

Report of the Capitol Preservation Committee to the 2014 Kansas Legislature

CHAIRPERSON: Jennie Chinn, State Historical Society

SENATE PRESIDENT'S APPOINTEES: Senator Elaine Bowers, Ryan Gilliland

HOUSE SPEAKER'S APPOINTEES: Lana Gordon, Secretary of Labor

SENATE MINORITY LEADER'S APPOINTEE: Timothy Graham

GOVERNOR'S APPOINTEES: Peggy Palmer, Landon Fulmer, Richard Kyle

HOUSE MINORITY LEADER'S APPOINTEE: Representative Valdenia Winn

OTHER MEMBERS (*EX OFFICIO*): Barry Greis, Statehouse Architect, Peter Jasso, Kansas Creative Arts Industries Commission

STUDY TOPIC OR CHARGE

- Continue plans on the placement of a mural in the State Capitol commemorating the U.S. Supreme Court decision in the case of *Brown v. Board of Education*;
- Finalize guidelines for temporary displays;
- Discuss the completion of the Visitors Center; and
- Address exterior landscaping.

July 2014

Capitol Preservation Committee

Date: 11-13-14

Attachment: 2

Capitol Preservation Committee

ANNUAL REPORT

Conclusions and Recommendations

The Committee recommends the Capitol Landscape Plan to the Legislative Coordinating Council (LCC) for its consideration and approval. The Committee also recommends modifications to the Capitol Landscape Plan pertaining to the trail, conversation clusters, wayfinding and vehicular signage, the monument sign, and site lighting.

The Committee approves procedures, as specified in this report, for future architectural modifications and requests to display permanent exhibits and artwork.

In the future, in addition to overseeing the selection process for the *Brown v. Board of Education* Mural, the Committee intends to consider procedures pertaining to the display of temporary exhibits and artwork in the Capitol.

Proposed Legislation: None.

BACKGROUND

The Capitol Preservation Committee was created by the Legislature in 2010. As provided by KSA 2013 Supp. 75-2269, the Committee has 12 members, with the Governor appointing three, the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House each appointing two, and the Minority Leaders of the Senate and House each appointing one. The Committee's three *ex-officio* members are the Statehouse Architect, the Executive Director of the Kansas State Historical Society (KSHS), and the Director of the Creative Arts Industries Commission. The Governor has the authority to appoint the chairperson from amongst the Committee's membership.

COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

The Capitol Preservation Committee met on November 19 and December 16, 2013.

On **November 19**, the Committee received updates on the *Brown v. Board of Education* Mural and the Capitol renovations. After hearing a

proposal regarding landscaping on the Capitol grounds, the Committee made plans to develop application procedures for architectural modifications and displays for permanent exhibits and artwork.

***Brown v. Board of Education* Mural**

Staff from the Legislative Research Department reported on the status of the *Brown v. Board of Education* Mural. Of the 34 artists who applied, 14 were invited as semi-finalists to submit a rendering. The deadline set by the Committee to receive proposals was April 1, 2014.

Capitol Landscape Plan

The Committee heard a proposal from representatives of Treanor Architects and Bartlett and West, a landscape architectural firm, regarding a Capitol Landscape Plan for the grounds. Topics addressed included trails and sidewalks, benches and seating areas, barrier arms and bollards, sculptures and memorials, water features, lighting, and way-finding signage. To develop the proposed landscape plan, a review was made of historic

photographs and the original landscape plan of 1895. The plan strives to include year-round color. It also was important to select plants requiring low water usage. An inventory of existing vegetation was taken, and a listing was created which recommends trees that need to be removed due to either poor health or to address adjacent plant health issues.

Capitol Renovations

The Statehouse Architect indicated the northeast, southwest, and southeast quadrants of the grounds were scheduled for completion by December 31, 2013. The schedule for the northwest quadrant indicated work continuing in February 2014 to complete the concrete sidewalks, curbs, ceremonial drive and lighting. Work in this area cannot proceed until removal of the crane has been completed. The entire grounds were scheduled to receive new sod, with 60 percent of that cost paid by the renovation project and 40 percent paid by the Department of Administration. By the end of 2013, 95 percent of the landscaping was to be completed, and the remaining 5 percent in spring 2014.

The goal is to have the Visitor Center completed by January 2, 2014. Items highlighted included:

- A map of the state embedded in the floor, designating the name of each county;
- A display of large banners with images from the 1890s, illustrating how the state was advertising itself;
- A series of banners with quotes from famous Kansans with a focus on government and civic responsibility;
- A multipurpose auditorium;
- A corridor containing construction photos from both the original construction and the renovation. The original construction took 37 years to complete. Some of the tools from the original construction will be displayed, as well as items found in the walls during the renovation process;

- A dining area containing images of Kansas, displaying the diversity of landscape in the state;
- A display of historic posters from various county fairs;
- The dome, scheduled to open on January 2, 2014. There will be a display of photos of the dome, as well as views from looking out the windows at the top of the dome, both from when it opened in 1904 and what it looks like now;
- A series of historic portraits representing the Native American tribes that originally resided in the state, as well as tribes that were relocated to Kansas;
- Information concerning the process of becoming a free state versus a slave state; and
- Information on the government process in Kansas.

