

Report of the Capitol Preservation Committee to the 2016 Kansas Legislature

CHAIRPERSON: Jennie Chinn, State Historical Society

SENATE PRESIDENT'S APPOINTEES: Senator Elaine Bowers; Harrison Hems

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

SENATE MINORITY LEADER'S APPOINTEE: Tim Graham

GOVERNOR'S APPOINTEES: Kim Borchers; Dr. Richard Kyle; Peggy Palmer

HOUSE MINORITY LEADER'S APPOINTEE: Representative Valdenia Winn

OTHER MEMBERS (*EX OFFICIO*): Peter Jasso, Kansas Creative Arts Industries Commission; one vacant (Statehouse Architect)

CHARGE

- Select finalists for the *Brown v. Board* mural;
- Finalize Capitol usage policies;
- Finalize guidelines for temporary exhibits, along with request forms; and
- Approve future renovation proposals, including permanent and temporary displays, in the Capitol and on the grounds.

Capitol Preservation Committee

REPORT

Conclusions and Recommendations

The Committee approves two forms that shall be used by persons wishing to propose permanent changes to the Capitol or grounds.

The Committee selects four finalists for the *Brown v. Board of Education* mural. Artists will be invited to prepare final renditions of their artwork for presentation at a future meeting.

The Committee expresses its condolences regarding the untimely passing of Andrea Burton, an employee of the Kansas State Historical Society who provided tours at the Capitol.

Proposed Legislation: None.

BACKGROUND

The Capitol Preservation Committee was created by the Legislature in 2010 to approve renovation proposals in all areas of the Capitol, the Visitor Center, and the Capitol grounds to insure that the historical beauty of the areas are preserved; preserve the proper décor of those areas; ensure that any art or artistic displays are historically accurate and have historic significance; approve the location and types of temporary displays; and to oversee the reconfiguration or redecoration of committee rooms within the Capitol. As provided by KSA 75-2269, the Division of Legislative Administrative Services has the responsibility to implement the recommendations of the Committee.

The Committee has 12 members, with the Governor appointing 3, the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House each appointing 2, and the Minority Leaders of the House and Senate each appointing 1. The Committee's three *ex-officio* members are the Statehouse Architect, the Executive Director of the Kansas State Historical Society, 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 November 17, 2015, to approve forms, select mural finalists, and honor the memory of an employee who worked at the Capitol.

Forms to Request Modifications

Staff from the Legislative Research Department provided the Committee with two form templates for architectural modifications and for commissioned or donated exhibit or artwork for permanent display. During the 2013 Interim, the Committee adopted the policy and procedures that are the basis for the forms.

Brown v. Board of Education Mural

Of the 34 artists who submitted qualifications for the *Brown v. Board of Education* mural, 14 artists were selected in 2013 to be semi-finalists and each was invited to submit a proposal. Nine artists submitted proposals in 2014.

Staff from the Legislative Research Department provided the Committee with a booklet of the nine semi-finalists' proposals. After

considering each one, the Committee heard testimony from a representative of the *Brown* Foundation and an Associate Dean from Washburn University. Conferees said the mural should tell a story which portrays the magnitude of *Brown v. Board* and the prior decades of work involved with the outcome. Specific elements of some of the proposals were discussed.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee approves two forms that shall be used by persons wishing to propose permanent changes to the Capitol or grounds. The forms will be available to the public through the Kansas State Historical Society, Legislative Administrative Services, and the Department of Administration.

The Committee selects four finalists for the *Brown v. Board of Education* mural. Artists will be invited to prepare final renditions of their artwork for presentation at a future meeting. The public will be given the opportunity to provide input prior to the Committee's selection of an artist.

Finally, the Committee expresses its condolences regarding the untimely passing of Andrea Burton, an employee of the Kansas State Historical Society who provided tours at the Capitol. Ms. Burton was often the first person to greet visitors when they came to the Capitol, enriching their knowledge of Kansas history and government. Her service to the State and people of Kansas did not stop at the end of work day, however. In addition to caring for their children, she and her husband were foster parents to dozens of children. The persons who work in the Statehouse benefited from Ms. Burton's service and friendship, and she will be missed.