



Early Inquiry & Consultation
prior to application to the CAAPB for Commemorative Artwork
on the Minnesota Capitol Grounds

Updated March 2025

If you are thinking about submitting a commemorative work application to the Minnesota Capitol Area Architectural Planning Board (CAAPB), please contact CAAPB staff to have an early and informal conversation about your idea and questions. There are many things to consider when making an application to add, modify, or remove a Capitol Area commemorative work, and time spent preparing will save time and effort later.

The conditions and criteria to be addressed in an application require thoughtful and thorough responses and supporting materials. CAAPB staff can explain how to approach the application process and can answer any questions.

To talk with CAAPB staff about your commemorative work idea, please first answer the questions on pages 1 and 2 of this document and email it to CAAPB.input@state.mn.us.

1. What is your name, organization affiliation (if applicable), phone and email, and the best way to reach you?

2. What type of application do you plan to submit -- one for addition, modification, or removal?

3. What is the subject or name of the commemorative work?

4. Briefly describe your idea, recommendation, or proposed change.
5. What questions and items do you most wish to discuss in the consultation with CAAPB staff? Please identify at least three specific items from page 3 for proposed addition, page 4 for proposed modification, or page 5 for proposed removal.
6. Is there anything else you want CAAPB staff to know in advance of the conversation?

Thank you for your interest in the commemorative works of the Minnesota Capitol grounds. We look forward to speaking with you.

Erik Cedarleaf Dahl
CAAPB Executive Secretary

Peter Musty
CAAPB Principal Planner and Zoning Administrator

More information on commemorative works on the Minnesota Capitol grounds is available on the [commemorative works webpage](#).

A preview of items to be addressed if applying to add new commemorative works at the Capitol grounds. (You do not need to submit responses at this time.)

A1. How does the proposed commemoration introduce a new element of the state's varied history and people to the Capitol grounds relative to existing commemorative works? Describe the distinctiveness of the proposed commemoration compared to the existing works on the Capitol grounds.

A2. How could the commemoration idea impact the historic, architectural, and artistic integrity of the Capitol Building and grounds? (CAAPB is not interested in a specific design at this point, just a general idea)

A3. Has there has been documented and broad-based public support of the commemoration of this subject? Please describe and provide supporting documents where necessary.

A4. How would the subject of commemoration embody lasting statewide historic significance for Minnesotans?

A5. How would the commemoration respect the diversity of Minnesotans?

A6. How would the commemoration provide a rich experience to broaden the understanding of Minnesota's shared history, heritage, and culture?

A7. If the subject of the commemoration is a specific person...

- Did the person live in Minnesota or in the geographical area now identified as Minnesota for at least five years during the person's lifetime? (Identify where and when the person lived in the Minnesota geography.)
- Is the person renowned and admired by Minnesotans? (Explain and provide information that demonstrates this.)
- Has the person been deceased for at least ten years? (Years lived)

A8. Is funding available to pay for the proposed addition and site work around it?

A preview of items to be addressed if applying to modify commemorative works at the Capitol grounds. (You do not need to submit responses at this time.)

M1. Has there has been sustained, broad-based, and documented public objection to the artwork? Please describe and provide supporting documents where necessary.

M2. How does the proposed modification to an existing commemorative artwork maintain or enhance how the Capitol grounds reflect the state's diverse history and people?

M3. The following criteria will be considered to determine whether or not the work should be modified. How does the proposed modification meet the following criteria?

- A. Makes the artwork more welcoming and engaging to nearby and statewide communities.
- B. Embraces historical facts and fosters a productive range of responses, conversations, and interpretations.
- C. Considers the social and cultural conditions at the time of the artwork's addition.
- D. Prompts reflection, conversation, and awareness of the stories, perspectives, and experiences of historically marginalized or oppressed communities.
- E. Incorporates the views of all interested groups and individuals and considers the relationship of these groups' collective history, heritage, and values to the artwork.
- F. Creates an opportunity to increase public understanding of and dialogue about Minnesota's history.
- G. Enhances the artwork's function as a source of collective identity and belonging for all Minnesotans.
- H. Generates, contributes to, or enhances existing social activity in the surrounding public space.
- I. Represents or commemorates a significant event, group, or individual in Minnesota's history.
- J. Respects the contributions and perspectives of the artwork's creators and the group or individuals depicted in the artwork and the group's or individuals' communities.
- K. Seeks to achieve peace, reconciliation, truth, or justice for individuals, groups, and communities that are not represented or who are misrepresented in the artwork.
- L. Acknowledges evolving social values and accounts for the views and needs of the contemporary community.

M4. Is funding available to pay for the proposed modification and any related restoration of the site around it?

A preview of items to address if applying to remove commemorative works from the Capitol grounds. (You do not need to submit responses at this time.)

R1. Has there has been sustained, broad-based, and documented public objection to the artwork? Please describe and provide supporting documents where necessary.

R2. How does the proposed removal of an existing commemorative artwork impact representation of the state's diverse history and people on the Capitol grounds?

R3. How (and to what degree) does the artwork misrepresent the state's history or have the effect of significantly intimidating or adversely affect a group of people.

R4. Criteria to be considered during the application review process are listed below. The applicant is not required to address these in the application:

- A. 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.
- B. Degree to which removal of the artwork would detract from the overall artistic and architectural integrity of the Capitol or Capitol area.
- C. The artwork's style, form, scale, diversity, quantity, quality, longevity, and compatibility with the existing commemorative artwork collection.
- D. Accessibility, public safety, and the social, cultural, historical, ecological impact.
- E. Physical and functional context of the artwork in relation to the site, both existing and planned.
- F. Issues related to liability, insurance, intellectual property rights, warranties, ownership, theft, vandalism, loss, indemnification, and public safety.
- G. Safety, the avoidance of emergencies caused by hazards, and construction schedules.
- H. Value of the artwork as determined by a professional appraiser.
- I. 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.

R5. Is funding available to pay for the proposed removal and any related restoration of the site around it?