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**MEMORANDUM**

January 27, 2009

**TO:** Interested Persons

**FROM:** Jennifer Thomsen, Research Associate II, 303-866-4791

**SUBJECT:** State Capitol Building Advisory Committee FY 2007-08 Activities

This memorandum reports the activities of the State Capitol Building Advisory Committee in FY 2007-08. The advisory committee, established pursuant to Section 24-82-108, C.R.S., serves in an advisory capacity to the Capital Development Committee and the Governor on certain issues regarding the State Capitol Building (Capitol) and its grounds.

**Summary**

The first section of the memorandum contains background information about the advisory committee, its membership, and duties. Next, it contains summaries of the advisory committee's FY 2007-08 activities and recommendations. Finally, the memorandum contains detailed information about proposals for gifts of art and memorials and capitol improvement projects considered by the advisory committee, advisory committee activities around publications and memorabilia, and advice and guidance provided by the advisory committee to the Visitors Services staff.

**Background**

**Membership.** The advisory committee, established pursuant to Section 24-82-108, C.R.S., has 12 members. Four members are appointed by the Governor; three are appointed by the President of the Senate; three are appointed by the Speaker of the House; and two members serve *ex officio*. Of the members appointed by the Governor, one is to be an

architect knowledgeable about the historic and architectural integrity of the building. The *ex officio* members are to be the president of the State Historical Society or the president's designee, and the Executive Director of the Department of Personnel and Administration or the director's designee. Appointed members serve a term of two years, while *ex officio* members serve as long as their term of office is held.

Table 1 contains a list of members of the advisory committee for FY 2007-08, as well as the appointing authority and the members' term expiration dates.

**Table 1**  
**Capitol Building Advisory Committee Membership**  
**FY 2007-08**

Member Name	Appointing Authority	Term Expiration Date
Hugh Fowler, Chair	President of the Senate	7/1/2008
Representative Paul Weissmann, Vice-Chair	Speaker of the House	1/1/2009
Senator Bob Bacon	President of the Senate	1/1/2009
Georgianna Contiguglia	Governor	7/1/2009
Marilyn Eddins	Speaker of the House	7/1/2009
Karen Goldman	President of the Senate	7/1/2009
David Hite	Speaker of the House	7/1/2009
C.W. "Chick" Lee	Governor	7/1/2008
Diann Sill	Governor	7/1/2009
Richard Weingardt	Governor	7/1/2009
Frank Lombardi	<i>Ex Officio</i>	
Ed Nichols	<i>Ex Officio</i>	

**Meetings.** The advisory committee is required to meet at least three times per year at the call of the chair. One meeting is to be designated as the annual meeting. At the annual meeting, members elect a chair to serve a one-year term.

**Duties.** State law directs the advisory committee to review plans to restore, redecorate, or reconstruct space within the public and ceremonial areas of the state Capitol buildings group, the Legislative Services Building and its surrounding grounds, and the grounds surrounding the State Capitol Building. The advisory committee is required to make recommendations to the Capital Development Committee and the Governor based on such plans. In addition, the advisory committee must evaluate proposals for use of the Capitol driveways and evaluate proposals for the gift or loan of objects of art to the building and its grounds.

The advisory committee is also authorized to:

- engage in long-range planning for modifications and improvements to the Capitol and its grounds;
- accept gifts, grants, or donations from private or public sources to develop publications and memorabilia;
- expend moneys from the advisory committee's special account to publish and develop memorabilia; to restore the Capitol, the Legislative Services Building, and the Capitol grounds; and for other related and necessary purposes; and
- call upon Legislative Council Staff and the Department of Personnel and Administration for necessary assistance.

In addition, the advisory committee has occasionally been called upon by the Capital Development Committee, the Executive Committee of the Legislative Council, the Legislative Council Staff, the Office of Legislative Legal Services, the Governor's Office, and the public to consider other issues regarding the Capitol.

