

MINUTES

CAPITOL PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

November 17, 2015
Room 152-S—Statehouse

Members Present

Jennie Chinn, Chairperson
Senator Elaine Bowers
Representative Valdenia Winn
Lana Gordon, Secretary of Labor
Kim Borchers
Harrison Hems
Peter Jasso
Dr. Richard Kyle
Rachel Whitten

Members Absent

Tim Graham
Peggy Palmer

Staff Present

Reed Holwegner, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Bobbi Mariani, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Whitney Howard, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Adam Siebers, Office of Revisor of Statutes
Chuck Reimer, Office of Revisor of Statutes
Debbie Bartuccio, Committee Assistant

Conferees

Cheryl Brown Henderson, Founding President, Brown Foundation
Bruce D. MacTavish, Associate Dean, College of Arts and Sciences, Washburn University

Others Attending

[See Attached List.](#)

Tuesday, November 17
All Day Session

Meeting Called to Order; Welcome

Chairperson Chinn called the meeting to order and requested members to introduce themselves, since there were some new Committee members.

Senator Bowers recognized and expressed her appreciation for Andrea Burton, the Tour Desk Supervisor, who served for many years and who recently passed away. In addition to her duties as Supervisor, Ms. Burton provided those who climbed the Statehouse dome stairs with a certificate with their name printed in calligraphy.

Senator Bowers moved, seconded by Representative Winn, to officially recognize Andrea Burton for her service to the Capitol and the State of Kansas. The motion passed.

Chairperson Chinn stated a recognition of Andrea Burton's service would be included in the Committee Report to the Governor and the Legislature.

Briefing on Committee's Statutory Responsibilities

Chuck Reimer, Office of Revisor of Statutes, briefed the Committee on its statutory responsibilities. Mr. Reimer stated the Committee is responsible for approving proposals for renovation of the Capitol, Visitor Center, and Capitol grounds. Any such proposals should ensure historical beauty is preserved, preserve the proper decor of those areas, and assure that art or artistic displays are historically accurate and have historic significance.

He stated the Committee is responsible for developing plans for a mural to be located in the Capitol commemorating the historic *Brown v. Board of Education* decision of the U.S. Supreme Court. He noted preparation and submission of these plans is funded by state money; however, no public funds may be used for the creation and installation of the mural.

The Committee is responsible for overseeing the location and types of temporary displays and revolving displays in the Capitol and Visitor Center. The Committee's recommendations are implemented by Legislative Administrative Services. Permanent displays or monuments on the Capitol grounds must be approved by the Committee and authorized by a legislative bill.

Mr. Reimer stated Committee members may engage in fund raising activities for the purposes of funding Committee responsibilities; however, the Committee as a whole has no authority to solicit funds.

The Committee must produce an annual report to the Legislature and the Governor.

Chairperson Chinn summarized by stating the Committee would recommend to the Legislative Coordinating Council (LCC) the artwork and its location in the Capitol for commemorating the *Brown v. Board of Education* decision. The LCC would then be responsible for moving the process forward.

Discussion and Approval of Forms to Request Change

Chairperson Chinn referred members to two forms that were developed as a mechanism for submitting requests for modifications at the Capitol ([Attachment 1](#)).

- Request for Approval of Architectural Modifications; and
- Request for Approval of Commissioned or Donated Exhibit or Artwork for Permanent Display.

Committee members were provided with a copy of the annual reports for 2013 and 2014 in which the policy behind the forms was approved by the Committee ([Attachment 2](#)) and ([Attachment 3](#)).

Reed Holwegner, Kansas Legislative Research Department, stated the forms provide substance to the policy for anyone wishing to petition for making changes at the Capitol. During discussion of the forms, it was suggested to remove the section requesting an extension for fax numbers.

In response to a question concerning the location of the forms, Chairperson Chinn explained the documents would be on the Historical Society's website, with hard copy forms available from Legislative Administrative Services and the Department of Administration.

Senator Bowers moved, seconded by Secretary Gordon, to approve the two forms. The motion passed.

Brown v. Board of Education Mural

Chairperson Chinn recognized Cheryl Brown Henderson, Founding President, Brown Foundation, and Mr. Charles Jean-Baptiste, who have testified in the past to the Committee concerning the project, and who have indicated the families involved in the cases, as well as the public, are interested in sharing their input with the Committee.

