

Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board

REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

Application for removal of USS Ward Gun from the State Capitol Mall.

The Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board requests comments on a request to remove the USS Ward Gun from the State Capitol Mall, the disposition plans for the artwork, and restoration of the removal site by the Department of Administration.

Subject of Comments

The Board received an application from Randal Dietrich, Executive Director of the Minnesota Military & Veterans Museum, for removal of Commemorative Work USS Ward Gun from the Capitol Mall on August 18, 2024.

The Board voted on March 24, 2025, that application for the removal request for the USS Ward Gun meets the condition in *Minnesota Rules 2400.2703., Subpart 6., Item C.*

“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;”

The next step in the review process is opening this public comment period and convening a Commemorative Artwork Review Committee (CARC).

The CARC will:

- Review the artwork identified in the removal request and the applicant's proposed plan for removal.
- Vote and make a written recommendation to the CAAPB on whether the Board should grant or deny the removal request based on the criteria in *Minnesota Rules 2400.2703, Subpart 9.*

Before the CARC can make a recommendation to the Board on the removal request, they are required to “open a 30-day public comment period...to gather additional input regarding the request to remove the USS Ward Gun from the State Capitol Mall, the disposition plans for the artwork, and restoration of the removal site by the Department of Administration.”

A copy of the application to remove the USS Ward Gun, the proposed disposition plans, and a letter from the Department of Administration outlining the restoration plans for the site can be found on the CAAPB website: <https://bit.ly/4l7NbBI>

Statutory Authority

Minnesota Statute, 15B.01, gives the Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board the statutory authority to consider the application to propose removal of an existing work.

Public Comment

Interested persons may mail comments on the request to remove the USS Ward Gun from the State Capitol Mall, the disposition plans for the artwork, and restoration of the removal site by the Department of Administration, to:

Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board, Freeman Building, 625 Robert Street North, Saint Paul, MN 55155 or email Tina.Chimuzu@state.mn.us until 4:30pm on May 5, 2025. To stay informed of the application to remove USS Ward Gun, follow updates through the agency's website <https://bit.ly/4I7NbBI>

Agency Contact Person

Questions and requests for more information on the application to remove the USS Ward Gun may be directed to Tina Chimuzu, Planner-Fellow for the Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board, Freeman Building, 625 Robert Street North, Saint Paul, MN 55155. Phone: 651-757-1508 (leave message if no answer) or Email at Tina.Chimuzu@state.mn.us.

Alternative Format

Upon request, this information can be made available in an alternative format, such as large print, braille, or audio. To make such a request, please contact the agency contact person at the address or telephone number listed above.

Next Steps after Request for Comments

Input from the Request for Comments will be considered by the Commemorative Artwork Review Committee in making a recommendation to the Board on the application to remove the USS Ward Gun from the Capitol Mall.