



CAAPB

BOARD MEETING

September 24, 2024

9:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Capitol Room 123, State Capitol building at 75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd., Saint Paul

Virtual – Livestream available at <http://www.mn.gov/caapb>

Board Packet – <https://mn.gov/caapb/about-us/meeting-minutes/>

Proposed AGENDA

9:00 a.m. Meeting Kick-Off

Item 1. Capitol Mall Design Framework (*action item*)

Item 2. Capitol Mall Design Framework Implementation: Phase 1 update

Item 3. Kickoff: Application for Commemorative Works removal: USS Ward Gun (*action item*)

Item 4. Update: Rice Street and Jackson Street project updates

Item 5. Approval of Minutes – May 15, 2024 (*action item*)

Item 6. Informational memo: Other project updates

11:00 a.m. Adjourn

Board Meeting Packet Items

- Draft Minutes from May 15, 2024
- Memo and Resolution: Approval Final Changes to Capitol Mall Design Framework
- Memo, Resolution, Application and Supplemental materials: Commemorative Works removal: USS Ward Gun
- Informational Memo: Other Project Updates



Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board

625 Robert Street North

Saint Paul, MN 55155

651-757-1500

<https://mn.gov/caapb/>

Date: September 15, 2024

To: Members of the Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board (CAAPB)

From: Erik Cedarleaf Dahl and Peter Musty, CAAPB

The Capitol Mall Design Framework (CMDf) is a document that will be used to guide the future of the Minnesota State Capitol Mall for years to come. It will exist as one of four Framework plans that are adopted by reference to the 2040 Comprehensive Plan for the Minnesota State Capitol Area and serve to guide improvements from landscape design and plantings to wayfinding, stormwater management, public space design, commemorative works, and public art. It will be referenced for compliance in future board approvals and will guide decisions about maintenance, memorials, ecological systems, and security improvements by the stewarding agencies of the State Capitol Campus.

CMDf'S STATUTORY and POLICY REQUIREMENT.

The CMDf is Required by Statute, Comp Plan, Rules, and Legislation: The CMDf in final published state will serve as planning and design policy manual, as called for in several important CAAPB policy documents:

- Statute 15B requires that CAAPB maintain policy guiding design and planning for the Capitol Mall, grounds, and approaches.
- 2021 - The 2040 Comprehensive Plan for the Minnesota State Capitol Area (see policy guidance in Chap. 1 & 2).
- 2022 - Rules for Commemorative Works (MN Rules Chapter 2400).
- 2023 - Legislation funding development of the "Capitol Mall Design Framework," Minnesota Laws 2023, Chapter 62, Article 2, Section 124.

PROCESS SUMMARY.

The CMDf process included an extensive and nationally competitive team-selection process, rigorous background research, and wide-ranging local, regional, and statewide stakeholder engagement.

- **June 2023:** enabling legislation was approved creating funding, timeline, and other requirements for the CMDf (See attached memo to Board including entirety of 2023 legislation related to Capitol Area).
- **August – September 2023:** development and release of Request for Proposals to complete CMDf. The process included vetting of six qualifying proposals and interviews of three teams. A selection team was formed made up of representatives of the major stewards (agencies) of the Capitol Mall, including Capitol Board Members, the Department of Administration, Minnesota Historical Society, and City of Saint Paul, among other important partners.

- **October 2023:** Selection of Sasaki with team members including interdisciplinary team: Damon Farber, Zan, Barr and other design specialists (Sasaki proposal available on request).
- **November 2023 – January 2024:** statewide survey released; project startup research and background information, research related to Cultural Landscape Report (CLR) identifying historic resources (<https://youtu.be/69zyZsHH70g?si=uKBAsseg23Gclh1-L>), community charrette preparation, formation of four focus groups: More Minnesota, Saint Paul Community, Executive Leadership Group, and local outreach/meetings.
- **February 2024:** Community Design Charrette at Minnesota History Center and Veterans Services Building.
- **Spring and Summer 2024:** Released two more statewide surveys, formal request for agency review letters, public comment period (30-days), statewide engagement events.

COMPLIANCE.

CMDF's Compliance with 2040 Comprehensive Plan

CAAPB staff affirms that the policy in the CMDF is in compliance broadly and specifically with policy guidance in all seven Chapters of *The Comprehensive Plan for the Minnesota State Capitol Area*. Policy requiring the CMDF itself is found on Chapter 2, page 65:

“To ensure implementation of the highest standards for the civic spaces of the Capitol Campus, update the CAAPB Mall Design Framework (1990) by 2025, addressing the policies of the chapters of this Comprehensive Plan.

2.39. In addition to addressing the policies of this plan, focus effort on updating location-specific planning and policy addressing issues including but not limited to: design and architectural of civic spaces and streets, memorial and commemorative art siting and programming, safety, wayfinding, sustainable landscaping, water, visitor experience and comfort, while ensuring continuity of primary functions such as supplying a range of places for speaking out and convening events.

2.40. Work with a multi-disciplinary, multi-agency team to garner input on the update to the Framework, especially regarding changes or upgrades to public or private buildings and the public realm surrounding them.

2.41. Include John Ireland Boulevard from the Cathedral of Saint Paul to the Capitol Building as part of the Mall, recognizing the importance of this ceremonial route as an extension of the Mall.

2.42. Address the site and connectivity issues of the Minnesota History Center.

2.43. While the focus is the design of the Mall, the Framework should address movement and connectivity to locations both within and outside the Mall.

- 1. Address the impact of the addition of the Green Line Light Rail Transit on access to the east campus.*
- 2. Specifically plan for improved connectivity to ensure maximum access and safety from the Capitol Mall to surrounding public spaces, including Leif Erickson Park, the Judicial Plaza, Cass Gilbert Memorial Park, and to entrances of public buildings.*
- 3. Encourage keeping public entrances of buildings on the Mall open to ensure access to public lobbies.*
- 4. As new development occurs on or around the Capitol Campus (such as future development at the Sears site) ensure appropriate connectivity is considered within, or as an addendum to, the updated Mall Design Framework.”*

CMDF’s Compliance with 2023 Enabling Legislation

CAAPB staff reports to the Board that we remain in compliance with items (a) and (b), including consultations identified in legislation.

“Sec. 124. CAPITOL MALL DESIGN FRAMEWORK.

(a) An update to the Capitol Mall Design Framework must include:

(1) plans to integrate green space campuswide, including but not limited to the addition of green space on the following sites at the approximate sizes indicated:

(i) the southwest corner of Rice Street and University Avenue, with a minimum size of 20,700 square feet;

(ii) the northeast corner of Rice Street and University Avenue, with a minimum size of 32,000 square feet; and

(iii) the north side of the State Capitol building adjacent to University Avenue;

(2) plans for visual markers and welcome information for the Capitol campus at one or more corners of Rice Street and University Avenue, anchoring a pathway to the State Capitol building and Capitol Mall that features interpretive markers honoring the importance and stature of the Capitol campus as both a historic site and as a modern, active public gathering space for all Minnesotans; and

(3) plans to plant trees throughout the Capitol campus, prioritizing the creation of a mature tree canopy to provide an area of shade for users of the Capitol Mall between or adjacent to the State Capitol building and Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard.

(b) The Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board must contract with one or more professional design consultants with expertise on horticulture, landscape architecture, civic space design, infrastructure assessment, and operations and maintenance planning to develop the framework updates. The board must additionally consult with the commissioners of administration and public safety and the senate majority leader and the speaker of the house or their designees before any proposed framework update is approved. The board must approve the updated design framework no later than March 1, 2024. EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective the day following final enactment.”

AGENCY REVIEWS.

Technical Advisory Team (TAT)

SHPO (1)	Amy Spong
COMMISSIONERS/RECS (1)	Jessi Held
FMD (3)	Chris Guevin Kari Suchy/Anne Johnson (event mgmt., function of open spaces) Joe Dinnebier (landscape design, maintenance, standards)
OES (1)	Marcus Grubbs
MNHS (2)	Brian Pease (Capitol building Site Manager) Lindsey Dyer (commemorative works liaison for Capitol Area)
CITY (1-2)	Luis Pereira (Planning & Economic Development (PED)) Anna Potter (Public Works) Allison Suhan-Eggers (HPC – Senior Historic Preservation Planner)
LEG + CAAPB Board (2-3)	Board Member Dana Badgerow Board Member Rep Ginny Klevorn
CAAPB Advisory Cmte. (3)	Advisor Michael Bjornberg (AIA Appointee) Advisor Joe Favour (State Arts Board Appointee) Advisor Denita Lemmon (Board Appointee)

Ramsey County	Brad Estochen
DOT	Lindsey Bruer Stephen Terhaar
CRWD	Anna Eleria
CAP SECURITY (1)	Capt. Roeske
DISABILITY (1)	David Fenley

CAAPB ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

Statements Available from Advisors Favour, Bjornberg, and Lemmon

CAAPB Staff have involved Advisors at nearly every step in the process following selection of a team.

MORE MINNESOTANS: PUBLIC COMMENT, SURVEY, and STATEWIDE REVIEW.

Please consult the CMDF for a summary of public engagement, comment, and survey. The statutory for a formal public hearing has been satisfied, but Staff may (or Board may direct) choose to repeat public release for comment during formal amendment of the 2040 Comp Plan in the coming months.

FINALIZING the 90% DRAFT

1. **Cultural Landscape Report** - The Final *Draft* of the Cultural Landscape Report was submitted with the 90% *Draft* CMDF document on 20 May 2024 for review and comment. A "CLR 101" Presentation was given by Sasaki and Damon Farber on 12 June 2024 in Saint Paul to demonstrate how recommendations from the Final *Draft* of the CLR have influenced the 90% *Draft* CMDF document.
2. **Reordering and Streamlining** - CMDF Chapters 1-3 will be moved to the Appendix in the Final CMDF document; revisions have been made to Chapter 4, and Chapters 5 and 6 are new material in the 90% *Draft* CMDF document.
3. **Condensed "Bold Moves"** - The "Ten Bold Moves" that were borne out of the intensive design charrette have been condensed into "Eight Bold Moves" where there was overlap in goals.
4. **John Ireland Promenade** - John Ireland Boulevard Bridge meetings have taken place with MnDOT and the bridge engineering team in an effort to coordinate the bridge design with the goals of the CMDF to improve pedestrian connectivity to Minnesota History Center, Kellogg Boulevard. The City is participating closely.
5. **Implementation: Phase 1A and Beyond** - Revisions to Phase 1(A) Implementation scope have been coordinated with CAAPB, ADM, and the City of Saint Paul that maintain the spirit of what was approved by the CAAPB Board on 01 March 2024 while addressing the realities of procurement and implementation timelines to meet the December 2024 deadline.
 - o Tribal Flag Plaza
 - o Replanting of trees in the Lower Mall and Lot Q will take place this fall. Planting of trees in the Upper Mall is being coordinated with input from SHPO.
 - o Pilot program for a community commons Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard including a road diet and community mural has been coordinated with input from City and ADM. (Safety issues and capacity have forced a delay past 2024)
6. **Engagement Complete** - Community engagement phases 2 and 3 were completed since the first CAAPB Board meeting and charrette, focusing on Greater Minnesota and Indigenous communities. Public comment periods extended beyond minimums necessary to ensure participation in surveys and in reviews of the 90% CMDF draft.

