



NEBRASKA CAPITOL ENVIRONS COMMISSION

The Nebraska Capitol Environs Commission will hold a meeting on **Friday, August 28, 2026 at 8:30 a.m.** in the County-City Building, 555 S. 10th Street, Lincoln, Nebraska, in **City Council Chambers** on the 1st Floor. For more information, please contact the Lincoln City/Lancaster County Planning Department at 402-441-7491.

AGENDA

August 28, 2026

1. Approval of meeting record from [July 24, 2026](#)

Public Hearing & Action

2. [St. Mary's Improvement](#) along the K Street (Clark & Enersen; [UDR26086](#))
3. [Spirit of Nebraska Pathway](#) – Bob Ripley Plaque (Nebraska Association of Former State Legislators; [UDR26087](#))

Discuss & Advise

4. [Cameron the Capitol Cat](#) sculpture
5. Staff report & miscellaneous

AT THIS TIME, ANYONE WISHING TO SPEAK ON AN ITEM

NOT ON THE AGENDA, MAY DO SO.

ACCOMMODATION NOTICE: *The City of Lincoln complies with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 guidelines. Ensuring the public's access to and participating in public meetings is a priority for the City of Lincoln. In the event you are in need of a reasonable accommodation in order to attend or participate in a public meeting conducted by the City of Lincoln, please contact the Lincoln Commission on Human Rights at 402-441-7624, or the City Ombudsman at 402-441-7511, as soon as possible before the scheduled meeting date in order to make your request.*



NEBRASKA CAPITOL ENVIRONS COMMISSION STAFF REPORT

APPLICATION NUMBER	Urban Design Record #26086
APPLICATION TYPE	Certificate of Appropriateness
ADDRESS/LOCATION	1400 K Street
HEARING DATE	August 28, 2026
ADDITIONAL MEETINGS	July 24, 2026
APPLICANT	Travis Barrett, Clark & Enersen
STAFF CONTACT	Collin Christopher, 402-441-6370, cchristopher@lincoln.ne.gov

RECOMMENDATION: APPROVAL OF CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS

Summary of Request

St. Mary's Catholic Church is currently in the process of completing a façade restoration project along the K Street side of the church and as they progress, they are exploring site/streetscape improvements as well. In the initial phase, the improvements include a combination of landscaping and pedestrian-focused enhancements that aim to highlight the restored façade and create more people-friendly spaces along the south side of the building. This includes curbed landscape beds, added shade trees, and new concrete with simple scoring patterns.

In the second phase, the church has asked the city to explore the viability of a bump out at the intersection that would eliminate the awkward switchback that exists at this corner today. City staff are generally in support of this modification, as long as proper slopes can be reasonably achieved. If approved, staff will set aside funding for further development of this proposal.

In July, the applicant received a Certificate of Appropriateness from the Commission for the conceptual design of the improvements, with the understanding that final approval would be required as plans were developed further. The Commission asked the applicant to explore the following as they worked through their design process:

- Look at potentially simplifying the planting plan a little.
- Continue to explore the best solution for seating, including the consideration of the best placement and orientation of any seating, the consideration of whether a seat back is needed or not, and the inclusion of skate deterrents in the design of the seating.

The updated proposal in front of the Commission has addressed both of these items in one form or another. The updated landscape plan is in fact simplified, while still maintaining enough diversity to allow for seasonal interest. In addition to a reduced number of plant species, the new plan relies more heavily on woody shrubs and less on perennials.

https://linclanc.sharepoint.com/sites/PlanningDept-Boards/Shared Documents/Boards/NCEC/REPORTS/2026/08-August/UDR26086/UDR26086_Staff Report.docx

Regarding the seating, it has been removed from the updated proposal, eliminating the need to discuss this further.

The applicant is now asking for a final Certificate of Appropriateness for Phase 1 improvements.

Compatibility with the Design Standards

Given that this is a streetscape/street frontage project directly in front of Capitol Square, adherence to the standards is especially important. What follows are the most relevant standards and guidelines:

Design Standard 2: Proximity

The nearer a property is to the Capitol, the greater responsibility it bears in the District. Buildings and other improvements facing Capitol Square shall meet very high standards for design, construction, and maintenance. Improvements facing the Capitol Malls shall also meet high standards. Other improvements within the District but not facing the Square or the Malls shall not intrude upon the Capitol's setting and shall contribute to the overall quality of the District.

Design Standard 18: General Landscape of All Malls

The landscape of the Capitol Malls should enhance the Capitol setting and vistas:

- by providing canopy and definition at the mall edge, but leaving the centers of the malls more open, allowing on-axis views of the Capitol,
- by creating a sense of organization and unity through form, color, texture, and spacing that may be lacking in the adjacent architecture,
- by establishing a rhythm of visual and physical movement leading ultimately to the Capitol,
- by providing seasonal change and interest.

There is a delicate balance between a landscape that enhances and one that overwhelms—color and form changes should be in large sweeps and masses to avoid creating small, distracting focal points. The landscape should be bolder and more colorful closest to the Capitol.

