

**APPLICATION TO REMOVE THE USS WARD NUMBER THREE GUN
FROM THE STATE CAPITOL MALL – COMMEMORATIVE ARTWORK
REVIEW COMMITTEE BACKGROUND REPORT**

May 14, 2025

Prepared by:



CAPITOL AREA ARCHITECTURAL AND PLANNING BOARD (CAAPB)

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MANDATE FOR THE BACKGROUND REPORT - MINNESOTA RULES

SUBPART 7., ITEM H.,

Prior to a public meeting of the commemorative artwork review committee, the board executive secretary must prepare and post on the board website a commemorative artwork background report that includes:

- (1) a written description and images of the artwork that is the subject of the modification or removal request, information about and images of the artwork's location, and a warranty of the originality of the artwork; (See section titled **A Description and History of the USS Ward Gun**).*
- (2) the origin, derivation, history, and past ownership of the artwork; the original acquisition method and purchase price; and the original intent of the artwork by the artist or organization that advanced the artwork; (See section titled **A Description and History of the USS Ward Gun**).*
- (3) a summary of the proposed modification or removal request and the applicant's stated reasons therefore; the primary concept and design elements of the modified or removed artwork and of the surrounding site; and in the case of a modification request, a recommendation on whether a designer or design consultant is needed to prepare a detailed plan of the modification; (See section titled **A Summary of the Removal Request**).*
- (4) an analysis of the proposal's potential impact on the Capitol's commemorative artwork collection; (See section titled **Analysis of the Proposal's Potential Impact on the Capitol's Artwork Collection**).*
- (5) a recitation of the criteria for modification in subparts 5 and 8 or for removal in subpart 9 that the board must use in reaching a decision to grant or deny a modification or removal request; (See section titled **Minnesota Rules 2400 2703 Subpart 9: Criteria for Evaluating Removal of an Existing Commemorative Artwork**).*
- (6) a memorandum from the Department of Administration on implementation considerations of the proposed modification or removal plans and any restoration of the removal or modification site pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, section 15B.15, subdivision 2, paragraph (a); and (See **Attachment 7 Memorandum from the Department of Administration**).*
- (7) a memorandum from the Minnesota Historical Society evaluating the impact of the proposed modification or removal on the historic context and resources of the Capitol grounds and the State Capitol building pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, section 15B.34, clause (3). (See **Attachment 9 Memorandum from the Minnesota Historical Society**).*



Figure 1 Soldiers standing around the USS Ward Gun while in service. **Source:** Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs

A DESCRIPTION AND HISTORY OF THE USS WARD NUMBER THREE GUN

The USS Ward Number Three Gun (commonly referred to as the USS Ward Gun) is a 4"/50 Caliber (OR 0138) Gun mount, Mark 8, serial number 1484, with gun barrel serial number No 912, manufactured by the U.S. Naval Gun Factory in Washington DC. It was the number three gun aboard USS Ward (DD 139), a Wickes class destroyer built in 1918.

The USS Ward Navy Destroyer became an important part of American history on December 7th, 1941, at 6:45am, one and a half hours prior to the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, during her patrol of Hawaiian waters, when the Ward encountered a Japanese midget submarine attempting to infiltrate Pearl Harbor. The crew, which was composed of Naval Reservists from Minnesota, fired on and sunk the enemy vessel using the USS Ward Gun, therefore attaining the first American caused casualty of the Second World War.

The entire crew of the Ward survived the war and returned home, eventually forming a group called "First Shot Naval Vets" who petitioned the Minnesota Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) and through it, the United States Navy, to loan the USS Ward Gun to the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs with the assurance that the State will properly maintain it.

The USS Ward sunk on December 7, 1944, following a Japanese kamikaze plane attack, at which point the Ward Gun had already been removed from the Ward and stored at the Washington Navy Yard while waiting for disposition to the Smithsonian Institution.

Owing to the efforts of the First Shots Naval Vets, the gun was successfully moved to the Minnesota State Capitol in 1958 at the cost of \$1325 with funding support from the Minnesota Centennial Commission Funds, whose contributions came from the First Shot Naval Vets, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Minnesota Centennial Military Committee (Headed by Adjutant General Joseph E. Nelson), Governor Orville Freeman, Senator Edward Thye, U.S. Secretary of the Navy Thomas S. Gates.

