

**Capitol Preservation Commission
Meeting Minutes
April 18, 2024, 3:00 p.m.
State Capitol Building,
Senate Conference Room 4S.9
2300 N. Lincoln Blvd.
Oklahoma City, OK 73105**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Nancy Leonard	Brent Gibson	Trait Thompson
Cliff Branan	Duke Ligon	Nathan Wald
C.J. Cavin	Duane Mass	
Aaron Cooper	Victor Pozadas, Sr.	

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Tracie Chapman
Keith Jones

GUESTS:

Beverly Hicks, OMES	Jarica Walsh, OAC
Karl Kramer, OAG	Christina Naruszewicz, OAC
Amber Sharples, OAC	Rep. Arturo Alonso-Sandoval, District 89

Office of Management and Enterprise Services (OMES) ♦ Oklahoma Arts Council (OAC) ♦ Oklahoma Attorney General Office (OAG)

1. Announcement of filing of the meeting notice and posting of the agenda in accordance with the Open Meeting Act: [Nancy Leonard, Chair]

Chair Nancy Leonard was advised that notice for this meeting was filed with the Secretary of State, and an agenda was posted in accordance with the Open Meeting Act.

2. Call to order, Roll Call, and Determination of Quorum: [Chair]

Ms. Leonard called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m. A roll call was taken, and a quorum was established.

3. Welcome/Introductions:

Chairwoman Leonard welcomed members and guests to the meeting.

Ms. Leonard introduced and welcomed a new Commission member, Trait Thompson, who joined the Commission as an appointee from the Supreme Court. He is the Executive Director of the Oklahoma Historical Society, has previously served as the Chair of the Capitol Preservation Commission, and was the project manager for the Oklahoma Capitol Restoration Project.

4. Recognition of service of Lou Kerr. [Chair]

Chairwoman Leonard and the commission members honored the late Ms. Kerr, a long-standing member who recently passed away, by recognizing her years of service on the commission and her contributions to Oklahoma. She will be dearly missed.

5. Discussion and possible action on approval of meeting minutes from February 15, 2024.

[Chair]

C.J. Cavin moved to approve the meeting minutes for February. Nathan Wald seconded the motion. The following votes were recorded, and the motion passed:

Mr. Cavin, yes; Mr. Cooper, yes; Mr. Gibson, yes; Ms. Leonard, yes; Mr. Ligon, yes;
Mr. Mass, yes; Mr. Pozadas, yes; Mr. Thompson, abstain; Mr. Wald, yes.

6. Discussion and possible action to approve proposed stanchion final design for artwork protection in the state capitol building on the ground, second and fourth floor rotundas, approval for subsequent use by the Oklahoma Arts Council to ensure the security and preservation of the artwork, and with urgent implementation to safeguard the artwork promptly. [Duane Mass, State Capitol Architect and Curator]

Mr. Mass discussed background information on two concept designs for stanchion options — corded or solid brass assembly stanchions—aimed at safeguarding the artwork collection in the Capitol building. Funding for this project has been allocated from the State Capitol Repair Expenditure and Oversight Committee (SCREOC), which approved it in June 2023.

The Architecture and Grounds Committee recommended approval of the solid stanchion concept in brass finish, with minor dimensional variations to the plan proposed during the meeting to adequately complete the project for the use of the artwork on the ground, second, and fourth-floor rotundas. The design was recommended to protect the valuable and irreplaceable artwork in the Capitol building.

Mr. Mass announced that after today’s meeting, Jarica Walsh of the Oklahoma Arts Council will be responsible for the project through its completion.

Duane Mass moved to approve the solid stanchion in brass finish for ground, second, and fourth-floor rotundas. C.J. Cavin seconded the motion. The following votes were recorded, and the motion passed:

Mr. Cavin, yes; Mr. Cooper, yes; Mr. Gibson, yes; Ms. Leonard, yes; Mr. Ligon, yes;
Mr. Mass, yes; Mr. Pozadas, yes; Mr. Thompson, yes; Mr. Wald, yes.

7. Presentation by Arturo Alonso Sandoval with board discussion and possible action on approval of the preparation of designs for a privately funded native and indigenous plant garden on the Oklahoma Capitol Campus grounds with designs installation plans to be submitted for Capitol Preservation Commission consideration and possible approval at a later date. [Duane Mass, State Capitol Architect and Curator]

Mr. Mass briefed commission members and guests on the procedure for requesting projects on Capitol campus grounds. He informed members that the proposed Indigenous plant garden on Capitol grounds has not initiated the process yet and is still in its early stages for future consideration.

