

**Capitol Preservation Commission  
Meeting Minutes  
December 18, 2025, 3:00 p.m.  
Oklahoma State Capitol  
Senate Conference Room 4s.9  
2300 N. Lincoln Blvd.  
Oklahoma City, OK 73105**

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**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Trait Thompson	Max Driver	Monte Kaul
C.J. Cavin	Brent Gibson	Duke Ligon
Aaron Cooper	Becky Gooch	Victor Pozadas

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Barbara Braught  
Tracie Chapman  
Keith Jones  
Elaine Kidd  
Hunter Zearley

**GUESTS:**

Beverly Hicks, OMES  
Karl Kramer, OAG  
Matthew Radcliffe, MA  
Amber Sharples, OAC  
Jarica Walsh, OAC  
Liam Larson, OAC  
Mark McBride, JMM Consulting LLC

◆ *Office of Management and Enterprise Services (OMES); Deputy General Counsel (DGC)*  
◆ *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:** [Trait Thompson, Chair]

Chairman Trait Thompson informed commission members that notice for this meeting had been filed with the Secretary of State and that an agenda had been posted in accordance with the Open Meeting Act.

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

Mr. Thompson called the meeting to order at 3:06 PM. A roll call was taken, and a quorum was confirmed.

**3. Welcome/Introductions:** [Chair]

Chairman Thompson welcomed guests and new member Max Driver, an appointee of Senate President Pro Tempore Lonnie Paxton.

Chairman Thompson recognized Commission member Brent Gibson, an Oklahoma western watercolor artist from Weatherford, Oklahoma, who has published a new book featuring his artwork. Commissioner Gibson provided an overview of the book, noting that it reflects his personal history and work from the 1980s. He also noted that the book, along with greeting cards featuring his artwork, will be available in the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum gift shop.

#### **4. In Remembrance of Duane Mass. [Chair]**

The Commission observed a moment of silence in remembrance of late Commissioner Duane Mass, former State Capitol Architect and Curator.

Chairman Thompson noted that he first met the late Commissioner Duane Mass, former State Capitol Architect and Curator, in 2012, when he was appointed to the Commission. Mr. Mass was deeply committed to the State Capitol and historic preservation and was instrumental in the restoration and long-term preservation of the Capitol.

Chairman Thompson further shared memories of Mr. Mass and his commitment to the State Capitol. He noted that in 2010, Mr. Mass and Mass Architects completed the Historic Conditions Report, which meticulously documented the building's deficiencies and served as the foundation for the Capitol restoration project. He added that Mr. Mass was actively involved in efforts to secure funding for the project and frequently spoke at legislative caucus meetings and other forums advocating for its restoration.

Chairman Thompson noted that although early funding efforts were limited, Mr. Mass remained committed and was proud to see the project ultimately completed and the Capitol fully restored. He added that Mr. Mass's contributions are evident throughout the building and that his legacy will endure.

He further stated that a way to honor his legacy is to continue maintaining the Capitol in excellent condition so that it remains a welcoming place that reflects the values of Oklahomans. He concluded that Mr. Mass's contributions will not be forgotten and that the Commission will continue its work in his honor. He will be greatly missed.

#### **5. Update and discussion regarding the role of Capitol Architect and Curator and Mass Architects, Inc. [Paul Haley, OMES Chief Architect for Construction, Planning, and Real Estate Services]**

Chairman Thompson stated that the item was tabled due to the absence of Paul Haley, OMES Chief Architect for Construction, Planning, and Real Estate Services, who was unable to attend. He noted that the Office of Management and Enterprise Services (OMES) is responsible under

Title 74 of the Oklahoma Statutes for appointing the Capitol Architect, and that additional information would be provided when available.

Update only. No action taken.

**6. Discussion and possible action on approval of special meeting minutes from October 16, 2025.** [Chair]

Monte Kaul made a motion to approve the special meeting minutes for October. Victor Pozadas seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously, and the minutes were approved.

