

State Capitol Commission

2021 Annual Report

Background and History

The State Capitol Commission was established by law on April 9, 1986 and consists of seven ex-officio members or their respective designees, two legislative members, three private citizen members appointed by the Governor, one private citizen member appointed by the Speaker of the Senate and one private citizen member appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives. In the year it was formed, 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 47 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 2021

The State Capitol Commission did not meet during calendar year 2021.

The busts of General Nathan Bedford Forrest, Admiral David Farragut and Admiral Albert Gleaves were relocated from the State Capitol to the State Museum in July.

During the year, the Commission acted on and approved 66 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 the Commission:

The Commission anticipates discussing the following:

- President James K. Polk Relocation (SJR0141/HA0798)
- 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

Capital Projects Reported to the Commission:

- **State Capitol Landscape Upgrades and Retaining Wall Repair** (SBC# 529/005-01-2013) was approved by the State Building Commission on 9/12/2013, started construction in 3/31/2020, and is anticipated to be complete with a reduced scope in 2022.
- **State Capitol Ceiling Repairs** (SBC# 529/005-01-2020) was approved by the State Building Commission on 8/13/2020, started construction on 10/8/2020 and the original scope was completed in December 2020, additional areas are anticipated to start work in 2022 after the legislative session and be complete in 2022.
- **LED Lighting and Controls Upgrades** (SBC# 529/000-01-2019) was approved by the State Building Commission on 3/24/2019, started construction in February 2021, and is anticipated to be complete with additional elements in 2022.
- **War Memorial Renovation and Legislative Plaza** (SBC# 529/045-02-2017) was approved by the State Building Commission on 8/10/2017 for planning. The War Memorial planning was completed in 2020 and the Legislative Plaza planning was complete in 2021.
- **War Memorial Building Exterior and Interior Renovations** (SBC# 529/090-01-2021) was approved by the State Building Commission on 7/22/2021 and started design on 1/11/2022.
- **Legislative Plaza Renovations** the design funding was included in the FY 21/22 budget and construction funding is in the Governor's FY 22/23 budget.
- **Monument to Unborn Children** was approved by the Capitol Commission 2/20/2020 and is awaiting funding.
- **State Capitol Window and Roof Repair** has completed planning and is included in the Governor's FY 22/23 budget.
- **State Capitol Conference Room Audio / Video Replacement** has completed planning and is included in the Governor's FY 22/23 budget.

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