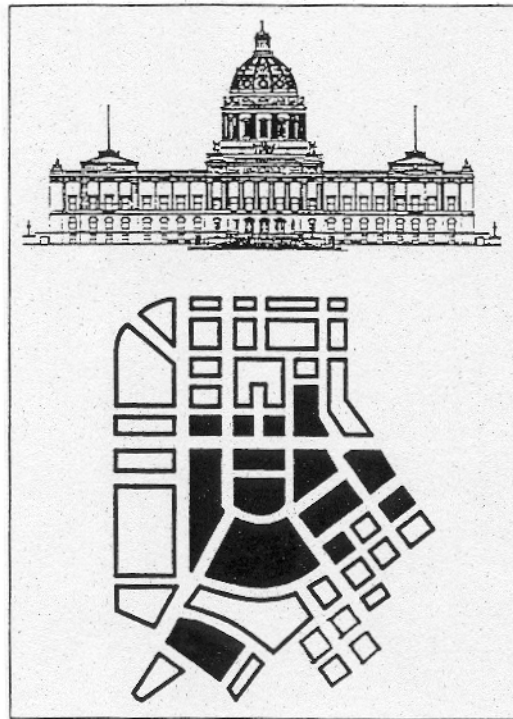


POLICY

For Works of Art in the Minnesota State Capitol December 1998



CAPITOL AREA ARCHITECTURAL AND PLANNING BOARD

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Chapter 15.50 Subdivision 1, Sections j & k and Chapter 138 (.67, .68, .69)

15.50 CAPITOL AREA ARCHITECTURAL AND PLANNING BOARD

(j) The board and the commissioner of administration, jointly, shall prepare, prescribe, and from time to time revise standards and policies governing the repair, alteration, furnishing, appearance, and cleanliness of the public and ceremonial areas of the state capitol building. The board shall consult with and receive advice from the director of the Minnesota Historical Society regarding the historic fidelity of plans for the capitol building. The **standards and policies** developed under this paragraph are binding upon the commissioner of administration. The provisions of sections 14.02, 14.04 to 14.28, 14.38, and 14.44 to 14.45 do not apply to this paragraph.

(k) The board in consultation with the commissioner of administration shall prepare and submit to the legislature and the governor no later than October 1 of each even-numbered year a report on the status of implementation of the comprehensive plan together with a program for capital improvements and site development, and the commissioner of administration shall provide the necessary cost estimates for the program. The board shall report any changes to the comprehensive plan adopted by the board to the committee on governmental operations and gambling of the house of representatives and the committee on governmental operations and reform of the senate and upon request shall provide testimony concerning the changes. The board shall also provide testimony to the legislature on proposals for memorials in the capitol area as to their compatibility with the standards, policies, and objectives of the comprehensive plan.

HISTORIC FEATURES OF STATE CAPITOL

138.67 DEFINITIONS.

Subdivision 1. As used in sections 138.67 to 138.69, the terms defined in this section have the meanings given them.

Subd. 2. "Works of art" in all spaces of the capitol, means paintings, portraits, mural decorations, stained glass, statues and busts, bas-relief, ornaments, furniture, plaques, and any other article or structure of a permanent character intended for decoration or commemoration placed in the capitol in 1905 or placed subsequently for historic purposes or decoration.

Subd. 3. [Repealed, 1974 c 580 s 18]

Subd. 4. **Public areas of the state capitol.** "Public areas of the state capitol" includes the rotunda, the governor's reception room and offices, the senate chamber, the house chamber, the supreme court chamber, public hallways and corridors, and all other areas of the state capitol designed for public ceremonies.

Subd. 5. **State capitol archives.** "State capitol archives" includes the original capitol architectural plans, samples of capitol furnishings, and Cass Gilbert papers, all of which are managed and administered by the Minnesota Historical Society.

Subd. 6. **Public gallery and orientation area.** "Public gallery and orientation area" means the rotunda and first floor corridors and a room as designated by the joint rules of the house of representatives and the senate.

