STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37243-0435

ROBERT J. MARTINEAU, JR.
COMMISSIONER

BILL HASLAM
GOVERNOR

September 30, 2015

Hand Delivered

Commissioner Larry Martin
Capitol Commission Chairman
State Capitol Building
Nashville, TN 37243

Dear Commissioner Martin:

The resolution passed by the Capitol Commission on July 17, 2015 requested that the subcommittee, named in the resolution, provide recommendations to the full Commission on characteristics of Tennesseans who should be honored in the Capitol Complex. On behalf of the members of the subcommittee, I am transmitting to you as Chair of the subcommittee our recommendations for consideration by the full Commission. The subcommittee held several public meetings and took written and oral comment on an initial draft of the criteria. The attached document has also been posted on the Capitol Commission's website.

I want to thank the other members of the subcommittee and also Peter Heimbach, Thad Watkins and the staff supporting the Capitol Commission for their assistance in the subcommittee's work.

Sincerely,

Robert J. Martineau, Jr.
Commissioner

RJM/bag

Enclosure

cc: Senator Jack Johnson
David Lillard, State Treasurer
Bob Oglesby, Commissioner – General Services
Reavis Mitchell, Chair – TN Historical Commission
Peter Heimbach
Thad Watkins

These guidelines are developed pursuant to TCA 4-8-301, et. seq. to provide consistency in the principles, criteria and policies for Commemorative Works (statues, monuments, or memorials) in the State Capitol Building, on the Capitol Grounds and on the Bicentennial Mall State Park (Contiguous Grounds) and on the properties owned by the State that are located within one block west, south, and east of the Capitol and the Mall (Adjacent Grounds) as established by the Capitol Commission in May 2013 (collectively the Capitol Campus). These guidelines do not supersede any statute, other policies or rules of the Commission but are intended to supplement them. As a policy of this type cannot address all possible situations, items that are not specifically addressed are left up to the discretion of the Capitol Commission.

General Criteria for Evaluating Works in and around the Capitol

Commemorative Works should:

1. Be consistent with the organizing principles and policies of the Tennessee State Capitol Campus Monuments and Memorials Master Plan.
2. Preserve and enhance the dignity, beauty, architectural integrity, and the public use and enjoyment of the Tennessee State Capitol Campus.
3. Not interfere with the most scenic public views to and from the Capitol.
4. Not interfere with any existing Site Features, Capitol Campus buildings, or public functions.
5. Be sensitive to the physical relationship relative to size, scale, etc. of the Tennessee State Capitol Campus to adjacent neighborhoods and the city of Nashville.
6. Accommodate pedestrian and motorized and non-motorized vehicular traffic that promote public accessibility where appropriate.
7. Maintain the dignity of the state Capitol Campus, its existing memorials, grounds, and buildings, and surrounding environment.

Principles for the Interior Collection

1. The interior collection is intended to provide an enriching experience which illuminates and broadens understanding of all of Tennessee's heritage and culture.
2. It shall reflect the diversity of Tennessee's people providing a rich experience broadening the understanding of Tennessee's heritage and culture.
3. It shall represent the best works of the collection of the State and the Tennessee State Museum that are most applicable to be presented in the environment of the Tennessee State Capitol.
4. The collection shall present a comprehensive and balanced view of the rich history and values of the people of Tennessee.

Criteria for Individual Works

1. The primary intent of a Commemorative Work is to memorialize the cultural, historic, social and political aspects of the lives of Tennesseans. Commemorative works are more than objects; they express ideas embodied in a variety of physical forms, events and locations. The role and responsibility of the commemorative work may include:
    a. To preserve, commemorate and reflect the diverse people of Tennessee and their values,
    b. To memorialize, to cause remembrance,
    c. To inform, to inspire,
    d. To be of historic or cultural significance for the people of Tennessee, or
    e. To provide an enriching experience that illuminates, celebrates and broadens the understanding of Tennessee's heritage and culture.
2. Items shall honor individuals or events of lasting significance for the people of the state of Tennessee. Additional criteria may include:
    a. The subject was a Tennessee resident,
    b. The subject served in the Tennessee Capitol,
    c. The significance of this subject, event or person warrants its memorialization,
    d. The subject made a significant contribution to Tennessee state government, or
    e. The subject made a significant impact on Tennessee history or its people.

