



AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A MURAL THAT HONORS THE HISTORY OF MONTANA WOMEN AS COMMUNITY BUILDERS; AMENDING SECTION 2-17-808, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the art work decorating the Montana capitol conveys a narrative of the history of Montana and the significance of its government; and

WHEREAS, this ground we call Montana, on which Native American women met women from Europe, Asia, and Africa, bears the marks of generations of women's labor visible in the remains of tipi rings and homestead gardens, in the presence of one-room schools and university classrooms, in the storefronts of small businesses, and in the offices of corporations; and

WHEREAS, we know our culture through the stories of women like Pretty Shield, Mourning Dove, Dorothy Johnson, and Mildred Walker, through the beadwork, star quilts, pasties, and povitica made by thousands of women in homes across the state, and through the dozens of languages spoken by mothers to children on reservations and in immigrant communities that formed the fabric of Montana; and

WHEREAS, women in communities across Montana have pioneered the social institutions we now consider a part of community life because they stepped outside domestic roles to found libraries, museums, theaters, parks, playgrounds, schools, shelters, hospitals, labor unions, and social clubs; and

WHEREAS, women in Montana fought for and won the right to vote in 1914, 6 years before the passage of the Nineteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, helped to send the first woman in American history to the U.S. Congress, have served and continue to serve in every branch of local, state, and tribal government, and have eloquently represented views across the entire spectrum of American politics; and

WHEREAS, with few exceptions, this story of Montana's past is not represented in the capitol's art, and a mural commemorating Montana women's contribution to the history and government of the state would enrich and more accurately tell Montana's story to its citizens and visitors alike.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

Section 1. Creation of mural to honor women. (1) The capitol complex advisory council shall form a subcommittee, which may consist of council and noncouncil members, for the creation and placement of a mural to honor the historical contributions of women as community builders. Subcommittee members shall serve without additional compensation or reimbursement.

(2) The subcommittee shall:

(a) commission, through a competitive process, a qualified artist to create the mural described in subsection (3);

(b) solicit gifts, grants, and donations for the mural's creation and placement; and

(c) recommend to the council a specific location for the mural, which must be placed as provided in 2-17-808.

(3) The mural provided for in this section:

(a) must portray women in a manner that reflects a historical theme honoring Montana women as community builders in diverse roles, such as the center of the family, mothers, grandmothers, business leaders, educators, health care providers, and scientists;

(b) may not portray actual historical women, but must portray anonymous, unsung Montana heroines; and

(c) must be created in an artistic style consistent with the genre of artwork already in the capitol.

(4) The design, installation, maintenance, and funding of the mural is subject to provisions of the art and memorial plan adopted by the council pursuant to 2-17-804.

Section 2. Section 2-17-808, MCA, is amended to read:

"2-17-808. Placement of certain busts, plaques, statues, memorials, monuments, and art displays.

(1) The following busts, plaques, statues, memorials, monuments, and art displays are to be placed for up to 50 years, subject to renewal, in the capitol:

(a) the busts of Thomas J. Walsh, Burton K. Wheeler, and Joseph Dixon;

(b) the plaques commemorating Theodore Brantley, Fred Whiteside, the first Montana volunteers who fought in the Spanish-American War, the construction of the capitol from 1899 to 1902, the 1972 Montana constitutional convention, and the women legislators' centennial;

(c) the murals by Edgar S. Paxson, Ralph E. DeCamp, Charles M. Russell, Amedee Joullin, and F. Pedretti and sons;

(d) the statues of:

(i) Wilbur Fiske Sanders;

(ii) Jeannette Rankin; and

(iii) Mike and Maureen Mansfield;

(e) the Montana statehood centennial bell;

(f) the gallery of outstanding Montanans;

(g) the Montana constitutional exhibit; ~~and~~

(h) the biographical descriptions of Montana's governors, to be placed near the portraits of the governors;

and

(i) a mural honoring the historical contributions of women as community builders.

(2) The following busts, plaques, statues, memorials, monuments, and art displays are to be placed for up to 50 years, subject to renewal, on the grounds of the capitol:

(a) the statues of Thomas Francis Meagher and Lady Liberty;

(b) the plaques commemorating:

(i) Donald Nutter;

(ii) President George H. W. Bush; and

(iii) American prisoners of war and personnel of the United States armed services missing in action;

(c) two benches with plaques recognizing contributors to the 1997-2000 capitol restoration, repair, and renovation project;

(d) the Montana centennial square; and

(e) the monument of the ten commandments.

(3) The following busts, plaques, statues, memorials, monuments, and art displays are to be placed for up to 50 years, subject to renewal, on the capitol complex grounds:

(a) the statue by Robert Scriver entitled "symbol of the pros";

(b) the monuments to the liberty bell, the veterans' and pioneer memorial building--landscape beautification project, Montana veterans, ~~and~~ Pearl Harbor survivors, and the peace pole;

(c) the sculptures of the herd bull and the eagle;

(d) the plaques commemorating the Montana national guard and Lewis and Clark; and

(e) the arrastra.

(4) The following busts, plaques, statues, memorials, monuments, and art displays are to be placed for up to 50 years, subject to renewal, in state buildings on the capitol complex:

(a) the paintings of Dr. W. F. Cogswell and the paintings entitled "burning bush", "dryland farmer", "farm girl", "the river rat", "top of the world", "angus #68", "the source", "the Bozeman trail", and "the Mullan road";

(b) the art displays known as "Montana workers--mining, ranching, and building", "copper city rodeo", "dancing cascade", "save a piece of the sky", and "night light";

(c) the plaque commemorating Walt Sullivan, the plaque of the Sam W. Mitchell building, and the plaque commemorating the original headquarters of the Montana highway patrol;

(d) the busts of Lee Metcalf and Sam W. Mitchell; and

(e) the plaque and Lou Peters award commemorating Karl Ohs.

(5) The senate sculpture depicting the Lewis and Clark expedition is to be placed for up to 50 years, subject to renewal, on the west wall in the senate chambers.

(6) The council shall determine the specific placement of the items identified in subsections (1) through (4)."

Section 3. Contingent voidness. If the capitol complex advisory council determines that the mural provided for in [section 1] cannot be accomplished pursuant to the criteria established in [section 1] within 5 years of [the effective date of this act], then [section 2] is void.

Section 4. Effective date. [This act] is effective on passage and approval.

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