Facing Capitol Square and the Malls, front yards shall not contain mechanical equipment, above-ground utilities, docks, or unscreened ramps. Architectural or planted screenings may be offered, with maintenance requirements.

Active use of the Malls should be encouraged by the selection and placement of landscape elements such as seating.

Guideline 18.2:

Provide seating in as many locations as appropriate. Benches should:

- be of high quality, refined materials,
- have backs,
- be readily available commercially or easily repaired in-house,
- be of neutral colors,

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- be placed along edges to take advantage of shade and allow pedestrians to be close to circulation but not in it.

To provide seating opportunities for conversation, combine benches, trash cans, ash urns and small tables of similar construction and installation.

Guideline 18.3:

Encourage the use of wide, seating-height caps on retaining walls or edge definers, including pools and fountains.

Guideline 18.5:

Use high quality pavement that is durable, neutral or natural color, able to be matched or replaced locally or regionally; nonslip but not too rough for high heels; textured or patterned subtly. Asphalt or asphalt pavers are not acceptable. Design paved areas to allow replacement or repair to occur in sections that maintain the established pavement pattern.

Guideline 18.6:

Retaining walls, seating walls, planters, and other vertical landscape features should be constructed of durable materials, preferably masonry; neutral or natural colors; horizontal lines; no exposed form lines or form-tie holes.

Guideline 18.11:

Use high quality, permanent landscape materials for edging, containing, and paving in neutral or natural colors. Use of masonry or stone is appropriate where edging or containment is needed. Exercise caution in designing any above-ground planters or planting beds, that they be of sufficient size to support healthy growth of plant materials. Remove undersized planters from existing trees and replace trees as necessary.

Guideline 18.12:

Utilities, dumpsters, service areas, and the like should be located as inconspicuously as possible, and screened from Capitol Square and the Malls with permanent materials which are compatible with the adjacent buildings.

The proposed project meets these standards and guidelines in full.

Recommendations/Action

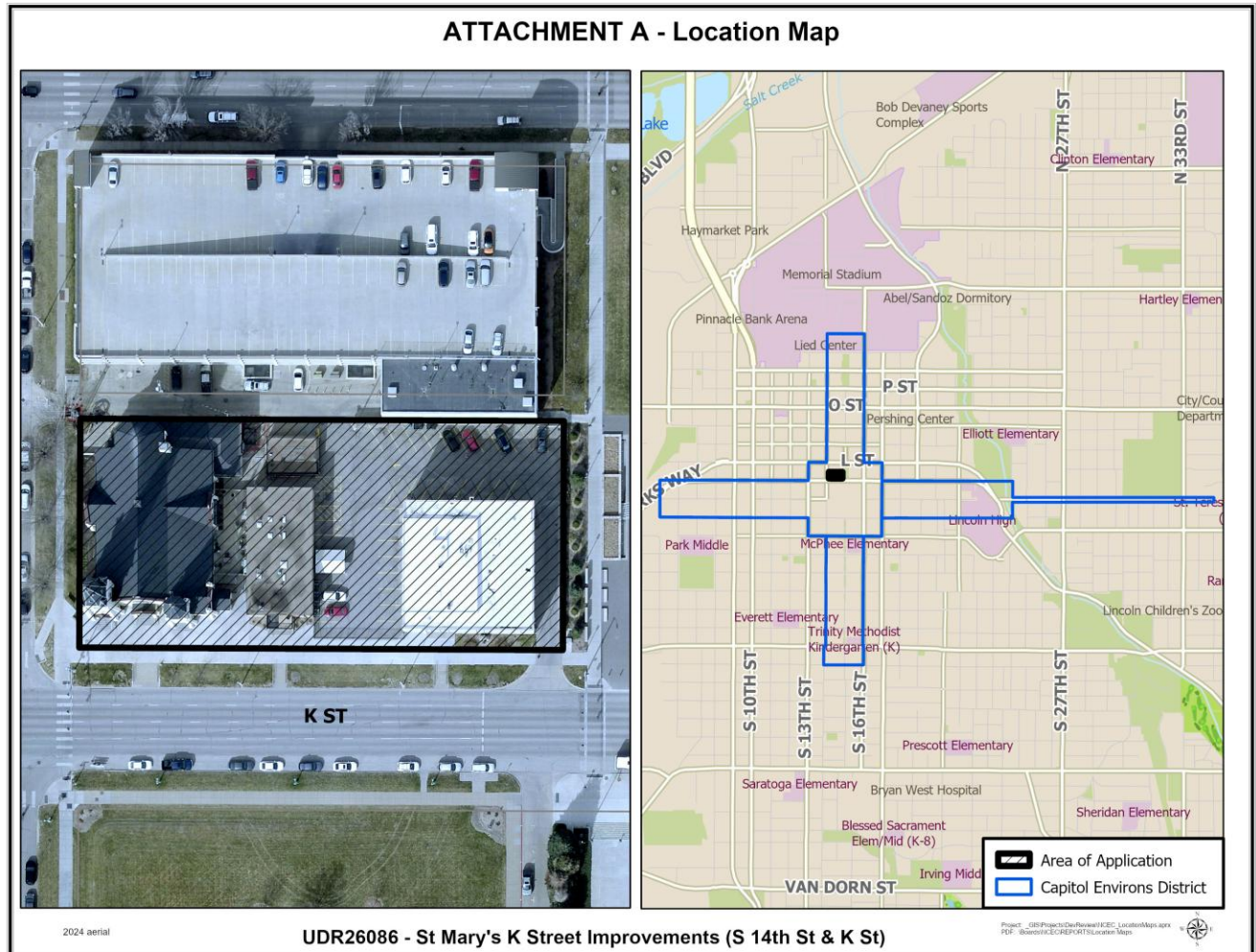
Staff is excited to see the continued reinvestment in St. Mary's and looks forward to working with their leadership on potential intersection improvements in the future. Regarding the proposed Phase 1 improvements, staff believe they will complement the ongoing façade restoration on the K Street side and further beautify a block directly fronting the Capitol.

