

State Capitol Commission

2025 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 51 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 2025

A Capitol Commission meeting was held on April 29, 2025. The meeting agenda consisted of the following:

- Approval of the Artist Selection for the David Crockett statue that will be located on the Capitol grounds
- Approval of the David Crockett Design Approval Committee
- Approval of the Amendment to the Tennessee State Capitol Campus Monuments and Memorials Master Plan
- Approval of the New Year's Eve Event for December 31, 2025
- Discussion on Cupola Lighting
- Capitol Project Updates:
 - State Capitol Landscape Upgrades and Retaining Wall Repairs(SBC #529/005-01-2013)
 - State Capitol Window and Roof Repairs(SBC #529/005-01-2022)
 - State Capitol Conference Room Audio-Visual Replacement(SBC # 529/005-02-2022)
 - War Memorial Building Exterior and Interior Renovations(SBC# 529/090-01-2021)
 - Legislative Plaza Renovations (and Motlow Tunnel)(SBC # 529/045-01-2022)

During the year 2025, the Commission confirmed 56 requests for non-governmental uses of the Capitol. These requests range from special events and ceremonies to rallies/protests and educational forums, along with a variety of miscellaneous uses.

The commission has not approved any requests to light the cupola a color since the April 29, 2025 meeting.

Anticipated Activities for the Commission:

The Commission anticipates discussing the following:

- Progress report and necessary approvals on any ongoing capital projects
- Ongoing requests for non-governmental use of the areas included under the oversight of the Commission

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