### **Summary of FY 2007-08 Activities**

The advisory committee held six regular committee meetings during FY 2007-08. Advisory committee activities included:

- review and recommended approval of interactive educational exhibits in the Capitol and in "Mr. Brown's Attic," as proposed by Speaker of the House Andrew Romanoff;
- annual review of applications for gifts and donations of art and memorials, including the acceptance of a donation of statuary for the Capitol grounds;
- an update of plans for publications and memorabilia, including the introduction of Capitol dome t-shirts;
- oversight of improvements and modifications to "Mr. Brown's Attic" and the historic exhibits housed therein;
- updates on Capitol security;
- updates on the completion of the Capitol Life Safety project and projected needs for repair/renovation of the Capitol Dome;
- review of activities related to the Visitors Services operation, including weekend openings, the Capitol Quilt Show, participation in "Doors Open Denver," and creation of an Ad Hoc Working Group on Visitors Services; and
- an ongoing review of Capitol art acquisitions, including the Presidential Portrait Gallery.

### **Summary of Advisory Committee Recommendations**

During FY 2007-08, the advisory committee forwarded a number of recommendations to the Capital Development Committee and the General Assembly.

Among the advisory committee's recommendations were the following:

- the acceptance of a donation of art in the form of a proposed memorial bronze statue of Enos Mills, father of Rocky Mountain National Park, to be placed at the south end of Lincoln Park, midway between Lincoln Street and Broadway. The statue was a gift of art from the artist, Bonnie J. Fulford, and the Cultural Arts Council of Estes Park; and
- the acceptance of a permanent donation of an interactive educational exhibit in the form of computer displays to be located in the Capitol basement and in "Mr. Brown's Attic." The exhibits were donated by Speaker of the House Andrew Romanoff.

Subsequent to the end of the fiscal year, the advisory committee made two additional recommendations to the Capital Development Committee as a result of the work initiated by the Ad Hoc Committee on Visitors Services:

- relocation of Visitors Services tour guide desks from the north end of the first floor to the south end to accommodate changes brought about by the Capitol Life Safety project and enhancements to Capitol security; and
- reinstatement of the biennial Colorado Quilting Association exhibition at the Capitol, scheduled to open on June 5, 2009, and conclude on August 21, 2009.

In addition, the advisory committee adopted an informal recommendation to work with the Executive Committee of Legislative Council to explore the possibility of opening the Capitol to visitors on the first Saturday of the month in June, July, and August of 2009. The Saturday openings would permit visitors to tour the Capitol on one day of each month in the summer during non-business hours.

### **Proposals for Gifts of Art and Memorials**

The advisory committee considers proposals for donated or loaned art or memorials to be placed in the public areas of the Capitol and its surrounding grounds. Current criteria limit the advisory committee to recommending no more than one proposal per year to the Capital Development Committee. The advisory committee received two proposals for a gift or loan of art or a memorial during FY 2007-08.

***Pottery vase proposal.*** The first proposal considered by the advisory committee was submitted by Ms. Bonnie Antich of Fort Collins, Colorado. Ms. Antich proposed a loan of one of her works, a large pottery vase, which had been created solely with renewable energy sources. She suggested that her work could be displayed in one of the public areas of the Capitol or in the Governor's office.

Advisory committee members expressed concern over the safety of such a fragile object if it were to be placed in one of the public areas of the Capitol. It was suggested that the piece might be more suitable for the Governor's office or the Governor's residence.

Senator Bob Bacon volunteered to work with the Governor's office to secure a site for display of Ms. Antich's art work. The advisory committee rejected a motion to accept the Antich donation as a loan of art for the Capitol building.

