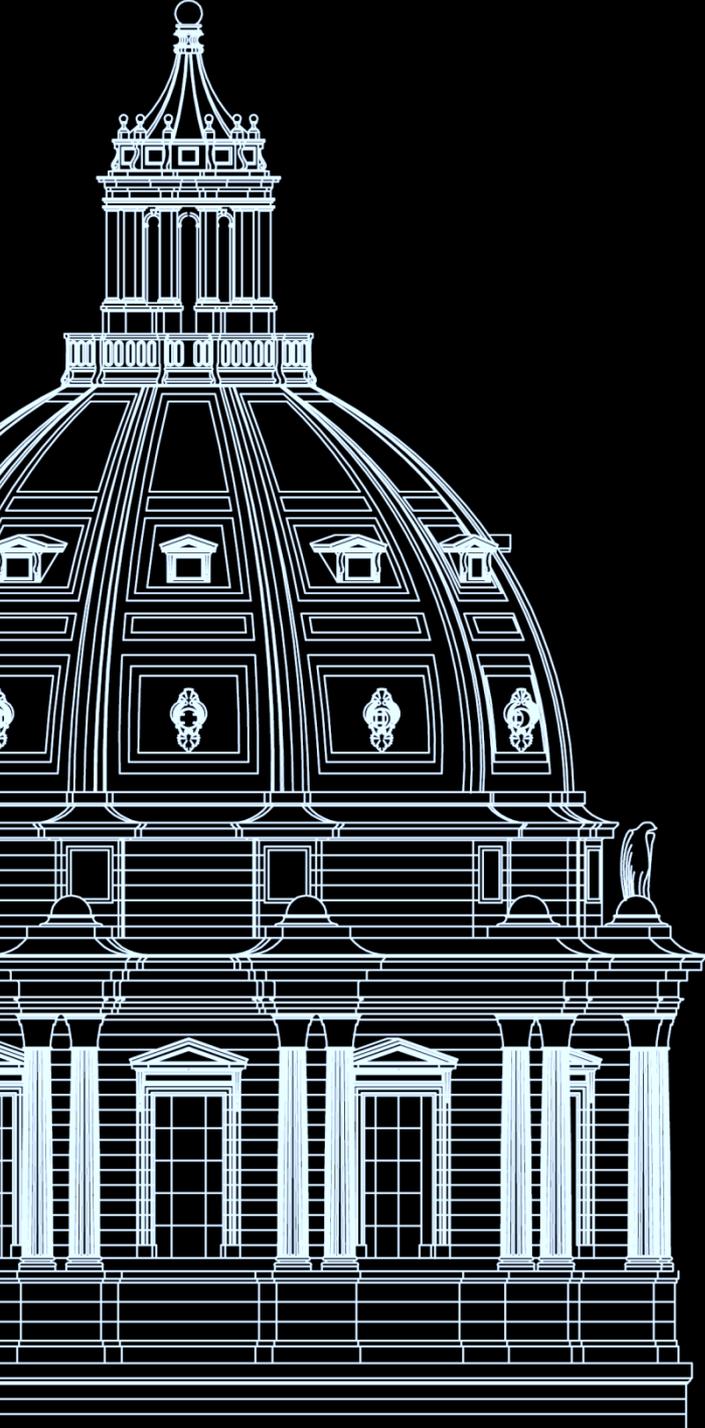
Who we are

- Subcommittee formed in 2015 by the Capitol Preservation Commission.
- 12 members include bi-partisan legislative leadership and public citizens.
- Diverse: Multicultural, Native American experts, historians, art community, universities, architects.
- Meet monthly.

Capitol Preservation Commission

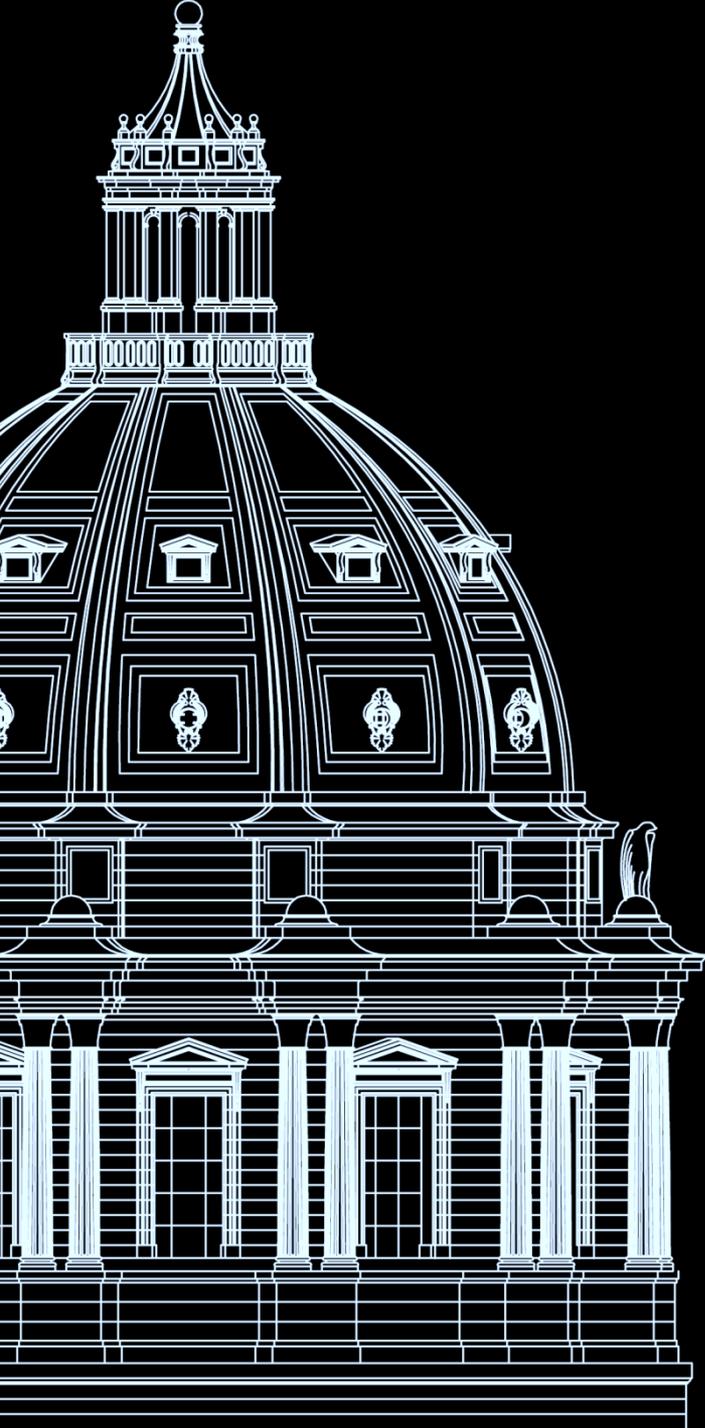


- 22 members, bi-partisan approach.
- Top leadership in state government.



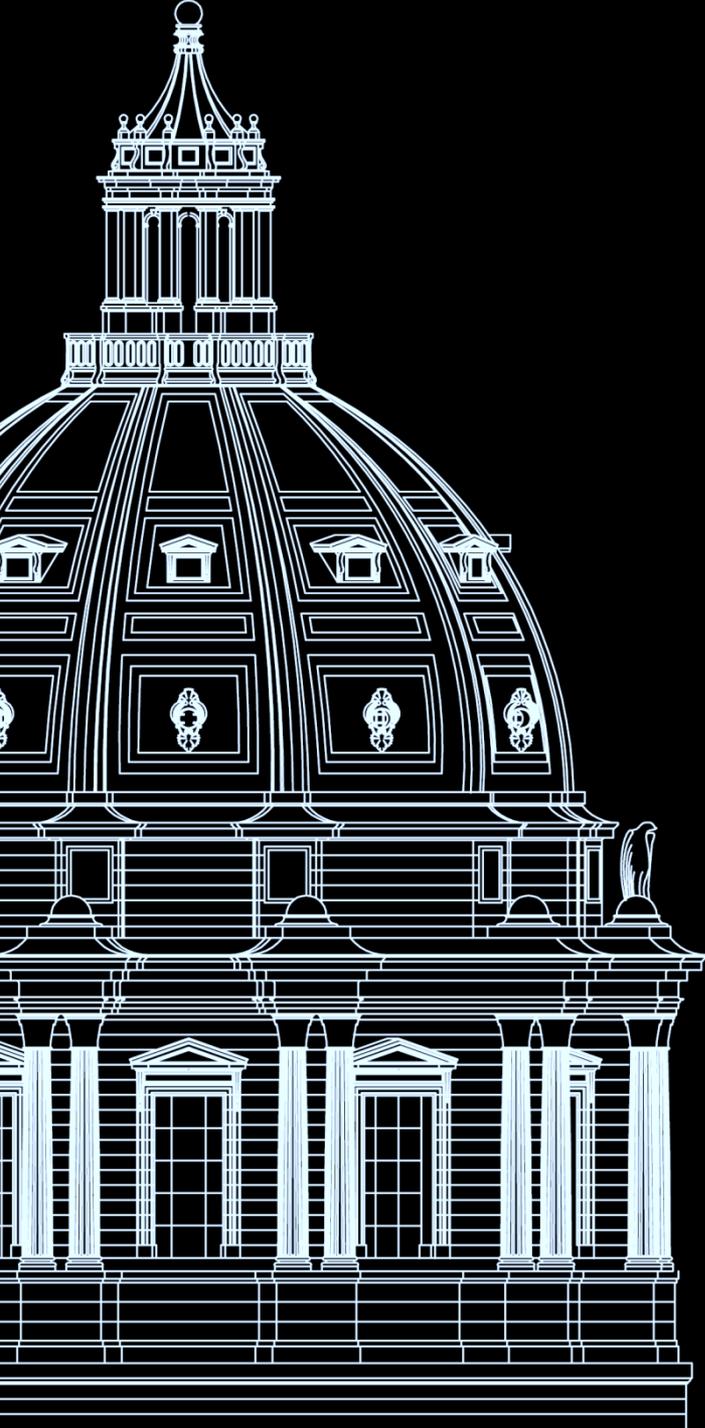
Our Process

- Experts provide information.
- Deliberations among the committee.
- **Citizen input.**
- Provide preliminary recommendations to the Preservation Commission.



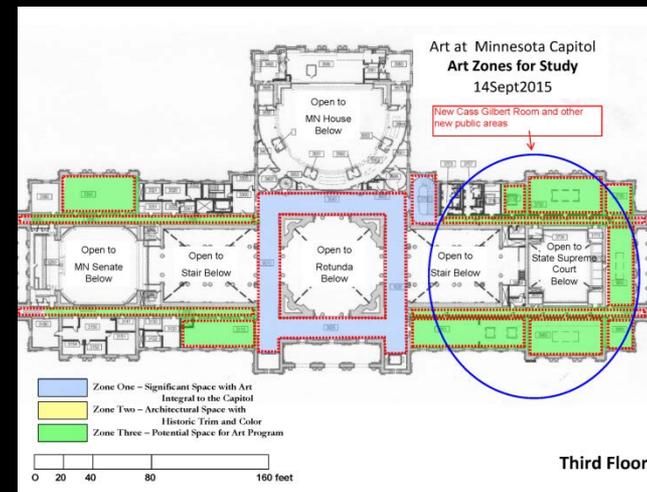
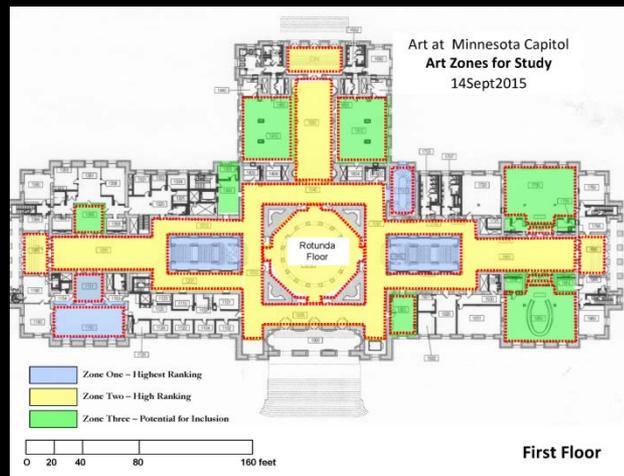
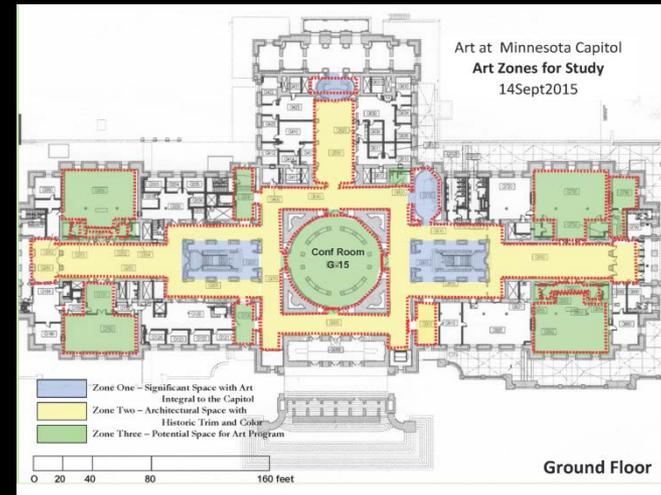
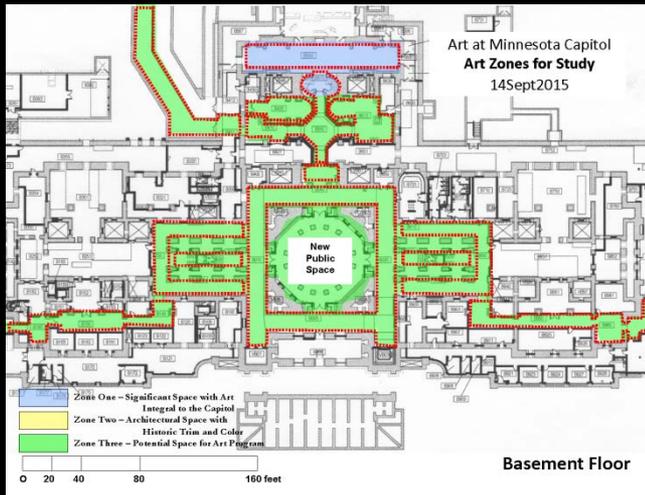
There are 148 total pieces of artwork in the Capitol

