

**Capitol Preservation Commission
Special Meeting Minutes
May 2, 2023; 3:00 p.m.
State Capitol Building,
Senate Conference Room 4S.9
2300 N. Lincoln Blvd.
Oklahoma City, OK 73105**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Nancy Leonard	Bruce Fisher	Janet Morrow
Cliff Branan	Brent Gibson	Victor Pozadas, Sr.
C.J. Cavin	Keith Jones	Duke Ligon
Aaron Cooper	Lou Kerr	

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Duane Mass
Charles Moore

GUESTS:

Beverly Hicks, OMES
Karl Kramer, OAG
Amber Sharples, Exec. Dir. of OAC
Jarica Walsh, 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 3:00 p.m. A roll call was taken, and a quorum was established.

3. Welcome/Introductions:

Ms. Leonard welcomed members and guests to the meeting. She introduced new member Duke Ligon, the President of the Oklahoma Historical Society, who succeeded former member Deena Fisher.

4. Discussion and possible action on the approval of meeting minutes from Feb. 16, 2023:

Cliff Branan moved to approve the meeting minutes for February. Lou Kerr seconded the motion. The following votes were recorded, and the motion passed:

Mr. Branan, yes; Mr. Cavin, yes; Mr. Cooper, yes; Mr. Fisher, yes; Mr. Gibson, yes;
Mr. Jones, yes; Ms. Kerr, yes; Ms. Leonard, yes; Ms. Morrow, yes; Mr. Pozadas, yes;
Mr. Ligon, yes.

5. Discussion and possible action to accept the painting commissioned by the Art in Public Places project of the Oklahoma State Capitol, *Spiro: Serpent River, Shelled Stories, Sun-*

touched Engravings by Yatika Fields, into the Capitol Art Collection and the Oklahoma Public Art Collection: [Lou Kerr, Jarica Walsh, Director of Visual and Public Art]

Ms. Walsh reported that the Oklahoma Arts Council requests accessioning this painting by Yatika Fields, *Spiro: Serpent River, Shelled Stories, Sun-touched Engravings*. The project was approved in December 2020, the artist selection was approved in March 2021, and the design concept was approved in February 2022. In January 2023, the commission members approved the installation of the artwork. The painting was installed in late February 2023, and today is requesting the artwork's formal accession into the Capitol Art Collection and the Oklahoma Public Art Collection. The artwork is on the ground floor past the new visitor entrance security area in Pre-Statehood, and Native American History.

The Art Standards Committee met prior to the commission meeting and recommended approval of accessioning the *Spiro: Serpent River, Shelled Stories, Sun-touched Engravings* painting by Yatika Fields, commissioned by the Art in Public Places project of the Oklahoma State Capitol.

Lou Kerr moved approval of the accessioning of the artwork into the Capitol Art Collection and the Oklahoma Public Art Collection. C.J. Cavin seconded the motion. The following votes were recorded, and the motion passed:

Mr. Branan, yes; Mr. Cavin, yes; Mr. Cooper, yes; Mr. Fisher, yes; Mr. Gibson, yes;
Mr. Jones, yes; Ms. Kerr, yes; Ms. Leonard, yes; Ms. Morrow, yes; Mr. Pozadas, yes;
Mr. Ligon, yes.

6. Discussion and possible action to accept the video commissioned by the Art in Public Places project of the Oklahoma State Capitol, *Indigenous Greetings* by Buffalo Nickel, into the Capitol Art Collection and the Oklahoma Public Art Collection. [Lou Kerr, Jarica Walsh, Director of Visual and Public Art]

Ms. Walsh reported that the project was approved in October 2020, the artist selection was approved in 2021, and the design concept was approved in February 2022. The *Indigenous Greetings* video will be located on the ground floor at the visitor entrance, near "The Guardian," in the Pre-Statehood, and Native American History area. Buffalo Nickel created and produced the video that represents a majority of the tribes located in Oklahoma.

