

**Capitol Preservation Commission  
Meeting Minutes  
February 15, 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	Bruce Fisher	Nathan Wald
Cliff Branan	Brent Gibson	Victor Pozadas, Sr.
C.J. Cavin	Keith Jones	Duke Ligon
Tracie Chapman	Duane Mass	

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Aaron Cooper  
Lou Kerr

**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 3:03 p.m. A roll call was taken, and a quorum was established.

**3. Welcome/Introductions:**

Ms. Leonard welcomed members and guests to the meeting.

**4. Discussion and possible action on approval of meeting minutes from November 7, 2023.**  
[Chair]

C.J. Cavin moved to approve the meeting minutes for November. Duane Mass seconded the motion. The following votes were recorded, and the motion passed:

Mr. Branan, yes; Mr. Cavin, yes; Ms. Chapman, yes; Mr. Fisher, abstain; Mr. Gibson, yes; Mr. Jones, yes; Ms. Leonard, Mr. Ligon, yes; Mr. Mass, yes; Mr. Pozadas, yes; Mr. Wald, yes.

**5. Discussion and possible action to approve to approve demolition of the existing (Old City of OKC) Firehouse and attached storage huts on existing maintenance use grounds, located west of Culbertson Drive, at intersection to Kelley Avenue, on far east edge of the mansion complex. To be replaced with appropriate and matching new fencing.** [Duane Mass, State Capitol Architect and Curator]

Commissioner Mass recalled discussing this item at the last CPC meeting in November. He reported that the old firehouse was not built by the state and that both the main structure and the attached storage huts will be removed entirely from the ground, leaving the area vacant for the time being.

On behalf of the Architecture and Grounds Committee, Mr. Mass requested approval from the Commission for the demolition of the existing firehouse and attached storage huts. He informed members that the committee had met before the meeting and unanimously voted to recommend approval of demolition.

The funds for this project will be paid by the Office of Management and Enterprise Services (OMES).

Duane Mass moved to approve the demolition of said structures. C.J. Cavin seconded the motion. The following votes were recorded, and the motion passed:

Mr. Branan, yes; Mr. Cavin, yes; Ms. Chapman, yes; Mr. Fisher, yes; Mr. Gibson, yes; Mr. Jones, yes; Ms. Leonard, Mr. Ligon, yes; Mr. Mass, yes; Mr. Pozadas, yes; Mr. Wald, yes.

- 6. Presentation for discussion on conceptual idea awaiting approval of final design for implementation, if desired, by OMES Building Manager for limiting access to monumental steps south of Capitol via additional signage and temporary chain-type barrier due to inclement weather to limit access from exterior plaza during use and pedestrian traffic management during days of heavy public attendance better illustrating a single point of access.** [Duane Mass, State Capitol Architect and Curator]

Commissioner Mass briefed the members on an incident that occurred on the South steps of the Capitol Building, resulting in an individual's injury. This incident, along with other potential risks has prompted today's discussion before the commission members regarding a proposed conceptual design aimed at preventing further injuries by implementing a barrier for public safety and welfare.

Mr. Mass presented the Commission with a conceptual idea that is currently in the information-gathering stage. This idea stems from a request made by the House Security personnel and the Oklahoma Highway Patrol (OHP) for additional signage and a temporary chain-type barrier. The presented proposal is awaiting approval for the final design before implementation. If accepted, it will return to the Commission for final approval later at a later date.

Presentation/discussion only. No action taken.

- 7. Discussion on two potential plaque projects honoring Oklahomans and potential concepts for exterior seating.** [Duane Mass, State Capitol Architect and Curator]

Commissioner Mass reported that he is working with the Oklahoma Arts Council on a proposal aimed at safeguarding artwork in the State Capitol. This proposal is set to be submitted to the Commission in April for approval.

Mr. Mass also informed members about an opportunity for a plaque from the French government to be installed in the Hall of Heroes. The French government seeks to honor and recognize the many Oklahomans who have been awarded the French Legion of Merit.

Discussion only. No action taken.

**8. Discussion and possible action to accept the sculpture commissioned by the Art in Public Places project of the Oklahoma State Capitol, the bronze bust of Hannah Atkins by LaQuincey Reed, into the Capitol Art Collection and the Oklahoma Public Art Collection.** [Brent Gibson, Jarica Walsh, Director of Visual and Public Art]

Ms. Walsh provided a recap of the actions taken by the Commission on the bronze bust of Hannah Atkins and is requesting approval to accession the bronze bust by LaQuincey Reed into the Capitol Art Collection and the Oklahoma Public Art Collection.

