



**Minnesota State Capitol Preservation Subcommittee
Art Subcommittee
September 15, 2015 Meeting Summary**

Attendees

- Subcommittee: David Senjem, Diane Loeffler, Paul Anderson, William Green, Peter Hilger, Ted Lentz, Gwen Westerman, Steve Elliott (ex-officio), Paul Mandell (ex-officio)
- Support: Erin Campbell, David Kelliher, Cathy Klima, Brian Pease, Brian Szott
- Interested Parties: Scott Russel (Healing Minnesota Stories – St. Paul Interfaith Network), Sue Gens (Minnesota State Arts Board), Mike Mullen (Capitol Report) and other media.

1. **Review of August 3, 2015 meeting summary** – no changes suggested.

2. **New Business**

- a. Rep. Loeffler and Sen. Senjem presented an update about the Art Subcommittee's efforts at the Capitol Preservation Commission meeting on August 24, 2015. In addition, a written summary was shared with the commission. The update was well received.
- b. New opportunity to for art infrastructure funding.

At its last meeting, the Capitol Preservation Commission discussed the additional \$2 million broad-purpose funds appropriated at the end of the 2015 legislative special session for the Capitol Restoration. Suggestions for its use are due at the next Preservation Commission meeting in mid-October. The money could help fill in the shortcomings noted in the basic infrastructure needed to support art in the Capitol (examples include: UV protection on the recently uncovered skylights, appropriate lighting for art, hanging options, and secure display systems for gallery areas).

Rep. Loeffler made the motion to create small taskforce to explore those issues with Admin. The taskforce can be made up subcommittee members and experts not on the subcommittee (for example, the lighting designer from HGA). The idea is to get funding, identify locations in the Capitol earmarked for art, and rough-in the necessary environmental elements for future use. Subcommittee members are encouraged to forward names of people who would benefit the taskforce. Motion carried.

3. **Housekeeping matters/protocol**

- a. Sen. Senjem introduced and the subcommittee discussed using Roberts Rules of Order to facilitate decision making. In addition that, members need to be present or participating via phone to vote. Sen. Senjem made the motion and it carried.

4. **Adoption of the vision statement**

- a. The subcommittee approved the vision statement.
- b. The final wording is:

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

5. Finalize the Public Survey Questions

- a. The subcommittee discussed the draft questions slated for a public survey that will be used this fall. Discussion revolved around:
 - i. Wording of questions. They should be devoid of the subcommittee's assumptions and biases.
 - ii. Purpose of the survey. The purpose is to engage citizens to offer ideas and help advise the subcommittee as it makes its decisions about art in the Capitol.
- b. Gwen Westerman and Cathy Klima will draft and edit the language for the survey and then email it to subcommittee members for feedback.

6. Update from Administration

- a. Erin Campbell reported on progress of the Capitol Public Space Advisory Committee.
 - i. The committee is determining ways to invite Minnesotans into the Capitol building to take advantage of the expanded public space that will be available after the restoration project.
 - ii. It is currently focusing on procedures and protocols for accessibility, scheduling and safety. It is important to meet all relevant government regulations, despite the building's changing use, to keep the building contents and structure safe.
 - iii. The committee will provide a report on the types of uses, policies and procedures at the next Preservation Commission meeting.

7. Discussion on locations of public meetings, and media coverage

- a. Target month for public meetings: Late October and early November 2015
- b. Suggested locations: Bemidji, Duluth, Rochester, Owatonna, Metro Area suburban and urban areas and possibly more. It was noted that some smaller cities may need longer lead times to publicize the event. Some, not all, subcommittee members will attend the public meetings.
- c. One meeting should be recorded and put on the website. An early metro area meeting was suggested.
- d. Admin is committed to helping the Art Subcommittee secure a facilitator to lead meetings when the subcommittee gets into key areas of policies and procedures about art in the Capitol. The facilitator will also help design the public meetings to make them as effective as possible.
- e. Next Steps: Need to establish "Save the Dates" and search for free rooms known to each community.

8. Examples of art from other Capitols

- a. Ted Lentz gave an overview of art in the following state capitols: Pennsylvania, Missouri, West Virginia, Kansas, Texas. The overview also included the Library of Congress and National Archives.
- b. He noted how each state capitol handled governors' portraits. Most notable: All governors' portraits were not as large as those in the Minnesota State Capitol.



- i. Pennsylvania: All governors' portraits are in the Governor's reception room and Governor's suite.
 - ii. Missouri: Governors' portraits are in one room.
 - iii. West Virginia: It virtually has no art in its Capitol. No governors' portraits
 - iv. Kansas: No governors' portraits???
 - v. Texas: Governors' portraits line the Rotunda.
- c. Mr. Lentz also provided insight into how the capitols told their state's stories, gave examples of how some of those capitols incorporated art years after they opened, and shared information about how some use new technology, such as flat-screen televisions.

9. Space Issues

- a. Ted Lentz [presented updated maps of each floor](#) showing estimated zones available for art.
- b. Discussion included:
 - i. Consider areas traditionally not considered for public art, such as caucus room.
 - ii. Issues: Who has the authority over those areas and who schedules them? What are the policies for those areas?
 - iii. Need to avoid overpromising the amount of space available.
 - iv. Need to know linear space vs. usable space available for art.
 - v. Discovering what space is available for art is our mandate.
 - vi. Seeing documentation from previous mural work would be helpful. How was the amount of space available determined?
 - vii. Placing art is not just to fill the walls. Need to consider will the pieces look good? Will they fit in the space? Are the environment and security acceptable? What stories do they tell? It's like developing an exhibition and it takes time.
 - viii. It's wise to leave blank spaces while art is being developed.
 - ix. It is important to know about other policies that may govern the wall spaces.
- c. Deliverables discussion
 - i. What are the subcommittee's deliverables? Policies and anything else we want to recommend about art, ideas on how the public will experience the art.
 - ii. There will be two reports – a preliminary and final report. The preliminary report is due in January.
- d. Next steps:
 - i. The chairs will have an outline for the preliminary report at the October Art Subcommittee meeting.

10. Capitol Corridors and Governor's Portraits

- a. Peter Hilger built on what Ted Lentz presented. There are only 19 states that hang governors' portraits.
- b. Fort Snelling has a virtual exhibit that brings people to life. The exhibit is a learning experience. It is important to encourage active learning with the art in our capitol.

11. Native American Art

- a. Brian Pease gave an overview the of Civil War paintings in the Capitol using [Artists' Search for Historical Accuracy](#) handout. He illustrated how the artists went to great lengths to reenact battles by consulting with Cass Gilbert and Civil War veterans.



- b. Gwen Westerman was not able to present due to time. Her presentation about Native American art will be the first item on the agenda at the next subcommittee meeting in October.
12. Next meeting: **Monday, October 12 (this is a week later than originally planned)**. The meeting will go from 10 am – 2:30 pm. The location is to be determined.