SUGGESTED BOARD ACTION.

At this time, the Board is asked to approve final changes to the Capitol Mall Design Framework and to authorize next steps.

Following Board consideration at the meeting, staff recommends the following language for Board resolution related to the **Capitol Mall Design Framework (CMDf)**:

The Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board (“Board”) reviewed the 90% draft of the Capitol Mall Design Framework (CMDf), dated _____ and resolves the following:

1. **Final Changes to 90% Draft.** The Board accepts the report presented as in compliance with CAAPB duty to complete the Capitol Mall Design Framework defined in legislation Minnesota Laws 2023, Chapter 62, Article 2, Section 124, with the following provisions:
 - a) The Board empowers Executive Secretary to finalize and republish the final CMDf document, including direction to perform;
 1. re-organization (and re-numbering) of chapters and appendices
 2. substantive updates based on list of changes outlined in this memo and/or as presented and affirmed at the 9/24/2024 meeting of the Board
 3. substantive updates based on additional review by agencies prior to 90-Day Review
 4. development of Executive Summary and ancillary materials
 5. non-substantive, grammatical, and spelling changes
 6. [.... *additional provision(s) adopted by Board if desired...*]
2. **90-Day Review and Formal Amendment to Comprehensive Plan.** Once final changes are made, the Board empowers Executive Secretary to submit the resulting document for required 90-day reviews by partner agencies as required by MN Statute 15B.05, satisfying steps toward final formal attachment to the 2040 Comprehensive Plan for the Minnesota State Capitol Area, last adopted in 2021.

REFERENCE:

15B.05 COMPREHENSIVE USE PLAN.

Subdivision 1. **Comprehensive plan required.** The board must have, and prescribe for the Capitol Area, a comprehensive use plan called the comprehensive plan in this chapter.

Subd. 2. **Land uses.** The comprehensive plan must show the current uses and recommend future uses of land including, but not limited to:

- (1) areas for public taking and use;
- (2) zoning for private land and criteria for development of public land, including, but not limited to, building areas, open spaces, and monuments and other memorials;
- (3) circulation of vehicles and pedestrians;
- (4) utility systems;
- (5) storage of vehicles; and
- (6) elements of landscape architecture.

Subd. 3. **Construction.** No construction on public land in the Capitol Area may take place unless the comprehensive plan and the requirement for a competition under section [15B.10](#) are followed.

Subd. 4. **Exceptions.**

- (a) Under section [15B.10, subdivision 4](#), the board may waive the requirement of a competition.
- (b) Under section [15B.13](#) a competition is not required.

Subd. 5. **Examples.** Some examples of construction under subdivision 3 are building or changing (1) a public building; (2) a street; (3) a parking lot; or (4) a monument.

§

Subd. 6. **Plan amendment prerequisites.** An amendment to the comprehensive plan does not take effect until after the CAAPB:

- (1) gives 90 days' notice of the amendment to the St. Paul Planning Department and the State Board of the Arts; and
- (2) conducts a public hearing on the amendment with an opportunity for public testimony at the hearing.

Subd. 7. **Cooperation.** The CAAPB must develop and maintain the comprehensive plan in close cooperation with the employment and economic development commissioner, St. Paul's Planning Department and City Council, and the State Board of the Arts.

Subd. 8. **Priority for native vegetation.** The board, as part of its comprehensive plan and adopted zoning rules, must give priority to planting native trees and shrubs, or native grasses wherever appropriate, within the Capitol Area.

History: [Ex1967 c 13 s 13](#); [1969 c 1150 s 2](#); [1981 c 356 s 89](#); [1993 c 144 s 1](#); [1993 c 369 s 37](#); [1995 c 220 s 24](#); [2003 c 17 s 1, subds 5,14,16,27,28,50;2](#); [1Sp2003 c 4 s 2](#)



Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board



625 Robert Street North

Saint Paul, MN 55155

651-757-1500

<https://mn.gov/caapb/>

Date: 9/16/2024
To: Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board (CAAPB)
From: Erik Cedarleaf Dahl, Executive Secretary, CAAPB
Peter Musty, Principal Planner, CAAPB

Commemorative Work Application for Removal (Relocation): USS Ward Gun



The USS Ward Number Three Gun

This large gun, from a World War I-era Navy Destroyer, fired on and sank an enemy vessel in the very early morning of December 7, 1941. The crew was comprised of Naval Reservists from Minnesota. After the war, the United States Navy agreed to loan the gun to the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs with the assurance that the state properly maintain it (please see supplemental materials, Part 2/Items A & B). The gun was installed on the State Capitol grounds in 1958. The gun is owned by the United States Navy.

In 2023, the Minnesota State Legislature allocated funds to the Minnesota Department of Military Affairs for the construction of a new 40,000 square foot Military and Veterans Museum on 32-acres at Camp Ripley (Just north of Little Falls). The new facility, to open in 2026, will replace a very modest museum at Camp Ripley that has served veterans and their families for more than 40 years.” – *Photo and History from application by Randall Dietrich, Executive Director, Minnesota Military and Veterans Museum*

Staff Acceptance of Application, Review, and Preliminary Findings

CAAPB Staff received an application from Randal Dietrich, Executive Director of the Minnesota Military & Veterans Museum, for removal of the Commemorative Work USS Ward Gun from the Capitol Mall on 8/19/2024. CAAPB staff reviewed the application and determined it to be complete on 8/26/2024 (within the 10 days allowed per Minnesota Rules “Rules” 2400.2703, Subp. 7).

The application from Executive Director Dietrich is included in the packet, and he will be in attendance at the Board meeting to answer questions about the application. The application includes images of the Minnesota Military and Veterans Museum in Little Falls (near the entry to Camp Ripley on Highway 371), letters of support, drawings of the proposed museum location of the gun, and a description of the proposal.

According to the Rules, once CAAPB staff determine that an application is complete, board staff must review the modification or removal request and analyze whether the request meets one or more of the conditions in Minnesota Rules 2400.2703, subp. 6.

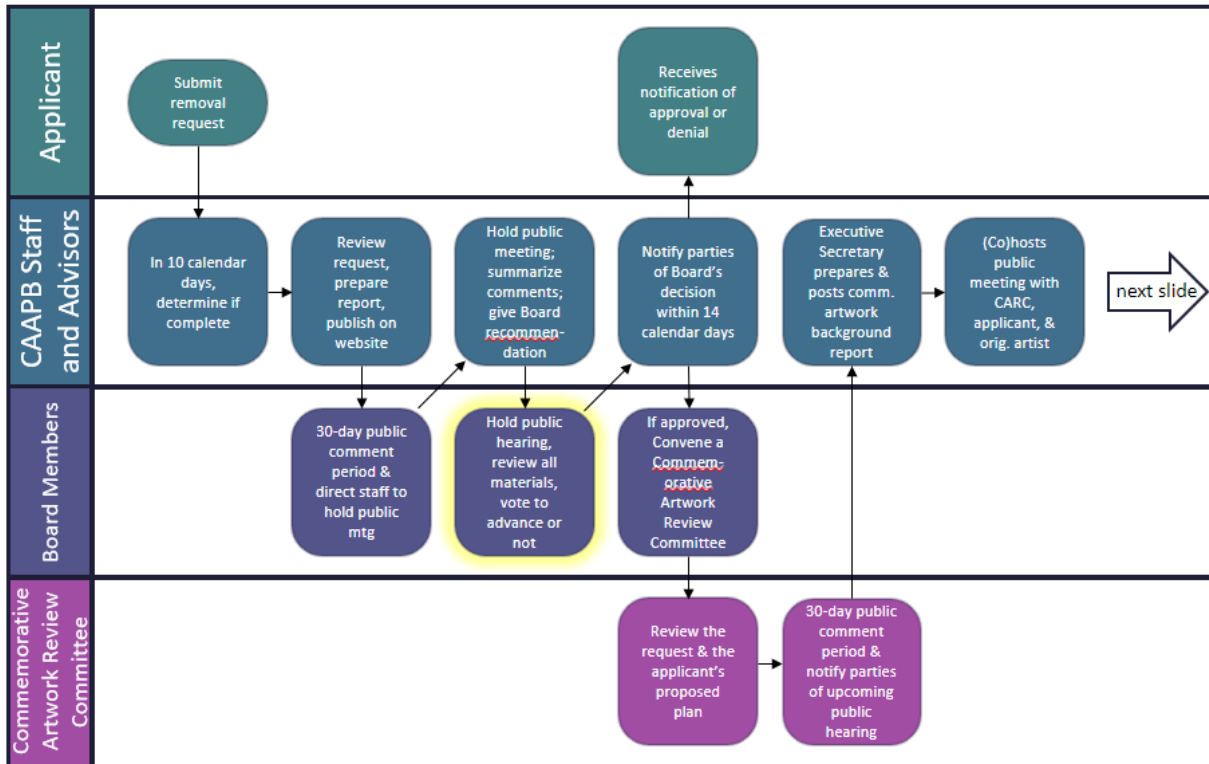
Subp. 6. Conditions for modification or removal of an existing artwork.