- 49 murals
- 10 paintings
- 38 governors' portraits
- 6 other portraits
- 13 statues
- 17 busts
- 15 plaques

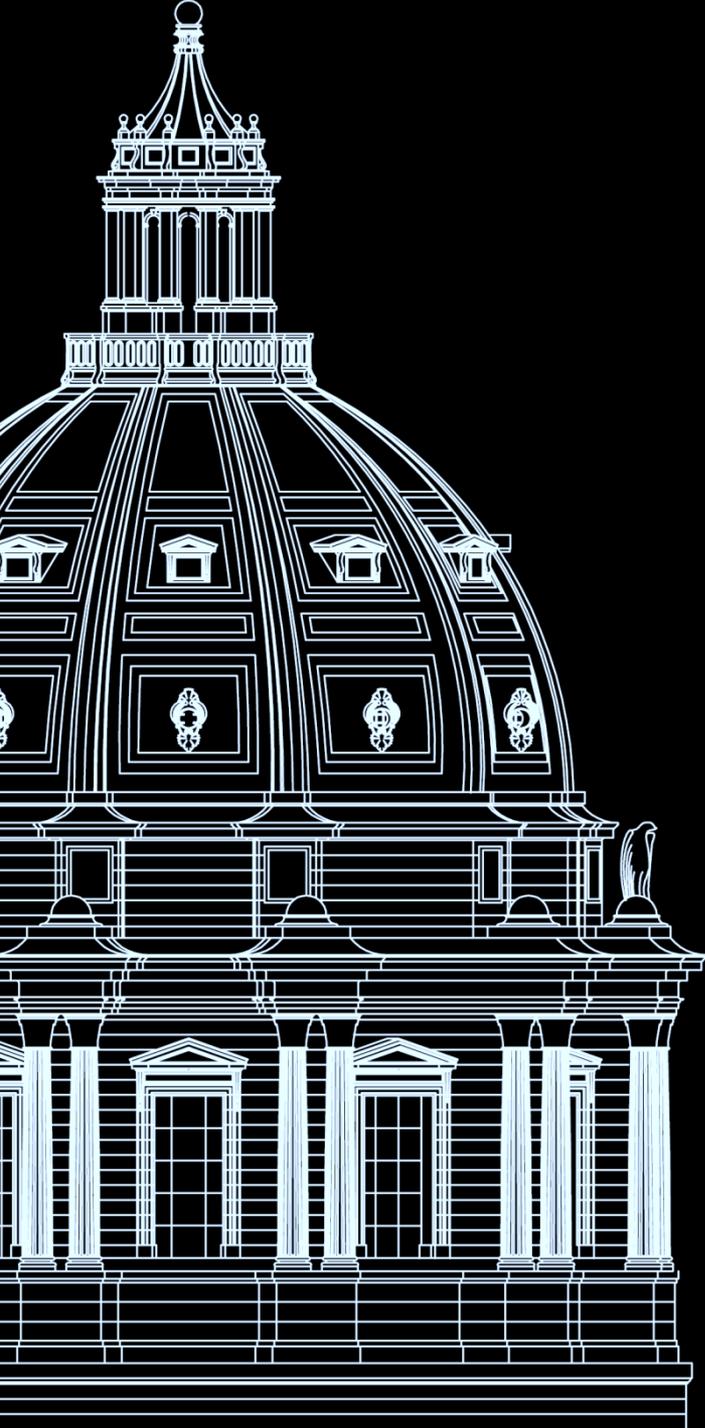


Public Space Available will Double

To nearly 40,000
square feet

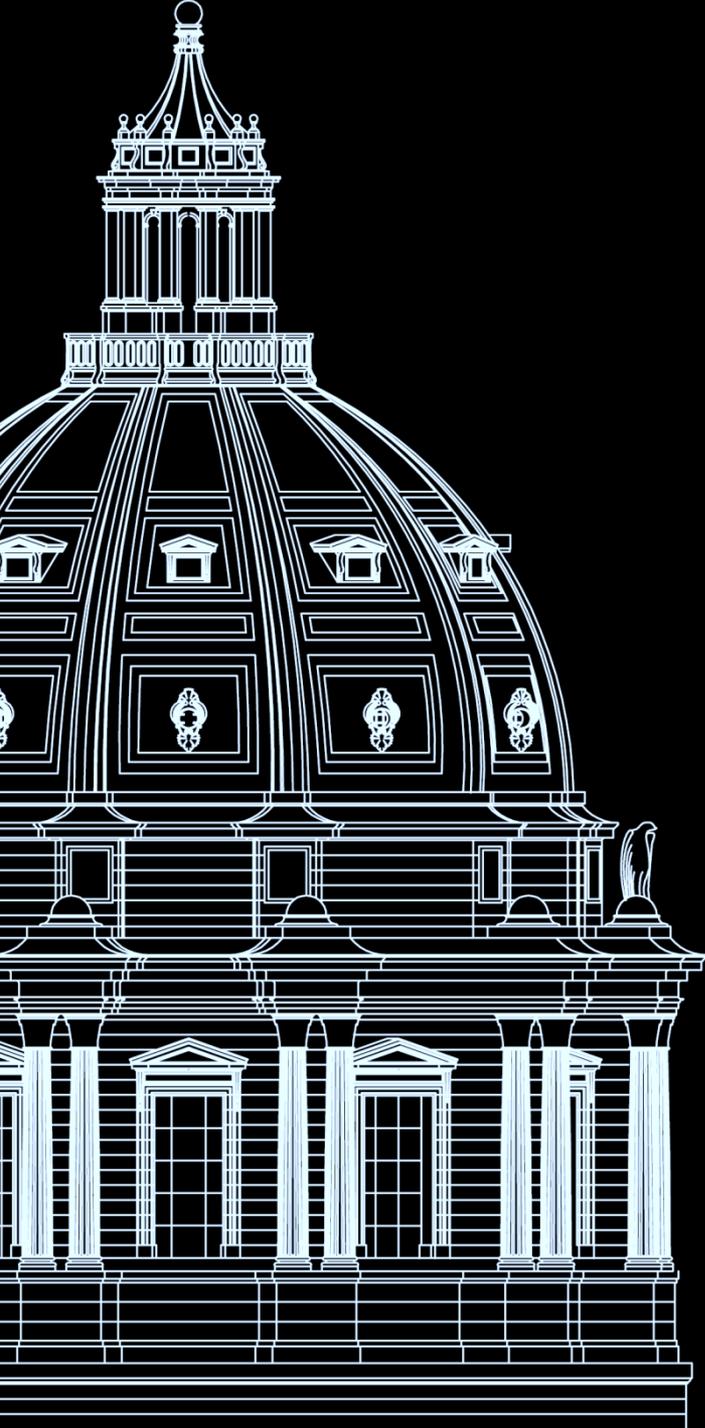


Means space available for new art



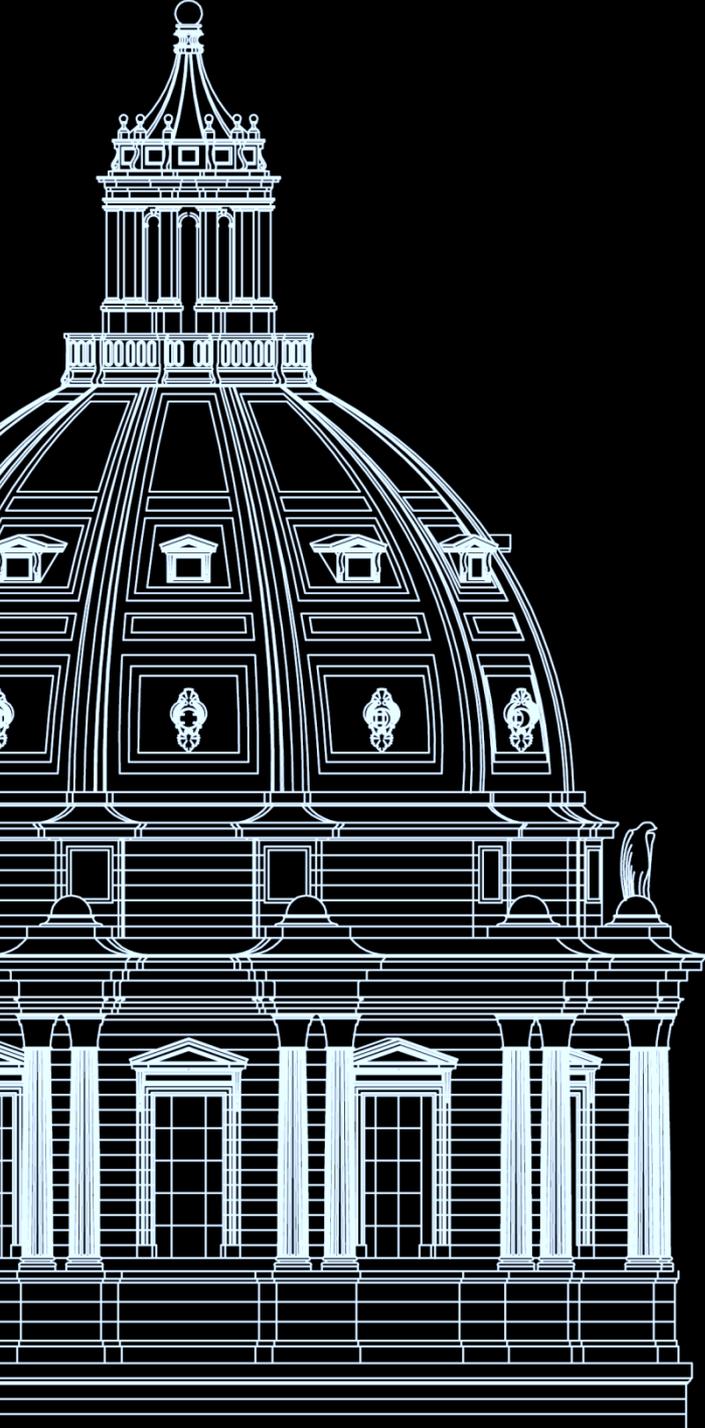
Challenge: Historical Background

- Most art dates back to 1905, when the Capitol opened.
- This fact gives that art historical importance.
- But it also means it may not capture the diversity of our population or perspectives of Minnesotans today.



Challenge: What is the role of art?

