



Capitol Art Subcommittee Update

Summary of Efforts to Date 8-24-2015 (3 meetings held, now meets monthly)

Review of current art and initiating needed conservation efforts

- Received and reviewed inventory of current Capitol art (fine art and other art)
- Reviewed the condition of the current fine art and learned about the conservation process
- Recommended a legislative appropriation for fine art restoration (which was approved by Preservation Commission and funded by 2015 Legislature)

Vision statement

- Workshop and continued discussion resulted in refining the following 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, and***
- ***appreciating the varied landscapes of our state.***

Review of the renovated Capitol and the public spaces available for art

- Tours familiarized members with the restoration effort and spaces of the Capitol.
- Identified potential opportunities and challenges and are following up to gain additional information.
 - Opportunities include: new public spaces on the third floor and in the ground floor as well as in other parts of the repurposed corridors and other public spaces (expanded dining rooms, etc.). Discussion supports using some of these spaces for rotating exhibits to present more art and encourage the public to repeatedly return to experience new opportunities.
 - The challenges in certain rooms and hallways are being further explored and include adequate lighting, glass treatment on skylights on the third floor, security, wayfinding, and the placement of technical supports.
- Further delineating spaces available for art in the restored Capitol. Initial work focuses on primary and secondary locations by purpose (public corridors, public gathering spaces, decision making spaces, etc.)

Public information and outreach

- Information sharing with the public established with Dept. of Administration through
 - a website with the meeting summaries, inventory of current art, media coverage, etc. (<http://mn.gov/admin/capitol-restoration/about/preservation-commission/art/>)
 - a facebook page for the Restoration Project that in less than 2 months has 600 followers.
 - A one day opportunity at the State Fair to share information on the renovation and the arts
- Preliminary planning for the outreach process to gain public input and feedback later this year

Future work will lead to early 2016 recommendations to the Preservation Commission:

- Finalize recommendations for art zones in the Capitol that vary by significance and use.
- Further discussion & recommendations on the current art, especially art that is not considered appropriate of honored placement by some or in need of interpretation (particularly the portrayals of Dakota people and other Native Americans).
- Further discussion on the 1940s addition of Governor portraits and the space implications for the future if the current tradition continues as well as considering alternatives and developing a recommended approach.
- Recommended guidelines to govern what art is displayed where and for how long (permanent, semi-permanent, rotating, temporary).
- Engaging the public in providing ideas and feedback.
- Will continue to get updates on the conservation work (guided by others)
- 2016 work will focus on recommendations for how to implement the adopted recommendations. Will also include consideration of other arts that could be part of making the Capitol lively year round while telling Minnesota stories and sharing Minnesota talents via performing arts and literary art.