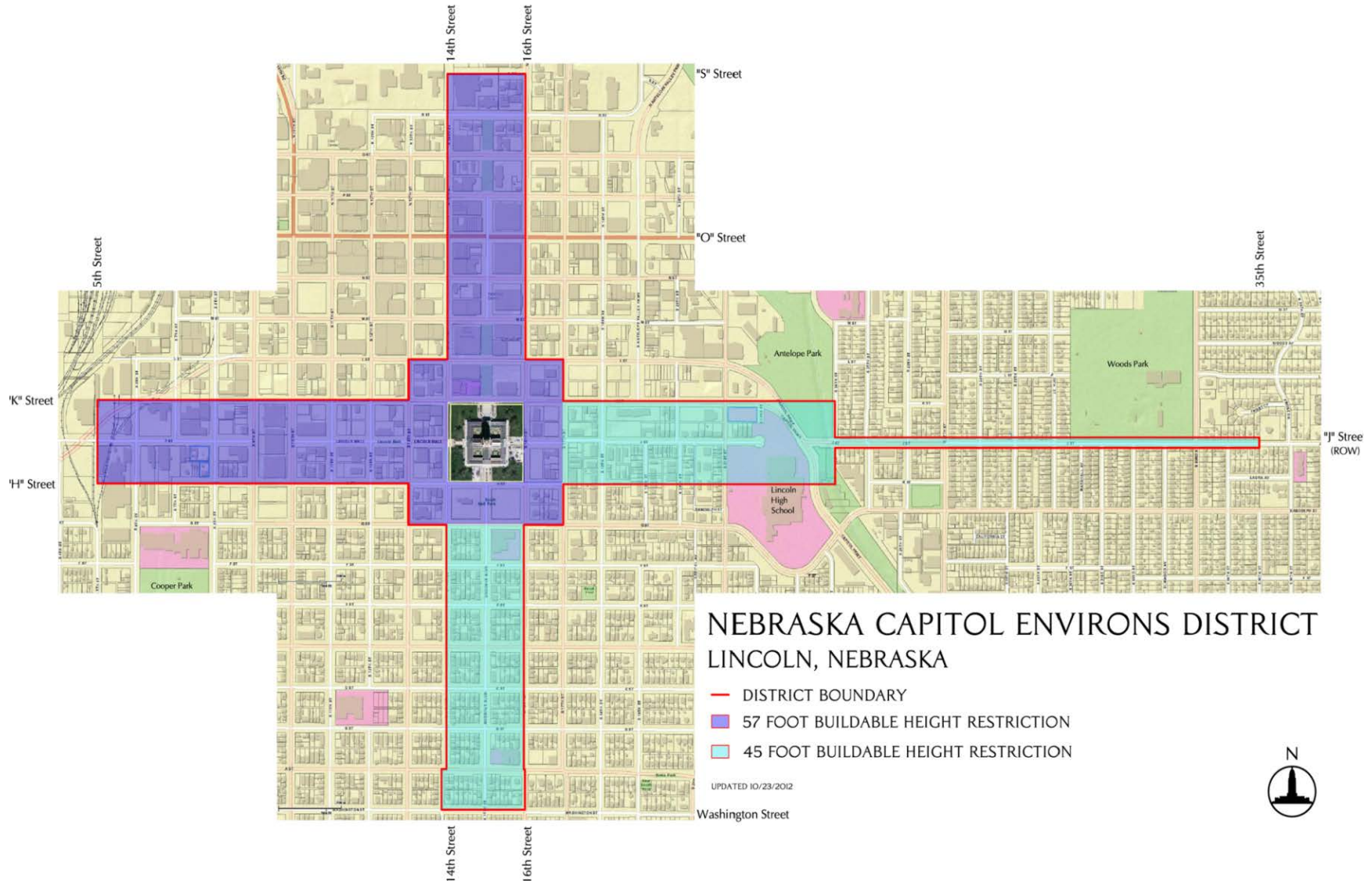


Nebraska Capitol Environs Commission - Annual Report 2016



The Nebraska Capitol Environs Commission was established in 1988 to strengthen existing protections for the setting of Nebraska's landmark State Capitol. Commission membership of seven citizen volunteers includes five members appointed by the City of Lincoln and two appointed by the State of Nebraska.

In 2016 Tom Laging, Professor Emeritus in the UNL College of Architecture who had served continuously since the Commission's founding in 1988, retired from this service and architect John Sinclair was appointed in his place. Architect John Kay completed his term and attorney Mary Campbell was appointed to the Commission. Otherwise membership remained unchanged with Jeff Searcy continuing as chair, and Commissioners Gene Crump, Christine Dionisopoulos, Karen Nalow, and Jon Weinberg. The seven appointed citizen members are assisted by three *ex officio* members—Bob Ripley of the Office of the Capitol Commission (for the State of Nebraska), the director of Lincoln/Lancaster County Planning Department (David Cary), and Lynn Johnson (director of Lincoln Parks & Recreation Department). Staffing is provided by the Lincoln/Lancaster County Planning Department.

The Commission is required to meet at least quarterly by Section 27.56.060 of the Lincoln Municipal Code. The Commission has met nine times in 2016.