- A. there has been sustained, broad-based, and documented public objection to the artwork;*
- B. the artwork conflicts with the guiding principles in subpart 1, item A;*
- C. the artwork has faults in construction or requires maintenance such that the Department of Administration is unable to properly care for or store the artwork;*
- D. the site for the artwork is no longer safely accessible to the public or is due to be demolished; or*
- E. significant changes in the use, character, or design of the site require a re-evaluation of the relationship of the artwork to the site.*

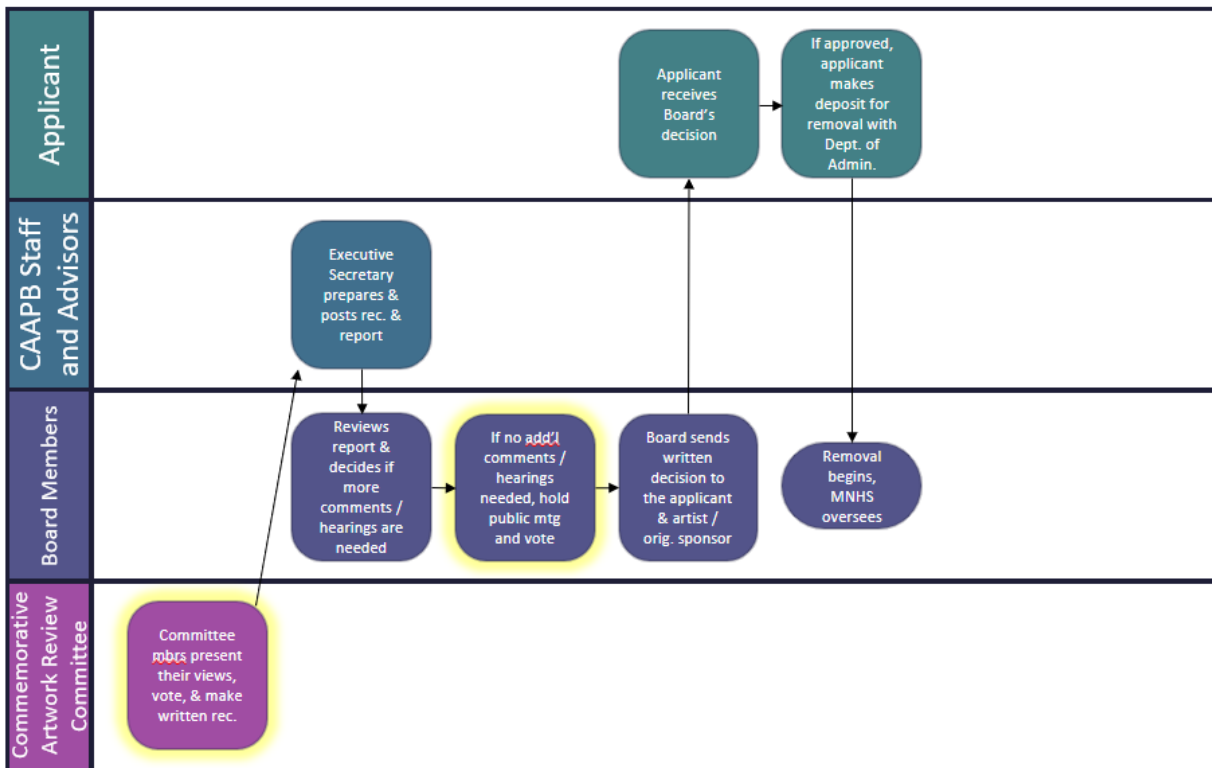
As directed by Rules, CAAPB staff reviewed the application within 10 calendar days of receipt and assessed the Commemorative Work based on the required conditions in Subpart 6. **CAAPB staff finds that the removal request meets the condition of M.R. 2400.2703 Subpart 6., Item C.**, “the artwork has faults in construction or requires maintenance such that the Department of Administration is unable to properly care for or store the artwork.”



Commemorative Works Removal Process (1 of 2)



Commemorative Works Removal Process (2 of 2)



Preliminary findings relevant to Rules for Commemorative Works

CAAPB staff recently benefited from seeing information related to the process of establishing the current site of the USS Ward Gun at the Capitol Mall and the process of maintaining the gun over the years. CAAPB staff, assisted by MNHS staff, consulted with the Department of Administration RECS and FMD leads. The Department of Administration has done an excellent job caring for the USS Ward Gun, an important artifact from the first days of the United States' involvement in World War II (Pearl Harbor). The USS Ward gun is made of steel and the outdoor exposure to elements will continue to impact its integrity. The Department of Administration received one-time funding for maintenance of the Ward Gun and performed maintenance and restoration at that time. Unfortunately, there are currently no dedicated funds for future maintenance. The exposure to elements will continue to degrade this valued piece of history. The lack of dedicated maintenance funds for an outdoor memorial will inevitably result in continued degradation. Therefore, this application for removal of the USS Ward Gun meets the conditions for M.R. 2400.2703, Subpart 6, item C. and the CAAPB staff recommends moving the Commemorative Work removal process forward.

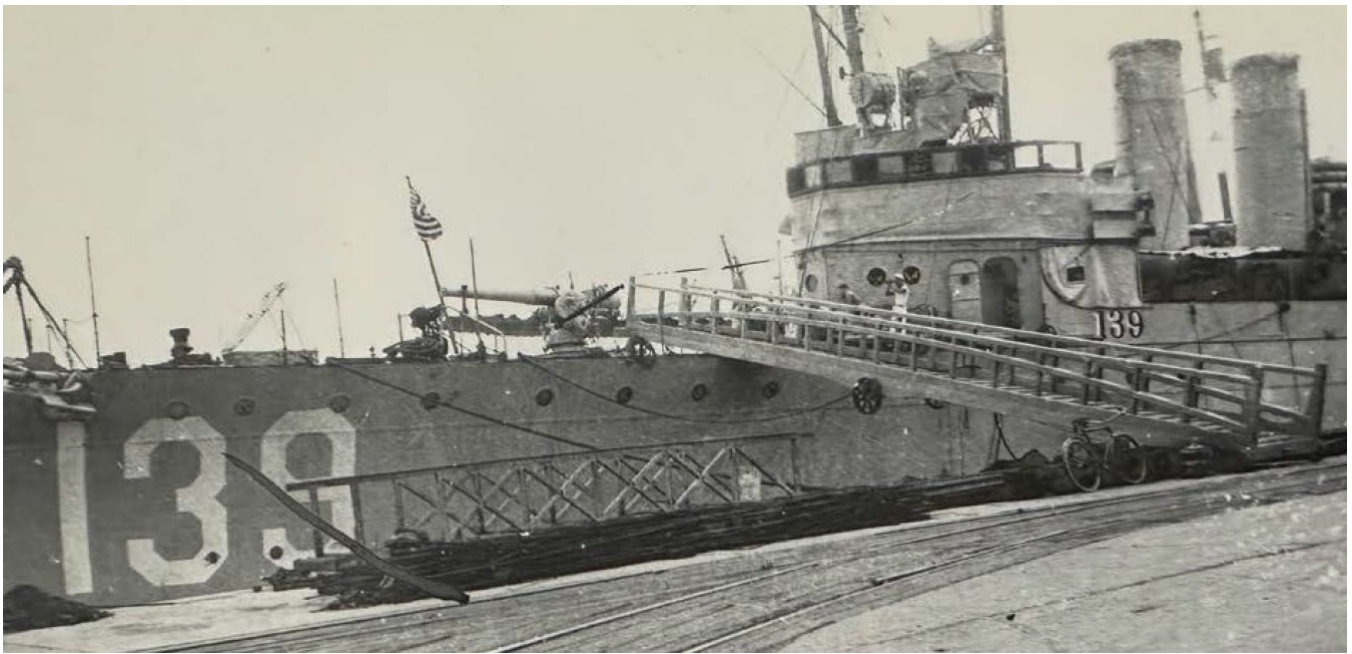
Important note: In addition to information related to the history of the gun, its ownership, and its siting here at the Capitol, CAAPB staff is aware of the particular importance of the gun to veterans groups and veterans families based in Saint Paul, the long process of establishing the gun in its site on the Capitol Mall, and the process of maintaining the gun over the years. This is important information that Staff will offer the CARC and the public for review and discussion in the coming process.

This memo to the Board serves as the required 'report' to the Board on the completed application. The memo and the application are available on the CAAPB website.

With the Board's affirmation, staff will set a 30-day public comment period and direct CAAPB staff to host/cohost at least one public meeting to gather input on whether the removal request meets one or more of the conditions in subpart 6. The public meeting may be hosted, organized, and managed according to subpart 10. Once the 30-day comment period and public meeting are complete, CAAPB staff will prepare a written summary of the public comments and provide a recommendation to the CAAPB on whether to accept the application and proceed to the next step in review process. A majority vote of the full CAAPB is required to accept the application for removal as complete and advance the application for further review by the Commemorative Artwork Review Committee (CARC), established by the CAAPB.

The CARC must include:

- 1) one board member;
- 2) one architectural adviser;
- 3) one person appointed by the commissioner of the Department of Administration to represent the agency;
- 4) a representative from the Minnesota Historical Society;
- 5) two professionals appointed by the board experienced in the fields of visual art, public art, art history, architecture, or history. One of the professionals must have knowledge of artwork conservation;
- 6) two members of the public appointed by the board;
- 7) up to five additional committee members appointed by the board as needed for professional expertise; and
- 8) board staff that oversee and support the committee's work.



Staff will develop a recommendation for membership of the CARC and forward it to the Board Chair for approval after the public hearing to keep the very thorough Rules process moving forward expeditiously. The image above is the USS Ward with the gun mounted. The image below is a rendering of the Minnesota Military and Veterans Museum now under construction near Little Falls, MN in central Minnesota (near Camp Ripley).



Suggested Board Resolution

The Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board (“Board”) authorizes its staff to move forward the process required by CAAPB’s Rules for Commemorative Works, as it relates to the application filed on August 18, 2024, to remove the USS Ward Gun. Specifically, the Board authorizes Executive Secretary to:

- create a report for the Board (see attached memo as preliminary draft) that outlines the preliminary findings, and asks the Board to authorize Executive Secretary to move forward with next steps as directed by the Rules;
- publish the application information at CAAPB website;
- publish the staff report (Board memo) to the website;
- hold a public hearing;
- form a Commemorative Artwork Review Committee (CARC) (see memo).

The Board wishes to further make clear that approval of these intermediate steps in the Rules process does not communicate approval nor disapproval of any portion of the current proposal by the applicant, and approval of these steps does not equate to agreement or judgement as to the veracity of any claim or assertion within the received application.

