

MINUTES Capitol Art Exhibit Advisory Committee (CAEAC): Nov. 17, 2025 Mtg.

Nov. 17, 2025, 11am - 1pm

[Meeting was held virtually]

Present (Voting Members): Beau Bakken, Lyndon Carlson, Mara Hanel, Margaret LeClair Lett, Jimmy Longoria, Colin Nelson-Dusek, Ben Owen, Cheyanne St. John, Dean Urdahl, Christina Woods

(Not Present: Gita Ghei, Seitu Jones, Bryan Thao Worra)

Present (Non-Voting Members): Sue Gens (Minnesota State Arts Board), Commissioner Tamar Gronvall (Department of Administration), Jessi Held (Department of Administration)

(Not Present: Erik Cedarleaf Dahl (CAAPB))

Other attendees: Gretchen Funk (MNHS), David Kelliher (MNHS), Cecily Marcus (MNHS), Lindsey Rulon-Miller (MNHS)

AGENDA

- Call to order (Ben Owen, Chair)
 - *Chair Owen called the meeting to order at 11am*
 - *Roll call for attendance*
- Approval of agenda
 - *Woods moved (second by Hanel)*
 - *Roll call; motion passed, agenda approved*
- Approval of minutes (Aug. 25, 2025 mtg.)
 - *Carlson moved (second by Woods)*
 - *Roll call; motion passed, minutes approved*
- Agenda overview
 - *Chair Owen welcomed the committee; provided an overview of the agenda*
- 3rd Floor Exhibit Gallery updates
 - *Rulon-Miller provided an overview of the new exhibit by Anne Labovitz, 122 Conversations: Person to Person, Art Beyond Borders – The Archive, which will be on display in the 3rd Floor Exhibit Gallery from Oct. 1, 2025 through Oct. 1, 2026*
 - *The opening reception was Thursday, Nov. 6, 2025 from 4-7pm; thank you for those who attended or supported the promotion of the event*
 - *Hanel suggested the committee explore virtual options for Greater Minnesota to participate in Capitol art activities*
- 2027 Call for Proposal: Step 2 Review
 - *Chair Owen reminded committee that Robert's Rules will be followed in meeting decorum*
 - *Chair Owen provided an overview of the 2027 Call for Proposal process*
 - *Step 2 applicants had roughly 6 weeks to submit the required application materials; all 12 applicants that were invited to Step 2 completed the next level application*

- Chair Owen addressed the scores and encouraged the committee to review the applications with a qualitative lens; some discussion transpired regarding starting with the scores (numbers) as opposed to discussing the applicants objectively one-at-a-time
 - **Motion:** Woods moved (second by St. John) **that the Committee review each application factoring in qualitative considerations, including statutory criteria**
 - The motion was voted on by roll call:
 - LeClair Lett and Longoria voted no, all other yes; motion passed
- After a discussion of each Step 2 application, the committee had a brief conversation about whether or not to utilize the aggregate scores to determine which exhibitions to recommend to the Capitol Preservation Commission (CPC) for approval
 - **Motion:** Nelson-Dusek moved (second by Longoria) **to take a “yes/no” vote for each of the 12 applications based on highest to lowest aggregate scores**
 - The motion was voted on by roll call:
 - Longoria abstained, all others yes; motion passed
- Committee reviewed the aggregate scores; proceeded to vote “yes/no” (or abstain) for each applicant, which were voted on by roll call:
 - 27_07: Tomas Alvarez 6 yes, 1 no, 1 abstain (not present); pass
 - 27_18: Katharine Eksuzian 8 yes; pass
 - 27_16: Laura Ruprecht 8 yes; pass
 - 27_26: Tom Olmscheid 5 yes, 3 no; pass
 - 27_27: Suyao Tian 7 yes, 1 no; pass
 - 27_20: Sadie Ward 4 yes, 4 no; tie, motion fails
 - 27_25: Susan Armington 1 yes, 7 no, fail
 - 27_28: Tanya Piatz 2 yes, 6 no, fail
 - 27_12: MaryAnn Cleary 1 yes, 7 no, fail
 - 27_32: Kevin Zaid Martinez 3 yes, 5 no, fail
 - 27_11: Nicole Thomas 1 yes, 7 no, fail
 - 27_23: Lonnie Broden 1 yes, 7 no, fail
- **Motion: CAEAC recommends the following exhibitions (below) to be recommended for Capitol Preservation Commission (CPC) approval while granting administrative support (MNHS) the ability to collaborate with the artists and consider other spaces in the Capitol (within the CAEAC statutory purview), as available:**
 - 27_07: Tomas Alvarez (“From Shore to Skyline”)
 - 27_18: Katharine Eksuzian (“Tempus Naturae”)
 - 27_16: Laura Ruprecht (“The Nature of Wholeness”)
 - 27_26: Tom Olmscheid (“Fifty Years Under the Dome”)
 - 27_27: Suyao Tian (“We Belong to the Same Breath”)

- **Motion:** Chair Owen moved (second by Carlson) to recommend the group of five exhibits [27-07, 27-18, 27-16, 27-26, and 27-27] for approval by the Capitol Preservation Commission
 - The motion was voted on by roll call:
 - Longoria abstained, all others yes; motion passed
- Next steps
 - Next CAEAC meetings:
 - Monday, Feb. 2, 2026: 11am-1pm
 - Monday, May 4, 2026: 11am-1pm
 - Committee discussed the option of an in-person, or hybrid, meeting; discussed the opportunity to schedule in conjunction with other events, tours, or opening receptions for the 3rd Floor Exhibit Gallery to ensure the Greater Minnesota committee members will have more impact with their visit
 - A tour of the MSP-Airport art program was discussed as an option
 - Monday, Aug. 3, 2026: 11am-1pm
 - Monday, Nov. 2, 2026: 11am-1pm
 - Capitol Preservation Commission meeting:
 - Weds., Dec. 3, 2025: 12-1:30pm
- Adjourn
 - Hanel moved (second by Bakken)
 - Chair Owen adjourned the meeting at 1:36pm

Attachments:

- DRAFT_2025_11_17_CAEAC_AGENDA
- DRAFT_2025_08_25_CAEAC_MINUTES
- CAEAC_2027_Step2_Qualitative_Summary_Matrix_OnePage