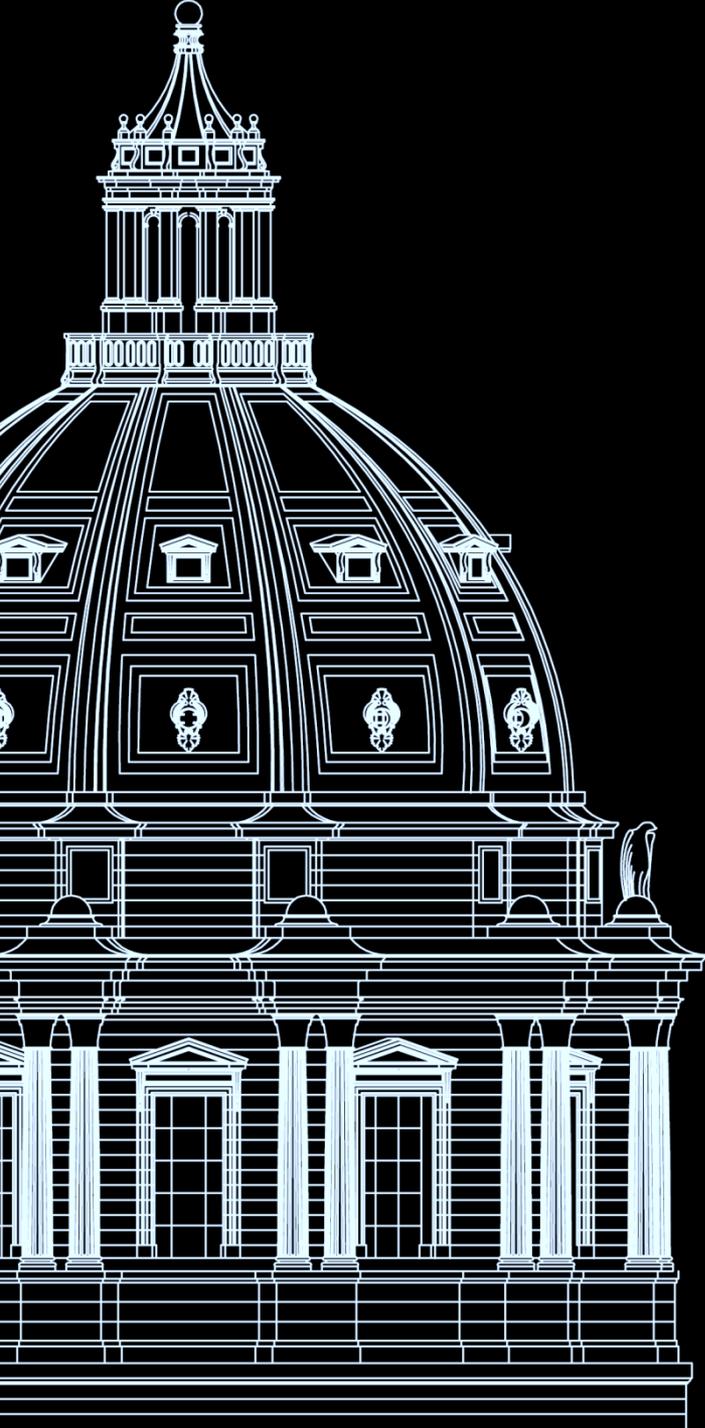
- What is the purpose of art in the Capitol?
 - Recording history?
 - Telling the story of democracy?
 - Illustrating Minnesotan values?
- Of these purposes, which are currently captured and which are missing?
- If someone came to the Capitol for an hour, what do we want them to walk away with?



Challenge: Consensus

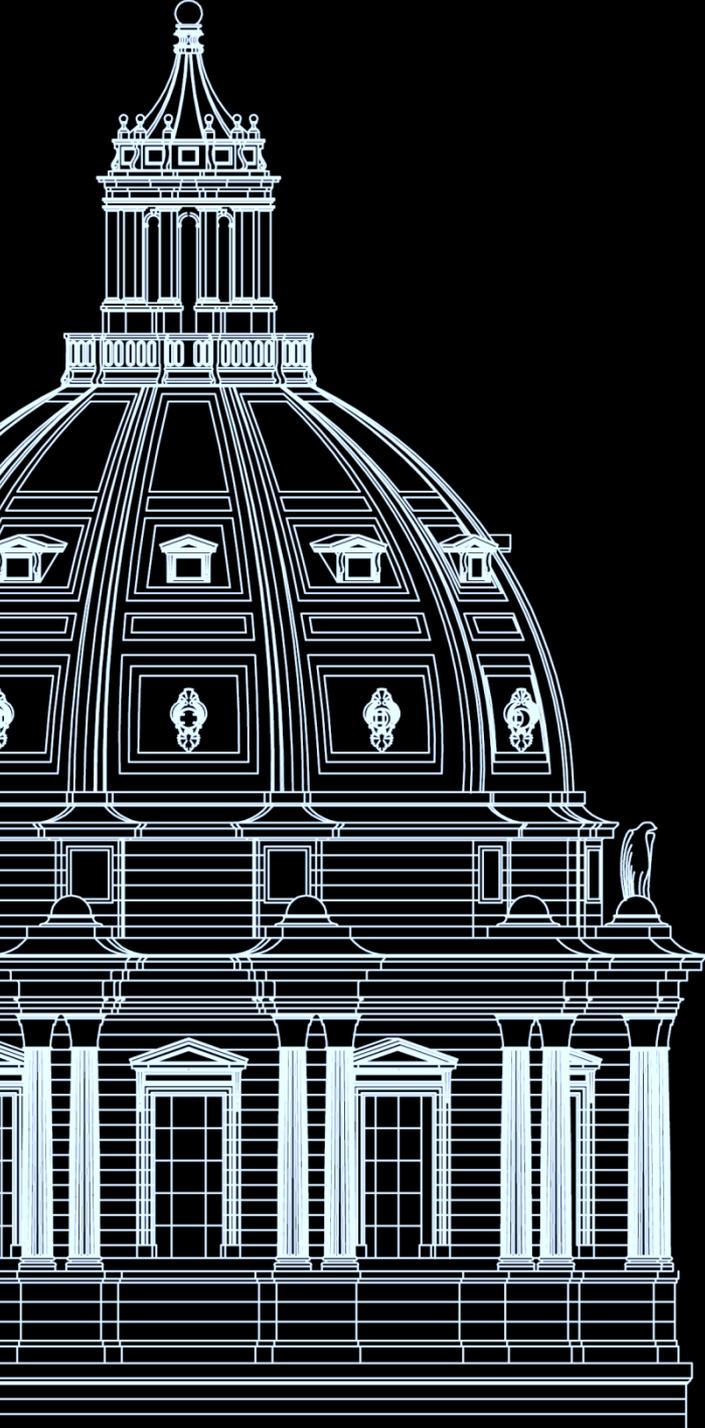
We need to come to a common vision and develop a consensus on basic issues such as how to:

- Maintain historical perspective.
- Address historical inaccuracies.
- Handle insensitive artwork.
- Identify and include shared values.
- Reflect the perspectives and experiences of all Minnesotans.
- Balance continuity and change.
- Define appropriate new art for the Capitol.
- Ensure there is space for art over the next decades.



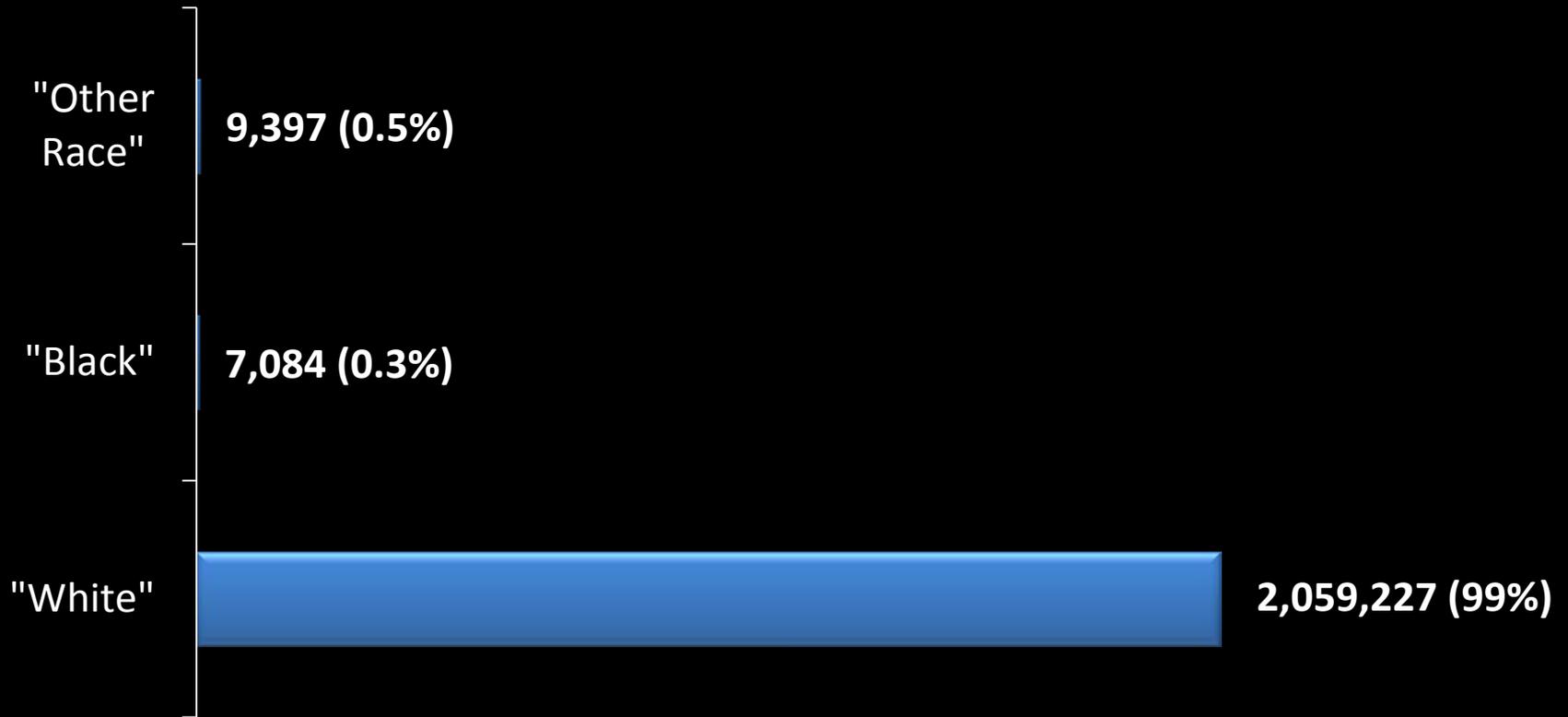
Challenge: How do we present what is controversial or insensitive?

- Some Minnesotans believe some of the current art is insensitive. For example, it does not reflect Native Americans respectfully.
- Without interpretation/context will the art perpetuate stereotypes?
- Do we remove it? Relocate it? Leave as is?
- Is that art interpreted differently by different tribes (Dakota, Ojibwe)?