DATE: 16 August 2024

TO: Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board
RE: Application for Removal of an Existing Artwork

PART 1 – CONTACT INFORMATION

Organization: Minnesota Military & Veterans Museum
Contact: Randal Dietrich
Email: rdietrich@mnmilitarymuseum.org
Phone: 320-616-6050
Address: Camp Ripley
15000 Highway 115
Little Falls, MN 56345

PART 2 - SUBJECT

USS Ward Number Three Gun

This large gun, from a World War I-era Navy Destroyer, fired on and sank an enemy vessel in the very early morning of December 7, 1941. The crew was comprised of Naval Reservists from Minnesota. After the war, the United States Navy agreed to loan the gun to the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs with the assurance that the state properly maintain it (please see supplemental materials, Part 2/Items A & B). The gun was installed on the State Capitol grounds in 1958. The gun is owned by the United States Navy.

In 2023, the Minnesota State Legislature allocated funds to the Minnesota Department of Military Affairs for the construction of a new 40,000 square foot Military and Veterans Museum on 32-acres at Camp Ripley (Just north of Little Falls). The new facility, to open in 2026, will replace a very modest museum at Camp Ripley that has served veterans and their families for more than 40 years.

This new facility, dedicated to veterans of all service branches, will be a more appropriate location for this military artifact.

The Museum's current collection includes extensive archives of the USS Ward and artifacts from the Minnesota veterans who served on-board (Part 2/Item C).

The Museum's commitment to Naval history is further evidenced by the recent acquisition, with the assistance of Governor Walz, of the sail and rudder of the USS Minneapolis-St Paul. The SSN-708 was a Los Angeles-Class nuclear submarine decommissioned in 2008.

The Navy approved this request and the Museum promptly dispatched four semi-trailers to Bremerton, Washington to retrieve these immense artifacts (Part 2/Item D). Extensive restoration is underway with work to be completed in time for the 2026 grand opening.

PART 3 – REMOVAL CONCEPT

As the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs is currently identified on the Navy's loan agreement, the Museum shared plans for the removal, restoration and relocation of the Ward gun with MDVA and has secured the department's endorsement (Part 3/Item A). MDVA has requested that the Navy draft a new loan agreement inserting Museum in place of MDVA.

In addition, representatives of the Museum (Part 3/Item B) and the Minnesota Navy League (Part 3/Item C) traveled to Washington D.C. to brief the United States Naval History and Heritage Command (NHHHC) who is also in support of the plan.

The Museum has commissioned a local conservator to issue a report on the current condition of the gun (Page 1 of this report provided as Part 3/Item D).

The museum will remove, restore and relocate this artifact according to standards set by NHHHC and prominently display it indoors at the new camp Ripley Museum for better long-term conservation and year-round interpretation (Part 3/Item E). As the centerpiece of the WWII exhibit gallery, visitors will be immersed in the sights and sounds that these Minnesota sailors would have encountered on December 7, 1941.

After the move, the former location of the gun will be seeded with grass (Part 3/Item F).

PART 4 – CONDITIONS AND CRITERIA

Generally, the new Military and Veterans Museum at Camp Ripley will be a more appropriate location for the USS Ward gun as it is a military artifact owned by the United States Navy. It is important to note that the story of the USS Ward and crew is featured on the first panel of the WWII Memorial (dedicated in 2007) just north of the Veterans Service Building on the State Capitol grounds (Part 4/Item A).

Current Museum board member and former MDVA Commissioner Larry Herke was in support of this plan and, prior to his retirement, had briefed the Governor's Office.

Further, this proposed move might align with the recent Capitol Mall Design Framework to develop a process that will create a Capitol Mall that is *more welcoming for more Minnesotans*.

If approved, the removal could begin later this year.

PART 5 - FUNDING

In May 2024, The Legacy Committee of the Minnesota State Legislature provided \$275,000 "for a grant to the Minnesota Military and Veterans Museum at Camp Ripley for the restoration, relocation, and interpretation of the USS Ward Number Three Gun and World War II display. Funding can also be used for site reclamation and improvements at the location of the removed work."

There was broad, bipartisan support for this bill with Representatives Lillie, Newton, and Schultz and others signed onto the bill in the House and Senators Mitchell, Hawj and Howe in the State Senate.

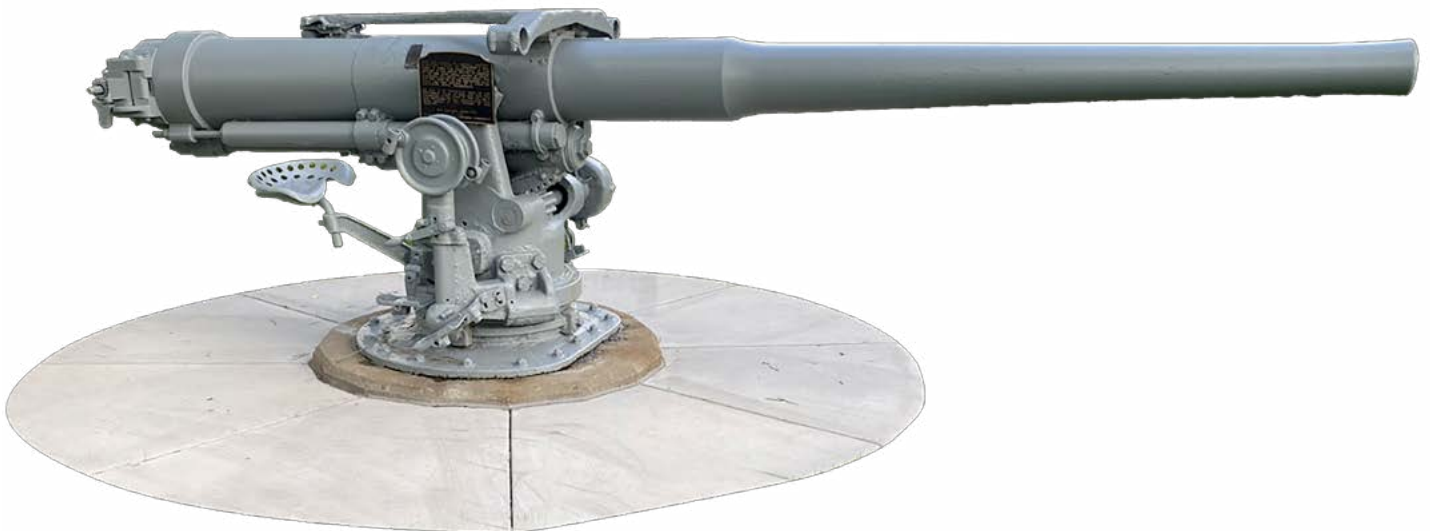
The Museum will cover any additional costs with private funds.

SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIAL



APPLICATION FOR REMOVAL OF AN EXISTING ARTWORK

TO: Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board
FROM: Minnesota Military & Veterans Museum
RE: USS Ward Gun #3



