



Minnesota State Capitol Preservation Committee

Art Subcommittee Meeting

January 11, 2016 Meeting Summary

Attendees

- Subcommittee: Sen. David Senjem, (presiding), Rep. Diane Loeffler, Hon. Paul Anderson, Ted Lentz, Matthew Welch, Anton Treuer (PHONE), Rep. Dean Urdahl, Paul Mandell (ex-officio)
- Support: Erin Campbell, Cathy Klima, Brian Pease, Brian Szott, David Kelliher, Sharon Press, Mariah Levison
- Interested public members, the media and others.

1. Call to Order (10:00 am) Sen. David Senjem presiding
2. New business
3. Review Appendix
 - a. Members will review the appendix of the Preliminary Report and provide any comments to the tri-chairs before the next meeting.
4. Public input findings
 - a. Mariah Levison presented the findings from the Public Input Meetings noted in the [Facilitator's Report](#).
 - b. Noting the limitations of the survey, there were three main take aways:
 - i. The public wants new art that tells multiple stories
 - ii. Interpretation is important
 - iii. The public wants art that is unifying and affirming, yet can deal with difficult issues.

5. Potential areas of agreement

The subcommittee agreed by consensus on the following recommendations for inclusion in the Preliminary Report.

- a. The display and interpretation of the art should engage visitors and inspire return trips to the Capitol
 - There needs to be improved and engaging interpretation of much of the art.
 - The renovated Capitol should have installations that can evolve and change over time.
 - Some new policies need to be developed in regard to the Capitol, and there should be periodic review of all policies.
- b. Retain prominent display of some art related to the Civil War
 - The four Civil War paintings should remain in the Governor's Reception Room.



- The Civil War flags should remain in the Capitol. They should be in the Rotunda, on a rotating basis, for the reopening but other possible long-term placement may be a part of future discussions.
- c. The tradition of having the Governors' portraits should continue in the Capitol but be displayed in new ways.
 - Governors' portraits should be displayed in a way that enables contextualizing them and providing meaningful interpretation.
 - Size and style guidelines should be reviewed, revised, and adhered to.
- d. Relocate some art depicting American Indians
 - Tribal leaders and historical experts shall be solicited to participate in the interpretation of works of art with American Indian content.
 - Move the "Father Hennepin at the Falls of St. Anthony" painting from the Governor's Reception Room and relocate it within the State Capitol with appropriate interpretation.
 - Move "The Treaty of Traverse des Sioux" painting from the Governor's Reception Room and relocate it within the State Capitol with appropriate interpretation.
- e. Certain areas are not subject to consideration
 - While some Minnesotans have raised concerns regarding the fine art work within the House and Senate Chambers, the Subcommittee defers to those bodies to determine art content within legislative Chambers subject to the overall policy for art in the Capitol.
- f. All Capitol art is a State asset
 - All of the art* in the current collection has a historic and artistic value and should remain in State or Minnesota Historical Society ownership and be preserved.
(*Capitol art is defined broadly in [Minnesota Statutes 138.68](#))
- g. Funding should be provided for basic art infrastructure and conservation and interpretation
 - The Subcommittee requests funds for art hanging, display, and security systems, design support, and architectural wall elevations that will support current and future placement decisions. *
 - Since the funding secured for fine art conservation has proven inadequate, additional funding for conservation should be authorized so the work can be completed during the restoration. **
 - Robust interpretation of works of art and other public programs in the Capitol will require funding that would be both one-time and ongoing. We recommend that this funding should be provided.

** The 2015 Legislature designated bond funds for additional Capitol Restoration work and this request is already before the Preservation Commission for consideration.

6. Future meeting schedule

- a. Future meetings will be on Fridays to accommodate the legislative session.