

Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board

PUBLIC MEETING AND HEARING

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

The Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board (CAAPB) and USS Ward Gun Commemorative Artwork Review Committee (CARC) will host a public meeting and hearing on **May 22, 2025 at 3:00 pm in the Multipurpose Room at Rondo Community Library (461 N Dale St. Saint Paul, MN 55103)** to gather input on the request to remove the USS Ward Gun from the State Capitol Mall, the disposition plans for the artwork, and restoration plan of the removal site by the Department of Administration.

Subject of Meeting

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 Board then convened a Commemorative Artwork Review Committee (CARC) which 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 “hold one public meeting...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/4I7NbBI>

Public Hearing on May 22, 2025

All interested persons may appear and be heard at the time and place set forth above. Persons interested in participating via teleconference may do so via <https://bit.ly/3SOEsUh>

Written comments may be mailed to Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board, Freeman Building, 625 Robert Street North, Saint Paul, MN 55155 or email Tina.Chimuzu@state.mn.us prior to May 22, 2025.

All persons who appear at the meeting or participate via teleconference will be given an opportunity to express their views with respect to the request to remove the USS Ward Gun from the State Capitol Mall, the disposition plans for the artwork, and restoration plan of the removal site by the Department of Administration.

Website and Contact Information

To stay informed of the application to remove the USS Ward Gun, follow updates through the agency's website <https://bit.ly/4I7NbBI>

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.

Statutory Authority

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