PART 2

A. USS Ward Gun & Sailor Names

Photos of the USS Ward gun and plaque with sailor names: 4/9/24



PART 2

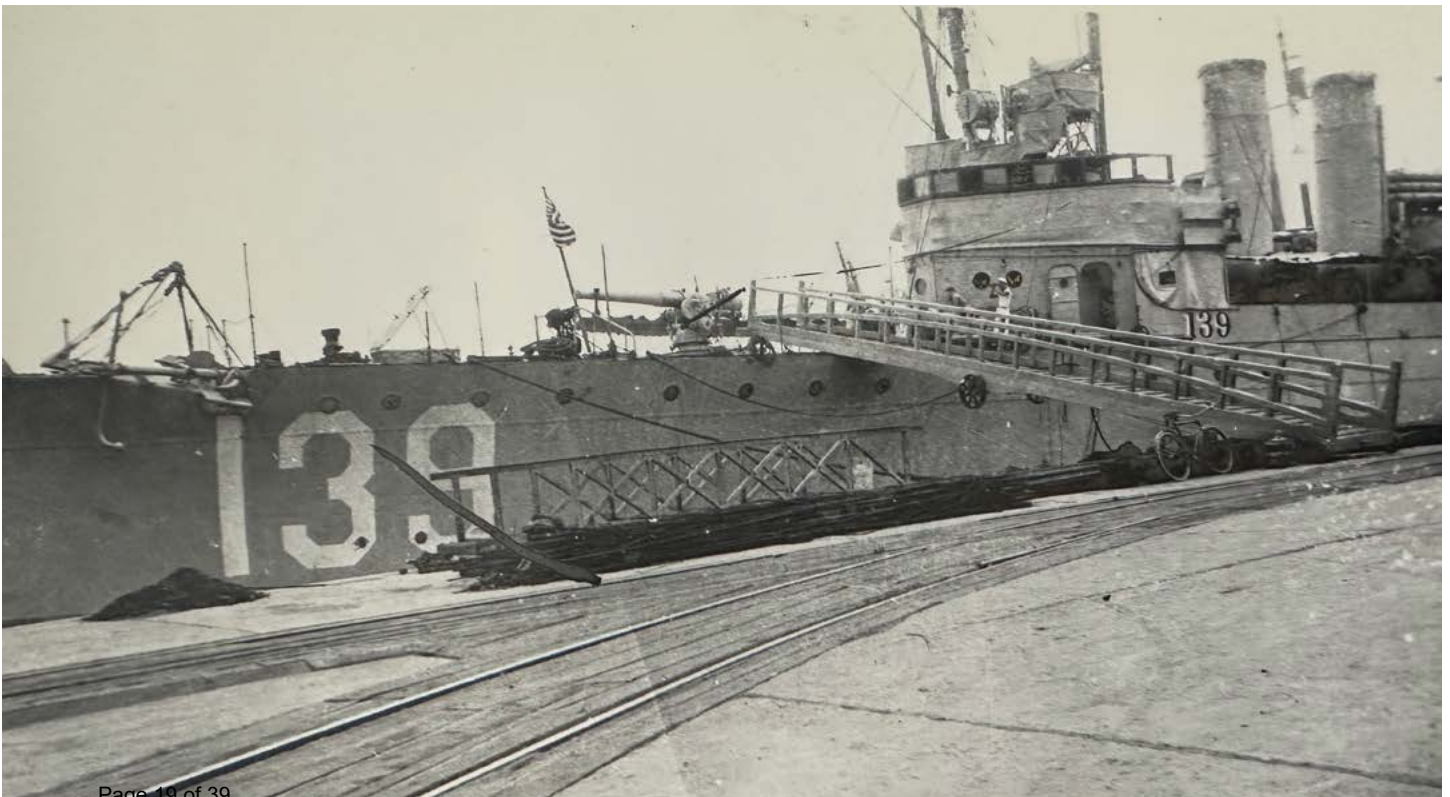
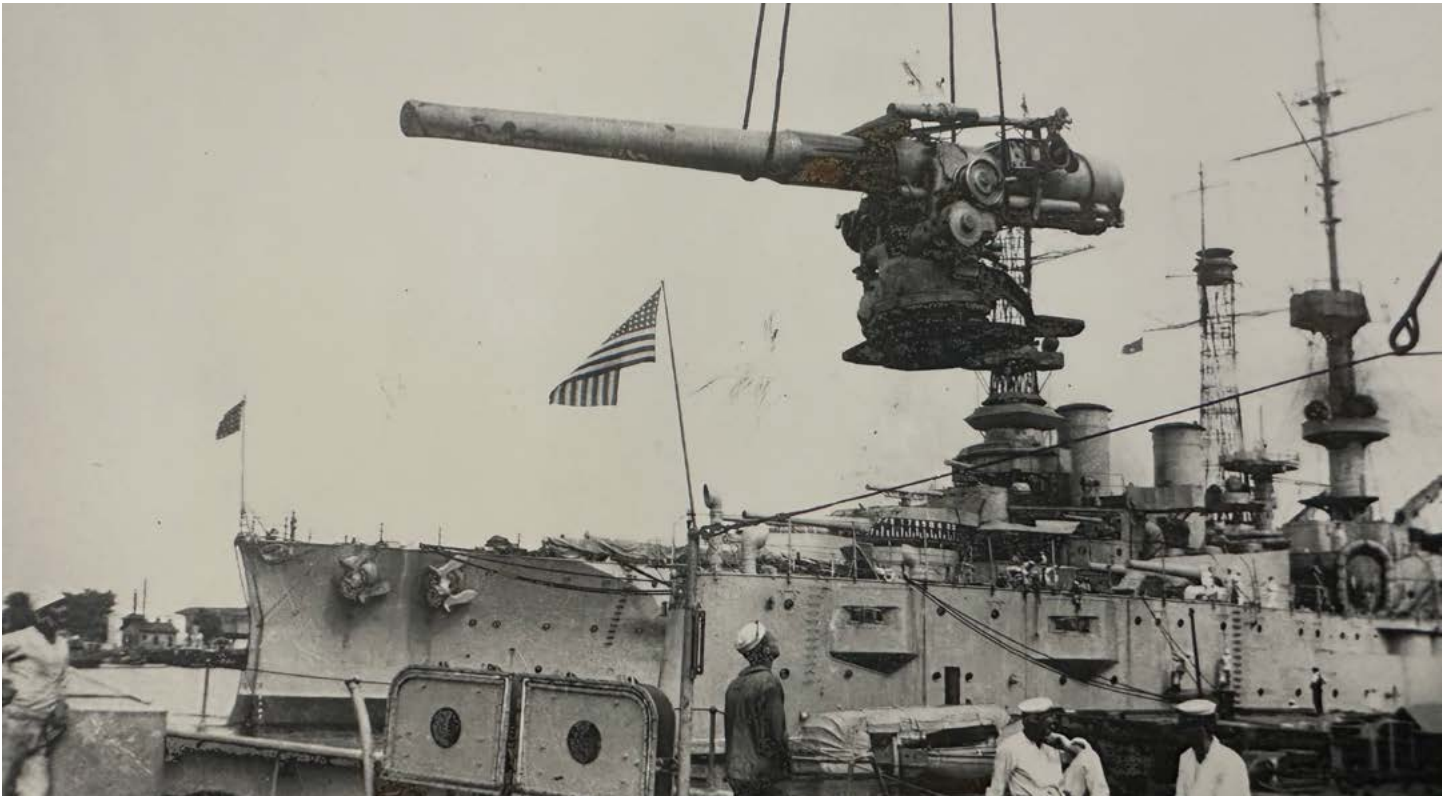
A. USS Ward Gun



PART 2

B. USS Ward in 1918

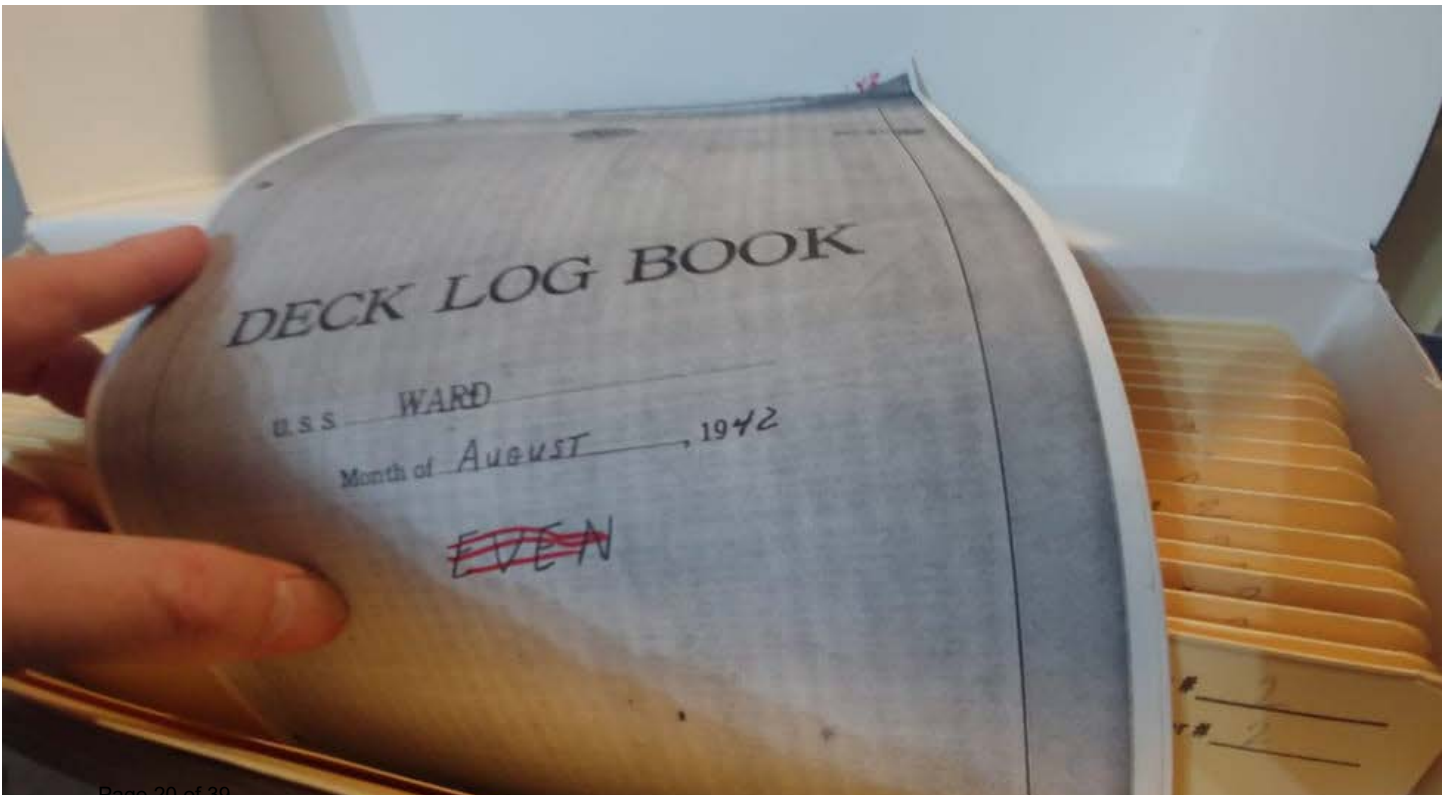
Construction of the USS Ward at Mare Island Naval Yard (CA): 1918



PART 2

C. USS Ward archives

Archives and artifacts at the MN Military & Veterans Museum



PART 2

D. Submarine

Sail and rudder of the USS Mpls-St Paul submarine (SSN-708)



PART 3

A. MDVA Letter to the U.S. Naval History and Heritage Command



MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS Office of the Commissioner

20 W 12th St, St Paul, MN 55155
Phone: 651-296-2562 • Fax: 651-296-3954
MinnesotaVeterans.org • 1-888-LinkVet

January 2, 2024

Admiral Samuel Cox
Naval History and Heritage Command
805 Kidder Breese Street SE
Washington Navy Yard, DC 20374-5060

RE: USS *Ward* Gun #3

Dear Admiral Cox,

I have been briefed on your December 1, 2023 meeting with our state delegation (Joe Fraser, Brooks Berg and Randal Dietrich) and was pleased to hear of your support for the relocation of the gun to a new Minnesota Military & Veterans Museum at Camp Ripley.

For decades the gun has sat outside of our offices at the State Veteran Services Building. We are eager to see a new chapter to be written in the history of this storied WWII artifact. It is story of great importance to the nearly 300,000 Minnesota Veterans, their families and our entire state.

We believe this new facility, adjacent to a Minnesota State Veterans Cemetery-Little Falls, to be the ideal location and fully endorse their plan to remove, restore and relocate the gun inside this new facility which will open to the public in 2026. The prominent placement it will enjoy at the heart of the WWII Exhibition Gallery is befitting of the service of the Minnesota Naval Reservists who made history the morning of December 7, 1941.

We would ask that our loan agreement, and the attendant requirements, pass from the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs to the Minnesota Military & Veterans Museum at Camp Ripley.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and thank you for your service.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bradley S. Lindsay".

Bradley S. Lindsay
Commissioner

brad.lindsay@state.mn.us

PART 3

B. Museum letter to the U.S. Naval History and Heritage Command



Minnesota Military & Veterans Museum

15000 Highway 115 • Little Falls, MN 56345 • Camp Ripley
Phone: 320-616-6050 • mnvetmuseum.org

January 12, 2024

Admiral Samuel Cox
Naval History and Heritage Command
805 Kidder Breese Street SE
Washington Navy Yard, DC 20374-5060

RE: USS *Ward* Gun #3

Dear Admiral Cox,

As Board President of the Minnesota Military and Veterans Museum, I would like to formally request the opportunity to remove USS *Ward* Gun #3 from our State Capitol grounds, restore it according to Navy standards and relocate it indoors at our new museum to open at Camp Ripley. This vibrant training facility, consisting of more than 53,000 acres, is state owned property. Remarkably, the Mississippi River runs through this expansive camp. Our new museum will be at the crossroads of two major highways to provide tremendous exposure and easy access to visitors.

The Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs endorses this plan and MVDA Commissioner Lindsay has signed a letter of support.

In addition, state legislators have committed to introducing a bill in the 2025 legislative session to fund this effort.

As was noted in your December 1st meeting with our team, the museum is already in possession of an abundance of stories and artifacts from the Minnesota Naval Reservists who proudly served aboard the USS *Ward*.

Our team has traveled the country studying the best practices of military museums. We are confident of our abilities to effectively display the gun as the centerpiece of our WWII exhibit gallery. We will be sure to note your role and that of your team.

I would like to invite you to speak at our grand opening in 2026.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and thank you for your service.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mark Ritchie".

Mark Ritchie
Board President, Minnesota Military & Veterans Museum
Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army
donaldmarkritchie@gmail.com

PART 3

C. MN Navy League letter to CAAPB



Minnesota Council

Navy League of the United States

June 9, 2022
Capital Area Architectural Review Board
204 Administration Building
50 Sherburne Ave, Suite 204
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Capital Area Architectural Review Board,

The Minnesota Navy League Council is writing to support movement of the USS Ward (DD-139) 4"/50 caliber gun that sits on the Minnesota Capital ground in St. Paul to a new indoor facility at the Minnesota Military Museum at Camp Ripley.

The USS Ward gun has a special place in Minnesota history as this gun was manned by Minnesota Naval Reservists and used on December 7, 1941 to sink a two-man Japanese midget submarine, just prior to the massive attack on Pearl Harbor by the Japanese fleet. The gun was placed on the Capital grounds in 1958 as part of the Minnesota centennial celebration. The last surviving member of the Minnesota gun crew was Alan Sanford who died in January 2015.

At its current site, the gun is exposed to the elements and will continue to degrade. Moving it to an indoor facility at Camp Ripley will preserve this important part of Minnesota's Naval history.

Sincerely,

William L. James III

William L. James III, President, Minnesota Navy League Council

PART 3

D. Conservation Report by Paul Storch (15 pages)

Paul S. Storch, M.A., PM-AIC
Museum Science Consultants
890 Palace Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55102
H: (651) 690-3276/C: (651) 263-0953
blitzpost@hotmail.com



Mr. Randal Dietrich
Executive Director
Minnesota Military & Veterans Museum

February 14, 2024

CONDITION REPORT: USS WARD #3 GUN

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The purpose of this project is to document the current condition of the USS Ward #3 gun that is currently installed as a memorial on the Minnesota State Capitol Mall prior to the move of the gun to a permanent indoor location. This report will also compile and summarize the history of preservation and conservation efforts to date in order to inform the proposed restoration of the gun.

The goal of this project is to produce useful baseline data that can be used to prepare an RFP for the actual conservation/restoration project.

This report will include the object description, current condition, conservation summary, photographic documentation, recommendations for restoration, and references.

OBJECT DESCRIPTION¹:

The object is Gun #3 and is a 4"/50mm naval gun manned by St. Paul reservists on the U.S.S. Ward, which fired the second shots by Americans at Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, at a Japanese mini-submarine. Based on a submarine wreck found off Hawaii in 2002, the Ward struck the conning tower of the submarine, creating two large holes on either side of the tower, which caused the submarine to

PART 3

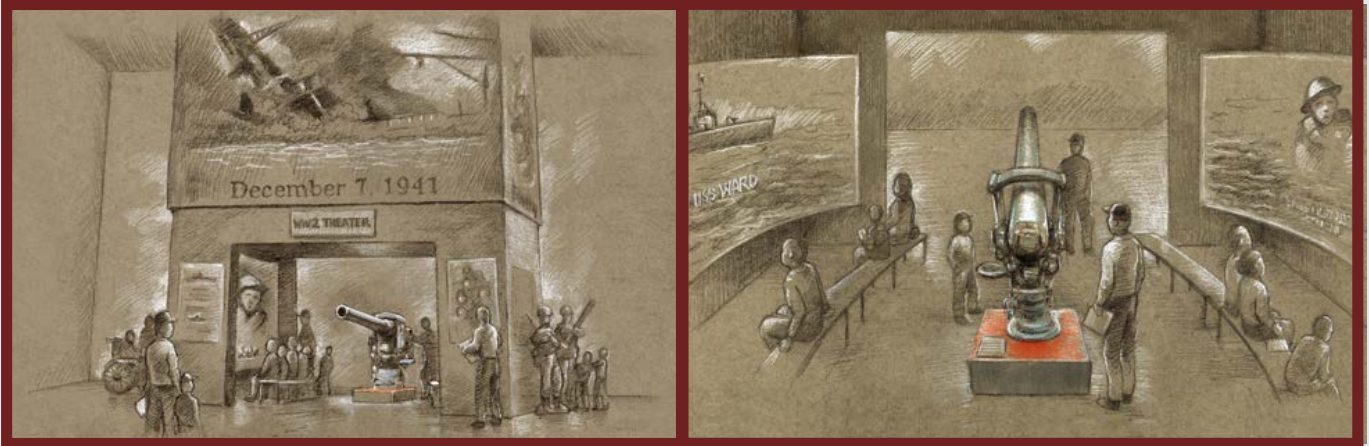
E. New Facility Renderings: Exteriors (2026)



PART 3

E. New Facility Renderings: Interior floor plan (2026)

Prominent placement of the USS Ward gun in the WWII exhibit gallery



PART 3

F. State Capitol ground restoration plan

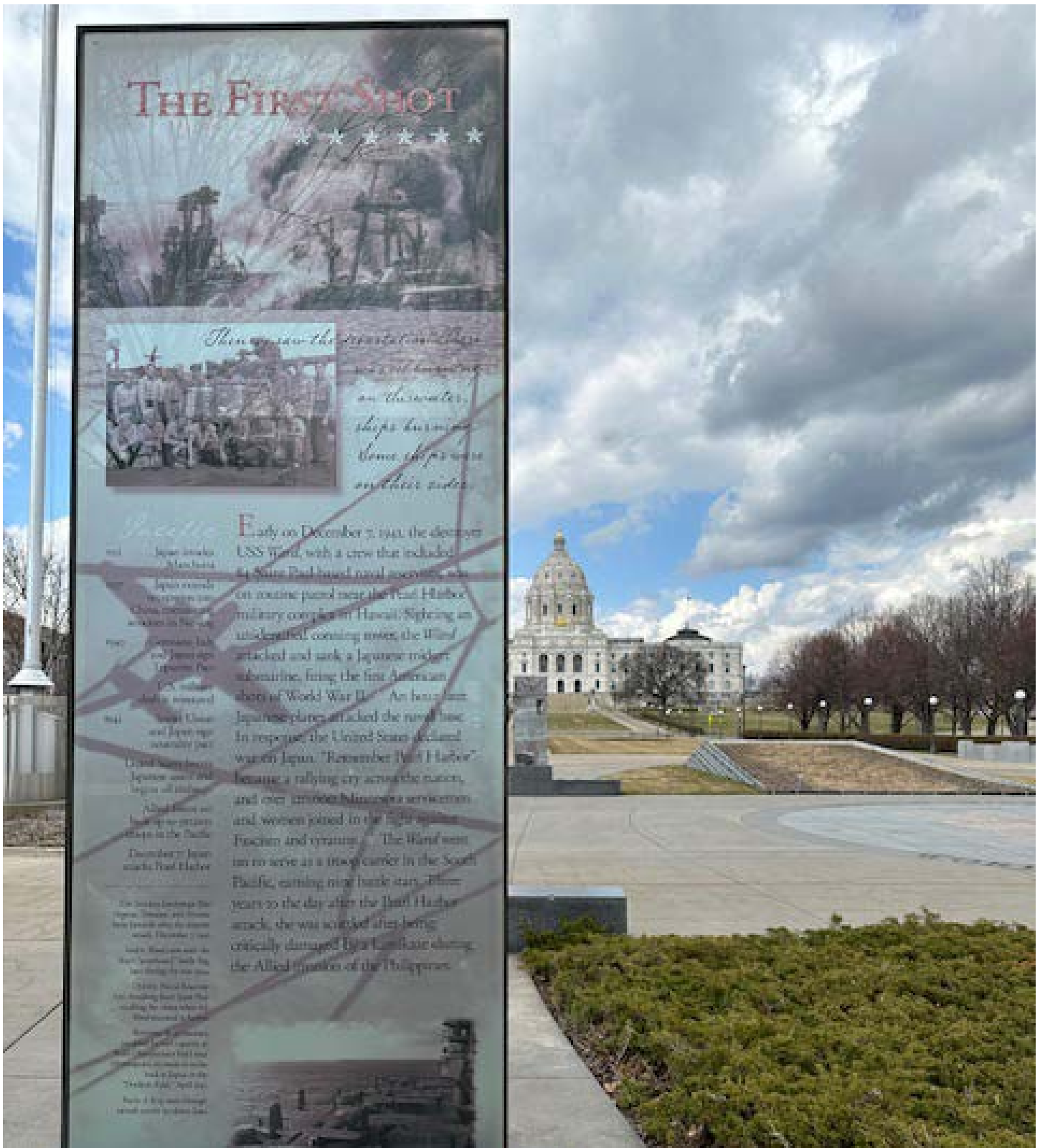
Planned restoration work at the site of removal on the Capitol grounds



PART 4

A. WWII Memorial Panel

Current inclusion of the USS Ward on the first panel of the WWII Memorial





Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board



Freeman Building
625 Robert St N
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155
Phone: 651.757.1500
Web: www.mn.gov/CAAPB
TTY: 800.627.3529

Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board Meeting

May 15, 2024, 2:00 – 3:00 p.m.

DRAFT Minutes

Board Members

Present: Board Chair Lt. Gov. Flanagan, Board Vice Chair Dana Badgerow, Alicia Belton, James Garret Jr., Hannah Hills, James McClean, Melanie McMahan, Rep. Klevorn, Sen. Pappas,

Absent: Dr. Kate Beane, Sen. Carla Nelson, Rep. Isaac Schultz

Quorum present? Yes.