The Gun was first installed on the State Capitol grounds along John Ireland Boulevard next to the Lindbergh Statue but was later relocated prior to the First Shot Naval Vets 50th Anniversary on December 7, 1991, to the south edge of the lower Capitol Mall, west of the Veterans Service Building, at the corner of 12th Street and John Ireland Boulevard where it currently sits.

The First Shots Naval Vets were a prominent feature of the city of Saint Paul. The last surviving member of the USS Ward's crew from Pearl Harbor, Alan Sanford, passed away in January of 2015.



Figure 2 An image of the USS Ward Gun facing west in its current location.

Supporting documents for the above section;

Attachment 1: Loan agreement documents between the Department of Navy and Veterans of Foreign Wars.

A SUMMARY OF THE REMOVAL REQUEST

On August 18, 2024, CAAPB staff received an application from Randal Dietrich, Executive Director of the Minnesota Military & Veterans Museum (MMVM), for removal of the Commemorative Work USS Ward Gun from the State Capitol Mall to the newly constructed Minnesota Military & Veterans Museum in Little Falls, near the entry to Camp Ripley on Highway 371.

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. 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.



Figure 3 Exterior renderings showing the new Minnesota Military & Veterans Museum in Camp Ripley

The applicant asserted that the USS Ward Gun's exposure to harsh weather elements at its current location on the Capitol Mall has led to some deterioration on the artifact, and its continued exposure poses a risk for further damage. Therefore, its relocation to a controlled indoor environment at the new museum would allow for the artifact's restoration, preservation and display. The applicant's position was supported with a condition report of the Ward Gun from Paul Storch, an artifact preservation specialist.



Figure 4 Interior renderings showing proposed placement and interpretation of the USS Ward Gun inside the MMVM

In May 2024, The Legacy Committee of the Minnesota State Legislature provided a \$275,000 grant to the Minnesota Military and Veterans Museum at Camp Ripley for the restoration, relocation, and interpretation of the USS Ward Gun and World War II display. The funding is also applicable to site reclamation and improvements at the proposed removal site.



Figure 5 An Image showing the deterioration on the USS Ward Gun



Figure 6 An image showing deterioration under the USS Ward Gun

Supporting documents for the above section:

Attachment 2: Application to Remove the USS Ward Gun from the State Capitol to MMVM

Attachment 3: USS Ward Gun Application Supplemental Materials

Attachment 4: Condition Report from Paul Storch

Staff Acceptance of Application, Review and Preliminary Findings

Upon submission of the removal request, per Minnesota Rules 2400.2703 Subpart 7., Item A, CAAPB staff reviewed the application within 10 calendar days and determined it to be complete by 8/26/2024.

Thereafter, CAAPB staff proceeded to review the request, and assess the Commemorative Work per conditions in Minnesota Rules 2400.2703 Subpart 6., determining that the removal request meets the condition in Minnesota Rules 2400.2703 Subpart 6., Item C.

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.

In the preliminary findings relevant to the rules for Commemorative Works, the CAAPB staff together with the Minnesota Historical Society (MNHS), and in consultation with the Department of Administration, established that though the Agency had over the years done an outstanding job of maintaining and restoring the USS Ward Gun, unfortunately there are currently no dedicated funds for future maintenance works. However, considering the Gun's steel material and continued outdoor exposure, a lack of dedicated maintenance funds would lead to its continued degradation.

In light of this, staff determined that the application for removal meets the conditions for M.R. 2400.2703, Subpart 6, Item C., therefore recommending to the Board that the application be moved forward in the review process.

Board Resolution on whether conditions in M.R.2400.2703., Subp. 6., have been met

On March 24, 2025, the CAAP Board met and voted to accept that the Application to remove the USS Ward Gun from the State Capitol Mall meets the condition in 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;”

This resolution advanced the application for further review in the Commemorative Work Rules process, leading to the formation of the Commemorative Artwork Review Committee (CARC), who will review the removal request (including the proposed disposition and restoration plans), vote and make a recommendation to the Board on whether it should grant or deny the application.

Additionally, the Board also opened a 35-day public comment period (March 31 to May 5, 2025) on behalf of the CARC, 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.

Summary of Public Comments

CAAPB staff received a total of 40 public comments submitted during the public comment period that was conducted between March 31, 2025, to May 5, 2025, requesting for input 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.

Of the 40 comments received,

- 39 comments affirmed the moving of the USS Ward Gun to the Minnesota Military and Veterans Museum,
- 1 comment opposed the moving of the USS Ward Gun from the State Capitol Grounds.