Chairperson Chinn reported the next step was to review the proposals from the semi-finalists and to select the finalists, with the Committee determining the number of finalists. The finalists would then make a public presentation to the Committee, who would determine a recommendation to be made to the LCC. She noted there was no budget for this process, so it would be necessary for the finalists to use their own funds for whatever expenses they incurred in making the proposals to the Committee.

Chairperson Chinn suggested a form could be developed to provide public feedback to Committee members prior to the selection of the the finalist. There was discussion concerning allowing an electronic presentation as an option for an artist not able to travel the day of the Committee meeting.

Chairperson Chinn reviewed, and the Committee members agreed, the next steps would be to select the finalists at this meeting, notify the artists of any suggestions for changes to their proposals, and invite them to prepare a final rendition of their artwork for presentation at a future Committee meeting.

It was the consensus of the Committee to allow for public input regarding the artwork proposals. There was discussion concerning possible methods to be used for receiving public input.

Chairperson Chinn directed Committee members to refer to the booklet containing the mural proposals ([Attachment 4](#)) The Committee reviewed and discussed each proposal as listed below and voted whether the proposal should be considered as a finalist.

- Entry #1 by Wayne Wildcat, Lawrence, Kansas. There were 3 votes in favor of the proposal;
- Entry #2 by Michael Young, Kansas City, Kansas. There were 7 votes in favor of the proposal;
- Entry #3 by Mark Flickinger, Arkansas City, Kansas. There were 4 votes in favor of the proposal;
- Entry #4 by Dave Loewenstein, Lawrence, Kansas. There were no votes in favor of the proposal;
- Entry #5 by Frank Norfleet and Keith Shephard, Kansas City, Missouri. There were no votes in favor of the proposal;
- Entry #6 by Thomas Seaman, New York, New York. There were 7 votes in favor of the proposal;
- Entry #7 by Andrew Schroer, Berryton, Kansas. There were no votes in favor of the proposal;
- Entry #8 by Colleen Mitchell-Veyna, Visalia, California. There were no votes in favor of the proposal; and
- Entry #9 by David Garcia, Aurora, Colorado. There were no votes in favor of the proposal.

As a result of the voting, the following four entries were determined to be finalists:

- Entry #1—Wayne Wildcat, Lawrence, Kansas;
- Entry #2—Michael Young, Kansas City, Kansas;
- Entry #3—Mark Flickinger, Arkansas City, Kansas; and
- Entry #6—Thomas Seaman, New York, New York.

Chairperson Chinn recognized Cheryl Brown Henderson, Founding President, Brown Foundation and Bruce D. MacTavish, Associate Dean, College of Arts and Science, Washburn University, who provided comments concerning the mural proposals.

Mr. MacTavish suggested it was important to remember the mural should tell a story and portray the magnitude of the *Brown v Board* case and the decades of work involved with the outcome. Ms. Brown Henderson suggested on entry #7 the replacement of the section depicting a photo of attorneys who worked the cases with a list of the names and years of the cases involved prior to *Brown v. Board*. There were suggestions concerning the use of a tornado, dolls, and the level of diversity of the teachers and children in some of the entries.

Ms. Brown Henderson recognized Mr. Jean-Baptiste and expressed her appreciation for his work in pursuing the legislative approval and funding of the mural project.

Representative Valdenia Winn moved, seconded by Secretary Gordon, to accept the four mural proposals as voted upon, with Committee comments and suggestions to be shared by Chairperson Chinn with the artists. The motion passed.

Chairperson Chinn reported she would provide feedback to the four finalists to determine their continued interest in the project. If still interested, the artists would be required to provide a revised proposal for final presentation at the next Capitol Preservation Committee meeting. This meeting would likely occur in the fall of 2016.

Discussion of Annual Report to the 2016 Legislature

Chairperson Chinn stated a draft of the annual Capitol Preservation Committee report would be distributed to Committee members for review and approval.

Senator Bowers questioned whether consideration could be given to relocating the dome artifact currently located on the ground level, as many visitors are not aware of its existence. If the piece cannot be relocated, then perhaps additional signage could be installed concerning its location. Chairperson Chinn responded she would investigate the issue.

Adjourn

Chairperson Chinn adjourned the meeting at 12:22 p.m.

Prepared by Debbie Bartuccio
Edited by Reed Holwegner

Approved by the Committee on:

December 30, 2015
(Date)