**7. Presentation by AE-1 regarding State Capitol Arch inscriptions and data points.** [Matthew Radcliffe, Mass Architects AE-1]

Matthew Radcliffe, Mass Architects AE-1, provided an update on the State Capitol Arch inscription and related data points. A site plan was provided to the Commission for reference. He stated that the design-build team is finalizing limestone shop drawings, including stone layout, cornice materials, inscriptions, and lettering. He noted that revisions are being made to address conflicts between proposed stone joints and lettering placement.

Mr. Radcliffe stated that coordinated drawings derived from AE-2 design documents have been color-coded to identify Arch inscription locations and have been reviewed with the National Guard. He added that minor revisions were made for clarity, including reorganizing campaign listings under broader conflict headings, simplifying deployment references, standardizing ongoing service date formatting, and making minor proofreading corrections.

He added that the updated drawings and markups will be submitted for final design-build coordination and fabrication unless the Commission has additional comments or revisions.

Commission member Duke Ligon noted that the Vietnam War is not listed under the Conflicts panel but appears under the Deployments panel and questioned its omission from the Conflicts panel in relation to the 45th Infantry Division deployment. Mr. Radcliffe responded that he is seeking clarification from the National Guard to ensure consistent categorization and is awaiting final feedback on the revised layout.

Commission member C.J. Cavin asked what the standard process is for making changes or adjustments to panels after fabrication, including whether panels must be removed and replaced when corrections are needed. Mr. Radcliffe responded that there are different methods for addressing such changes, but that in most cases, panels would need to be removed, adjusted, and reinstalled.

Commission member Aaron Cooper noted that a notation indicated a quotation mark was to be added to the General Patton quotation where an opening quotation mark had been omitted. He further noted that the Colonel Fisher quotation did not include a closing quotation mark and

questioned whether this was a scrivener's or printing error, or whether the statement was not intended to be a direct quote. Mr. Radcliffe responded that the Colonel Fisher quotation should include a closing quotation mark, acknowledged the oversight, and emphasized the importance of proofreading and review.

Presentation only. No action taken.

**8. Discussion and possible action to approve the lettering/inscriptions and data points for the limestone panels on the State Capitol Arch as presented, allowing the Design-Build Team to complete the limestone shop drawing design and begin fabrication of the stones. [Chair]**

Chairman Thompson suggested that, in considering the motion, the Commission may wish to acknowledge Commissioner Duke Ligon's comment regarding the Vietnam War and its placement, noting that any adjustments would be made based on National Guard input.

Commissioner C.J. Cavin asked Commission Attorney Karl Kramer how the motion should be structured if the Commission approved the lettering subject to National Guard approval.

Mr. Kramer requested clarification, noting that it appeared the lettering, inscriptions, and data points were not yet final. He asked whether final action was being requested or whether preliminary approval was being sought with the understanding that a final version would be brought back for Commission review.

Mr. Radcliffe stated that one panel would need to be finalized with the National Guard and could be brought back to the Commission for final review if desired.

Chairman Thompson inquired whether the Commission could approve all panels except the one requiring finalization with the National Guard.

Mr. Radcliffe responded that approval was being sought for the general concept and overall information contained in the document to proceed to final shop drawings. He explained that the design-build team would use this information to fabricate and erect the stone and required confirmation that the data was appropriate for final design development. He stated that approval was requested for the document, including noted comments, to move forward to final shop drawings, with the understanding that the drawings may be brought back to the Commission for review if required.

Chairman Thompson stated that the final shop drawings were to be brought back to the Commission for review, noting the significance of the matter.

Commissioner Cavin stated that, with agreement from Mr. Kramer, the Commission could proceed with a motion to approve the item as presented, subject to any subsequent edits, with the understanding that the final version would be brought back for Commission approval.

Chairman Thompson inquired whether the motion should be for preliminary approval. Commissioner Cavin responded that the Commission should proceed with approval of the item as presented, noting that preliminary approval would not be appropriate, and that the final shop drawings would be brought back for Commission approval. Mr. Kramer concurred.

Chairman Thompson reported that the Architecture and Grounds Committee had met prior to the meeting, reviewed the item, and recommended approval by the Commission.