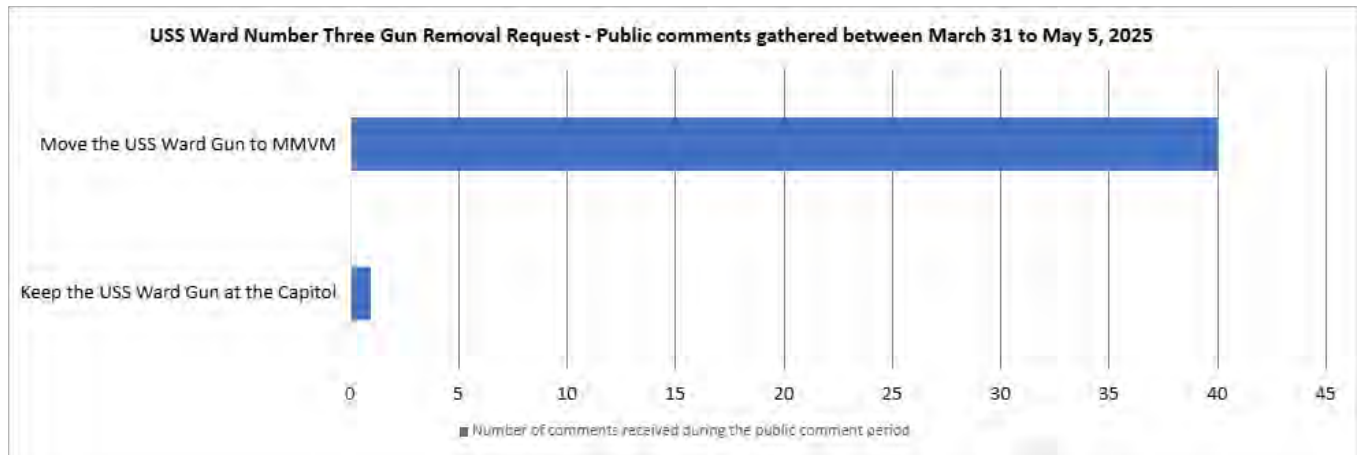


Figure 7 A pictogram of the public comments submitted between March 31 to May 5, 2025.

Supporting documents for the above section;

Attachment 5: CAAPB staff Memo to Board on the USS Ward Gun 03_24_2025

Attachment 6: March 24, 2025, CAAP Board Resolution on USS Ward Gun

Attachment 7: Memorandum from the Department of Administration

Attachment 8: Complete Record of Public Comments 03_31 to 05_05

ANALYSIS OF THE PROPOSAL’S POTENTIAL IMPACT ON THE CAPITOL’S ARTWORK COLLECTION

Installation on the Capitol Mall

The gun was dedicated at the State Capitol Grounds on May 9, 1958, along the John Ireland Boulevard, south of the Lindbergh statue. However, on December 7, 1991, it was moved to its current location west of the Veterans Services Building, at the corner of 12th Street and John Ireland Boulevard, during the First Shot Vets’ 50th anniversary gathering. The idea was to move it closer to other war memorials and to make way for the Roy Wilkins Memorial.

The move to its current location was also consistent with the thematic groupings identified in the 1990’s new mall design framework, which affirmed preference for commemoration of individuals along John Ireland, and to focus war memorials along the vacated Columbus, nearer to the Veterans Services Building. These groupings were again affirmed in the most recent update to the Capitol Mall Design Framework (2024).



Figure 8 Aerial view of the USS Ward Gun current location, with the Veterans Services Building on right.

Potential Impact on the Capitol’s Artwork Collection

Location

The USS Ward Gun continues to sit west of Veterans Services Building as a prominent symbol of Minnesota’s involvement in the Second World War. It is surrounded by a host of other distinguished veteran and war memorials including; the Military Family Tribute (made up of the Gold Star Table, Vietnam Veterans Memorial, World War II Veterans Memorial, Korean War Veterans Memorial and Story Stones) and the Court of Honor which contains plaques

commemorating the Minnesotan's who lost their lives in various wars including the Civil War, the Spanish American War, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, and World War I and II.

However, though the USS Ward Gun is an important part of the veterans and war memorial collection at the Capitol Mall, unlike the Military Family Tribute and the Court of Honor, which are composed of a cluster of memorials with collective interpretation, the USS Ward Gun is an individual artwork and does not form part of a group in its layout, appearance or interpretation.