Mr. Mass informed members that the Architecture and Grounds Committee discussed the Indigenous plant garden and its various components in their meeting. After reviewing the list of plants on the campus, it was discovered that many plants proposed for the project are already located on the grounds.

Mr. Mass introduced Representative Alonso-Sandoval, who thanked the Capitol Preservation Commission for their time and consideration of his project idea for a privately funded native and Indigenous plant garden on Capitol grounds and for consideration of his idea moving forward with the project for approval later.

Representative Alonso-Sandoval shared his vision of the garden of plants native to Oklahoma to start a conversation with the Commission. He also informed members of his discussion with the Conservation Commission, who expressed interest in supporting an idea like this by offering to extend their resources and assistance.

The Commission collectively felt this was a good idea that was worthy of further study to determine its feasibility. The Architecture and Grounds Committee concurred and recommended it be brought back in a couple of months. They work with Representative Alonso-Sandoval to develop and begin to assist him with the materials and the preparation he will need for his initial groundwork, to continue to explore this idea and bring it back to the Commission as a more developed presentation at the next Commission meeting, as it will take several meetings to get all of the moving parts together.

C.J. Cavin moved to refer agenda item seven back to the Architecture and Grounds Committee to report back at the next meeting. Trait Thompson seconded the motion. The following votes were recorded, and the motion passed:

Mr. Cavin, yes; Mr. Cooper, yes; Mr. Gibson, yes; Ms. Leonard, yes; Mr. Ligon, yes; Mr. Mass, yes; Mr. Pozadas, yes; Mr. Thompson, yes; Mr. Wald, yes.

**8. Collections Manager Report [Christina Naruszewicz, Director of Collections Management]
Update on the Capitol Re/Installation Project.**

Ms. Walsh updated the Commission on past events in the Capitol since the February meeting. The bronze bust of Hannah Atkins' artwork was installed on the first floor of the Capitol. The Oklahoma Arts Council held an artwork dedication event on February 22nd to dedicate the bronze busts by LaQuincey Reed, honoring Hanna Atkins and Clara Luper.

Ms. Walsh informed the members that the Oklahoma Arts Council installed the *Three Forks on the Arkansas River* painting on the ground floor of the Capitol, which the Commission also approved in February.

Ms. Walsh reported that they are awaiting the delivery of a couple of the new commissions: The Northwest panel of the "*Labor Omnia Vincit*" mural suite on the ground floor of the Capitol, where the installation and unveiling of the artwork painted by Lucas Simmons on the Northwest

panel is scheduled for May 13. The ceramic artwork by Anita Fields is expected to be delivered in the next couple of months.

Ms. Walsh reported that the Congressional Medal of Honor Plaque was installed in the Hall of Heroes on March 16 and 17, working in partnership with Mr. Mass's team, brought to completion. A dedication event for the plaque was held on April 1. The event had a huge turnout of Veterans and military groups from around the state to celebrate the Medal of Honor recipients, where two of Oklahoma's three living Medal of Honor recipients attended.

Ms. Walsh informed members that the Arts Council collaborated with Senator Jech and Representative Moore to request a special display of the portrait of General Thomas Stafford while he was lying in state in Weatherford, Oklahoma. The portrait was temporarily relocated from the north hallway on the fourth floor of the Capitol to the fourth-floor rotunda, where it was displayed from April 2 through the 5th.

Ms. Walsh reported that a risk assessment team from Midwest Art Conservation conducted an on-site evaluation of the Capitol artwork in March. Over two days, they observed people's interactions with the artwork. The assessment report, along with their findings and recommendations, will be shared with the Commission at a future meeting.

Report only. No action was taken.

9. Chair Updates and Discussion:

Possible presentation and/or discussion on the ongoing state capitol building construction and Governor's mansion construction:

Mr. Mass provided members with updates on upcoming projects that will be presented to them in the future.

Update only—no action taken.

10. Adjournment:

There being no further business, C.J. Cavin made the motion to adjourn. Duane Mass seconded the motion. Seeing no opposition, the meeting adjourned at 3:46 p.m.