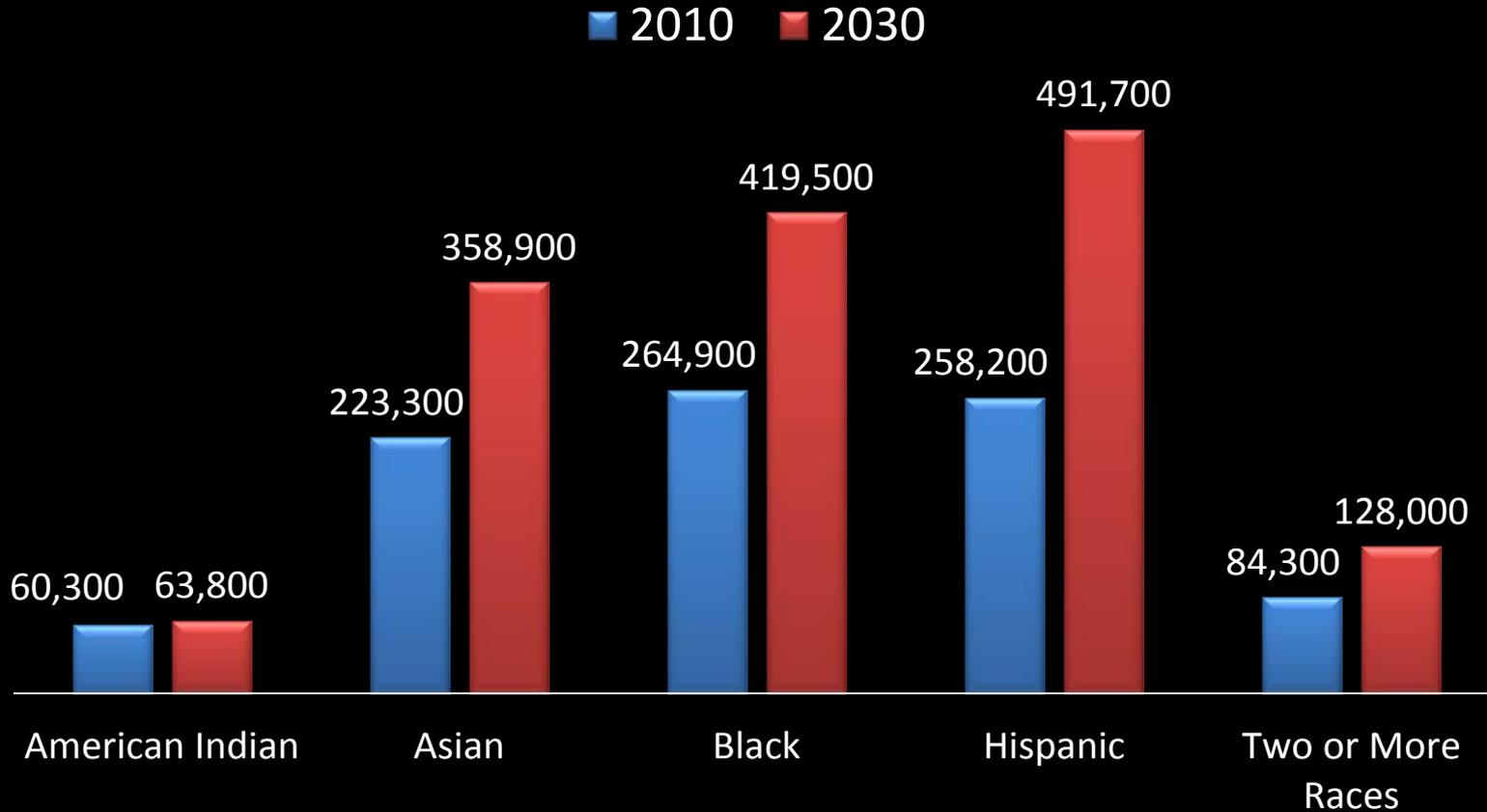


Challenge:
Planning policies for art
to accommodate our
future changing
population

Minnesota residents by race in 1910



By 2030: Largest population growth will be among Asian, Black and Latino groups

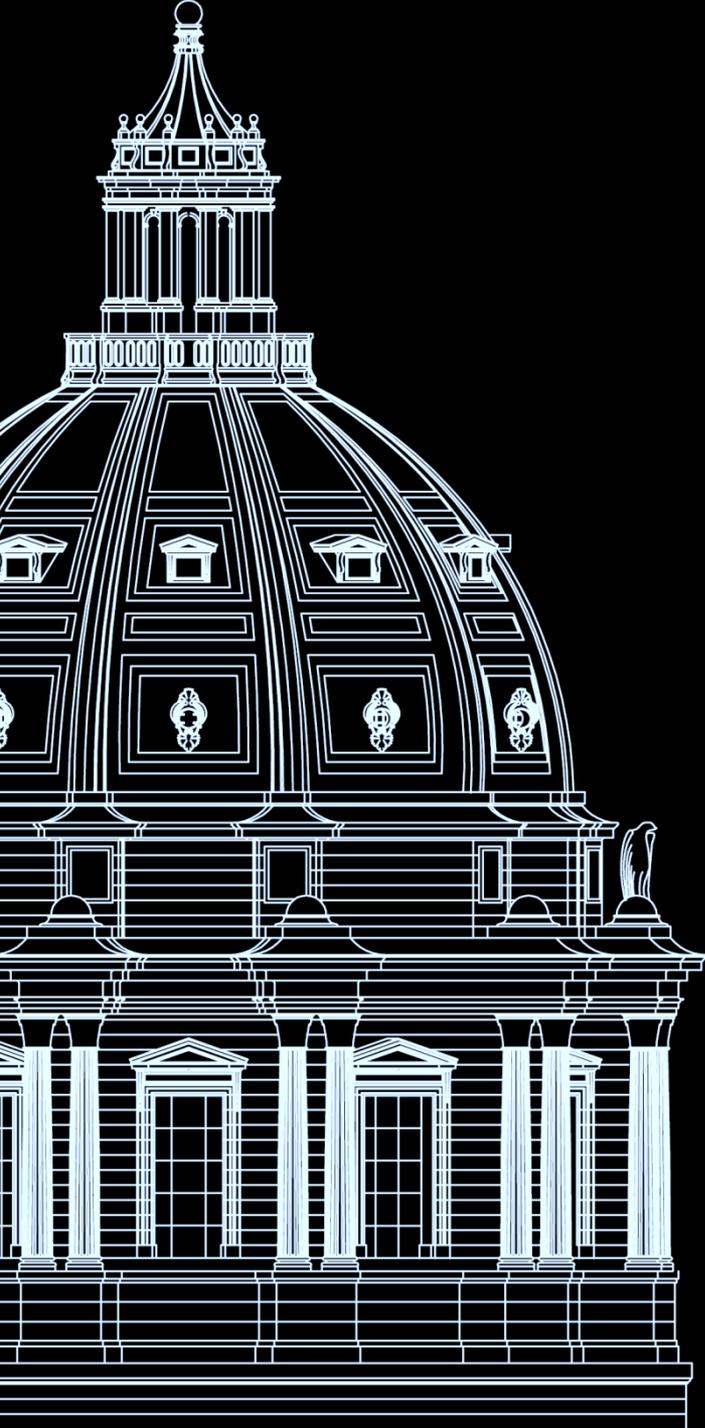


Vision Statement

The purpose of art in the Minnesota State capitol is to tell Minnesota stories.

Works of art in the Capitol should engage people in

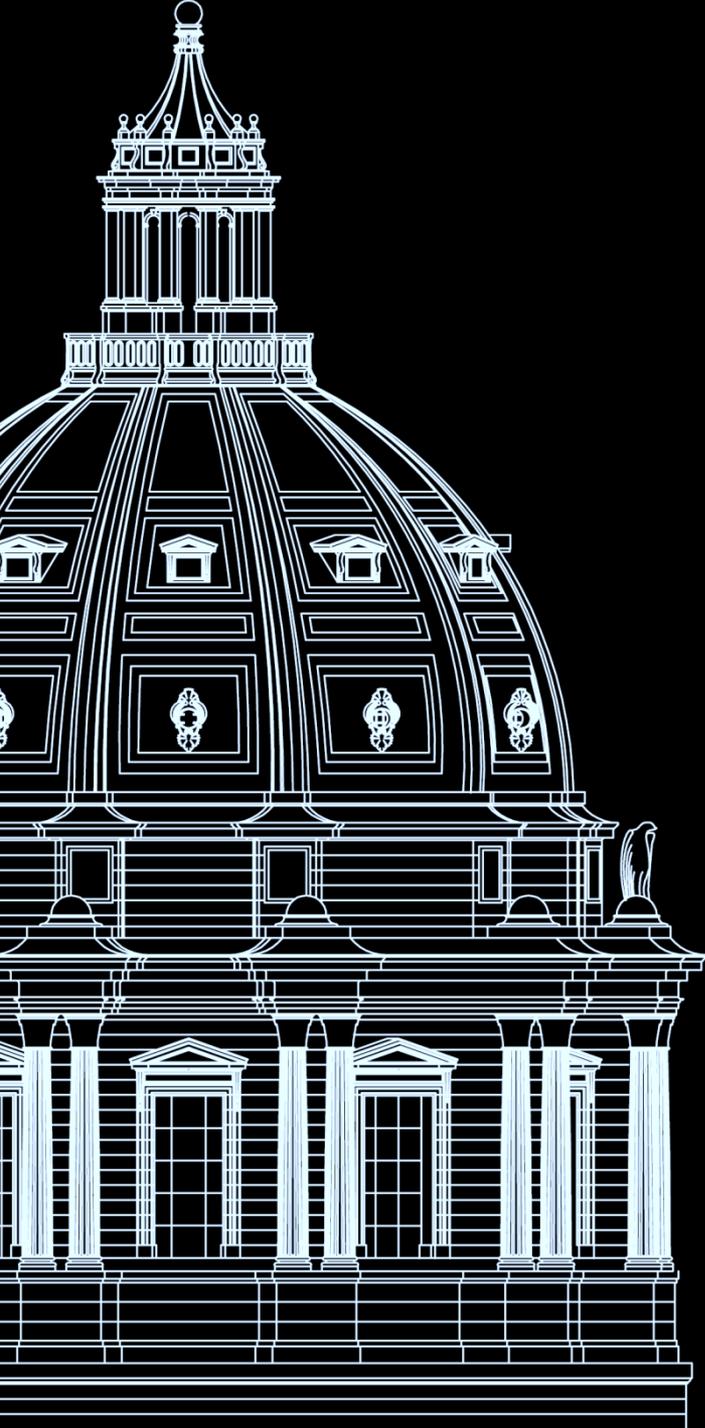
- **Reflecting on our state's history**
- **Understanding our government**
- **Recognizing the contributions of our diverse peoples**
- **Inspiring citizen engagement**
- **Appreciating the varied landscapes of our state**



Works of art in the Capitol should engage people in

Reflecting on our State's history

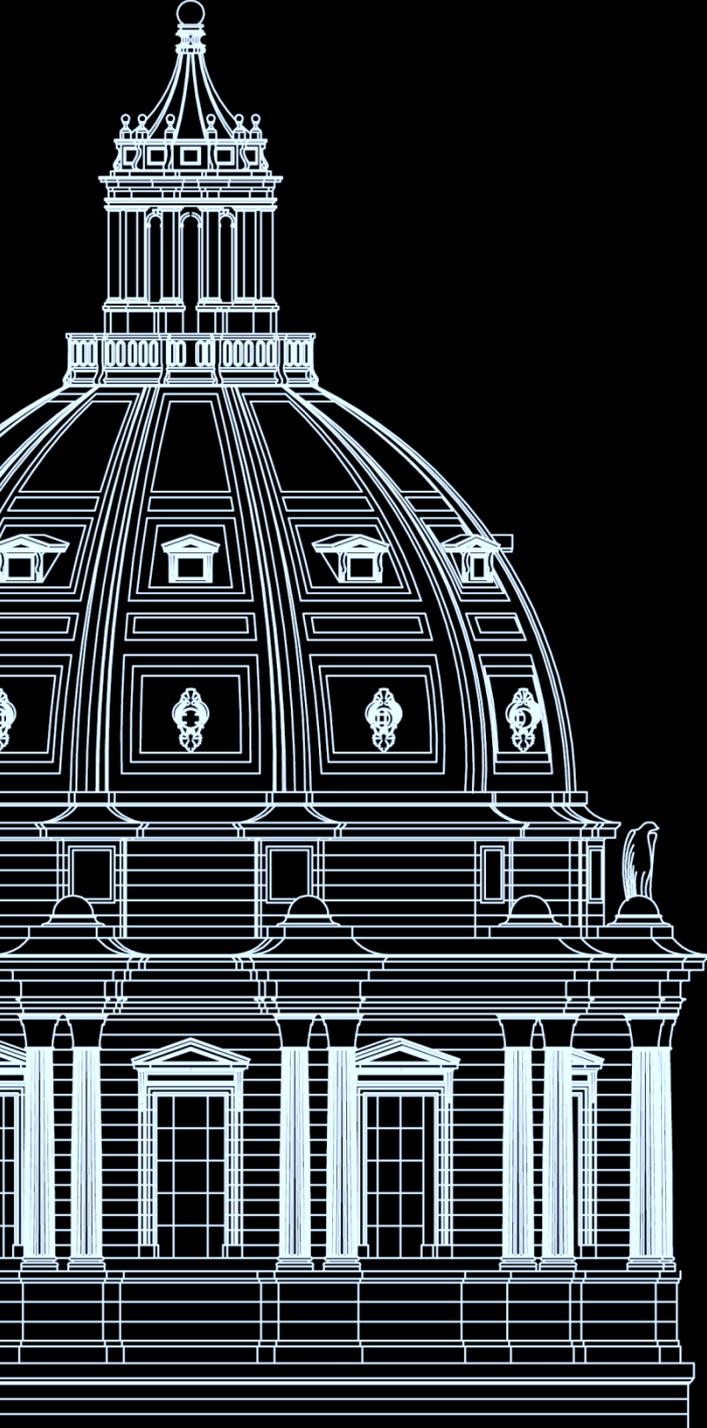
- Historical events
- Turning points
- Values
- Government
- Minnesota's First Peoples: Native Americans
- Industrialization
- Economy
- Farming



