

State Capitol Commission

2023 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 49 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 2023

A Capitol Commission meeting was held on December 6, 2023. The meeting agenda consisted of the following:

- Consideration of Music City, Inc.'s Plans for New Year's Eve Celebration and Request for Use of Capitol Grounds
- Capital Project Update: State Capitol Landscape Upgrades and Retaining Wall Repairs (SBC #529/005-01-2013)
- Capital Project Update: State Capitol Window and Roof Repairs (SBC #529/005-01-2022)
- Capital Project Update: State Capitol Conference Room Audio-Visual Replacement (SBC # 529/005-02-2022)
- Capital Project Update: War Memorial Building Exterior and Interior Renovations (SBC# 529/090-01-2021)
- Capital Project Update: Legislative Plaza Renovations (and Motlow Tunnel) (SBC # 529/045-01-2022)
- Capital Project Update: Old Library and Archives and Supreme Court Building Renovation (SBC # 529/074-01-2023)

During the year, the Commission confirmed 38 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 including lighting the cupola a specific color, which is the most common request.

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>