History: 1971 c 691 s 1; 1987 c 265 s 1

138.68 SUPERVISION OF PRESERVATION.

The works of art in the public and ceremonial areas of the state capitol are declared to possess historical value for the people of Minnesota. The Minnesota Historical Society (MHS) and the Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board (CAAPB) shall approve the design, structural composition, and location of all monuments, memorials or works of art presently located in the public and ceremonial areas of the state capitol or which shall be placed in such public or ceremonial areas after June 4, 1971. No monument, memorial or work of art shall be relocated or removed from, or placed in such areas or altered or repaired in any way without the approval of the Minnesota Historical Society. The Minnesota Historical Society shall have final authority over the disposition of any monuments, memorials or works of art removed from the state capitol or the capitol grounds.

History: 1972 c 691 s 2; 1974 c 580 s 17; 1975 c 271 s 6

138.69 PUBLIC AREAS OF THE CAPITOL.

The Minnesota Historical Society is designated the research agency and is responsible for the interpretation of the public areas for visitors to the capitol. This involves conducting or approving public programs and tours in the capitol and state office building, including exhibits held in the capitol, providing informational services, acting as advisor on preservation, recommending appropriate custodial policies, and maintaining and repairing all works of art.

History: 1987 c 265 s 2

POLICY

PRINCIPLES.

1. Works of art, (broadly defined by statute as Authority, Definitions, Supervision of Preservation, and Public Areas of the Capitol) in the Minnesota State Capitol Building must have a direct relationship to the State of Minnesota, its history, and broad public interest.

2. The Minnesota Historical Society (MHS) and the Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board (CAAPB) will share oversight of works of art in public and ceremonial areas of the Capitol with the occupants of those areas. Reference Appendix A for floor plans of the Capitol.

3. Text contained in a work of art may serve to identify and to interpret the event or person commemorated. As the Capitol is a living and working building, such artworks and texts have accumulated over several generations' time, and thus reflect a variety of ideas and opinions expressed by Minnesotans since 1905.

STANDARDS.

1. Subjects to be commemorated by a work of art in the Capitol must have historical importance to the State of Minnesota. The person or event must have explicit connections to Minnesota, and must have affected the lives of Minnesotans: for example, the person must have made significant contributions to the state's public life or culture, or the event must have involved the state's citizenry. The person or event must be of an era or date far enough in the past to allow a thoughtful historical perspective, generally ten or more years, in order that the Capitol's works of art commemorate the most significant aspects of Minnesota life and history.

2. The Minnesota State Capitol is a property listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Decisions about works of art in the Capitol shall be made within the context of the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties, as referenced in Appendix B.

3. A painted portrait of each former governor is to be placed sequentially in the Capitol's public corridors. If more than one portrait of a governor meets the existing pattern of size, medium, and format, the MHS and the CAAPB, in consultation with that governor, shall select the portrait to be permanently exhibited in the Capitol.

4. Works of art proposed for addition to the Capitol will not duplicate events or persons already commemorated or memorialized in the building.

5. Existing works of art shall not be removed from or moved within the Capitol without joint approval of the MHS and the CAAPB.

6. Existing works of art may not be altered, but may be conserved or restored in accordance with professional practices and standards.

DESIGN GUIDELINES.

1. The proposed work of art shall be compatible with the architectural design and decorative framework of the Capitol. Applicants are encouraged to examine existing works of art in the Capitol as examples of customary size, materials, style, and finish. A list of categories and examples of Capitol artworks are referenced in Appendix C.

2. Applicants are encouraged to consider the long-term stability, maintenance, and preservation of the proposed artwork in their planning and design.

3. The preferred medium for a sculptural memorial is a bronze or marble bust, approximately life-size. Bronze in low relief is the preferred medium for plaques. Marble and wood may be acceptable materials pending review.

4. Pedestals and bases for busts should be of a consistent height and composition as recommended by the MHS and the CAAPB.

5. Paintings proposed for the Capitol shall be created using time-proven, traditional materials chosen for permanence, such as artist's oil paints on primed artist's linen supports, or on appropriately prepared plaster.

PROCESS.

1. An applicant seeking permission to install or remove a work of art in the Capitol shall obtain an application form and copy of the *Policy for Works of Art in the Minnesota State Capitol* from the Executive Secretary of the CAAPB.

2. The completed application must be submitted to the CAAPB and must include a description of the proposed work of art, including its purpose, design, size, materials, text, proposed location, proposed date of installation, and budget. Applicants are encouraged to consider the long-term stability and preservation of the proposed artwork in their planning and design. The CAAPB will provide copies of the completed application to the Minnesota Historical Society's Capitol site manager.

