

**Capitol Preservation Commission  
Meeting Minutes  
June 20, 2024, 3:00 p.m.  
State Capitol Building,  
Senate Conference Room 4S.9  
2300 N. Lincoln Blvd.  
Oklahoma City, OK 73105**

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**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

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

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** None.

**GUESTS:**

Beverly Hicks, OMES	Jarica Walsh, OAC
Karl Kramer, OAG	Christina Naruszewicz, OAC
Amber Sharples, OAC	

*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 3:01 p.m. A roll call was taken, and a quorum was established.

**3. Welcome/Introductions:**

Chairwoman Leonard welcomed members and guests to the meeting.

**4. Discussion and possible action on approval of meeting minutes from April 18, 2024.** [Chair]

C.J. Cavin moved to approve the meeting minutes for April. Duke Ligon seconded the motion. The following votes were recorded, and the motion passed:

Mr. Brannan, aye; Mr. Cavin, aye; Mr. Cooper, aye; Mr. Gibson, aye; Mr. Jones, aye;  
Ms. Leonard, aye; Mr. Ligon, aye; Mr. Mass, aye; Mr. Pozadas, aye; Mr. Thompson, aye;  
Mr. Wald, aye.

**5. Presentation and discussion of HB 4012, the Arch, with presentation and approval of site plan as basis of design.**

**Presentation of preliminary site development plan and approval of this site development plan to be used as a basis of beginning design for completing this project including recognition that the term “work in progress” refers to the total project.** [Duane Mass, State Capitol Architect and

Curator]

Commissioner Mass, Chair of the Architecture and Grounds Committee, presented Representative Mark McBride's House Bill 4012, a new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 401 of Title 73, known as the State Capitol Arch. The Commission members were given an overview of a work-in-progress preliminary master site development plan for the State of Oklahoma State Capitol Arch.

Mr. Mass informed members that this is the first step in the project's process, and it will take several meetings with the Commission before final design approval.

The members discussed Section 1, C of HB 4012 and requested clarity on the Capitol Preservation Commission's entering into the contract.

The Architecture and Grounds Committee met prior to the meeting and recommended approval.

C.J. Cavin moved to approve the site development plan for the State Capitol Arch. Victor Pozadas seconded the motion. The following votes were recorded, and the motion passed:

Mr. Brannan, aye; Mr. Cavin, aye; Mr. Cooper, aye; Mr. Gibson, aye; Mr. Jones, aye;  
Ms. Leonard, aye; Mr. Ligon, aye; Mr. Mass, aye; Mr. Pozadas, aye; Mr. Thompson, aye;  
Mr. Wald, aye.

**6. Report on “Indigenous Garden” originally discussed in April meeting, originally requested by Rep. Sandoval.** [Duane Mass, State Capitol Architect and Curator]

Commissioner Mass provided a brief project status update to the commission members, indicating that the project is favored, still viable, being considered, and actively seeking a suitable location.

**7. Report on Bill of Rights monument.** [Duane Mass, State Capitol Architect and Curator]

Commissioner Mass provided a brief update on the status of the Bill of Rights monument project. The Commission initially chose a location for the project in 2020/2021. However, the approved location ended up behind a fence on the House of Representatives side, causing the monument to lose its place on the East side. The monument is currently without a proper location and is in need of a new home.

Mr. Mass ensures that this project has not been forgotten.

**8. Discussion on status of area south of oil wells presently fenced and graveled.** [Duane Mass, State Capitol Architect and Curator]

Commissioner Mass informed commission members that he had received questions about the section of land south of the oil wells that is fenced and graveled. He received some background information about the site from Commissioner Wald during the Architecture and Grounds Committee but was interested in seeing if any other commission members might have some history on the site to share.

Commissioner Thompson shared with the members that he knows the well was capped in 1986 and has not been a producing well for quite some time. He recalled when he had previously served on the Capitol Preservation Commission, Bond Payne was the governor's chief of staff and had asked about getting those tanks cleared at the time. He believes they worked with OERB to clear those tanks.

Mr. Thompson, former State Capitol Project Manager for the Capitol Restoration Project, said that during the project tenure, one of the things proposed was making it into a plaza that could be useful for folks. Unfortunately, the funding was not available to do so. Had funding been available, there were plans to completely re-envision the entire South parking lot and sidewalks and have that plaza there.

Mr. Mass appreciated Commissioner Thompson's input and felt he had received the needed answers about this location.

**9. Discussion and possible action to accept the painting commissioned by the Art in Public Places project of the Oklahoma State Capitol, *Labor Omnia Vincit (Northwest)* by Lucas Simmons, into the Capitol Art Collection and the Oklahoma Public Art Collection.** [Jarica Walsh, Director of Visual and Public Art]

Ms. Walsh presented background information on Lucas Simmons's painting *Labor Omnia Vincit*, which is on the Northwest panel of the ground floor of the State Capitol. This is the final step in commissioning the artwork.

Background Information:

Project and budget approved: Dec. 2020

Artist selection approved: Dec. 2020

Final design concept approved: Dec. 2021

The Art Standards Committee met prior to the meeting and recommended approval.

Brent Gibson moved to approve the accessioning of the artwork into the Capitol Art Collection and the Oklahoma Public Art Collection. Duke Ligon seconded the motion. The following votes were recorded, and the motion passed:

Mr. Brannan, aye; Mr. Cavin, aye; Mr. Cooper, aye; Mr. Gibson, aye; Mr. Jones, aye;  
Ms. Leonard, aye; Mr. Ligon, aye; Mr. Mass, aye; Mr. Pozadas, aye; Mr. Thompson, aye;  
Mr. Wald, aye.