***Bronze statue proposal.*** The second proposal reviewed by the advisory committee was for the donation of a permanent gift of art to the Capitol in the form of a bronze statue of Mr. Enos Mills, one of the founders of Rocky Mountain National Park. The proposal was brought to the advisory committee by Ms. Rebecca Barrett of the Link Gallery in Estes Park and by Ms. Bonnie Fulford, the sculptor of the work, with the support of the Cultural Arts Council of Estes Park. Ms. Barrett described the statue as a seven-foot-tall likeness of Enos Mills and his dog, Scotch. The advisory committee determined that the appropriate site for such donation would be the statuary garden in Lincoln Park, preferably at the south end between Lincoln Street and Broadway. The advisory committee also recommended appropriate language for the plaques accompanying the statue. The language adopted by the advisory committee for the two plaques to be placed at the site is as follows:

*Enos Mills  
1870-1922*

*Early Colorado pioneer and naturalist who taught the need for preserving the environment. Educator, mountain guide, photographer, writer, and father of Rocky Mountain National Park, through which his love and passion for the fauna and flora of Colorado will live on forever. His legacy enriches citizens the would around.*

The second plaque is to read as follows:

*Sculpted by Bonnie J. Fulford of Estes Park, Colorado. Placed by the Link Gallery in association with the Cultural Arts Council of Estes Park with grateful thanks to all donors.*

The donation of the Enos Mills statue was contingent upon approval by Capital Development Committee and the General Assembly acting by resolution. The Capital Development Committee approved the recommendation on January 22, 2008. Senate Joint Resolution 08-006 approving the donation was adopted on January 31, 2008. The Cultural Arts Council of Estes Park is currently in the process of raising funds for the statue of Enos Mills.

## **Capitol Improvement Projects**

The advisory committee is statutorily required to review plans to restore, redecorate, or reconstruct space within the public and ceremonial areas of the Capitol buildings group, the Legislative Services Building, and the Capitol driveways and surrounding grounds and to make pertinent recommendations to the Capital Development Committee and the Governor.

***Capitol Life Safety project.*** The advisory committee reviewed the plans for the final phase of the Capitol Life Safety Project. The final phase consisted of installation of the fourth stairwell, in the southeast corner of the building, running from the basement to the third floor. The scope of work included the installation of the new interior stairwell and additional detection and alarm systems in the basement and on the first and second floor levels. Also included were the installation of alarm control panels, piping and sprinklers, smoke fire detection systems, fire rated doors, emergency lighting, and the relocation of electrical, heating, and ventilation systems. The interior stairwell provides access to, and emergency egress from, all building floors except the attic and sub-basement, which are accessible from the southwest and northwest stairwells.

***Other construction and landscape master plan.*** The advisory committee was apprised of plans to replace the east side exterior stairway during the summer of 2008. The replacement of the stonework extended into the legislative interim, concluding at roughly the same time as the life safety construction. It was also noted that the Capitol Complex Facilities Division would be active in improving interior lighting in the Capitol as well as overseeing repair and renovation of the Capitol elevators.

In addition, the advisory committee learned of a number of improvements planned for the Capitol grounds, consistent with the Capitol Landscape Master Plan. Projects affecting the grounds included exterior lighting improvements, stone repair, and new plantings for the beautification of the grounds. The advisory committee also learned of plans for improvements to the Armenian gardens from representatives of the Armenian community. These plans would be carried out in conjunction with the master plan improvements overseen by the Capitol Complex Facilities Division.

***Projected repairs to the Capitol dome.*** The advisory committee was apprised of the pending need for major repairs to the infrastructure supporting the Capitol dome. According to the Department of Personnel and Administration, repairs to the dome superstructure could cost between \$11 million and \$12 million and could take up to 18 months to complete. The Capitol dome stabilization project is important because the fasteners inside the dome are 20-30 years beyond their useful life, according to experts with the Real Estate Division. The project would require the closure of the dome and of the east side of the Capitol circle. As of the close of FY 2007-08, the Department of Personnel and Administration had received \$3.0 million, and was requesting an additional \$8.6 million for funding of the Capitol dome stabilization project.

## **Publications and Memorabilia**

The advisory committee is statutorily required to present a plan to the Capital Development Committee for developing publications on the history of the Capitol and for developing Capitol memorabilia for sale to the public. These publications and memorabilia are to promote historic interest in the state Capitol and to raise money for the preservation of original and historic elements of the building. All proceeds from the sale of publications and memorabilia are credited to the advisory committee's special account within the Public Buildings Trust Fund.

