



# Minnesota State Capitol Preservation Committee

## Art Subcommittee

### April 6, 2015 Meeting Summary

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#### Attendees

Diane Loeffler, Paul Anderson, David Senjem, Anton Treuer, Peter Hilger, Ted Lentz, Bill Green, David Kelliher, Brian Pease, Wayne Waslaski, Curt Yoakum, Cathy Klima, Matthew Welch, Nicky Giancola

#### 1. Update on action taken by Capitol Preservation Commission

Request state appropriation for art preservation approved by the full Capitol Preservation Commission.

- a. Discussion about attributing a dollar value to paintings and murals in the Capitol.
  - i. Need to balance providing enough information about the art to the legislature to appropriate \$3 million for restoration and to making sure the public understands the value of what we are doing vs. creating added security issues and concerns about protecting the art during construction.
  - ii. The committee needs to agree on how they communicate the value of the art. For example, words like "priceless" and "gifts to the future."
  - iii. Suggested next step: Look at the language and messaging about art used by other state capitols such as Missouri and Iowa.
- b. Wayne Waslaski provided a brief summary of his meeting with the U.S. Office of the Architect in Washington, DC, where they have parallel issues with the U.S. Capitol Dome construction. He will give a more detailed report at a future meeting.

#### 2. Plan for developing Glossary of Terms

- a. We need to prepare a glossary of key terms so we can speak the same language.
- b. Examples: There may be different definitions for the same work based on whether it undergoes a restoration or conservation effort. What is the definition of fine art vs. decorative painting? What is "commemorative" art? "Memorial" art?

#### Next Steps

- a. Admin will gather key words already being used in used in contracts, other documents, ongoing discussions, etc.
- b. MNHS will gather key words describing art, restoration, conservation, etc.



- c. Committee members should start noting the language we are using during our meetings and forward your list to Cathy Klima, Communications Officer for the Capitol Restoration Project. [cathy.klima@state.mn.us](mailto:cathy.klima@state.mn.us)

### **3. Demography Presentation**

- a. Andi Egbert from the MN State Demographic Center gave a presentation about Minnesota's changing demographics over the last 150 years and forecasted trends into 2050.
- b. This information will help us as we explore the role of new works of art in the Capitol as well as the role of existing art.
- c. Top line findings:
  - i. In 1860 the population was young and one-third was foreign-born. Residents by race were "Indian" 1 percent, "Colored".2 percent and "White" 98 percent.
  - ii. By the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, German, Norwegian, and Swedish immigrants arrived.
  - iii. In 1910, 25 percent of the population was foreign-born – 22 percent from Sweden, 20 percent from Germany, 19 percent from Norway. Residents by race were "Other Race" .5 percent, "Black" .3 percent, "White" 99 percent.
  - iv. At turn of 21<sup>st</sup> century, people of color from Mexico, Somalia, India, Laos and Thailand (Hmong), Vietnam and other countries arrived.
  - v. In 2013, residents by race were "White" 82 percent, "Black" 6 percent, "Hispanic" 5 percent, "Asian" 5 percent, "Multiracial" 2 percent, "American Indian" 1 percent.
  - vi. Minnesota's population is getting older as baby boomers age. By 2020 there will be more 65+ than school-age children. By 2030, Minnesota's largest population growth will be among Asian, Black and Latino groups.
  - vii. The population will continue to grow more diverse. By mid-to-late century, the Twin Cities will not have a racial majority.

### **4. Review of Current inventory of art in the Capitol**

- a. MNHS provided insight into the original art commissioned for the Capitol. The 1890s-1920s was an important part of American art history. The 1893 Columbian Exposition in Chicago had tremendous influence on Cass Gilbert and architecture during that time. Italian Renaissance and European classical styles became popular. Allegorical art that tells a story was also popular. Correspondence from Cass Gilbert to artists will help us understand his point of view when we discuss particular pieces. He selected many of the best artists of that era.
- b. The 3-ring binder is a guidebook that provides images of the key artwork slated for preservation along with quick bios of artists and other notes. There is a complete list of all art in Appendix C.



- c. Artwork added over the years has been mainly commemorative art and busts. Some fine art was added and is located in private dining areas or committee rooms.
- d. The most recent policy for works of art was developed in 1998 by CAAPB and MNHS.
- e. It was noted that which art is bondable has already been determined. If there are pieces still in question, MMB will make the call. The strategy is to get appropriations rather than a bonding bill for the bondable art. Fine art is best funded with cash.

## **5. How do we define art?**

- a. We need to come to a common vision and develop a consensus on basic issues such as:
  - i. How do we define art?
  - ii. Type of art visual, literary, 3-D
- b. What is the purpose of art in the Capitol?
  - i. Recording history?
  - ii. Telling the story of democracy and values?
- c. What are the current themes? What's missing?
- d. What is the role of art in the new spaces available after construction?
  - i. Think about the physical spaces we have to hold art. What is appropriate?
  - ii. New themes, stories?
  - iii. Rotating art?
  - iv. If someone came to the Capitol for an hour, what do we want them to walk away with? Minnesotans vs. non-Minnesotans?
  - v. What stories do we tell? Who are in those stories? Ordinary Minnesotans?

## **Next Steps**

- a. Go through consensus workshop process to begin to address the above questions and develop a shared vision on some key issues.
- b. Members then left for a "hard hat tour" of the Capitol with possible art locations being highlighted.

## **6. Future Meetings**

- a. Cathy Klima, Communications Office for Capitol Restoration Project, will poll members for best meeting date/times, and then create a schedule of monthly meetings.

## **Agenda topics for the next meeting**

- 1. Consensus workshop on key questions



2. Review draft of work plan prepared by co-chairs.
3. U.S. Office of the Architect visit report focusing on the art components – Wayne Waslaski
4. Discuss holding public meetings, holding subcommittee meetings in different parts of the state.