

**Draft #5.1: Survey for Public Input on Capitol Art
October 12, 2015**

Below is the final recommended wording to use for the survey intended for public input on art in the Capitol.

Introduction

The Minnesota State Capitol will re-open in 2017 after undergoing its first comprehensive preservation, restoration and repair effort since its original construction in 1905. When completed, expanded public space will be available to display art.

This survey is being conducted by the Subcommittee on Capitol Art which was established by the bi-partisan Minnesota State Capitol Preservation Commission to gather public input on art in the Capitol and make recommendations for future art policies.

We want to know what you think about art in the Capitol – please complete this brief survey using Internet Explorer and help shape what your Capitol will look like for the next hundred years and beyond!

Thank you for participating in our survey. Your feedback is important.

The Subcommittee on Capitol Art created this vision statement for art in the Capitol:

*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*

Questions

1. Have you ever visited the Minnesota State Capitol? (Yes/No)
2. Have you seen any of the art in the Capitol? (Yes/No)
3. Please rate **each** statement about your preferred focus of art in the Capitol on a 1 to 5 scale [With 5 the highest value & 1 the lowest value]

- 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.

4. Cass Gilbert, the Minnesota Capitol architect, selected art to inspire and educate visitors. In the renewed Minnesota Capitol which Minnesota stories might interest you? [With 5 highest value & 1 the lowest value]

- Historical events that shaped and influenced 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 civil society

5. Since the 1940's an official portrait of each Minnesota Governor has been placed in the Capitol. These portraits have, over time, become a key part of Capitol tours; but, they will, in the future, take up an increasing amount of wall space that would be available for other art.

How do you think the Governors' portraits should be displayed? **Choose one.**

- Continue displaying every official Governor's portrait in a prominent location
- Display Governors' portraits, but in a less prominent location.
- Display selected Governors' portraits on a rotating basis
- Periodically display all portraits
- Display the portraits representing "recent memory" – i.e. representing the last 80 years
- Do not display Governors' portraits
- Other – write in comments

6. 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 that time. Some of those ideas may not represent the way many of us think today.

What do you think should be done with the art that may not reflect our attitudes as Minnesotans today?

- Write in comments

Thank you for taking the time to tell us what you think about the art in the State Capitol.

The Minnesota State Capitol Restoration Project provides an opportunity to review art in the Capitol, including accommodating art that reflects how our state has changed since 1905. Capitol architect Cass Gilbert's original vision of the Capitol included art as an important element to inspire and education visitors. The Subcommittee on Capitol Art is committed to being true to his vision.

If you would like to learn more, see these websites:

- [Minnesota State Capitol Restoration Project](#)
- [Art Subcommittee of the Minnesota State Capitol Preservation Commission](#)