The Art Standards Committee met prior to the commission meeting and recommended approval of accessioning the *Indigenous Greetings* video by Buffalo Nickel, commissioned by the Art in Public Places project of the Oklahoma State Capitol.

Lou Kerr approved the artwork's accession into the Capitol Art Collection and the Oklahoma Public Art Collection. Aaron Cooper seconded the motion. The following votes were recorded, and the motion passed:

Mr. Branan, yes; Mr. Cavin, yes; Mr. Cooper, yes; Mr. Fisher, yes; Mr. Gibson, yes;
Mr. Jones, yes; Ms. Kerr, yes; Ms. Leonard, yes; Ms. Morrow, yes; Mr. Pozadas, yes;
Mr. Ligon, yes.

7. Discussion and possible action on review and approval of the design concept for the bronze bust of Hannah Atkins for the Art in Public Places Project at the Oklahoma State Capitol.

[Lou Kerr, Jarica Walsh, Director of Visual and Public Art]

Ms. Walsh is requesting approval of the design concept of the bronze bust of Hannah Atkins. She brought before the commission a clay rendering and design concept of what will be the bronze bust of Hannah Atkins. The design concept of her bust was inspired by a photo that captured the moment she was sworn in as the first elected black woman into the House of Representatives. The bust will be located in the African American Oklahoma History area on the first floor near the bronze bust of Clara Luper, to be done by the same artist doing the work, LaQuincey Reed. The Commission approved the project, budget, and artist on October 21, 2021. The Oklahoma Arts Council (OAC) met with the family, who approved the design concept and are excited to see this artwork displayed at the State Capitol. If approved, the OAC will move forward with the casting of the bronze.

The Art Standards Committee met prior to the commission meeting and recommended approval of the design concept for the bronze bust of Hannah Atkins by LaQuincey Reed for the Art in Public Places project of the Oklahoma State Capitol.

Bruce Fisher moved to approve the design concept for the bronze bust of Hannah Atkins for the Art in Public Places Project at the State Capitol. Lou Kerr seconded the motion. The following votes were recorded, and the motion passed:

Mr. Branan, yes; Mr. Cavin, yes; Mr. Cooper, yes; Mr. Fisher, yes; Mr. Gibson, yes;
Mr. Jones, yes; Ms. Kerr, yes; Ms. Leonard, yes; Ms. Morrow, yes; Mr. Pozadas, yes;
Mr. Ligon, yes.

8. Discussion and possible action on review and approval of concept for a new painting commission brought by friends and family of Oklahoma Veteran Bob Kalsu. [Lou Kerr, Jarica Walsh, Director of Visual and Public Art]

Ms. Walsh reported that Senator Paul Rosino from the 45th district came to the Oklahoma Arts Council with the proposal to have a portrait of Bob Kalsu commissioned as an addition to the Hall of Heroes. Mr. Kalsu, born in Oklahoma City, attended and played football at the University of Oklahoma. The Buffalo Bills drafted him into the National Football League (NFL). While playing, he answered the call to serve his country in Vietnam. Unfortunately, he was killed in action during the Battle of Fire Support Base Ripcord on July 21, 1970, two days before his wife gave birth to their second child. Bob Kalsu's wife is a constituent of Senator Rosino, and they have been in discussions about honoring him in the new Hall of Heroes space on the second floor in the west hallway. If the Commission were to approve and deem the request as a valuable item to add to the collection of the Hall of Heroes, then the family and friends of Mr. Kalsu would move forward with their fundraising and commissioning.

Ms. Walsh noted that the portrait concept is only being considered today for approval. If approved, the Oklahoma Arts Council (OAC) will return to the Commission with the artist selection and an image of the portrait for approval. The image shown at the meeting of Bob Kalsu was used as an example. The OAC is working with the family on a final image to be decided on by the Commission later.