On **December 16**, the Committee heard an enhancement proposal to the Capitol Landscape Plan, an update on the Visitor Center and Capitol dedication, and proposed procedures pertaining to architectural modifications and permanent displays of exhibits or artwork.

Landscape Enhancement

The Committee heard a proposal from representatives of Treanor Architects and Bartlett and West regarding an enhancement proposal to the Capitol Landscape Plan which included a trail, fountains, conversation clusters, signage, a monument sign on the north side of the grounds, and site lighting.

Visitor Center and Dedication Ceremonies

A representative of the Governor's Office provided an update on the plans for the opening of the Visitor Center and dedicating the renovated Capitol. Two separate events were planned. On January 2, at 10:00 a.m., there would be a ribbon cutting at the Visitor Center. This would be the

first opportunity for the public to see the ground floor area. On January 29, Kansas Day, from noon to 1:00 p.m., a dedication ceremony was planned to mark the completion of the entire renovation project. It has been discovered the Capitol was never dedicated. The event would be a formal dedication ceremony with a plaque, entertainment, and a large cake to serve 1,000 people. Dignitaries would be invited to attend, including legislative leadership and former legislators who were instrumental in the renovations.

A representative of KSHS provided an overview of how the classroom and auditorium in the Visitor Center would be utilized, as well as an outline of the eight guided tours to be available. A tour for fourth graders would be developed on the three branches of government, and a tour for seventh graders would be available concerning how a bill becomes a law. An eight-minute orientation video would be available, starting in the spring, for visitors to the Capitol.

KSHS, Legislative Administrative Services, and the Department of Administration will continue to meet in order to determine ways to make the process of scheduling Capitol space more efficient. KSHS planned to submit a grant to obtain funding to provide a single public interface for scheduling the use of the Capitol.

Architectural Modification Process

The Committee reviewed the proposed procedure for requesting a future architectural modification. KSA 75-2715 through 75-2725, inclusive, establishes historic preservation as an official policy of the State of Kansas and designates the Kansas State Historical Society as the State's historic preservation agency. The Kansas State Capitol was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1971. Under federal and state law, modifications proposed for the Capitol must be reviewed under the guidelines of the *U.S. Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties*. In Kansas, preservation work is reviewed by the Kansas State Historical Society. The procedure would include:

- The person, public official, or state agency initiating the change submits a written request to the Statehouse Architect (Department of Administration).

- The Statehouse Architect consults with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), which is the Kansas State Historical Society, to determine one of the following:
 - The project does not in any way alter the historic character of the Capitol and may proceed under the direction of the Statehouse Architect; or
 - The project has the potential to alter the historic character of the Capitol and is therefore submitted to the SHPO for review. The SHPO review is provided to the Committee which determines whether the project is approved or denied; and
 - If any project approved by the Committee consists of permanent displays or monuments to be located in the Capitol or on the grounds, pursuant to KSA 75-2269, the project must be authorized by the passage of a bill of the Legislature.
- Records of all requests and actions by the Capitol Preservation Committee would be kept by the Legislative Research Department for the number of years determined by the Department's records retention schedule.

Permanent Exhibits and Artwork Process

The Committee next reviewed the proposed procedure for requesting permanent exhibits, including artwork, in the Capitol. The procedure would be as follows:

- Person initiating the request submits a written proposal to the Chairperson of the Committee.
- The Chairperson places the request on the Capitol Preservation Committee agenda for review.
 - In advance of the Capitol Preservation

Committee meeting, the Chairperson, working with staff, may request additional information on the proposal if the Chairperson feels that more information would benefit the discussion.

- The Committee may approve, deny, or defer consideration of the request.
- If the request is approved, the proposal is submitted to the appropriate legislative committee or state agency.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on testimony and discussion, the Committee recommends the Capitol Landscape Plan to the Legislative Coordinating Council

(LCC) for approval. The Committee also recommends modifications to the Capitol Landscape Plan pertaining to the trail, conversation clusters, wayfinding and vehicular signage, the monument sign, and site lighting.

The Committee approves procedures, as specified in this report, for future architectural modifications and requests to display permanent exhibits and artwork. With assistance from the KSHS, Legislative Administrative Services, and the Department of Administration, the Committee will develop forms for interested parties to use when wanting to request modifications or propose permanent exhibits and artwork.

At its next meeting, the Committee intends to consider procedures pertaining to the display of temporary exhibits and artwork in the Capitol.

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