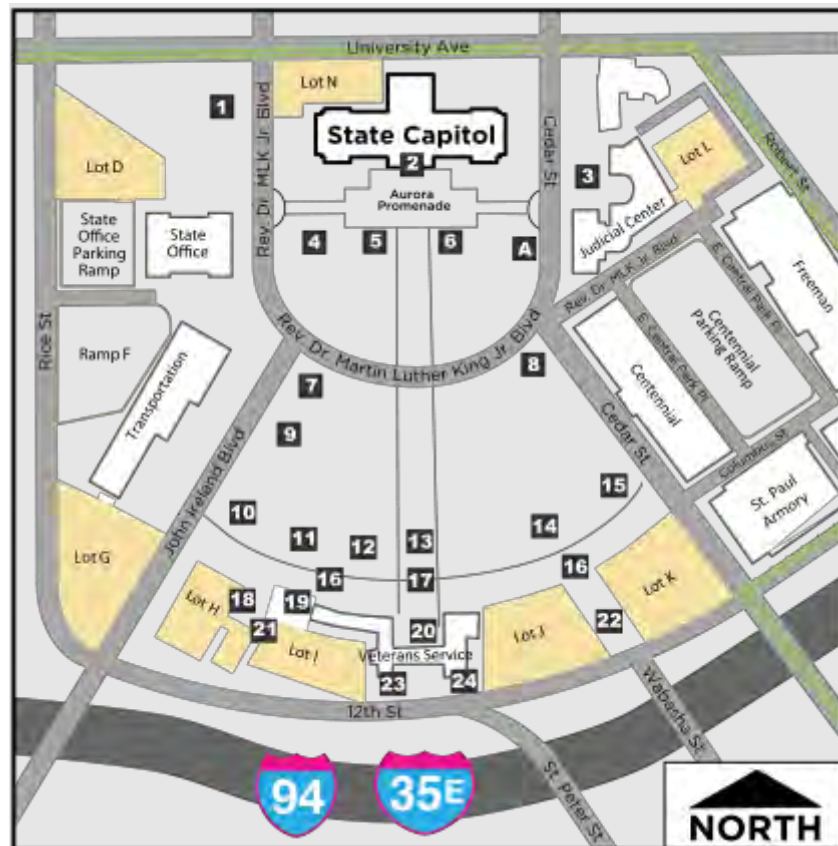


Figure 9 Capitol Complex Monuments and Memorials. Location of the USS Ward Gun (no. 21) on the Lower Capito Mall. **Source:** [kids.kiddle.co/images/0/0c/Capitol Monuments map-without key.svg](https://kids.kiddle.co/images/0/0c/Capitol_Monuments_map-without_key.svg)

Uniqueness

The USS Ward Gun represents Minnesota's unique history by virtue of the Minnesotan Reservists who manned the USS Ward (DD 139) on the morning of December 7, 1941, when the gun took the first shot of the Second World War. Additionally, the gun is currently the only memorial on the Capitol Mall that is also an artifact.

Accessibility

Many Minnesotans are able to appreciate the USS Ward Gun at the State Capitol Mall due to it being a highly visible location on the lower mall near 12th street - easily accessible and served by several public transportation options including the light rail stations within walking distance (2014) and soon, bus rapid transit (2027). It is also within walking distance for those in close proximity of the State Capitol. It is worth noting that the current positioning of the gun west of Veterans Building is not the most visible location from within the Capitol Mall itself, and there is a cost attached to the available parking.

Artwork Condition and Maintenance

Since its installation on the State Capitol Mall, the USS Ward Gun has been under the care of the Department of Administration whom staff consulted together with the Minnesota Historical Society to establish the state of the artifact. In their consultations, CAAPB staff found that though the Department of Administration had provided exceptional maintenance care for the USS Ward Gun, the Department of Administration received one-time funding for maintenance of the gun and performed maintenance and restoration at that time. However, unfortunately, there are currently no dedicated funds for future maintenance.

Considering the steel material on the USS Ward gun, the outdoor exposure to elements will continue to degrade this important piece of history and therefore impact its integrity. Hence, the lack of dedicated maintenance funds for an outdoor memorial will inevitably result in its continued degradation.