The Art Standards Committee met prior to the commission meeting and recommended approval of the concept for a new painting commission of Bob Kalsu.

Lou Kerr moved to approve the concept for a new painting commission. Janet Morrow seconded the motion. The following votes were recorded, and the motion passed:

Mr. Branan, yes; Mr. Cavin, yes; Mr. Cooper, yes; Mr. Fisher, yes; Mr. Gibson, yes;
Mr. Jones, yes; Ms. Kerr, yes; Ms. Leonard, yes; Ms. Morrow, yes; Mr. Pozadas, yes;
Mr. Ligon, yes.

9. Discussion and possible action to approve proposed artist exhibitions in the East and North Capitol Galleries for June 2023 through September 2023. [Lou Kerr, Jarica Walsh, Director of Art in Public Places]

Ms. Walsh reported that the first proposal is an exhibition of Wallace Owens from Guthrie, Oklahoma, where his artwork was recently installed in the East Capitol Gallery on the first floor, initially scheduled from April to June. Because his artwork from when in Africa has been a great success, the Oklahoma Arts Council is requesting an extension to continue until September 2023.

Ms. Walsh reported that the second proposal is for a new exhibition request for the artworks of Jessie Ghere Feather to be displayed in the North Capitol Gallery on the first floor from June through September 2023. Ms. Ghere Feather was born in Oklahoma and is based out of Jenks. She is a self-taught artist that works with oil and pastel on suede.

The Art Standards Committee met prior to the commission meeting and recommended approval for the extension of the Wallace Owens exhibit in the East Capitol Gallery and the new artist exhibition in the North Capitol Gallery of Jessie Ghere Feather for the specified period in 2023.

Lou Kerr moved approval of both artist exhibitions in the East and North Capitol Galleries from June through September 2023. Aaron Cooper seconded the motion. The following votes were recorded, and the motion passed:

Mr. Branan, yes; Mr. Cavin, yes; Mr. Cooper, yes; Mr. Fisher, yes; Mr. Gibson, yes;
Mr. Jones, yes; Ms. Kerr, yes; Ms. Leonard, yes; Ms. Morrow, yes; Mr. Pozadas, yes;
Mr. Ligon, yes.

10. Collections Manager Report: [Jarica Walsh, Director of Visual and Public Art]

a. Update on the Capitol Re/Installation Project:

Ms. Walsh reported that a dedication ceremony for the Hall of Heroes was held last week on Monday on the second floor in the Supreme Court Hall, west hallway, where military artwork is and will be displayed, to show significant military events of Veterans with Oklahoma history.

Ms. Walsh recognized the House of Representatives, expressed her appreciation for approving that space, and conveyed her gratitude for the loans from the Senate and House collections and a piece on loan from the 45th Infantry Museum and the Oklahoma Historical Society.

Ms. Walsh reported that they recently hired a new Collection's Manager that started in April. She also made known that there is a vacancy for a Curator of Capitol Exhibitions, which is another reason for wanting to extend the current exhibitions in the rotating galleries a little longer to give them some additional time to focus on finishing up the Capitol's new commissions and didactic signage around the building, as well as getting the Betty Price Gallery reopened.

Ms. Walsh informed that they are currently planning for the installation of the next panel for the "Labor Omnia Vincit" ("Work Conquers All"), Oklahoma State Motto suite of four murals by Lucas Simmons, located on the ground floor rotunda.

Report only. No action was taken.

11. Chair Updates and Discussion:

a. Possible presentation and/or discussion on the ongoing state Capitol Building construction and Governor's mansion construction:

Commission member Morrow informed the members of projects on Capitol grounds, including the sprinkler system changes nearing completion, the Ballard installation coming to fruition, and sod being put down in bare areas where work has been done.

Update only. No action was taken.

12. Adjournment:

There being no further business, C.J. Cavin made the motion to adjourn. Lou Kerr seconded the motion. Seeing no opposition, the meeting adjourned at 3:25 p.m.