

Application for Placement of a Long-Term Display in the Montana Capitol Complex

Name of Proposing Entity: Senator Lynda Moss _____
Contact Person: Lynda Moss _____
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Use Additional Sheets As Necessary

- 1. Describe the general concept and subject matter of the Long-Term Display.** The proposal should address site selection, including setting, size and scale, and relationship to existing long-term displays or features. If possible, include a photo or sketch of the proposed Long-Term Display.

This is a request to establish a mural honoring the roles of women in Montana. In 2007, a bill was introduced to establish a mural, however the bill did not pass out of committee. A summary of the preamble of the bill:

2007 Legislative Session
SENATE BILL NO. 497

INTRODUCED BY MOSS, WILLIAMS, JUNEAU, SCHMIDT, GILLAN, CURTISS, KAUFMANN, SQUIRES, COCCHIARELLA, ARNTZEN, BARRETT, BECKER, BIXBY, CAFERRO, CAMPBELL, COHENOUR, DICKENSON, DRISCOLL, FRANKLIN, FRENCH, GRINDE, HANDS, HENRY, HINER, INGRAHAM, JAYNE, KOTTEL, LAOMBERT, MORGAN, POMNICHOWSKI, RASER, REINHART, RICE, SANDS, TAYLOR, WILMER, SMALL-EASTMAN

The artwork decorating the Montana capitol conveys a narrative of the history of Montana and the significance of its government.

This ground we call Montana, on which Indian 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 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.

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. 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.

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.

The Capitol Complex Advisory Committee is requested to approve the concept of a mural honoring women's contributions in Montana. The mural would be placed in a location in the Capitol that is in accordance with the architectural integrity of the historic state building and reflective of the artistic integrity of the existing historic murals in the House and Senate Chambers, the Old Supreme Court Chambers as well as the landscape murals in the former library room.

- 2. How does the proposal meet the Art and Memorial Plan Guidelines?** The proposal should address how the proposed long-term display considers legibility and meaning, approachability and accessibility, subject and materials. (See the Art and Memorial Plan Guidelines, Section 4--Long-Term Displays.)

The existing murals and artwork in the state Capitol illustrate historic national and territorial history, however, few women are represented in these works. The proposed mural would also compliment the statues of Jeannette Rankin and Mike and Maureen Mansfield. A mural would not interfere with floor space or any other considerations regarding accessibility in the Capitol.

3. What is the anticipated cost of the Long-Term Display, including all development, installation, and maintenance costs?

If the legislature approves a proposal for a mural honoring women in the Capitol, during the interim before the 2013 Legislative Session, a volunteer committee would be formed. The committee would work with the Capitol Complex Advisory Committee on an agreement identifying the most appropriate location for the mural. The agreement will include the approximate cost of the mural that will be paid for through private fundraising efforts and a process for the selection of the artist.

Techniques to install the mural will be explored including using a stretched canvas or another support base that would not impair the existing walls. Based on other public art works, it is anticipated the art commission, installation and maintenance would be considerably less than the cost of the bronze relief in the Senate Chambers.

The agreement will state the commission and installation of the mural creation may not proceed until the necessary funds have been raised and are held as restricted funds by a fiscal sponsor.

In 2013, a second bill would be introduced to allow the mural to be installed.

4. Identify planned sources of funding.

One organization focused on women's issues is interested in providing fundraising assistance for this proposal. It is anticipated there will be other women's organizations that will be supportive too.

Capitol Complex Advisory Council Action

- Preliminary Proposal Approved
- Request further consideration by DOA Director or Council
- Request Proposing Entity reconsider or refine its Proposal for resubmission
- Deny Approval

Authorized Signature: _____ Date _____