Proceedings

Meeting Kick-Off

- Lt. Gov. calls the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.
- Board member roll call
- Overview of Agenda

Capitol Mall Design Framework (CMDF) – Phase I Update & Direction

Lt. Gov Flanagan reads out loud the agenda and announces that there will be an item to vote on. She passes it to CAAPB Exec. Secretary, Erik Cedarleaf Dahl. He reminds everyone of the green space, visual markers, and welcome information that was previously agreed upon for implantation in March. Mr. Dahl announces that because the current available funds of Phase I of the CMDF needs to be completed by December 31st, 2024, everything needs to be moving quickly. He passes to Josh Brooks from Sasaki.

Josh Brooks shares the concerns of his team from a procurement and construction standpoint given the timeline of the end of the year. Mr. Brooks reminds everyone of the current mall area

before sharing the proposal which includes an elliptical path that will host tribal flags, a road diet of MLK Blvd., and green space on the upper mall with new pathways. He acknowledges the demolition of the current scissor ramps, despite their recent installation. Mr. Brooks shares that these projects are within the \$5 million budget as Phase IA of the overall Phase I of the CMDF.

Lt. Gov. Flannagan thanks Mr. Brooks for his presentation and time and opens the discussion to the board.

Rep. Klevorn shares her concerns and thoughts about how best and pragmatic the \$5 million can be used without having to rip up the new scissor ramps. Lt. Gov. Flannagan shares the distress over ripping out newer installments that were paid for with taxpayer dollars but underscores that accessibility for everyone can be improved.

Rep. Klevorn is concerned that the process would be started for accessibility in mind, and then remain unfinished in the end. Lt. Gov. Flannagan confirms that as of now there are funds from the \$5 million and that there would be the personal responsibility of having taken the ramps out to help see it to the end.

Rep. Klevorn asks if there are any drawings from Sasaki that include the scissor ramps. Mr. Brooks answers that it is not the most feasible because in order to achieve the goal of universal accessibility, there will need to be some demolition. He also addresses the concern of the cost of demolition by stating that in regard to the \$5 million, it will cost \$40-50,000.

Hannah Hills thanks Josh and the Sasaki team for their work and shares Rep. Klevorn's worries by asking if Mr. Brooks has any concerns about doing the construction in a piecemeal way and if any of the installations will need to be redone if continued in a piecemeal way. Mr. Brooks answers that Sasaki has reviewed the plans with CAAPB staff thoroughly and shares that the planning is meant to be smooth and to follow one another. Additionally, should the rest of the following projects not be completed due to a lack of funding, this first portion of Phase IA and \$5 million is still designed to be respectful, honorable, and universally accessible.

Ms. Hills asks for the cost of installing the scissor ramps even though tearing them out will not be too costly. Rep. Klevorn answers that they cost \$619,000 and that her desire is to focus on the tree space and the benches without ripping out the scissor ramps yet since the project is being done in pieces.

James McClean asks for clarification of the purpose for the scissor ramps and where they are on the capitol mall. Rep. Klevorn states that they were installed in 2019. Wayne Waslaski answers that they were installed as part of a capitol restoration project and to be a means of accessibility from the public mall area to the Capitol building.

Lt. Gov. Flannagan asks for David Fenley, the ADA Director to speak to this. Mr. Fenley shares that they don't view this as a disability issue, but rather an accessibility issue that incorporates disability concerns. He continues that although things may be designed with disability in mind, it may not be feasible or usable because it has only met the bare minimum of ADA accessibility standards. He shares that the ramps, or walkways, have some areas that are not meeting ADA standards, but that the designs in the projected plan do.

Rep. Klevorn asks Mr. Fenley if the walkways currently meet ADA requirements. Mr. Fenley shares that though they are ADA compliant, they would be in violation of Minnesota building codes because these codes have gone above ADA compliance for outside, uncovered walkways.

Sen. Pappas comments that although she originally shared Rep. Klevorn's concerns about ripping up the paths, she is more relieved knowing the demolition cost. She also shares that several of her other projects are highly invested in accessibility and that it would seem contradictory to not do what would be best for accessibility in the capitol mall area. She also points to the compromise that was made by Sasaki to not tear up MLK Blvd.

Melanie McMahon shares that she supports the CMDF because it is being implemented in a piecemeal way.

Rep. Klevorn shares that even if it gets approved here, she will receive pushback from the legislators when she has to report back to them in the House.

James Garret Jr. commends the Sasaki teams for their outstanding job. He agrees with the points made by Sen. Pappas about redoing work and approves the demolition for the overall project execution.

Hannah Hills shares her gratitude for the work of the legislators and Rep. Klevorn but also supports the vision of Sasaki and would rather tear something out to replace it with something better, than to have something that sits there and is not conducive to future planning.

Vice Chair Dana Badgerow moves to adopt the plan. James McClean seconds. Mr. Dahl reads the resolution to the Board. The resolution is approved and adopted, with 7 ayes and 1 abstention by Rep. Klevorn.

Lt. Gov. Flannagan relays to Rep. Klevorn that although the legislator determines whether the CAAPB Board exists, as a currently established board, the role of the CAAPB Board is to make the Capitol as welcoming and accessible as possible and that the Board supports her.

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 3:02 p.m.



Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board



625 Robert Street North
Saint Paul, MN 55155
651-757-1500

<https://mn.gov/caapb/>

Date: Updated September 15, 2024
To: Members of the Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board (CAAPB)
From: Erik Cedarleaf Dahl, Executive Secretary, CAAPB
Peter Musty, Principal Planner and Administrator of the Rules for Zoning and Design, CAAPB

RE: Other Project Updates

Update on CAAPB Comprehensive Plan Implementation Work related to 2023 Legislation

Please find detailed language of all 2023 legislation provisions in the [Board Memo posted in June 2023](#). CAAPB staff will provide an updated memo regarding 2024 legislation soon.

+ ON HOLD, FOR NOW! Capitol Area Community Vitality Task Force and Account (\$5.15M)

- The end of the 2023 Session brought both relief and surprises to local initiatives throughout Minnesota, including the Capitol Area. After approving the framework that would guide disposition of funds in the community, the Board and Community watched as the language enabling the funds did not pass at the Legislative deadline. Despite the setback, CAAPB staff, consultant *Creation in Common*, partners in the community, and the Task Force followed through with the engagement work of the *Community Voices Initiative*, as planned. There were good results, including the following, found at CAAPB webpage dedicated to the *Vitality Account #3*...

Background: The Community Vitality Task Force met regularly since September 2023 and ended their work with recommendations to CAAPB, which are posted here: [See Task Force Recommendations](#). The Task Force (see CAAPB page: <https://mn.gov/caapb/planning/vitality/>) reached its sunset with release of the report. The CAAPB approved the report in March 2024, and the report will help guide investment of the appropriated \$5 million. The funding supported the work of the Task Force and enabled CAAPB to procure contracts with Creation in Common and SDK via RFQ using the State’s equity-select guidelines – and resulted in a design for use of the \$5M Account that is based on input from over 70 direct interviews and interactions with community members. Work continues on three levels:

- CAAPB and City staff are meeting regularly to develop a program structure for 2025 and beyond.
- CAAPB legislative members and local representatives are working currently to renew supportive legislation that enables the Board’s program design to be implemented.

- Board consultant team finished engagement work and summaries for the Community Voices initiative and has outlined prioritized opportunities for use of the \$1-\$3M.

It is still envisioned that the account funds will be administered through the following mechanisms over 3-5 years*:

- **Launch Investments** up to \$300K (in community safety, clean up, and technical assistance) beginning 2024.
- **Community Vitality Grants** up to \$1.5M (micro, small, medium sizes) defined within a grant program finalized and launched as soon as possible. The [Task Force recommended](#) that these are made available in phases from 2025-2027 as direct grants in the areas of **art** and **business vitality**, as well as future funds to support **first-time homeownership** in the Capitol Area, and to ensure availability of **technical assistance to grant applicants**. These funds may be direct or come as enhancements to existing City programs that align with the community priorities outlined above.
- **Community Voices Initiative** up to \$3M set aside to support major initiatives identified by the community. As of March 2024 approval of the Task Force Report, major areas of focus: address **cost-burdened households** (see TF report page 6); address **drug use and addiction** (see pg. 7); advance **programming for teens, kids, and young families** (see pg. 7); improve **disability and accessibility infrastructure** (see pg. 7). See the final Recommendations of the [VOICES INITIATIVE](#).

*Timeline and amounts subject to change based on City and CAAPB capacity.

More background information on Capitol Area Community Vitality Account:

- **Task Force Report** (approved by CAAPB and referred to legislature March 15, 2024): https://mn.gov/caapb/assets/Item%201%20-%20CAAPB%20Vitality%20Task%20Force%20Recommendations_tcm1087-614376.pdf
- **CAAPB Vitality tracking page:** <https://mn.gov/caapb/planning/vitality/>
- **Background memo** (outlining the scope of the Community Vitality Task Force): [mn.gov/caapb/assets/Capitol Area Community Vitality Task Force %2B Account - CAAPB Memo July 2023_tcm1087-586125.pdf](https://mn.gov/caapb/assets/Capitol%20Area%20Community%20Vitality%20Task%20Force%20Account%20-%20CAAPB%20Memo%20July%202023_tcm1087-586125.pdf)

+ “KICKED OFF!”: Redesign of Capitol Rice Corridor (Rice Street from Pennsylvania to John Ireland)

Update: Public Works and Planning staff from Ramsey County, MNDOT, City and CAAPB are partnering to launch design and implementation. There have been two meetings of the Project Management team. CAAPB Staff (Musty) is attending meetings twice a month and is providing the interdisciplinary team policy, studies, community surveys, and is summarizing recent studies that embodies CAAPB priorities in our Comp Plan stormwater management, urban design, public realm safety, CMDF, and mobility. **Project manager Haila Maze of lead consultant Bolton & Menk will be present September 24th to highlight some key elements of the project.**

Background: A major initiative of the 2040 Comprehensive Plan for the Minnesota State Capitol Area, ([profiled in Chapter \(Principle\) 4](#)) was to transform the “Capitol Rice Corridor” (Includes portion of Como, Rice, 12th Street across interstate to St. Peter).