Works of art in the Capitol should engage people in

Understanding our Government

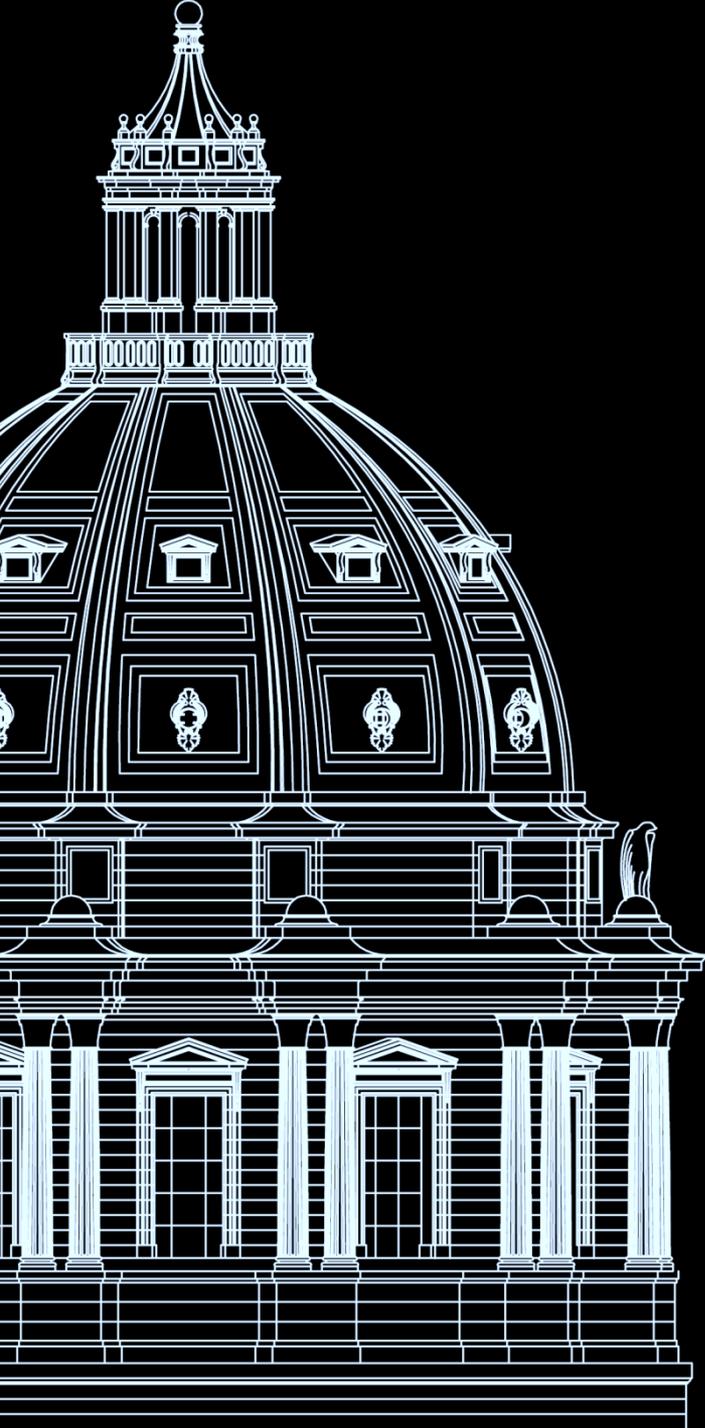
- The democratic process
- Outcomes/products of our government
- Civic pride
- Democratic values
- Our governors
- The legislative process



Works of art in the Capitol should engage people in

Recognizing the contributions of our diverse peoples

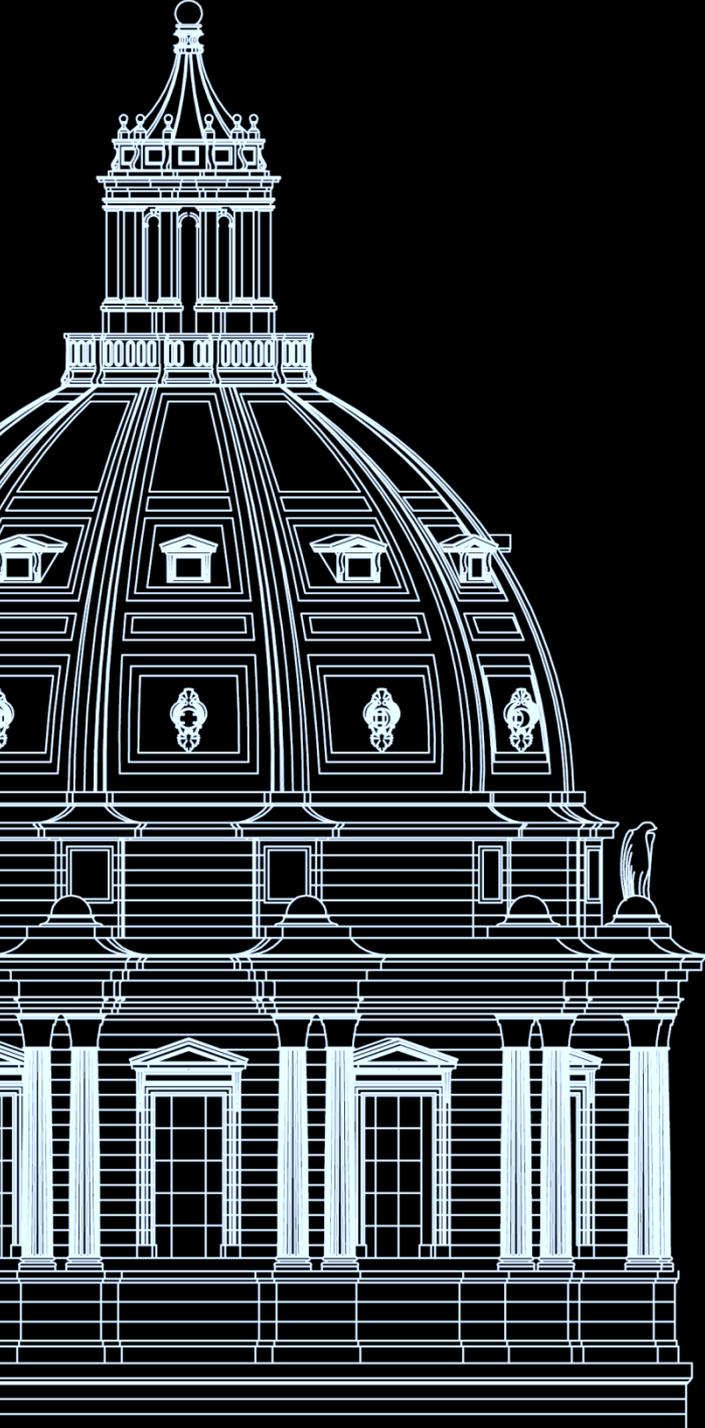
- People can see themselves in the art
- Include all Minnesotans past, present and future
- Represent diverse perspectives
- Challenge prevailing assumptions
- Spark conversations
- Encourage reflection



Works of art in the Capitol should engage people in

Inspiring citizen engagement

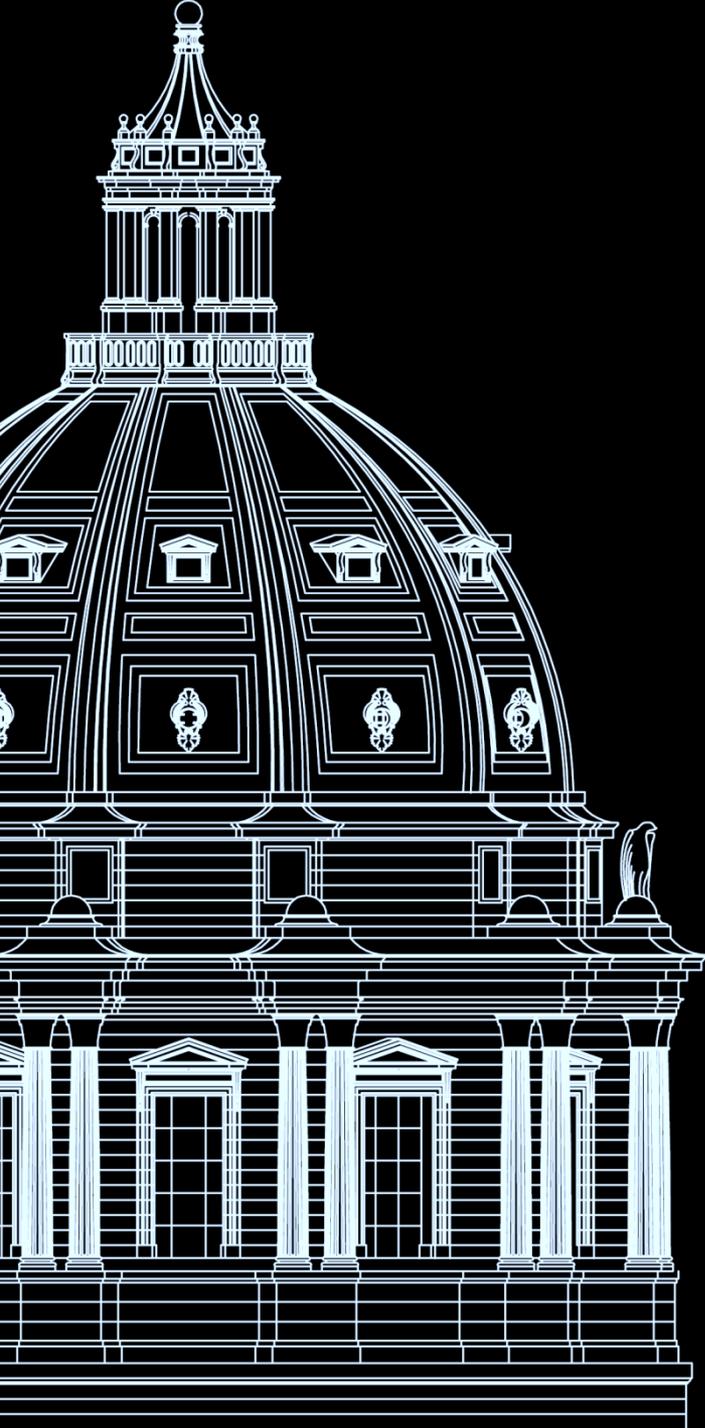
- Inspire us to experience our shared history
- Provide a connection
- Be involved in local government
- Embrace the value of government



Works of art in the Capitol should engage people in

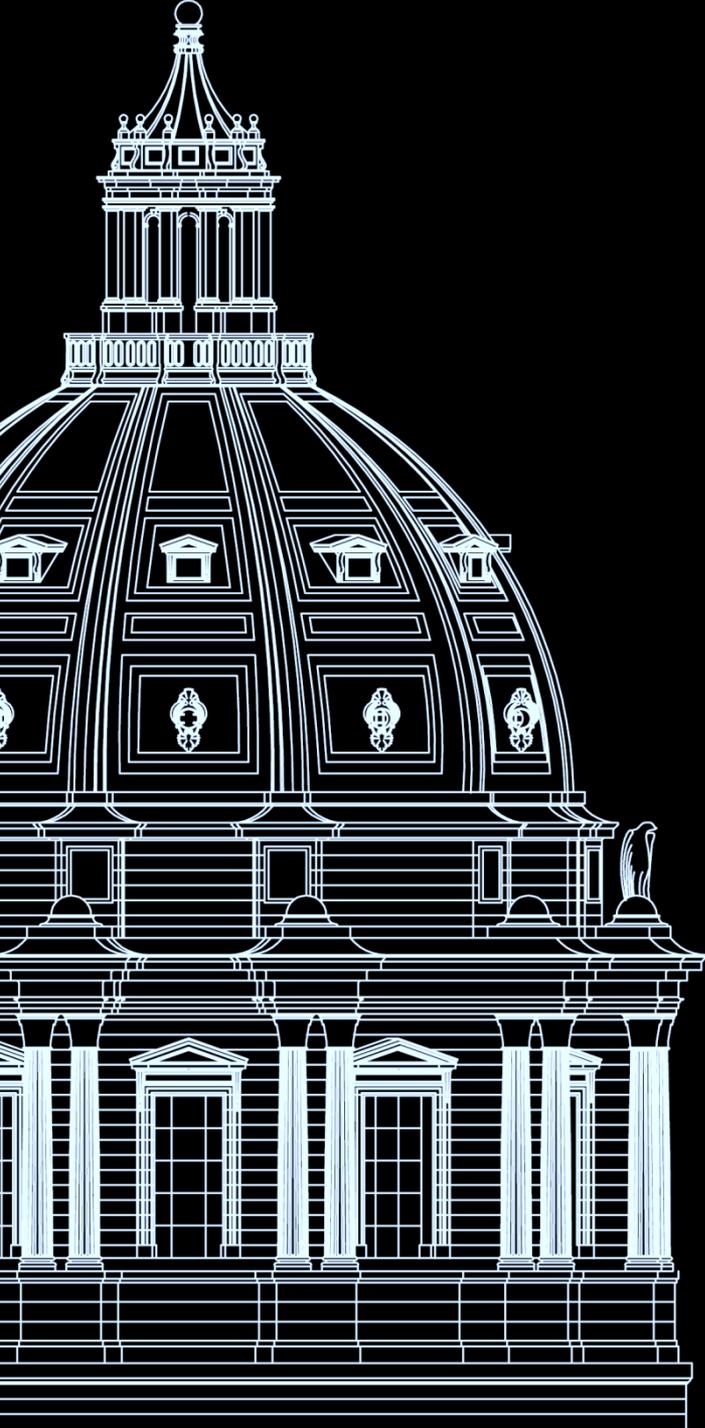
Appreciating the varied landscapes of our state