Considerations

In summary, CAAPB staff have established that

- The USS Ward Gun represents Minnesota's unique involvement in the Second World War, and it is the only memorial on the State Capitol Mall that also doubles as an artifact. Should the USS Ward Gun be relocated to the MMVM, its history and materiality cannot be replicated on the Capitol Mall.
- Though the USS Ward Gun makes an important contribution towards Minnesota's Veteran and War memorials on the Capitol Mall, it is independent in its layout, appearance and interpretation. Therefore, its removal would not impact the layout, appearance and interpretation of other war memorials on the Capitol Mall.
- The positioning of the USS Ward Gun on the State Capitol Grounds provides convenient access to the traffic that comes through the Capitol, though the location may be limited in visibility and has associated parking costs. Therefore, relocating the USS Ward Gun to Camp Ripley may be out of the way for some.

- The lack of dedicated funds for the Department of Administration to continue maintaining and restoring the USS Ward Gun pose a degradation risk for the gun, given its continued exposure to weather and outdoor elements.

ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

Contribution of the USS Ward Gun to the Capitol Mall Cultural Context

In 2024, a Cultural Landscape Report (CLR) was compiled for the Capitol Mall Historic District to identify the key features and the ability of the landscape to convey its historic significance. The CLR documents the history, significance and treatment of a cultural landscape. It evaluates the history and integrity of the landscape including any changes over time, features, materials, and use. Additionally, the Statewide Survey Oversight Board which includes the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), is currently conducting a statewide survey of historic and archaeological resources for the Capitol Mall Historic District in preparation for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP).

Through various studies, including the Cultural Landscape Report, the Minnesota State Capitol Grounds (RA-SPC-05619) have been identified as a contributing resource to the National Register of Historic Places eligible Minnesota State Capitol Mall Historic District (RA-SPC-11132). The documentation on record at SHPO recommends the historic district as significant in the area of community planning and development under NRHP Criterion A. The evaluation documentation cites the property as the first federally funded urban renewal project in Saint Paul. The property has further significance under Criterion C, in the area of landscape architecture, in recognition of Cass Gilbert's original design for the Capitol Building and Grounds, as well as the subsequent landscape architects who contributed to its realization. As a landscape, the plan for the Capitol Mall evolved over the period of significance (1902-1962).

Further, the Cultural Landscape Report lists the USS Ward Gun as a contributing historic resource to the Minnesota State Capitol Grounds, and it is among several military commemorative works that are considered non-contributing during the period of significance (1902 – 1962). While the statewide survey of historic and archaeological resources for the Capitol Mall Historic District being conducted by the Statewide Survey Oversight Board is still ongoing.

Given the CLR and the current draft evaluation of the Capitol Mall District, SHPO staff are currently providing technical assistance to CAAPB staff to assess if the removal of the USS Ward Gun will have any adverse impacts on the eligible Capitol Mall Historic District. A determination is yet to be made in this regard.

The Removal of the USS Ward Gun as an Undertaking

CAAPB staff reached out to the United States Navy in December of 2024 to determine if the removal of the USS Ward Gun from the State Capitol Mall to the Minnesota Military and Veterans Museum would be considered an undertaking, requiring a Section 106 review per the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended. The response from Nikki Greenberg, Assistant Counsel at Naval History and Heritage Command is quoted below;

“The USS WARD Gun is currently under loan from the US Navy to the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs since 1991. This loan was made under our loan program pursuant to 10 USC 2572 and 8765, which allows the Navy to loan historical artifacts and/or obsolete material and articles of historical interest. Under the same loan program, the Minnesota Military & Veterans Museum has made a request to borrow the USS WARD gun for placement in their museum.

As such, the US Navy does not view the movement of its loaned artifacts as falling under the section 106 requirements of the National Historic Preservation Act. The loaned artifact in question does not fall within the meaning of “historic property,” as defined in 36 CFR 800.16(l), nor is the loan an “undertaking,” as defined in 36 CFR 800.16(y). Therefore, the movement of the USS WARD gun from one borrower to another is not an undertaking the requires section 106 consultation.”

Site Restoration and Signage Treatment

Should the Board grant the removal of the USS Ward Gun, consideration will need to be made of the treatment options for the concrete signage that list the names of all the naval reservist who were on board the USS Ward (DD 139) on December 7, 1941, when it took the first shot of the Second World War.

Possible options for treatment may include:

- Demolition or relocation of the stone commemorative marker to the MMVM or another location.
- Modification of the stone commemorative signage to include additional information (such as a QR code) which will direct visitors to the new proposed location of the USS Ward Gun at the Minnesota Veterans and Military Museum.



