



CAPITOL AREA ARCHITECTURAL AND PLANNING BOARD

CAAPB

Application for Removal
of an Existing Artwork
on the Minnesota Capitol Grounds

UPDATED MARCH 2025

Commemorative Works on the Minnesota Capitol Grounds

Each commemorative artwork on the Capitol grounds is part of a collection that tells the story of Minnesota and its people. Principle I of the [2040 Comprehensive Plan for the Minnesota State Capitol Area](#), approved in 2021 by the Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board, sets out the vision, roles and policy for the Capitol Area, as articulated in the excerpt below:

“[The Capitol area] is a place to honor individuals, groups and ideas that have shaped Minnesota and contributed to our place in the nation. This is a place to share our many stories and create new ones The Capitol Mall is known as Minnesota’s Front Yard, where all are welcome.”

The intent of this Principle will guide the Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board in all decisions about commemorative works on the Minnesota Capitol grounds.

Minnesota Administrative Rules on Commemorative Works

Commemorative artwork proposals are reviewed in accordance with administrative rules for commemorative artwork on the Capitol grounds. The full text of these rules is found in [Minnesota Rule Chapter 2400.2703](#).

The rules define a "**Commemorative artwork**" as a monument, memorial, or other type of original piece in any style, expression, genre, or media that is the unique creative expression of an artist designed to memorialize cultural, social, and political aspects of Minnesota's history. A commemorative artwork expresses or reflects the collective memory of an individual person, group, or event. Commemorative artwork serves four primary functions:

- A. to memorialize and remember;
- B. to inform and inspire the viewer;
- C. to have lasting historic and cultural significance; and
- D. to accentuate and enhance the urban landscape.

Commemorative artwork may be event-based, temporary, or long-term.

Completing the Application

This document details the required components of an application to the Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board to request that it consider the removal of an existing commemorative artwork on the Minnesota Capitol grounds. All parts of this application are to be completed as fully as possible.

Before completing this application, please submit an "[Early Inquiry and Consultation Form](#)" to CAAPB staff and meet to discuss elements of the application, how to complete them, and any questions.

If you have additional questions while completing the application, please contact CAAPB staff at CAAPB.input@state.mn.us or 651.757.1500.

Once the application is complete with the information identified in Parts 1 to 5 on the following pages, submit it as a PDF or Word document by email to CAAPB.input@state.mn.us or send by postal mail to CAAPB, Freeman Building, 625 Robert St N, Saint Paul, MN 55155.

Information for the Application

Part I - Applicant Contact Information

- a. Full name of the Applicant (may be an individual or an organization)

- b. First and last name of lead contact person for the application

- c. Email for lead contact person

- d. Phone number for lead contact person

- e. Address for lead contact person

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Part 2 - Subject of the Artwork

2A - Narrative

What artwork is proposed for removal and why? Please explain in detail including the historical background. A list of any sources used may be provided in Part 2B. (5,000-character max)

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2B – Bibliography or Sources

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Part 3 – Removal Concept

Is there a proposed approach to the removal, and is relocation of the artwork proposed? Please describe. (5,000-character max)

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Part 4 – Conditions and Criteria

How does the proposal meet the Conditions and Criteria for the Removal of Existing Artwork? Please answer the following questions as fully as possible. Supporting materials for the answers, such as reports, data, or articles, may be included or cited with a URL link.

1. Has there has been sustained, broad-based, and documented public objection to the artwork? Please describe and provide supporting documents where necessary. (5,000-character max)

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2. How does the proposed removal of an existing commemorative artwork impact representation of the state's diverse history and people on the Capitol grounds? (5,000-character max)

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3. How (and to what degree) does the artwork misrepresent the state's history or have the effect of significantly intimidating or adversely affecting a group of people? (5,000-character max)

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Part 5 – Funding

Is funding available to pay for the proposed removal and any related restoration of the site around it?
Please describe the expected funding sources and fundraising strategy.

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NOTE - Additional technical criteria will be evaluated when considering potential removal of an existing commemorative work. The information for these criteria will be provided by state staff and consultants and do NOT need to be addressed in the application. The technical criteria are:

- Availability of necessary funding for conservation, maintenance, and repair of the artwork if the artwork remains in its current location; the availability of exhibition or storage space for relocating the artwork if it is removed; and the disposition of the artwork.
- Degree to which removal of the artwork would detract from the overall artistic and architectural integrity of the Capitol or Capitol area.
- The artwork's style, form, scale, diversity, quantity, quality, longevity, and compatibility with the existing commemorative artwork collection.
- Accessibility, public safety, and the social, cultural, historical, ecological impact.
- Physical, and functional context of the artwork in relation to the site, both existing and planned.
- Issues related to liability, insurance, intellectual property rights, warranties, ownership, theft, vandalism, loss, indemnification, and public safety.
- Safety, the avoidance of emergencies caused by hazards, and construction schedules.
- Value of the artwork as determined by a professional appraiser.
- Plan for returning the space left by removal of the artwork to the space's original condition or a condition that is aesthetically consistent with the surrounding Capitol grounds.