C.J. Cavin moved to approve the lettering, inscriptions, and data points for the limestone panels of the State Capitol Arch, as presented, allowing the design-build team to complete the limestone shop drawing design and begin fabrication of stones, pending shop drawing design approval by the Commission. Becky Gooch seconded the motion. The following votes were recorded, and the motion carried:

Mr. Cavin, aye; Mr. Cooper, aye; Mr. Driver, aye; Mr. Gibson, aye; Ms. Gooch, aye; Mr. Kaul, aye; Mr. Ligon, aye; Mr. Pozadas, aye; Mr. Thompson, aye.

**9. Discussion and possible action to approve the request for exemption from Arts Standards 115:10-1-2(a)(s) for select artwork to be displayed in the Hall of Heroes at the Oklahoma State Capitol.** [Jarica Walsh, Director of Visual and Public Art]

Ms. Walsh presented a watercolor painting previously submitted to the Oklahoma Arts Council (OAC) for potential display at the Oklahoma State Capitol and possible inclusion in the Capitol Art Collection. The OAC is not currently advancing the display or donation but has requested that the Commission consider an exemption from the Art Standards Rule 115:10-1-2, which requires paintings to be on linen using oil or acrylic paint and excludes watercolors due to environmental and preservation concerns within the Capitol. If approved, the OAC would proceed with committee review.

Ms. Walsh stated that the painting was commissioned by a fundraising committee supporting the USS Oklahoma submarine and that the donors are interested in donating the work to the Capitol Art Collection. She added that the painting may be a suitable addition to the collection if the exemption is granted.

The OAC would coordinate framing with Admiral Slavonic and the fundraising committee to ensure consistency with existing Capitol artwork and would provide recommendations for protective framing and glazing to reduce UV exposure.

The proposed display location is the second floor of the Capitol in the Hall of Heroes (Supreme Court area). The OAC proposed displaying the painting from January through June during the legislative session, with removal for the remainder of the year to allow for preservation and accommodation of seasonal installations, including the Fallen Heroes Christmas Tree. The painting is by Oklahoma artist Greg Burns.

Chairman Thompson requested additional information regarding the artist, Greg Burns. Ms. Walsh provided background, noting that Mr. Burns is a disabled artist whose work is included in both the State Art Collection and the Public Art Collection. Commissioner Gibson added that the artist paints by holding the brush in his mouth, which Chairman Thompson noted as a distinctive aspect of the work.

Chairman Thompson inquired whether the proposed display and rest schedule would be sufficient to ensure the painting's longevity. Ms. Walsh confirmed that the Oklahoma Arts Council is comfortable with the proposed schedule.

Commissioner Cavin expressed support for the painting and asked about funding for framing and protective materials. Ms. Walsh stated that these costs would not be covered by the Oklahoma Arts Council but would instead be funded privately by Admiral Slavonic or the associated fundraising committee, estimating the cost in the range of \$5,000 to \$10,000.

Chairman Thompson noted that the USS Oklahoma submarine conning tower is in the process of being placed on display in a park along the Oklahoma River and that a new USS Oklahoma submarine has been commissioned.

Commissioner Brent Gibson reported that the Arts Standards Committee had met prior to the meeting, reviewed the item, and recommended approval by the Commission.

Duke Ligon motioned to approve the exemption from Arts Standards 115:10-1-2(a)(s). Victor Pozadas seconded the motion. The following votes were recorded, and the motion carried:

Mr. Cavin, aye; Mr. Cooper, aye; Mr. Driver, aye; Mr. Gibson, aye; Ms. Gooch, aye; Mr. Kaul, aye; Mr. Ligon, aye; Mr. Pozadas, aye; Mr. Thompson, aye.

#### **10. Status Update on Native American Warrior Memorial Project Artwork and Force 50 Foundation.** [Jarica Walsh, Director of Visual and Public Art]

Ms. Walsh provided a status update regarding the Native American Warrior Project. She noted that Duane Mass had discussed the project with the Commission over the past year, including at recent meetings, and that the site plan had been previously reviewed in connection with the Capitol Arch Project.