The project was enabled by a \$25 million provision from the 2023 MN State Legislature, appropriated to Department of Transportation (but just for Rice Street itself – **the length shown in green above**) to include collaborative work with City of Saint Paul, Ramsey County, Metropolitan Council, State of Minnesota, and, of course, the CAAPB. The project must include implementation of a multi-modal (mobility) hub at University and Rice. (Legislation details can be found in [June 2023 Board Memo.](#)) Appropriation is available until June of 2029. A project webpage will soon be available.

+ Capitol Mall Design Framework (\$6M)

See Item #1 on agenda for this meeting – which will focus on deliberation of the first phases of implementation.

+ State Office Building Expansion into Leif Erickson Park

Following the 2023 spring CAAPB action determining the project, when taken with accompanying community legislation (above), to be in ‘substantive’ compliance with the 2040 Comp Plan, CAAPB’s statutory authority to review and approve the rehabilitation and expansion of the State Office Building was removed by legislation. Neither CAAPB staff nor Advisors have been involved in decision-making on the project since May of 2023.

For more information on the legislation, see previous [June Board Memo](#) now posted on CAAPB homepage. The following is the provision passed citing sections in CAAPB’s Statute 15B and Department of Administration’s Statute 16B pertaining to Commissioner’s duties to CAAPB which “do not apply”:

*“Sec. 11. **CAPITOL AREA LAND USE PROJECTS; ZONING AND DESIGN.** Minnesota Statutes, sections 15B.05, subdivision 3; 15B.06; 15B.08; and 16B.31, subdivision 4, and any rules adopted under the authority of those sections, do not apply to any project to address critical health, life safety, and security needs on the State Capitol complex and for which funds are available on or before December 31, 2023, if the primary affected tenant has given final approval to the project.”*

+ SOON UNDER CONSTRUCTION: New Temporary Green Space at Former Ford Building and Lot C

In October 2023, CAAPB approved zoning permitting for the Department of Administration’s plan to demolish the building and implement an enclosure retaining tunnel access, and basic landscaping. **The work proceeded and the building has been demolished.** Site work including a basic phase of site restoration and construction of the tunnel enclosure is proceeding in 2024. Elements from the façade’s doorway were salvaged for potential later reuse. As approved by the Board, a temporary green space will be formed on the old Ford site and now is

proposed to be extended as a temporary green space to Rice Street. The overall parking spaces offered on the modified Lot C will now drop from 206 spaces to 153 spaces.



Next Step: community discussions with stakeholders, and the finalized site plan will be forwarded to the CAAPB board members. At this time, staff have determined that no Board votes related to zoning are triggered by the project via the Zoning Rules. The new condition of green space may be memorialized in permitting as a temporary condition until both the Rice Street project and site redevelopment can occur.

The Capitol Mall Design Framework will also provide guidance for the long-range disposition of the space in context of site redevelopment by formatting site redevelopment guidelines.

The project otherwise reduces surface parking, adds green spaces, and the underlying land use of Lot C as a surface parking facility will not be changing with the improvements. CAAPB previously approved the portion of green east of Lot C in Fall of 2023. Even as a temporary condition, investments in reduction of surface parking and addition of green bring Lot C closer to compliance with Comprehensive Plan. There is currently not a plan by FMD to permit the space for events, but the surface has been made more level to achieve accessibility standards and to provide flexibility in the near future in case programming needs change.

Commemorative Works Applications

Staff is working regularly with Minnesota Historical Society on several emerging applications for a range of commemorative works applications proposing new, modification to existing works, and removals of works on campus. One of which is now beginning consideration at the meeting in September. Otherwise, all of the applications are in a 'pre-application' stage. We look forward to providing a major update on Commemorative Works to the Board this year and may ask interested Board Members to serve in review roles as required by the new Commemorative Works rules now in place in MN Rules Chapter 2400.

Updates on Off-Campus Capitol Area Projects

Former Sears Site

New owners continue to build capacity to implement the transit-oriented urban village vision for the site.

The newest owners, Asian Media Access, led by Ange Hwang in partnership with Asian American Business Alliance, are currently promoting a range of ideas for long-range reuse of the old Sears building as a centerpiece of larger site redevelopment. They have sought guidance from CAAPB and City staff as they build a development team to support the ownership and design team.

Since the 'big box' pattern of the old Sears is currently not legal by Zoning regulations nor Comp Plan policy, introduction of that pattern as a first phase would require amendment to the Comprehensive Plan (and extend the process considerably) unless they also can present an implementable site redevelopment plan that also meets requirements of the Capitol Rice Development Framework (2040 Comp Plan) and before they apply for specific approvals of building projects within the Rules for Zoning and Design.

Lastly, their team is building support to explore technical barriers and development related environmental studies and infrastructure costs connected with the current site and building realities, and that is taking time. As always, staff will update the Board and the community with information as soon as we are able.

Review: Sears closed in 2018. Subsequent planning led to final approval of the Capitol Rice Development Framework in 2021, confirming the longstanding transit-oriented walkable vision for an urban village, reestablishing an urban pattern of mixed uses reconnecting the neighborhood across the site around a central green space. Seritage, as the former owner, participated with CAAPB and the City to engage the community on design alternatives for the urban village vision as found on CAAPB website. The process affirmed the public realm vision of smaller blocks within a network of tree-lined streets with a new central park, and the market research reported by owner and community input steered land use toward the predominantly mixed residential demand (vs new office). In early 2022 came an investor-related delay due to uncertainty around St Paul's new rent control regulations. In late 2022, Seritage decided to list the site for sale. The site was bought by the current owners after initial purchase by another entity.

New Behavioral Health Hospital (@ old Bethesda Hospital Site): Construction Underway!

Construction is underway on the new hospital. At the time of this memo, staff is awaiting an update on timeline for opening of the new hospital. An update for opening date will be included in the packet for the next Board Meeting, if not in advance.

Multiple Infrastructure Planning Projects Ongoing in Capitol Area

CAAPB planning activity is in full swing following Board adoption of the 2040 Comprehensive Plan for the Minnesota State Capitol Area in June 2021, structured by The Capitol Area Principles. See table on next page for updated status. (Questions: contact Peter Musty)

John Ireland Bridge Repair and Reconstruction: Planning Continues

MnDOT continues conducting a planning and design process for the John Ireland freeway bridge, which is due for structural repair. CAAPB staff and Advisors are assisting MnDOT in their effort at gathering input of community and immediate stakeholders. The gatehouses of the bridge are not affected by any part of the project, and MnDOT has expressed interest in keeping any new bridge details within the character of the landscape design vision established during the mall design framework competition in the 1990's. Discussion is centered on functional considerations of improvements at the intersection of 12th and John Ireland. New design changes will be tracked for approval and updates brought to the Board.

Update: CAAPB Staff, Advisors, MnDOT bridge design team, and City public works leads have been busy collaborating on issues surrounding alignment between the charrette vision for John Ireland, which unifies traffic on one side, and the bridge design, which calls for restoring the design in place, and have moved forward with a preferred scheme that shows retention of four lanes across the bridge. The City and CAAPB highlighted the evolving community vision for John Ireland developed in the CMDF. Please contact Erik Cedarleaf Dahl for updates.

Planning	Sponsor/Lead Agency	CAAPB role	Timing
Sears Site: MX District Plan	public/private team (Developer (tbd), CAAPB, City)	process and review lead	pre-application meetings in holding pattern as capacities are secured by owner team
Commemorative Works Policy (2022 Update to Rules) Funded \$500K, one time sending, available thru FY27	CAAPB (working with MNHS, Administration under new Rules)	Staff receives inquiries under Rules, looking to improve process with Lindsey Dyer of MNHS	Ongoing. Handful of applications in pre-application stages, with one or more starting formal reviews in 2024
Capitol Area Stormwater Management Study	Capitol Region Watershed District	co-lead	Final draft coming soon – identifies four opportunities for district scale systems
Rethinking I-94	MnDOT	policy and planning committee(s)	ongoing
Downtown Commons Study (off-shoot of Rethinking 1-94)	MnDOT	steering	Completed Fall 2023, multi-jurisdictional staff team continues to meet
Capitol Heights Development Framework	CAAPB (leveraging Station Area Planning process)	lead	On hold. (see Station Area Planning)
BRT Station Area Planning: METRO Purple Line (Robert to Jackson)	Ramsey County and Metro Transit	Staff is on Technical Advisory Committee, Design Review Team, updates Admin and Capitol Heights reps	Station approved, delay due to alignment studies, w station area planning resumed
BRT Station Area Planning: METRO G-Line (Robert to Rice)	Ramsey County and Metro Transit	Staff on Technical Advisory Committee, CAAPB approves station location and design in Capitol Area	Station locations under planning and design development. Metro Transit will participate in Rice Street planning and design led by Ramsey County, City and CAAPB plus partners
KICKED OFF: \$25M Capitol Rice Corridor (Rice Street Redesign/Rebuild)	funds held by MnDOT for City/County/ CAAPB leads design coordination	lead, approval	RFP released by County, with design and engagement team now in place
KICKED OFF: Jackson Street Rebuild (Northeastern boundary of Capitol Area)	City	Staff on PMT	Preliminary input from primary partners and agencies, public engagement in planning

KICKED OFF: 12th Street Redo (downtown across St Peter bridge, up 12 th to John Ireland)	City	Staff on PMT	Team selected, work beginning
FUNDED: \$185K Mandatory Update to Rules for Zoning and Design	CAAPB		2024-2025
FUNDED: \$1 mil. Capitol Mall Design Framework (Admin. w/ \$5 mil. for implementation)	CAAPB (w/ Dept of Administration)	lead	Draft CMDF completed and approved, final changes to 90% draft currently under consideration by Board
FUNDED: \$5.15 mil. Capitol Area Community Vitality Task Force	Department of Administration working with CAAPB Schematic Design and direct guidance	Lead, must complete work before Dec 31 2024	work in 2023-24, update in September (See Item #?)

We continue to be Busy! Staff is implementing the 2040 Comprehensive Plan. Implementation of the recently adopted Comprehensive Plan policies is underway with a big boost from 2023 legislation, and we can be hopeful for supportive 2024 legislation. There are several tracks that continue from before adoption of the plan, and several that are new - all of which will be brought forward to the Board where the timing dictates or when action is required. For many items, Board Members may be offered chances to observe, participate in, or advise steering committees or community discussions.

Questions? **Please contact CAAPB Staff directly.**