3. Applications will be reviewed by the CAAPB and the MHS in consultation with each other as received. This process requires three stages for review: *the first, or conceptual review*, will consider the historical content and general concept of the proposed artwork. Following approval of this review, *the second, or design development review*, will consider in detail the design, materials, location, and budget of the proposed artwork. Suggestions for alternative locations may be made to the applicant. Following approval of this review, *the third review* will be a *work-in-progress review* and final approval of the proposed artwork. The CAAPB and the MHS will advise the applicant of the decision for each stage immediately after completion of that stage, but no later than one year after that stage commences.

March 1985

November 1987 (amended at 11/18/87 CAAPB meeting)

March 1991 (amended at 3/6/91 CAAPB meeting)

December 1994 (amended at 12/15/94 CAAPB meeting)

December 1998 (approved complete revision at 12/15/98 CAAPB meeting)

APPENDIX A

Public and Ceremonial Areas of the Minnesota State Capitol by floor plans.

Floor plans of the Capitol's basement, ground floor, first, second, and third floors go here.

APPENDIX B

The Secretary of Interior's Standards for Treatment of Historic Properties (applicable sections).

Standards for Preservation

A property will be used as it was historically, or be given a new use that maximizes the retention of distinctive materials, features, spaces, and spatial relationship. Where a treatment and use have not been identified, a property will be protected and, if necessary, stabilized until additional work may be undertaken.

The historic character of a property will be retained and preserved. The replacement of intact or repairable historic materials or alterations of features, spaces and spatial relationships that characterize a property will be avoided.

Each property will be recognized as a physical record of its time, place and use. Work needed to stabilize, consolidate, and conserve existing historic materials and features will be physically and visually compatible, identifiable upon close inspection, and properly documented for future research.

Changes to a property that have acquired historic significance in their own right will be retained and preserved.

Distinctive materials, features, finishes and construction techniques or examples of craftsmanship that characterize a property will be preserved.

The existing condition of historic features will be evaluated to determine the appropriate level of intervention needed. Where the severity of deterioration requires repair or limited replacement of a distinctive feature, the new material will match the old in composition, design, color, and texture.

Chemical or physical treatments, if appropriate, will be undertaken using the gentlest means possible. Treatments that cause damage to historic materials will not be used.

Archaeological resources will be protected and preserved in place. If such resources must be disturbed, mitigation measures will be undertaken.

Note: In addition to the general Standards for Preservation, the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties, codified as 36 CFR part 68, also includes Standards and Guidelines for Rehabilitation, Restoration and Reconstruction.

Appendix C

Categories and Examples of Artworks of the Minnesota State Capitol.

The artworks in the Minnesota State Capitol may be classified by subject matter and intent. These themes are necessarily broad, and more than one may apply to a given artwork: a governor's portrait, for instance, might be seen as historical or memorial artwork.

1. **Allegorical Artworks** are paintings and sculptures which symbolize a value or virtue, usually in traditional iconography that is drawn from centuries of European and American art. Examples include the Daniel Chester French figures on the façade, which represent qualities like "Integrity" and "Courage," or paintings like H.O. Walker's stair hall mural "Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow," which symbolizes the transmission of knowledge from generation to generation. Quotations lettered on the stair hall and legislative chamber walls are other examples of artworks that represent civic values.
2. **Historical Artworks** illustrate actual people, places, or events in history. Examples include the Civil War battle scenes in the Governor's Reception Room, or the statues of Wabasha, Wilkin, Gilbert, or Coleman.
3. **Memorial Artworks** evoke a person or event, often as a tribute after death or at the time of an anniversary. Such artworks may include visual representations or simply text. Examples include the Roscoe Pound and Martha G. Ripley plaques, or the Spanish-American War plaque.
4. **Functional Artworks** are furnishings meant to serve practical needs, such as the benches in the Capitol halls or the tables in the retiring rooms. Capitol furnishings are explicitly mentioned in the definition of "works of art" in Minnesota statute 138.67.
5. **Decorative Artworks** are two- or three-dimensional works which enhance the surfaces and components of the Capitol's building fabric. Examples include the painted decoration of the cafeteria, or the gophers cast into the rotunda railings. Many patterns and motifs are drawn from nature and represent Minnesota species, such as wildflowers in hallway ceiling stencils; other patterns and motifs derive from classical and American Renaissance models, such as Corinthian capitals.