On behalf of the Oklahoma Arts Council, Ms. Walsh requested approval from the Commission to accession the bronze bust of Hannah Atkins by LaQuincey Reed into the Capitol Art Collection and the Oklahoma Public Art Collection.

Project and budget approved: October 2021

Artist selection approved: October 2021

Final design concept approved: May 2023

Commissioner Gibson, Chairman of the Art Standards Committee, reported that the committee met before the meeting and voted unanimously to recommend approval of accessioning of the bronze bust of Hannah Atkins by LaQuincey Reed into the Capitol Art Collection and the Oklahoma Public Art Collection.

Brent Gibson moved approval of the accessioning of the bronze bust of Hannah Atkins into both said collections. C.J. Cavin seconded the motion. The following votes were recorded, and the motion passed:

Mr. Branan, yes; Mr. Cavin, yes; Ms. Chapman, yes; Mr. Fisher, yes; Mr. Gibson, yes; Mr. Jones, yes; Ms. Leonard, Mr. Ligon, yes; Mr. Mass, yes; Mr. Pozadas, yes; Mr. Wald, yes.

**9. Discussion and possible action to authorize the installation of artwork commissioned by the Art in Public Places project of the Oklahoma State Capitol, Labor Omnia Vincit (Northwest) by Lucas Simmons.** [Brent Gibson, Jarica Walsh, Director of Visual and Public Art]

Ms. Walsh presented to the members the proposed artwork, *Labor Omnia Vincit (Northwest)*, State Motto by Lucas Simmons. This piece is the third of a four-panel suite designated for the ground-floor Capitol rotunda. The panel specifically represents Northwest Oklahoma. While the artwork is not yet fully complete, it is expected to be finished within three weeks. On behalf of the Oklahoma Arts Council, Ms. Walsh is requesting authorization from the Commission to install the artwork once it is completed.

Project and budget approved: March 2021  
Artist selection approved: October 2021  
Final design concept approved: December 2021

Commissioner Gibson, Chairman of the Art Standards Committee, reported that the committee met before the meeting and voted unanimously to recommend approval of the request for authorization to install the artwork, *Labor Omnia Vincit (Northwest)*, a painting by Lucas Simmons. This is the third installment of the four-panel suite intended for the ground-floor Capitol rotunda.

Brent Gibson moved approval of the installation of the artwork in the designated location upon its completion. Duke Ligon seconded the motion. The following votes were recorded, and the motion passed:

Mr. Branan, yes; Mr. Cavin, yes; Ms. Chapman, yes; Mr. Fisher, yes; Mr. Gibson, yes; Mr. Jones, yes; Ms. Leonard, Mr. Ligon, yes; Mr. Mass, yes; Mr. Pozadas, yes; Mr. Wald, yes.

#### **10. Discussion and possible action to approve the revised Capitol Art Re/Installation Plan.**

[Brent Gibson, Jarica Walsh, Director of Visual and Public Art]

Ms. Walsh provided an overview of the proposed revisions to the Capitol Re/Installation Plan, aligning with the chronological and thematic approach of the curatorial plan that was presented and approved on October 15, 2020. On behalf of the Oklahoma Arts Council, Ms. Walsh is requesting from the Commission approval of the revised Capitol Art Re/Installation Plan.

##### Ground Floor Public Spaces:

There has been a change in the location of the *Chief Allen Wright* bronze sculpture by LaQuincey Reed. It is now exhibited on a pedestal on the Capitol ground floor in the Visitor Entrance, close to the Caddo pot and benches.

The Early Statehood and Western Heritage curatorial theme has been enriched with the inclusion of Wayne Cooper's painting, *Three Forks at the Arkansas River*. This artwork is on loan from the Oklahoma State Senate Historic Preservation Fund, Inc.

##### First Floor Public Spaces:

There has been a change in the location of the *Hannah Atkins* bronze sculpture by LaQuincey Reed. It is now showcased on a pedestal on the first floor of the Capitol Rotunda.

Commissioner Gibson, Chairman of the Art Standards Committee, reported that the committee met before the meeting and unanimously voted to recommend approval of the revised Capitol Art Re/Installation plan.

Brent Gibson moved approval of the revised plan as discussed. Duane Mass seconded the motion. The following votes were recorded, and the motion passed:

Mr. Branan, yes; Mr. Cavin, yes; Ms. Chapman, yes; Mr. Fisher, yes; Mr. Gibson, yes; Mr. Jones, yes; Ms. Leonard, Mr. Ligon, yes; Mr. Mass, yes; Mr. Pozadas, yes; Mr. Wald, yes.

