

Broad General Policies for New Visual Art

May 6, 2016

1. Visual art shall be classified as Permanent Capitol Art, Rotating State Art, and Temporary Art.
2. Art, especially in the historic corridors, should be generally realistic in nature and tell the story in a way that doesn't require extensive interpretation.
3. Priority for rotating or temporary art exhibits should be given to the new public space on the third floor.
4. Space for art from future generations must be preserved via policy so new permanent additions will be limited.
5. No art in the Capitol may promote a specific business or name brand product in the marketplace.
6. Whenever appropriate to the story being told, new art shall reflect the involvement of women, persons of color and other Minnesotans under-represented in the current collection. For the people to feel part of their government and its history, we heard in the public hearings that seeing themselves in the art is a way of welcome and inspiring engagement.
7. Any art to be hung within the decorative painting borders of a corridor must be scaled to fit within those borders in a consistent way that does not unduly distract from the decorative painting.
8. Art selection processes shall be established to assure quality in the selection of art and artists and competitions and commissions can both be used to assure that. Processes shall assure the consideration of new artists as well as established ones, especially given past bias in the selection of artists which gives some demographic groups more of a portfolio of accomplishment. (Even Cass Gilbert got his chance via a competition after having spent his career to that point primarily on homes and small buildings).
9. The specifics of the story to be told must guide the artist and historical accuracy shall be sought as much as possible if it is conveying a historic event.

Commemorative Art

10. Private fundraising ability shall not be a consideration in the selection of people or events to be honored in the Capitol or the type of commemoration.
11. Selection for honor via art in the Capitol should not be swayed by the politics or personalities of the day, but instead reflect stories that have stood the test of time. The passage of time and major selection tests must be passed for any event or person to be honored by inclusion in the art collection.
12. Given limited space, there should be no more than one commemoration for a person or an event (not more than one inside the Capitol, nor one inside and one outside on the Capitol grounds).
13. The current tradition of the use of the Capitol Grounds near the Veterans Service Building for war memorials should continue and no new war memorials shall be placed inside the Capitol.
14. Other than the Governors' portraits and some gap filling, busts, portraits or other honors of individuals should be limited via selection policies. Future art shall primarily emphasize collective historical experiences and achievements, not individuals.
15. All persons honored must be for their service to Minnesota specifically (not national leaders with little or no direct contribution to Minnesota history).
16. Cast plaques are not a very engaging way to commemorate a person or event and should not be added.