***Publications.*** Pursuant to the original plan adopted in 1991, the advisory committee published "The Pride of the People" in 1992, a color booklet on the history of the Capitol, and "Women's Gold," a color brochure on the history of the Women's Gold tapestry displayed in the Capitol.

The advisory committee subsequently developed a color video tour of the Capitol, a framed photo of the Capitol with authentic gold flakes from the dome, sets of note cards displaying the images of the state's symbols and emblems, brass replicas of the mile high elevation marker, and the State Symbols and Emblems brochure. The State Symbols and Emblems brochure was updated and reprinted in 2007 to include the image of Colorado's two state songs, "Where the Columbine Grow" and "Rocky Mountain High."

***Memorabilia.*** In 2008, the advisory committee commissioned a series of art logo t-shirts depicting various renderings of the Capitol dome. The project was initiated by Mr. Simon Magakyhan, Assistant Manager of Visitors Services, and Ms. Theresa Holst, Dome Tour Manager, as a method of publicizing the reopening of the Capitol dome to visitors. The t-shirt designs were the result of a competition among students from the Art Institute of Colorado. The first allotment of the shirts were sold to visitors and staff in July 2008.

## **Visitors Services**

The advisory committee took an active role in FY 2007-08 in providing advice and guidance to the Visitors Services section of the Legislative Council Staff. The tour services provided to Capitol visitors are facilitated by one full-time Manager of Visitors Services and one part-time Assistant Manager of Visitors Services. Hourly summer assistants and year-round volunteers assist the manager with Capitol tours and special events. An estimated 250,000 persons visit the Capitol annually, of whom approximately 55,000 join guided tours of the building. The Manager of Visitors Services supervises a volunteer force of approximately 40 persons to facilitate the guided tours. Special tours of the dome and "Mr. Brown's Attic" are supervised by the Manager of Dome Services, an employee of the Joint Chambers, who also supervises work-study students and some volunteers.

***Dome tour video.*** In 2008, the advisory committee authorized the creation of a video tour of the Capitol attic and dome to comply with provisions of the federal Americans with Disabilities Act. The video tour is viewable during regular business hours on the third floor of the Capitol opposite the dome tour desk.

***Doors Open Denver.*** The advisory committee also approved participation in the 2008 "Doors Open Denver" program, a two-day event in which public buildings throughout the metro were open to the public for weekend tours. This year, over 2,000 visitors toured the Capitol over the course of the two-day event.

***Saturday openings.*** The advisory committee approved taking a recommendation to the Executive Committee of Legislative Council to permit Saturday openings of the Capitol during the first Saturday of the month in June, July, and August, if budgetary resources permit.

***Visitors Services Ad Hoc Working Group.*** During the summer of 2008, an ad hoc working group was formed to study the governance and operations of the Visitors Services section. The group included representatives of Legislative Council Staff, the House and Senate, the Governor's Office, and the Visitors Services section and Dome Tour Services. Ms. Karen Goldman, Secretary of the Senate, represented both the Senate and the Capitol Building Advisory Committee. The ad hoc working group's charge was four-fold:

- to examine logistics, since the completion of the Life Safety project required the relocation of the tour guide desks from the north wing of the Capitol;
- to examine governance, since supervision of tour services is currently split between the Legislative Council Staff and the Joint Chambers;
- to review sales and marketing of items for sale at the tour guide desk; and
- to take an overall look at improvements to Visitors Services with an emphasis on safety and security.

The working group met four times over the course of the summer to investigate these topics.

The findings of the ad hoc working group were largely supportive of, and no changes were recommended to, the current governance and operating model. The one recommendation regarding logistics was the relocation of the tour guide desks from the north end of the first floor to the south end. It was determined that further study of marketing and sales at the tour guide desk should be coordinated with advisory input from the Colorado Historical Society. The recommendation for relocation of the visitors services operation was ultimately adopted by both the Capitol Building Advisory Committee and the Capital Development Committee and took place in December 2008.