- Celebrate Minnesota's natural beauty and richness
- It's resources: Crops, forests, rivers and lakes
- Geography and geology
- Economic landscape, business and industry



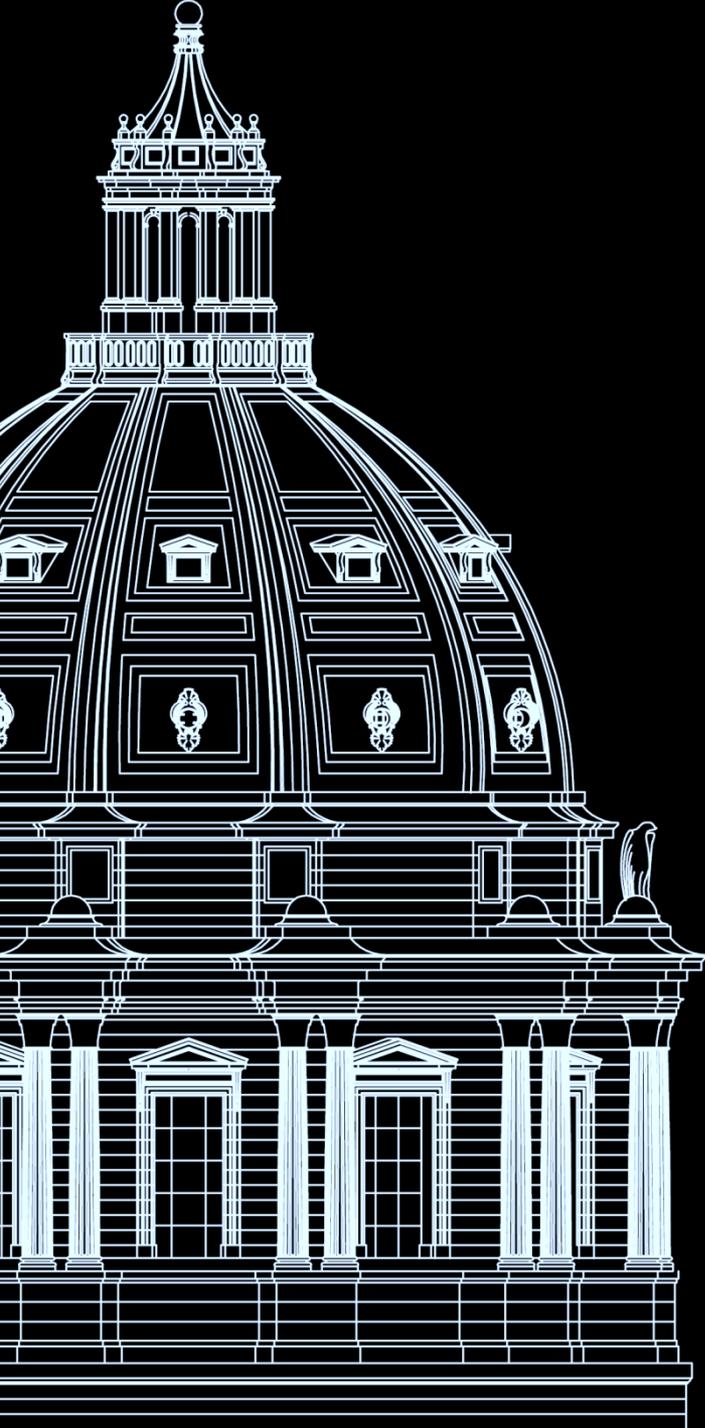
Discussion instructions

- Reflect on three questions.
- Each person will have a chance to answer each question.
- Open to dialogue after.



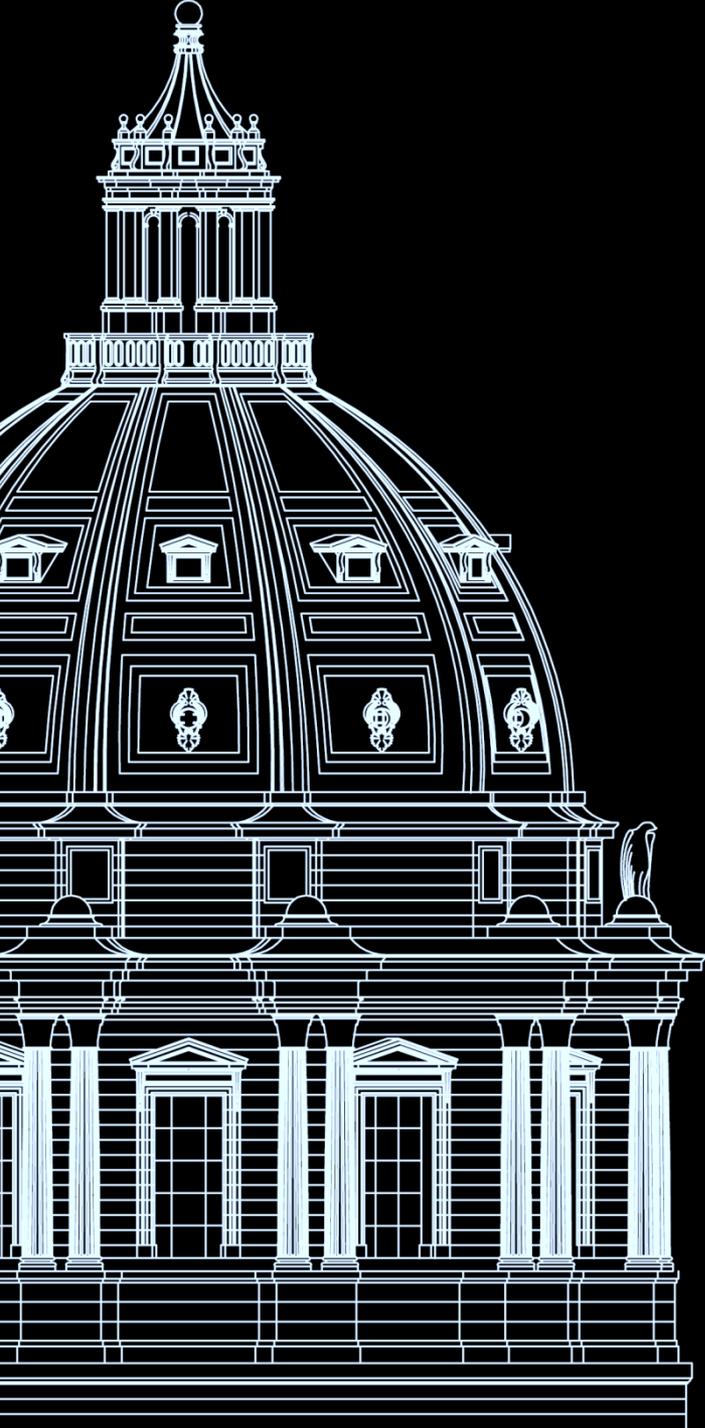
Notes will be taken

- At least two people are recording the meeting.
- They will take notes that the subcommittee will use to make informed recommendations.



Conversation Guidelines

- Be aware of how long you speak so that all voices are heard.
- Share not just *what* you want but also the *why* behind it.
- Listen to learn rather than planning a rebuttal.
- Agree to disagree respectfully.
- Seek to understand the concerns of those who have a different perspective.

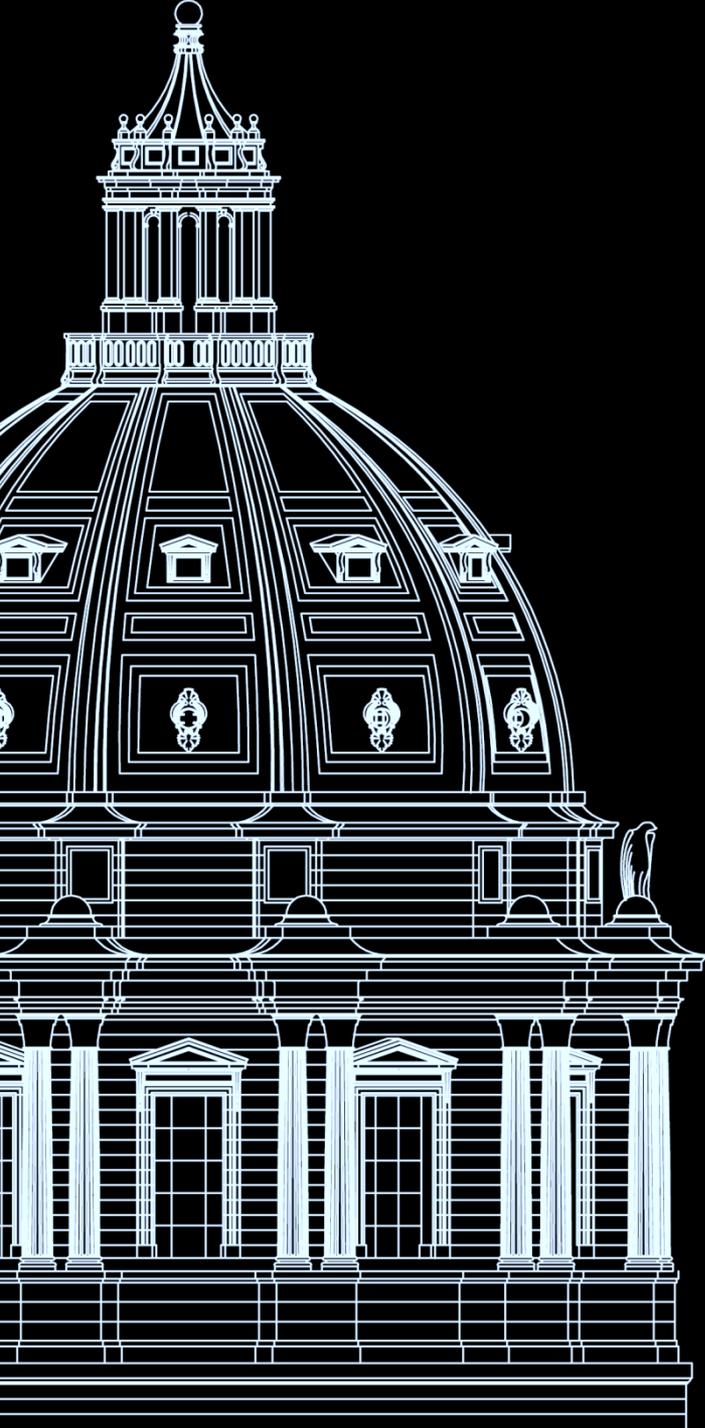


Question 1

The restored Capitol will have new public space that will support new art.