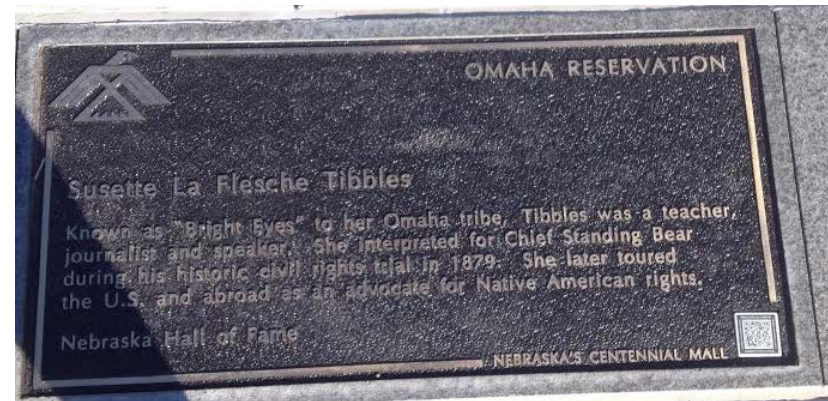
▲ *Nebraska's Centennial Mall from the Capitol Tower, 2016*

Nebraska's Centennial Mall

The substantial completion and rededication of Nebraska's Centennial Mall on October 9th was the banner project in the Capitol Environs in 2016.

The Commission continues to review numerous inscriptions for the Spirit of Nebraska Pathway. We hope proud Nebraskans continue to take advantage of this opportunity for years to come, celebrating their pride in the Capitol and enriching the experience of visitors to its environs.

*Spirit of Nebraska Pathway Plaque for
Susette La Flesche Tibbles ("Bright Eyes")* ▶



The Commission also welcomed the completion of the renovations of the Nebraska History Museum and the reopening of this important attraction on Centennial Mall.

*Nebraska History Museum,
Centennial Mall North at P Street* ▶



Other Projects

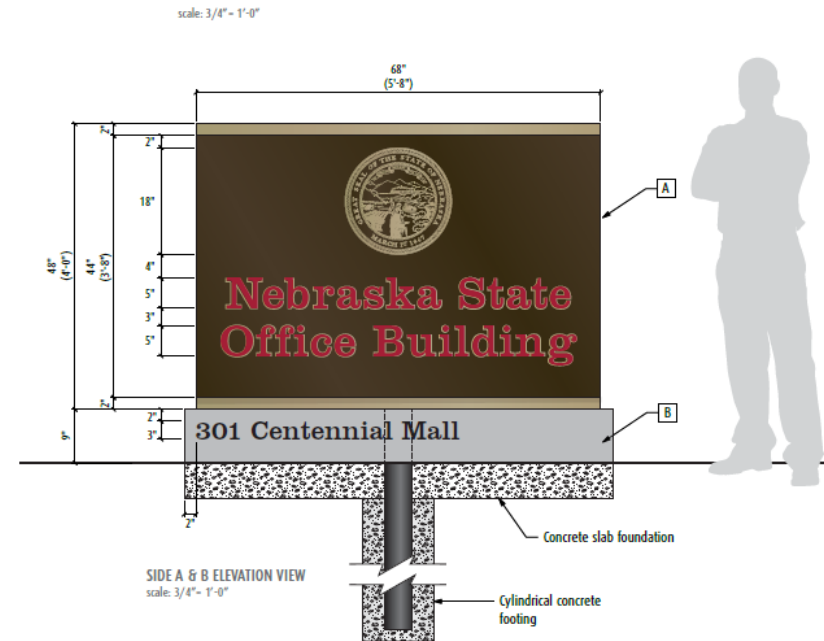
The Commission reviewed two projects involving the Nebraska State Office Building. Renovations at the east and west entrances are a welcome response to the completion of Centennial Mall.

New signs for the building, as a first step towards a consistent program of signs at State facilities throughout Nebraska, benefited by the Commissioners' design expertise and attention to detail.

*Proposal for new signs at ►
Nebraska State Office Building*

The Commission has a long-standing interest in advocating for the removal of overhead wires crossing key vistas to the Capitol within the Environs District, and especially along the axial streets of Centennial, Lincoln Mall, Goodhue Boulevard, and J Street. LES and other utilities have been very cooperative on Lincoln and Centennial Mall, and have made progress on Goodhue Boulevard as well. In recent correspondence with LES, the Commission has been informed that removing the overhead wires crossing Goodhue, all the way south to A Street, is in the municipal utility's capital improvement plans; the design work is well advanced; and construction is currently slated for next year. Welcome news indeed, gratefully received!

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The Commission and staff also undertook a substantive revision of the Nebraska Capitol Environs Design Standards to reflect the rebuilding of Centennial Mall, lessons learned in a quarter century of applying the Standards to real-life projects, and additions to the District's boundaries. The Commission reviewed, revised, and recommended the amended Standards in a production work session on December 15th. (The revised standards were adopted by the City Council early in 2016.)

*February 2017
Ed Zimmer, Lincoln/Lancaster County Planning Department*