Figure 10 Image of the signage at the USS Ward Gun site at the State Capitol Mall listing 84 Reservists who served aboard the USS Ward (DD 139).

The top inscription reads “DEDICATED TO THE FOLLOWING MEN OF THE 47TH DIVISION 11TH BATTALION 9TH NAVAL DISTRICT US NAVAL RESERVE. ST PAUL MINNESOTA ORDERED TO ACTIVE DUTY JANUARY 21, 1941. THESE MEN ALL SERVED ON BOARD THE DESTROYER USS WARD DD 139 WHICH FIRED THE FIRST SHOT OF THE WORLD WAR II AT PEARL HARBOR BY SINKING A JAPANESE MIDGET SUBMARINE ON DECEMBER 7, 1941 AT 6:45AM.”



Figure 11 An image of the commemorative signage next to the USS Ward Gun

MINNESOTA RULES 2400 2703 SUBPART 9: CRITERIA FOR EVALUATING REMOVAL OF AN EXISTING COMMEMORATIVE ARTWORK

In reviewing the removal request for the USS Ward Gun, its disposition plans, and any restoration of the removal site by the Department of Administration, the CARC must determine if the request satisfies the criteria for removal per Minnesota Rules 2400.2703., Subpart 9:

The board must consider and apply criteria in items A to M to evaluate a request for the removal of an existing commemorative artwork:

- A. *community feedback about the artwork, the artwork's site, and the artwork's condition collected at public meetings and hearings;*

CAAPB staff analysis - 39 out of the 40 comments received from the general public during the March 31 – May 5, 2025, public comment period are in support of removing the USS Ward Gun from the Capitol Mall to the Minnesota Military & Veterans Museum.

- B. *the degree to which the artwork misrepresents the state's history or has the effect of significantly intimidating or adversely affecting a group of people;*

CAAPB staff analysis – criteria B is not applicable to this application.

- C. *the method by which the artwork was acquired and accessioned in the commemorative artwork collection, such as by donation, loan, or commission;*

CAAPB staff analysis - The USS Ward Gun was acquired and accessioned in the State Capitol's Commemorative Artwork on loan from the United States Navy who are aware of the removal request.

- D. *the qualifications and professional reputation of the artist, and the artwork's craftsmanship, conceptual content, style, and form;*

CAAPB staff analysis - The USS Ward Gun is a steel artifact that was manufactured under the expertise of the U.S. Naval Gun Factory in Washington DC.

- E. *the availability of necessary funding for conservation, maintenance, and repair of the artwork if the artwork remains in its current location; the availability of exhibition and storage space for relocating the artwork if the artwork is removed; and the disposition of the artwork in accordance with Minnesota Statutes, section 138.68;*

CAAPB staff analysis - The Department of Administration currently do not have any dedicated funding to ensure the conservation, maintenance and repair of the USS Ward Gun if it remains at the Capitol Mall. The Minnesota Military and Veterans Museum has available exhibition, storage space and demonstrated funding to ensure the proper care of the artwork.

- Should the Board vote to grant the removal request, the final disposition plans would be determined by the Minnesota Historical Society per Minnesota Statutes, section 138.68.

F. the degree to which removal of the artwork would detract from the overall artistic and architectural integrity of the Capitol or Capitol area;

CAAPB staff analysis - Though the USS Ward Gun contributes significantly to veterans and war memorials at the Capitol area, based on its independent location, appearance and interpretation, its removal will not negatively impact the overall artistic and architectural integrity of the Capitol area or the commemorative artwork collection at the Capitol Mall.

G. the artwork's style, form, scale, diversity, quantity, quality, longevity, and compatibility with the existing commemorative artwork collection;

CAAPB staff analysis – The USS Ward Gun represents Minnesota’s unique involvement in the Second World War by virtue of the reservists who were aboard the USS Ward on December 7, 1941, when the gun took the historic shot. It is also the only memorial on the Capitol Mall that is also an artifact.

Though it contributes to and fits within the war memorial narrative on the Capitol Mall, it is uniquely designed in style, shape and form.

H. accessibility, public safety, and the social, cultural, historical, ecological, physical, and functional context of the artwork in relation to the site, both existing and planned;

CAAPB staff analysis - – The USS Ward Gun currently sits outdoors west of the Veterans Services building facing 12th Street West. The location of the artwork is open and easily accessible to the general public and served by public transportation. The Capitol Mall grounds are safe to the public and monitored by the Minnesota State Patrol Capitol Security Division.