3. The person or event must have explicit connections to Tennessee, and must have affected the lives of Tennesseans: for example, the person must have made significant contributions to the state's public life, culture, academic, agricultural, artistic, civic, cultural, economic, historical, archeological industrial, political or social development, or the event must have involved a significant portion of the state's citizenry.
4. The person or event must be of an era or date far enough in the past to allow a thoughtful historical perspective. When honoring an event, individual or group of individuals, items will generally only be accepted following the 10th anniversary of the event or the 10th anniversary of the individual's death. Individuals may only be so honored in life if the subject has served as president or vice president of the United States of America. Also, a former governor may be honored in life by a portrait displayed in the Capitol.
5. A work may be rejected from consideration on artistic merit alone. The Commission at their discretion may call on outside experts or authorities to provide advice on design.
6. Subjects should be thoroughly researched and documented. Supporting materials should be verified and scholars or other experts in the field may be consulted.
7. The following are likely to be considered inappropriate for inclusion:
    a. Anniversary installations or installations that express gratitude to the State as these often do no more than call attention to a particular interest group.
    b. Any installation recognizing persons or events having little bearing on Tennessee history.
    c. Works that honor persons or events because they were "first," by accident of history, unless the occurrence has had a lasting impact or benefited the citizenry at large.
    d. Commemorative works of art whose primary focus is political advocacy.
    e. Items that are considered to be partisan, meaning it is based upon, influenced by, affiliated with or supporting the interests or policies of a single political party.
    f. Replicas, items reproduced in multiple editions, commercially or mass-produced items generally shall not be considered unless their acquisition can be justified on historical or artistic terms. Works of art shall generally be a "one of a kind" creation.
    g. Works of art proposed for addition to the Capitol shall generally not duplicate events or persons already commemorated or memorialized in the building.
8. Due to the size of the collection and the limited space in the Capitol and on the grounds some artwork may be more appropriately placed at alternate locations around the State including at the location of the offices most served by the honoree or at another location appropriate to the event.

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Miscellaneous Provisions Related to Acceptance of Items

1. Names of donors shall not be permitted on any memorial and/or monument except where directed by legislation or executive order of the governor. Permanent recognition is defined as architectural or decorative detailing attached permanently to the Capitol or attached permanently to decorative arts/monuments that make up the Capitol collection. No donor recognition of any kind shall be placed on the exterior of the grounds of the Capitol complex. Donors may be recognized by letters, certificates of appreciation, in printed material, and by other means determined by the Commission.
2. Artworks are accepted with the intent that they will belong permanently to the State of Tennessee. Gifts and bequests of pre-existing (non-commissioned) works of art shall be submitted with clear, unrestricted and undivided title assigned to the State, and shall be of a free and unrestricted nature. Works must be accompanied by proof of legal ownership, and deed of gift. Once final artwork is approved artwork is legally transferred to the State of Tennessee through the use of a Deed of Gift form provided by the Tennessee State Museum.
3. Once accepted, the memorial will be displayed in the Capitol building for a period of time deemed appropriate by the Capitol Commission, after which time they may be transferred to the Tennessee State Museum for periodic display within their assigned exhibit areas.
4. Unless location is stipulated by legislation or executive order of the governor, no item can be accepted on the condition of permanent attribution or perpetual public display. Other conditions of deposit including but not limited to identification, installation, reproduction, and copyright must be made known to the Commission so that an accurate assessment of the proposal is possible
5. Acquisition of art from members of the Commission or employees, or their families, of the State of Tennessee may present a conflict of interest, and will be handled with particular care.
6. The Tennessee State Capitol is a property listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Decisions about works in the Capitol shall be made in context with appropriate guidelines as interpreted by the Tennessee Historical Commission.
7. No public funds shall be used to construct memorials and/or monuments, unless directed to do so through legislation. Funding must be secured and in-hand before a construction permit shall be issued.
8. Knowledgeable persons qualified in the field of architecture and preservation/maintenance shall be consulted by the applicant to determine structural soundness and durability and to assure that the commemorative work meets high professional standards. Memorials and monuments shall be constructed of durable material suitable to the outdoor environment. Landscape features shall be compatible with the Capitol grounds master plan.
9. A painted portrait of each of the past eight (8) former governors is to be placed sequentially in the Capitol's public corridors. If more than one portrait of a governor meets the existing pattern of size, medium, and format, the Tennessee State Museum, in consultation with that governor, or appropriate family member if the governor is deceased, shall select the portrait to be exhibited in the Capitol.
10. Existing works of art may not be altered, except for corrections to historical inaccuracies, but may be conserved or restored in accordance with professional practices and standards.
11. For items approved for inclusion in the collection by the Capitol Commission, the Office of the State Architect, in consultation with the Tennessee State Museum and the Tennessee Arts Commission along with other appropriate parties, shall have review and approval authority over the construction of the memorial or monument.

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