What ideas do you have for new stories and why? Some categories to consider:

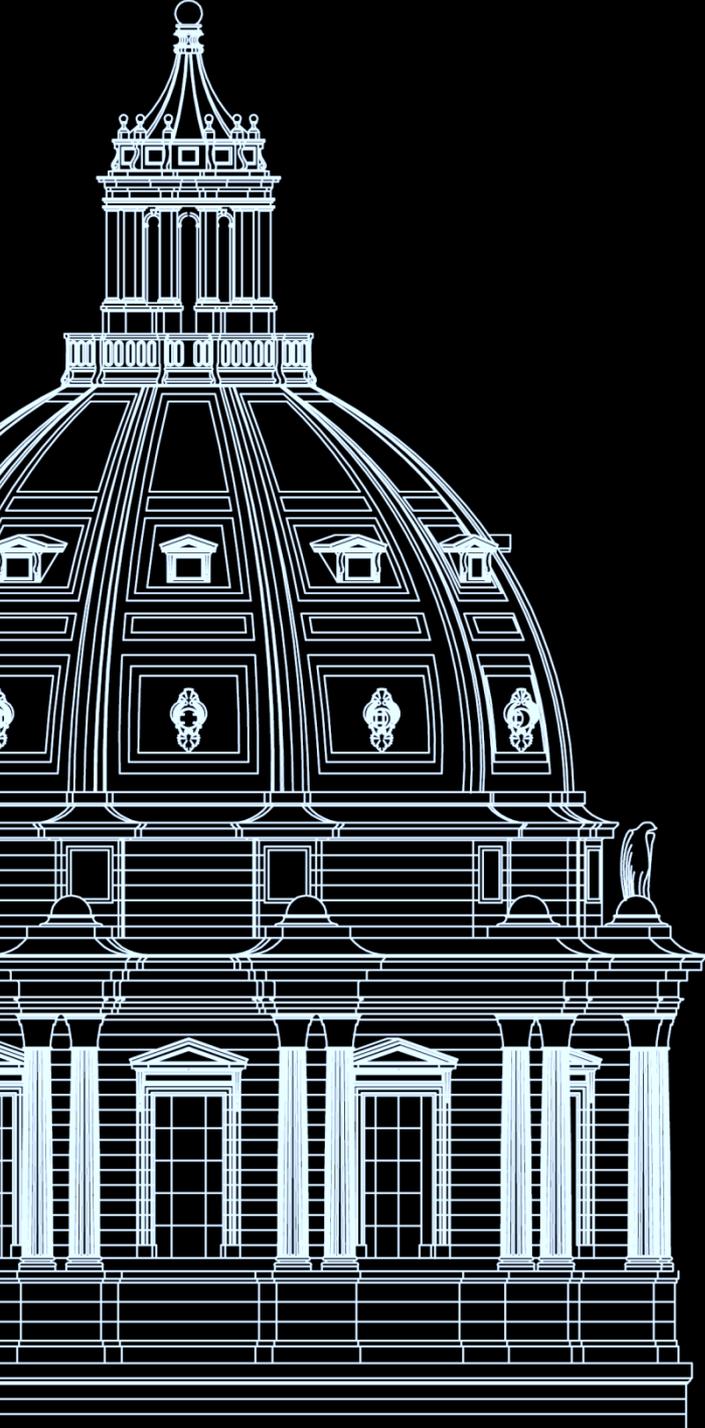
- Historical events that shaped Minnesota.
- Influential and notable people.
- Government processes that affect people's lives.
- Contributions of our diverse peoples.
- Geography and landscapes (rivers, crops, forests, etc).
- Art that symbolizes the ideals of civil society.



Question 2

Since the 1940s an official portrait of each MN Governor has been placed in the Capitol.

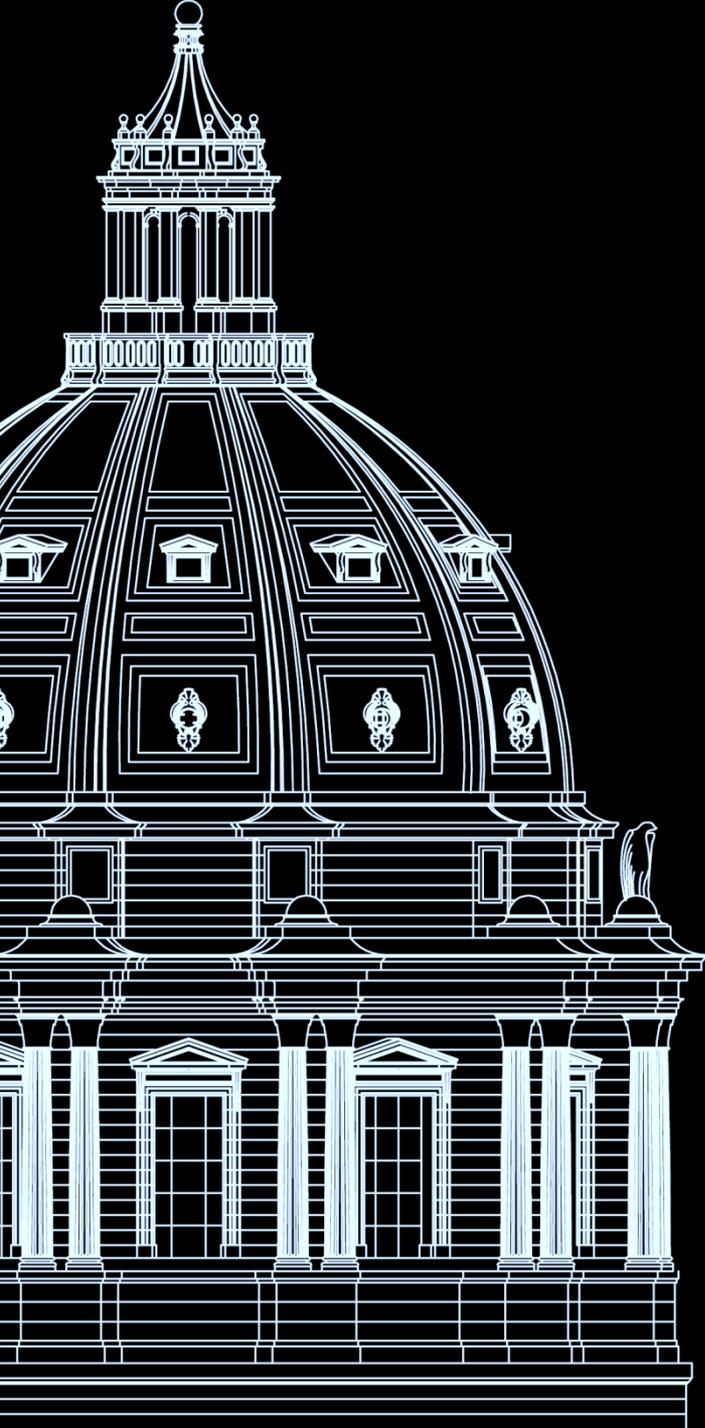
- Over time they have become a key part of the Capitol tours.
- However, they will take up an increasing amount of future wall space that would be available for other art.



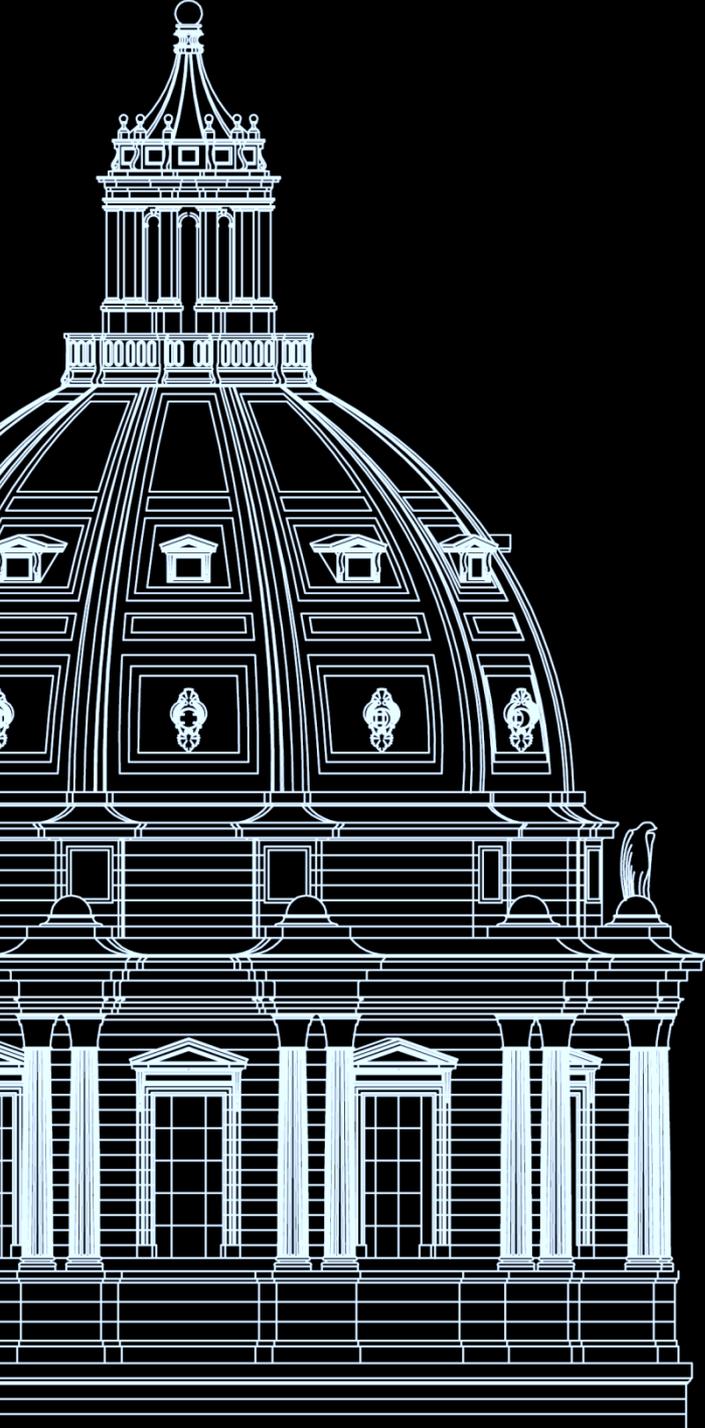
Question 2 (continued)

How do you think the Governors' portraits should be displayed? Examples:

- Establish a “Hall of Governors.”
- Rotate a selection of portraits.
- Create a virtual gallery.
- Archive portraits at the Minnesota Historical Society.
- Relocate portraits to other locations.
- Others?



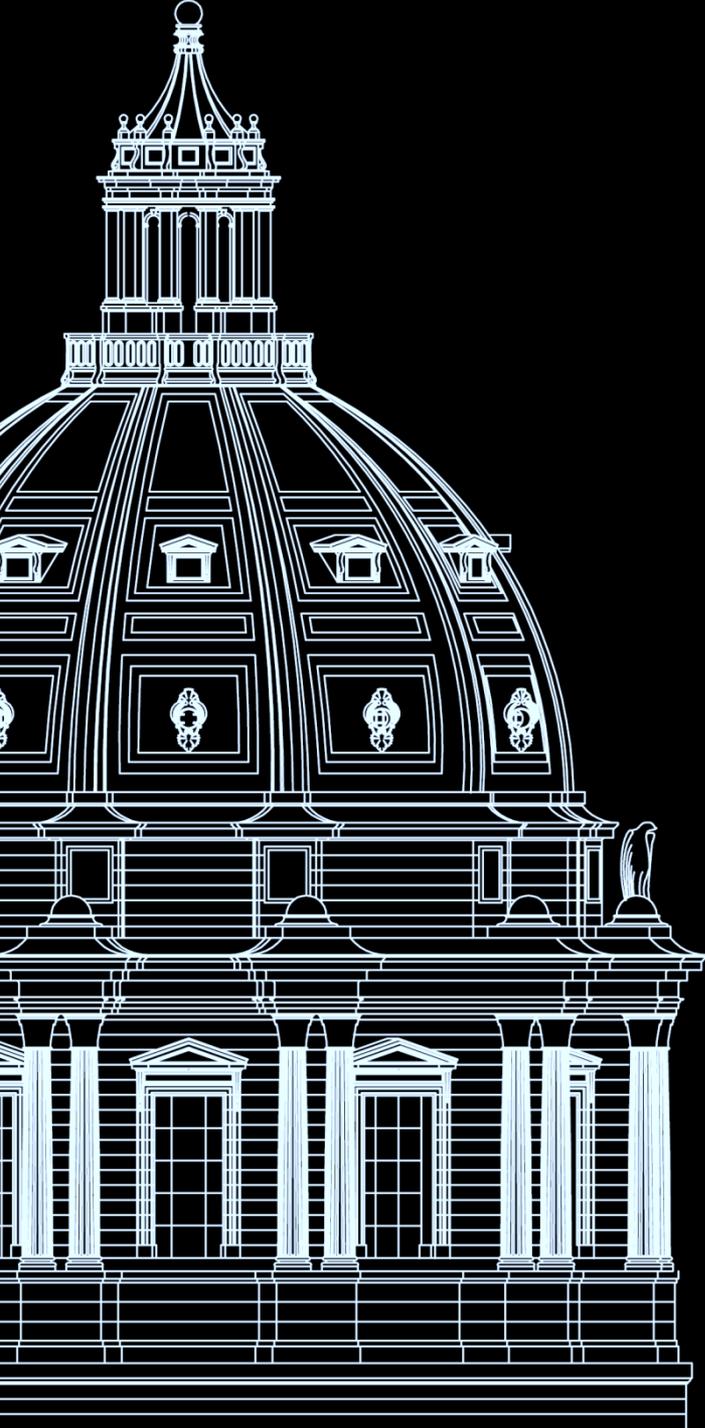
In 1905,
art was intended to
inspire and educate.