- However, the USS Ward Gun experiences limited visibility from within the Capitol Mall, and there are costs attached to the available parking options.

- The Gun has been subject to outdoor weather elements since its installation on the Capitol Grounds in 1958. It has experienced some wear and undergone several conservation and maintenance treatments over the years.

I. issues related to liability, insurance, intellectual property rights, warranties, ownership, theft, vandalism, loss, indemnification, and public safety;

CAAPB staff analysis – The USS Ward Gun is owned by the Department of Navy and currently on loan to the State. Should the Board vote to grant the removal request, a loan transfer would have to be put in place. The Department of Administration would advise on any insurance requirements.

J. safety, the avoidance of emergencies caused by hazards, and construction schedules;

CAAPB staff analysis – Should the removal request be granted, the removal and any site restoration requirements would be handled by the Department of Administration.

K. the value of the artwork as determined by a professional appraiser;

CAAPB staff analysis – staff has been unable to determine the value of the USS Ward Gun at this time.

L. the 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; and

CAAPB staff analysis – If the removal request is granted, the Department of Administration plans to demolish the concrete base and apply turf to the area in an aesthetically consistent manner with the surrounding Capitol Grounds.

M. the availability of funding to pay for the removal and any restoration of the removal site identified by the Department of Administration in subpart 7, item H, subitem (6).

CAAPB staff analysis - In May 2024, The Legacy Committee of the Minnesota State Legislature provided a \$275,000 grant to the Minnesota Military and Veterans Museum at Camp Ripley for the restoration, relocation, and interpretation of the USS Ward Gun and World War II display. The funding is also applicable to site reclamation and improvements at the proposed removal site.

Supporting documents for the above section;

Attachment 9: Memorandum from Minnesota Historical Society

SUGGESTED CARC RECOMMENDATION

Based on the criteria provided in Minnesota Rules 2400.2703., Subpart 9., the Commemorative Artwork Review Committee (CARC) for the USS Ward Number Three Gun assess that the application from Executive Director Randal Dietrich to remove the USS Ward Gun from the State Capitol Mall to the Minnesota Military and Veterans Museum in Camp Ripley, meets most of the criteria in M.R.2400.2703., Subpart 9, and therefore recommend that the CAAP Board grant the removal request.

The CARC further recommends the following treatment options for consideration regarding the separate stone commemorative signage containing the list names of all the reservists who served aboard the USS Ward (DD 139) when it fired the first shot of the Second World War,

- Demolition or relocation of the stone commemorative marker to the MMVM or another location.
 - If removed, a new sign could be put in its place to mark its previous existence.
- Keep the commemorative signage in its current location but modify it to include additional information (such as a QR code) which will direct visitors to the new proposed location of the USS Ward Gun at the Minnesota Veterans and Military Museum.

NEXT STEPS AFTER CARC PUBLIC MEETING

According to Minnesota Rules 2400.2703., Subpart 7., Item J - N., these next steps will follow after the CARC meeting;

- I. *J. Along with the committee's recommendation to the Board, the CAAPB Executive Secretary will prepare a report for the Board and post to the board website which will include:*
 - 1) *a summary of the public comments received at the CARC public meeting and hearing and any additional information obtained during the application review process;*
 - 2) *opinions gathered from committee experts or other independent professionals, such as conservators, engineers, architects, critics, and safety experts who are professionally qualified to comment on the artwork and on the concern prompting review that are obtained during the application review process;*
 - 3) *an evaluation of the need for additional design work and the need for forming a design review group and using the selection process under subpart 3, item K; and*
 - 4) *a detailed budget for all aspects of the modification or removal request, and the applicant's stated options for funding the request.*
- II. After reviewing the report from the Executive Secretary, the Board will determine if an additional 30-day public comment period or public hearing to gather additional input.
 - a. If the Board determines that no additional comment period or hearing is needed, the board shall proceed to reach a decision by holding a public meeting at which the board shall vote to grant or deny the request for removal.
- III. If the Board grants the request for removal, the applicant must deposit funds with the Department of Administration.
- IV. If the Board grants the request the removal will proceed in accordance with the proposed disposition plan. The Minnesota Historical Society will determine the final disposition of the artwork.