

State Capitol Commission

2019 Annual Report

Background and History

The State Capitol Commission was established by law on April 9, 1986 and consists of seven ex-officio members, two legislative members, and three private citizens. In that same year, the Commission approved a plenary master plan for adaptive restoration and preservation of the State Capitol and its contiguous grounds. The *Tennessee State Capitol Historic Structures Report* continues to remain valid and does not need to be updated.

At its January 24, 1995 meeting, the Commission established a policy relative to interior modification to historic spaces that states: "It is the policy of the Capitol Commission that any proposed changes in the material or fabric of the floor, walls or ceilings of the historic upper two floors of the State Capitol must obtain prior approval of the Capitol Commission. Major and minor maintenance of existing materials or fabric requires the approval of the State Architect on behalf of the Capitol Commission."

In 1998, the legislature added the responsibility of the Commission to establish a policy relative to historical commemorative additions and improvements on the Bicentennial Mall and approve such additions and improvements as may come within the policy. The *State of Tennessee Capitol Hill and Bicentennial Mall Guidelines* were implemented in 2002 to address those needs. This was updated and expanded in 2014 to provide guidelines for the entire Capitol and Bicentennial Mall complex. The Commission, since its inception, has acted upon numerous requests for non-governmental use of the State Capitol as well as for the placement of artifacts, memorials and monuments in the Capitol and on the Capitol grounds, including the Bicentennial Mall.

The Commission has met formally 45 times since its inception in 1986, and its members have additionally been notified of all requests to use the Capitol and its grounds.

Calendar Year 2019

The State Capitol Commission met in December for the purpose of reviewing the following items:

- Review and approval of a request by the Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) for the Nashville Convention and Visitors Corporation (NCVC) to hold the 2019/2020 New Year's Eve celebration on the Capitol grounds.
- Review and approval of a request by the TDEC, to use the Capitol grounds for the subsequent three years of a 5 year contract between TDEC and NCVC, to be held at the Bicentennial Capitol Mall State Park with the same conditions that currently exist this year.

During the year, the Commission acted on and approved 58 requests for non-governmental uses of the Capitol. These requests range from special events/meetings and ceremonies to rallies/protests and press conferences, along with a variety of miscellaneous uses.

Anticipated Activities for Calendar Year 2020

The Commission anticipates discussing the following:

- Nathan Bedford Forrest Bust
- President James K. Polk Relocation (SJR0141/HA0798)
- Monument to Unborn Children (T.C.A. § 4-8-305)
- Wilder Bust (Public Chapter 1108, Sect. 67, Item 12 – FY10 appropriation)
- David Crockett Statue (T.C.A. § 4-8-401)
- Ongoing requests for non-governmental use of the areas included under the oversight of the Commission.
- Progress report on any ongoing capital projects

A list of members and meeting minutes may be found at: <https://www.tn.gov/osa/commissions/state-capitol-commission.html>