**11. Discussion and possible action to approve proposed temporary display of artwork adjacent to the Lt. Governor’s office suite.** [Brent Gibson, Jarica Walsh, Director of Visual and Public Art]

Ms. Walsh reported that the Oklahoma Arts Council (OAC) received a request from Lieutenant Governor Matt Pinnell regarding a quilt created by Oklahoma women, inspired by the state’s official brand, a project that the Lt. Governor spearheaded to establish and promote the brand.

In addition to the quilt on loan to the Lieutenant Governor for display, Ms. Walsh presented a couple of other brand-inspired artworks that came from projects that the OAC worked on with the Lieutenant Governor to be placed in the same proposed location as the quilt. All three artworks reflect the colors of the state brand. On behalf of the Oklahoma Arts Council, Ms. Walsh is requesting from the Commission approval for the temporary display of artworks adjacent to the Lieutenant Governor’s office suite.

Commissioner Gibson, Chairman of the Art Standards Committee, reported that the committee met before the meeting and voted unanimously to recommend approval of the temporary display of artworks as presented in the specific location.

Brent Gibson moved to approve the temporary display of artworks adjacent to the Lieutenant Governor’s office suite. C.J. Cavin seconded the motion. The following votes were recorded, and the motion passed:

Mr. Branan, yes; Mr. Cavin, yes; Ms. Chapman, yes; Mr. Fisher, yes; Mr. Gibson, yes; Mr. Jones, yes; Ms. Leonard, Mr. Ligon, yes; Mr. Mass, yes; Mr. Pozadas, yes; Mr. Wald, yes.

**12. Discussion and possible action to approve relocation and reinstallation of artworks on the first floor of the Governor’s Mansion.** [Brent Gibson, Christina Naruszewicz, Director of Collections Management]

Ms. Naruszewicz presented on the new location of the artwork of *Oil Patch Warrior* by Jay O’Meilia and *Will Rogers* by Gallagher Rule. Previously displayed in the Governor’s Mansion in a different location, these pieces are now showcased in the first-floor library. On behalf of the Oklahoma Arts Council, Ms. Naruszewicz is seeking approval for the revised artwork plan for the first floor of the Governor’s Mansion.

Brent Gibson moved to approve the updated artwork plan on the first of the Governor’s Mansion. Duke Ligon seconded the motion. The following votes were recorded, and the motion passed:

Mr. Branan, yes; Mr. Cavin, yes; Ms. Chapman, yes; Mr. Fisher, yes; Mr. Gibson, yes; Mr. Jones, yes; Ms. Leonard, Mr. Ligon, yes; Mr. Mass, yes; Mr. Pozadas, yes; Mr. Wald, yes.

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

Ms. Naruszewicz updated the members on the following events held at the Capitol.

Artwork Dedication Event:

The bronze busts of Hannah Atkins and Clara Luper will be dedicated on Thursday, February 22nd, at 11:30 a.m. The artist LaQuincey Reed is planning to attend the event.

Medal of Honor Plaque:

Fabrication complete; shipping tomorrow.

The Medal of Honor Plaque will be dedicated on Monday, April 1st, at 9:00 a.m. in the Hall of Heroes.

Ms. Naruszewicz informed commission members that funds from the State Capitol Repair Expenditure Oversight Committee (SCREOC) have been secured to implement a risk assessment at the Capitol at the end of March or the beginning of April. The Midwest Art Conservation Center in Minnesota will be visiting the Capitol for two days on-site, observing the way visitors flow through the Capitol, the way the art in the Capitol is displayed and to make professional reports to the Oklahoma Arts Council on guidance and suggestions both in the short term and long term so that they can improve their display of artwork and the security and safety of the artwork.

Report only. No action taken.

**14. Chair Updates and Discussion:**

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

Mr. Mass informed Chairwoman Leonard and commission members that the Capitol restoration project was completed.

**Board member status:**

Chairwoman Leonard updated members on the status of the CPC sunset.

Chairwoman Leonard gave Commissioner Bruce Fisher the floor. At the meeting, Fisher announced his resignation. Ms. Leonard thanked him for his contribution and years of service on the Capitol Preservation Commission letting him know he is always welcome to a meeting.

Discussion only. No action taken.

**15. 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 3:33 p.m.