**10. Discussion and possible action to accept the ceramic artwork commissioned by the Art in Public Places project of the Oklahoma State Capitol, *The Resonating Memory of Red Earth* by Anita Fields, into the Capitol Art Collection and the Oklahoma Public Art Collection.** [Jarica Walsh, Director of Visual and Public Art]

Ms. Walsh presented background information on the ceramic artwork *The Resonating Memory of Red Earth* by Anita Fields. This is the final step in commissioning the artwork.

Background Information:

Project and budget approved: Dec. 2020

Artist selection approved: Jun. 2021

Final design concept approved: Oct. 2021

The Art Standards Committee met prior to the meeting and recommended approval.

Trait Thompson moved to approve the accessioning of the artwork into the Capitol Art Collection and the Oklahoma Public Art Collection. Duane Mass seconded the motion. The following votes were recorded, and the motion passed:

Mr. Brannan, aye; Mr. Cavin, aye; Mr. Cooper, aye; Mr. Gibson, aye; Mr. Jones, aye;  
Ms. Leonard, aye; Mr. Ligon, aye; Mr. Mass, aye; Mr. Pozadas, aye; Mr. Thompson, aye;  
Mr. Wald, aye.

**11. Discussion and possible action to approve the temporary display and location of the loan of the Te Ata Beaded collar necklace from the personal collection of Justice Yvonne Kauger to the Oklahoma Arts Council.** [Christina Naruszewicz, Director of Collections Management]

Ms. Naruszewicz informed commission members that Justice Yvonne Kauger has generously offered to loan the Oklahoma Arts Council a beaded collar necklace that belonged to Te Ata from her personal collection for one year with the option to renew for display in the Oklahoma State Capitol. The loan will go on display under a secured vitrine (a glass display case) next to the portrait of Te Ata. She provided some background history about the temporary loan.

The display of this artwork will be located on the second floor, near the Cultural Treasures niche, next to the Governor's Large Conference Room doors. It will be displayed adjacent to Te Ata's portrait, staying within the chronological and thematic approach of the curatorial plan presented and approved on October 15, 2020.

Ms. Naruszewicz feels that the addition of this display will invite visitors to engage with the history of Oklahoma Cultural Treasure Te Ata and the artistry of beaded collars.

The Art Standards Committee met prior to the meeting and recommended approval.

Brent Gibson moved to approve the temporary display and location of the Te Ata Beaded Collar Necklace artwork loan. Trait Thompson seconded the motion. The following votes were recorded, and the motion passed:

Mr. Brannan, aye; Mr. Cavin, aye; Mr. Cooper, aye; Mr. Gibson, aye; Mr. Jones, aye;  
Ms. Leonard, aye; Mr. Ligon, aye; Mr. Mass, aye; Mr. Pozadas, aye; Mr. Thompson, aye;  
Mr. Wald, aye.

**12. Discussion and possible action to approve the proposed artist exhibitions in the East and North Capitol Galleries for through May 2025.** [Jarica Walsh, Director of Visual and Public Art]

Ms. Walsh provided background information on the featured artists for the Capitol Rotating Galleries from January through March 2025 and March through May 2025.

**January 2025 – March 2025**

First Floor: East Gallery: Jason Wilson (McAlester, OK);

Artistic practice: Acrylic artwork

Second Floor: North Gallery: Jake Durham (Konawa, OK)

Artistic practice: Photography

**March 2025 – May 2025**

First Floor: East Gallery: Behnaz Sorhrabian (Edmond, OK)

Artistic practice: Acrylic artwork

First Floor: North Gallery: Anke E. Dodson (Tulsa, OK)

Artistic practice: Watercolor artwork

The Art Standards Committee met prior to the meeting and recommended approval.

Brent Gibson moved approval of the proposed slate of artist exhibitions in the Capitol Galleries, January 2025 – May 2025. C.J. Cavin seconded the motion. The following votes were recorded, and the motion passed:

Mr. Brannan, aye; Mr. Cavin, aye; Mr. Cooper, aye; Mr. Gibson, aye; Mr. Jones, aye;

Ms. Leonard, aye; Mr. Ligon, aye; Mr. Mass, aye; Mr. Pozadas, aye; Mr. Thompson, aye;

Mr. Wald, aye.

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

Ms. Naruszewicz updated the Commission on projects funded by the State Capitol Repair Expenditure Oversight Committee (SCREOC) and how those funds are being used.

Permanent artwork labels are to be ordered and installed off-session. Permanent stanchions will be installed in July 2024 (Ground, second, and fourth-floor rotundas). Expert art conservators completed the Risk Assessment with the site visit completed in March 2024. The summary report is in progress, and the Oklahoma Arts Council plans for Dr. Grabow to present on that progress at a future CPC meeting.

Report only. No action was taken.

**14. Chair Updates and Discussion:****Possible presentation and/or discussion on the ongoing state capitol building construction and Governor's mansion construction:**

Chairwoman Leonard informed members that ex-officio commission member Tracie Chapman has termed out as Chair of the Oklahoma Arts Council and has been replaced by Kristie Buegler, who will attend the August 15, 2024 meeting.

Ms. Leonard informed members to inform her if they would like to join either the Arts Standards Committee or the Architecture and Grounds Committee

Update only—no action taken.

**15. Adjournment:**

There being no further business, C.J. Cavin made the motion to adjourn. Nathan Wald seconded the motion. Seeing no opposition, the meeting adjourned at 3:43 p.m.