

Capitol Arts Management in other States

6-3-2016

Colorado

Capitol Building Advisory Committee

Develops and oversees criteria for the evaluation of proposals and selection of art (via gift or loan). Knowledgeable advisors are consulted.

Capitol Building Advisory Committee has a 23-page Criteria and Procedures Guide that includes sections on: goals of the evaluation process, location of objects, definitions, application procedures, evaluation criteria, standards for Capitol grounds zones, agreements, disposition or relocation of donated objects of art, exclusions, evaluation criteria for loaned objects of art, application for temporary displays, guidelines for exhibits, and procedures for adoption and amendment of its criteria and procedures. System has been in place since 1992.

General Assembly's Capital Development Committee,

Has jurisdiction over the public spaces of the Capitol and the surrounding grounds. Capitol Building Advisory Committee presents its recommendations to it. Any proposals for the Capitol grounds must also receive the approval of the Governor. Proposals are received once a year.

Points to ponder:

- Colorado uses a structure similar to our current ongoing Capitol Preservation Commission with knowledgeable advisors.
- Elected body oversight of permanent changes.
- Combined oversight of interior and exterior art and art spaces
- Colorado has a very detailed and clear set of criteria and procedures that guide its work.

Oklahoma

State Capitol Preservation Commission (established in 1982).

The commission is the responsible party for the placement of art, acceptance into the permanent Capitol Art Collection and the temporary exhibition of works of art. Annually accepts proposals for temporary exhibits.

Arts Standards Committee

Makes recommendations to the State Capitol Preservation Commission.

State Arts Council

Oversees art program. Employs a State Capitol Arts Curator. It oversees two distinct collections with different purposes and goals, and a rotating exhibition program:

Capitol Arts Collection

- Over 100 permanent pieces of art in the Capitol that focus on the history of the state.

- Organizes its collection by theme: The Events, The Land, The People
- State Arts Collection
- A state-owned arts collection featuring works by notable Oklahoma artists.
 - Established in 1971, the art within the collection reflect the history and diversity comprising Oklahoma’s cultural fabric.
 - Select works from the State Arts Collection are exhibited in one gallery of the Capitol. The works include ceramic works, fiber arts, painting, photography, sculpture and works on paper.

Rotating exhibits feature current Oklahoma artists

Three smaller galleries in the Capitol feature exhibits of current Oklahoma artists and rotate approximately every 60 days. Factors taken into consideration in the selection of artists include the artist's connection to the state, professional status, physical nature of artwork in relation to exhibit space, diverse ethnic and cultural background of artist and statewide representation. Artistic excellence and artistic merit are the criteria by which artwork will be considered, taking into account general standards of decency and respect for the diverse beliefs and values of the people of this state. The Arts Council selects the specific works to be shown and curates the display.

Capitol Art education program

Oklahoma has an extensive “teaching with Capitol art” program with an emphasis for social studies and art. Each piece of art has online information that could be used in a teaching environment. A free DVD and pre and post classroom materials features an award winning documentary “The People’s Art: An Introduction to the Capitol Art Collection”. Capitol Art Travel Subsidies will cover the cost of student groups taking field trips to the Capitol. For 9-12th graders they have each student study and be the guide to a particular piece of art.

Points to ponder:

- Art Standards Committee brings in expertise to State Capitol Preservation Commission for overall policies.
- State Arts Council is the home of the Capitol Arts Curator and has the major ongoing responsibilities for advising on the program, managing the applications for temporary exhibits and their implementation, and tying the entire arts program into detailed resources for the schools in both social studies and arts.
- Dividing collections into two: “historic Capitol collection” and “all other state owned art, some of which is in the Capitol” but with unified oversight.
- Rotating exhibits are of art by living artists of the state selected in a competitive process.
- Extensive education program tied to state standards and using online and other resources.
- Capitol Art Travel Subsidies help all schools visit the Capitol for educational field trips.

New Mexico

Legislature in 1992 established a nonprofit foundation to assist in the acquisition of art for exhibit in the state capitol. The mission is to collect, preserve, exhibit and interpret works of art by New Mexico artists and other relevant works of art that reflect the rich and varied history, cultures and art forms of the state.

It promotes public appreciation and understanding of the art, history, and culture of the state through art and artifacts of historical or cultural significance in temporary exhibitions at the Capitol and public education programs.

Wide range of art styles and mediums, many are contemporary. Fundraising includes the sale of specially commissioned pieces of art and small scale reproductions of current collection holdings, along with more traditional fundraising approaches.

Points to ponder:

- Foundation structure as a way of engaging a diverse range of art expertise and museum representatives in a joint effort.
- Fundraising via sale of art reproductions and specially commissioned pieces (along with traditional donor appeals).