

**Capitol Preservation Commission
Special Meeting Minutes
August 28, 2025, 3:00 p.m.
Oklahoma History Center,
Board Room, 3rd Floor
800 Nazih Zuhdi Drive
Oklahoma City, OK 73105**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Trait Thompson
Aaron Cooper
Brent Gibson
Becky Gooch

Keith Jones
Duke Ligon
Duane Mass
Victor Pozadas

Nathan Wald
Hunter Zearley

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Elaine Kidd
C.J. Cavin
Tracie Chapman
Ryan Overholt

GUESTS:

Beverly Hicks, OMES
Karl Kramer, OAG
Bob Ross, Inasmuch Foundation
Wade Scaramucci, AHMM
Amber Sharples, OAC

Jarica Walsh, OAC
Liam Larson, OAC
Alex Gladden, Reporter, The Oklahoman
Bonnie Campo, OMES

♦ *Office of Management and Enterprise Services (OMES); Deputy General Counsel (DGC)*
♦ *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]

Chairman Trait Thompson 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]

Mr. Thompson called the meeting to order at 3:03 PM. A roll call was taken, and a quorum was confirmed.

3. Welcome/Introductions: [Chair]

Chairman Thompson welcomed members and guests to the meeting.

Mr. Thompson welcomed members and guests to the meeting.

4. Discussion and possible action on approval of special meeting minutes from Jun. 30, 2025.

[Chair]

Duke Ligon moved to approve the special meeting minutes for June. Duane Mass seconded the motion. The following votes were recorded, and the motion carried:

Mr. Cooper, aye; Mr. Gibson, aye; Ms. Gooch, aye; Mr. Jones, aye; Mr. Ligon, aye;
Mr. Mass, aye; Mr. Pozadas, aye; Mr. Wald, aye; Mr. Zearley, aye; Mr. Thompson, aye.

5. Discussion and possible action on construction of a new first family residence on the grounds of the governor's mansion. [Duane Mass, State Capitol Architect and Curator]

Chairman Thompson informed the Commission that the Capitol Preservation Commission's (CPC) role is limited to approving the design of the first family residence presented at today's meeting. Funding and budget details are outside the CPC's responsibilities. The Commission will determine whether the design complies with the statutory framework in Title 74 and whether it meets the standards set for the Governor's Mansion site and its grounds.

Chairman Thompson introduced Bob Ross, chairman and CEO of the Inasmuch Foundation. Mr. Ross discussed his long-standing involvement with the project, which dates back to 2018, and provided historical context by summarizing the fundraising efforts and the project's origins. He mentioned his co-chair, Bond Payne, who is assisting him with the project and wasn't able to attend the meeting today.

Mr. Ross said the goal is for the residence to be completed in time for the next governor, who will take office in January 2027, to move in around that time. He mentioned that the historic mansion has been renovated and looks beautiful. The Friends of the Mansion are responsible for maintaining and caring for the mansion and its property. The mansion will continue to be used for ceremonial events, remain open for tours, and serve breakfast, lunch, and dinner as it does now. With the additional building, it will also provide a secure and convenient place for visiting dignitaries in the state who may stay there. The project is fully funded and paid for through private donations. All donors are Oklahomans and will be recognized on a donor wall.

Chairman Thompson also introduced Wade Scaramucci, the architect responsible for the project's design, and the director of Allford Hall Monaghan Morris (AHMM) Architects, who presented the design to the commission members. The design of the new residence will complement the existing mansion.

Duane Mass, Chair of the Architecture and Grounds Committee, reported that the committee met prior to the meeting and unanimously approved the project.

Duane Mass motioned to approve construction of a new first family residence on the grounds of the governor's mansion as presented today. Trait Thompson seconded the motion. The following votes were recorded, and the motion carried:

Mr. Cooper, aye; Mr. Gibson, aye; Ms. Gooch, aye; Mr. Jones, aye; Mr. Ligon, aye;
Mr. Mass, aye; Mr. Pozadas, aye; Mr. Wald, aye; Mr. Zearley, aye; Mr. Thompson, aye.

6. Discussion and possible action to accept the painting commissioned by the Art in Public Places project of the Oklahoma State Capitol, Labor Omnia Vincit (Northeast) by Lucas Simmons into the Capitol Art Collection. [Jarica Walsh, Director of Visual and Public Art]

Ms. Walsh provided commission members with background information on the final painting, "Labor Omnia Vincit (Northeast)" of the four-mural suite, located on the ground floor rotunda by Lucas Simmons.

Brent Gibson, Chair of the Arts Standards Committee, reported that the committee met prior to the meeting and unanimously approved the accessioning of the artwork into both mentioned art collections.

Brent Gibson moved to approve the accessioning of the artwork in the Capitol Art Collection and the Oklahoma Public Art Collection. Duke Ligon seconded the motion. The following votes were recorded, and the motion carried:

Mr. Cooper, aye; Mr. Gibson, aye; Ms. Gooch, aye; Mr. Jones, aye; Mr. Ligon, aye;
Mr. Mass, aye; Mr. Pozadas, aye; Mr. Wald, aye; Mr. Zearley, aye; Mr. Thompson, aye.

7. Collections Manager Report. [Jarica Walsh, Director of Visual and Public Art]
Update on the Capitol Re/Installation Project.

Ms. Walsh provided a report on the development of a multiphase risk mitigation plan that involves monitoring environmental conditions and assessment of event protocols to ensure the best protection of the artwork.

Ms. Walsh introduces Liam Larson, who has recently been promoted to the position of Collections Manager.

8. Chair Updates and Discussion:
Possible presentation and/or discussion on the ongoing state capitol building construction and Governor's mansion construction.

Mr. Mass provided a brief update on the Capitol Arch that is currently in bid and tracking on budget.

9. Adjournment:

There being no further business, Hunter Zearley moved to adjourn. Duane Mass seconded the motion. Seeing no opposition, the meeting adjourned at 3:48 PM.