Question 3

When architect Cass Gilbert designed the 1905 Minnesota State Capitol ...

- He commissioned well-known artists
- To create paintings that reflected the popular ideas, beliefs, and attitudes of the majority population.



Question 3 (continued)

- Some people think those works are important historical pieces.
- Others think that due to their inaccuracies and insensitivities, they do not belong in the Capitol.
- What do you think should be done to accurately and sensitively tell Minnesota stories?



“Father Hennepin at the Falls of St. Anthony” (1905)

Stephen A. Douglas Volk



**“Father Hennepin at the
Falls of St. Anthony” (1905)**

Stephen A. Douglas Volk

**Father Hennepin is an
important historical figure
in Minnesota history.
However ...**

- He did not discover the falls
- He was a Dakota prisoner at the time
- The female Native American clothing is inaccurate



“The Treaty of Traverse des Sioux” (1885)

David Francis Millet



“The Treaty of Traverse des Sioux” (1905)

David Francis Millet

Tells one side of the event

- Depicts a formal, fair, calm, and agreeable event with equal power.
- It is historically inaccurate.
- The Dakota were presented an ultimatum.
- There was not equal power.



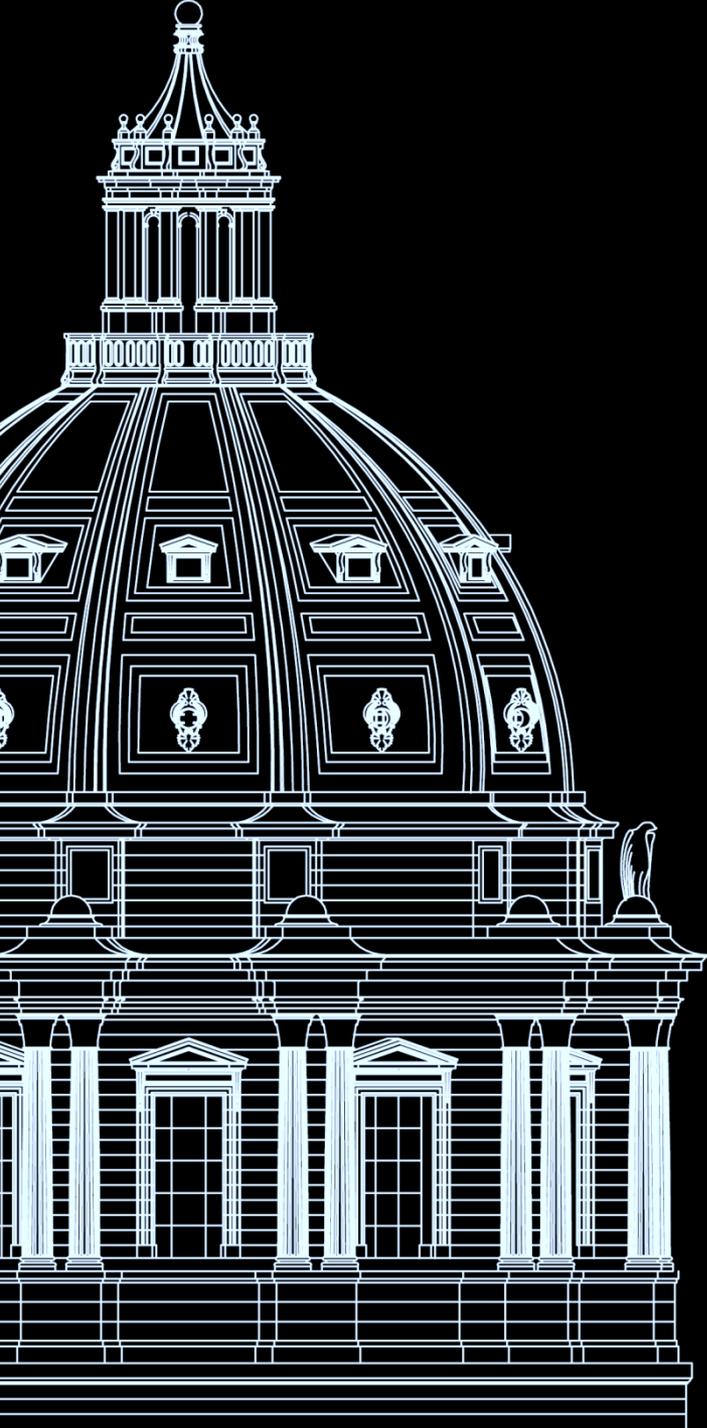
“Attack on New Ulm” (1905)

Anton Gag

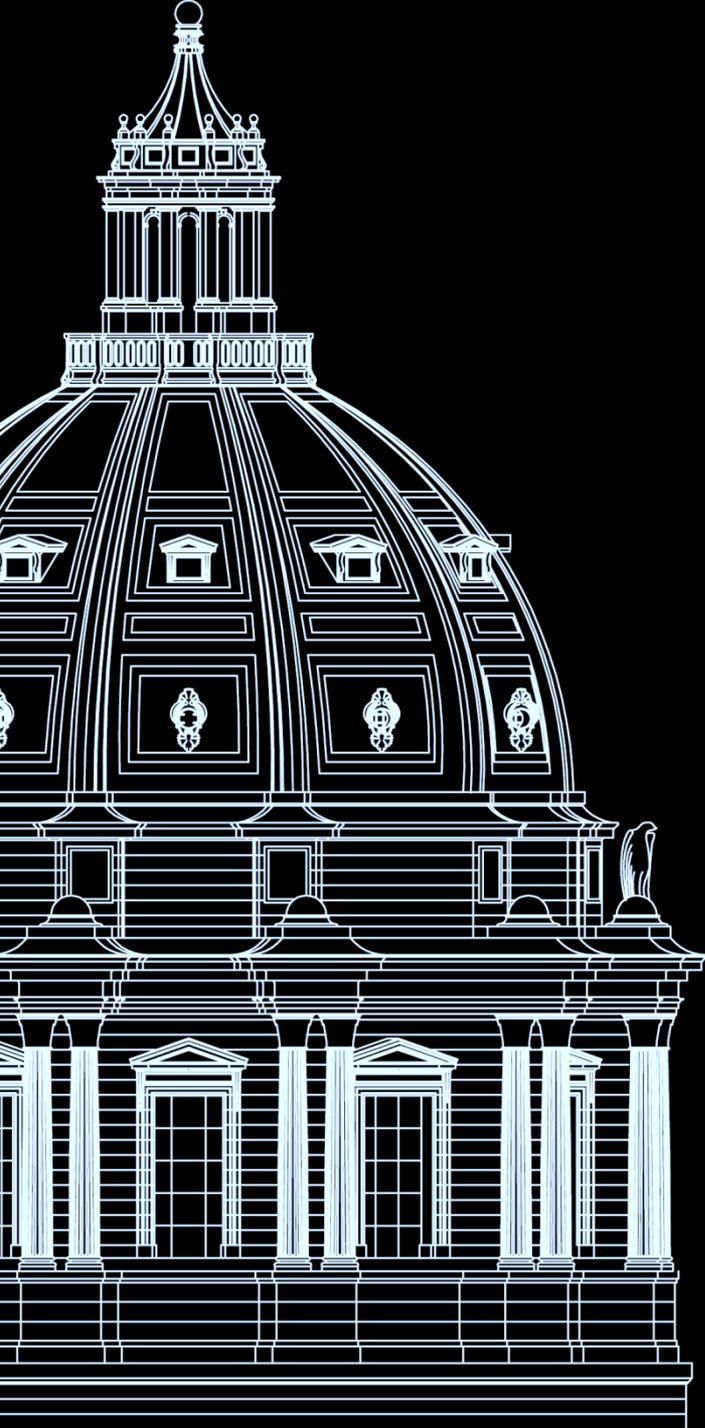


**“Eighth Minnesota at the Battle of Ta-Ha-Kouty
(Killdeer Mountain)” (1910)**

Carl L. Boeckmann

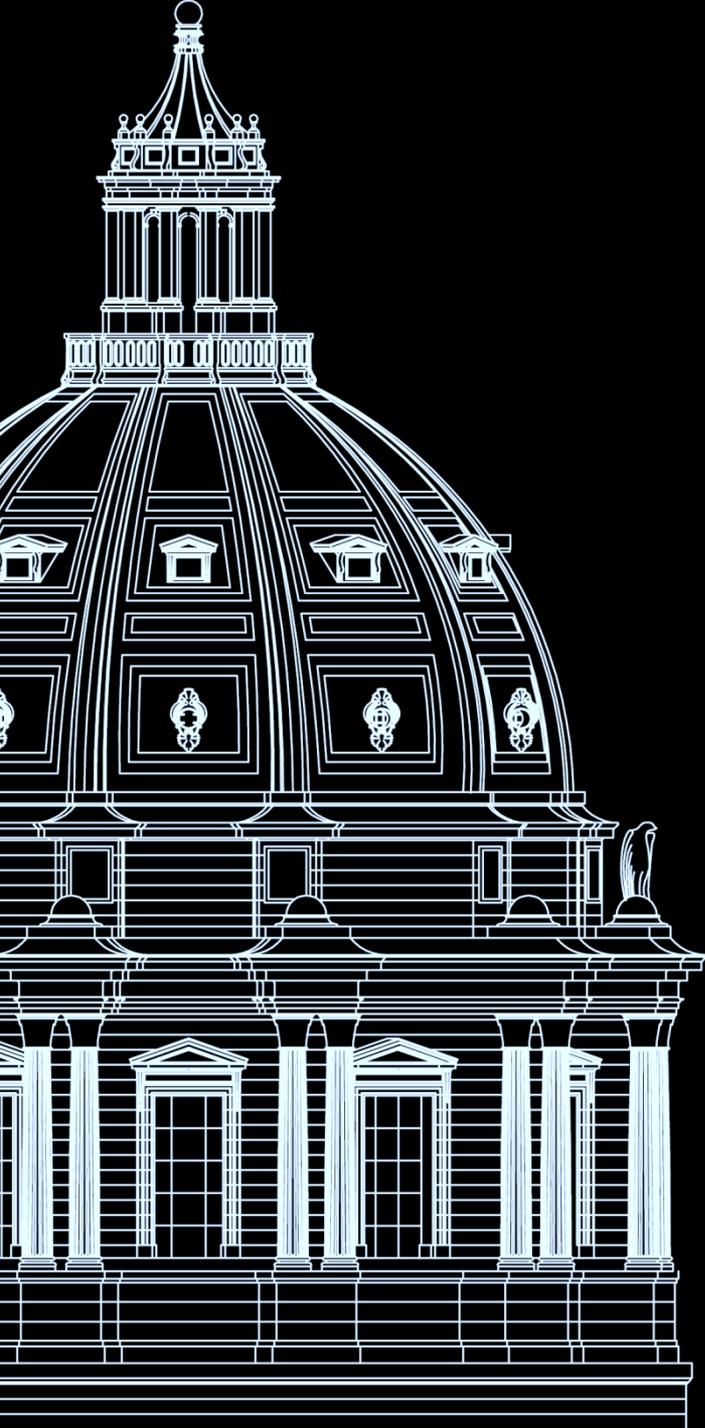


Questions/ Discussion



Next Steps

- Comments will be compiled.
- Take the survey before you leave today.



Thank you for participating and sharing your voice!

Stay Connected

 mn.gov/capitol-restoration/art

 Minnesota Capitol Restoration

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