She explained that the Capitol Arch Project, a capital improvement project, qualified for participation in the Oklahoma Art in Public Places Program under the Act, with funds originally reserved for artwork associated with the Arch. Following passage of the authorizing legislation, the Oklahoma Arts Council (OAC) held discussions with Duane Mass, Matthew Radcliffe, and former Representative Mark McBride, and it was determined that the OAC's involvement with the Arch was not the appropriate path forward. Instead, the artwork would be sited on the Capitol grounds.

Ms. Walsh stated that the Force 50 Foundation has been working on the Native American Warrior Project in collaboration with the OAC and with Pete Reed, the foundation's Executive Director. The proposal involves a sculpture honoring Native American veterans for placement on the Capitol grounds. The project would combine private fundraising, estimated at \$500,000 (subject to final confirmation), with approximately \$60,000 in existing Art in Public Places funds derived from the capital improvement project, supporting a public-private partnership for a larger-scale artwork.

Ms. Walsh noted that the OAC has been engaged in discussions with the foundation over the past couple of years and that the proposal would allow for a more substantial artwork than would be possible with public funds alone.

She clarified that this item was presented as a status update only and not as an action item. She added that the proposal was discussed in October during a separate meeting with Ms. Walsh, Ms. Amber Sharples, Executive Director of the Oklahoma Arts Council, and Duane at Mass Architects, and that a formal update is anticipated in June, with additional updates to follow. The foundation's fundraising timeline is expected to conclude in May. Ms. Walsh also noted that the concept had been discussed with the Art Standards Committee prior to the meeting.

Commission member Brent Gibson reported that the Arts Standards Committee had met prior to the meeting, reviewed the concept, and recommended approval of the item to the Commission.

Update only. No action taken.

## **11. Collections Manager Report. [Jarica Walsh, Director of Visual and Public Art]**

### **Update on the Capitol Re/Installation Project.**

Ms. Walsh provided an update on artwork in the Capitol, noting that the Oklahoma Arts Council (OAC) is preparing for the upcoming legislative session. Preparations include attention to artwork in high-traffic areas and rotations within the Betty Price Gallery on the second floor.

She reported that the OAC is continuing to implement additional risk mitigation measures as part of a multi-phase approach. This includes the installation of stanchions to protect artwork on the ground floor, second floor, and fourth floor rotundas. Additional areas are also being evaluated for placement. The OAC is also adding protective glazing to reduce risk from high visitor traffic and potential incidents.

Ms. Walsh noted that the OAC will host a consultant in April to present findings from the previously discussed risk assessment report, including observations and recommendations related to conditions within the Capitol.

She further reported that the OAC continues to monitor temperature and humidity conditions throughout the Capitol. Additional data loggers have been provided by OMES Facilities and placed in multiple locations. These will gather more comprehensive environmental data and assess varying conditions across the building.

Ms. Walsh also noted that the Governor's Arts Awards are scheduled for January 20 at 4:00 p.m. in the fourth floor rotunda.

She added that the Capitol tours program, administered by the OAC, currently has a vacancy in the Capitol tours manager position. The position has been posted as a part-time role, and the program is operating at reduced capacity until it is filled.

Report only. No action taken.

## **12. Chair Updates and Discussion:**

### **Possible presentation and/or discussion on the ongoing state Capitol building construction and the Governor's mansion construction.**

Chairman Thompson stated that he did not have any updates at this time but anticipates that groundbreaking for the new Governor's residence will occur in the spring, although no specific date has been confirmed. He then asked Commissioner Kaul if he had any updates.

Mr. Kaul reported that mobilization is expected pending final execution of the lease agreement. He stated that initial mobilization activities, including delivery of equipment, would commence once the agreement is finalized. He added that a groundbreaking ceremony is anticipated, although timing has not been confirmed.

Chairman Thompson requested that Mr. Kaul provide an update to Beverly Hicks once the groundbreaking date is confirmed so that the Commission may be notified. Mr. Kaul agreed and stated that he would provide an update when it becomes available.

Update only. No action taken.

## **13. Adjournment:**

There being no further business, C.J. Cavin moved to adjourn. Monte Kaul seconded the motion. Seeing no opposition, the meeting adjourned at 3:39 PM.