Recommended finding: The proposed Phase 1 improvements at 1400 K Street meet the intent of the relevant Capitol Environs Design Standards.

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Recommended action: Approval of a Certificate of Appropriateness for site and streetscape improvements along K Street at 1400 K Street.

ATTACHMENT A – LOCATION MAP

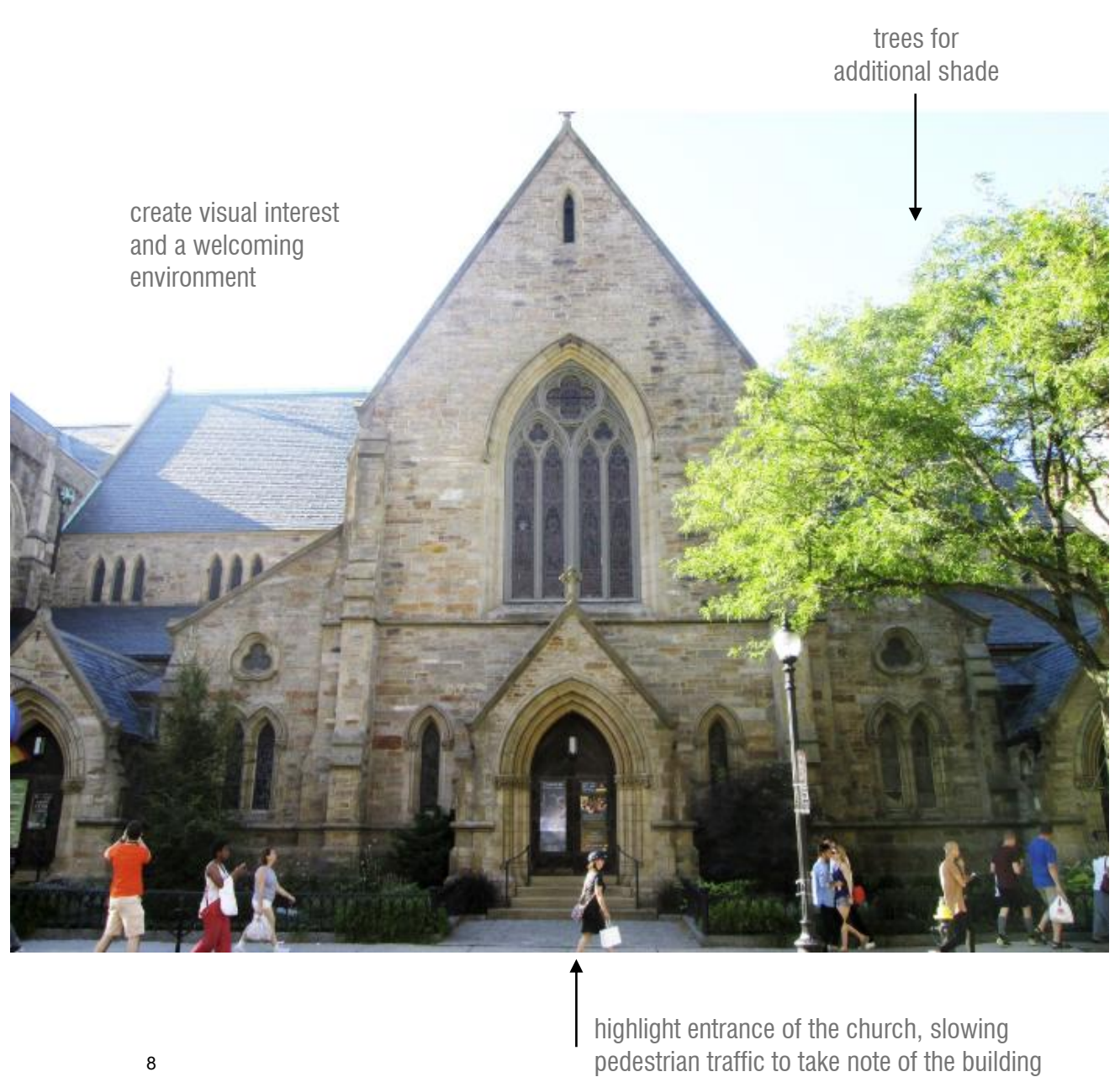
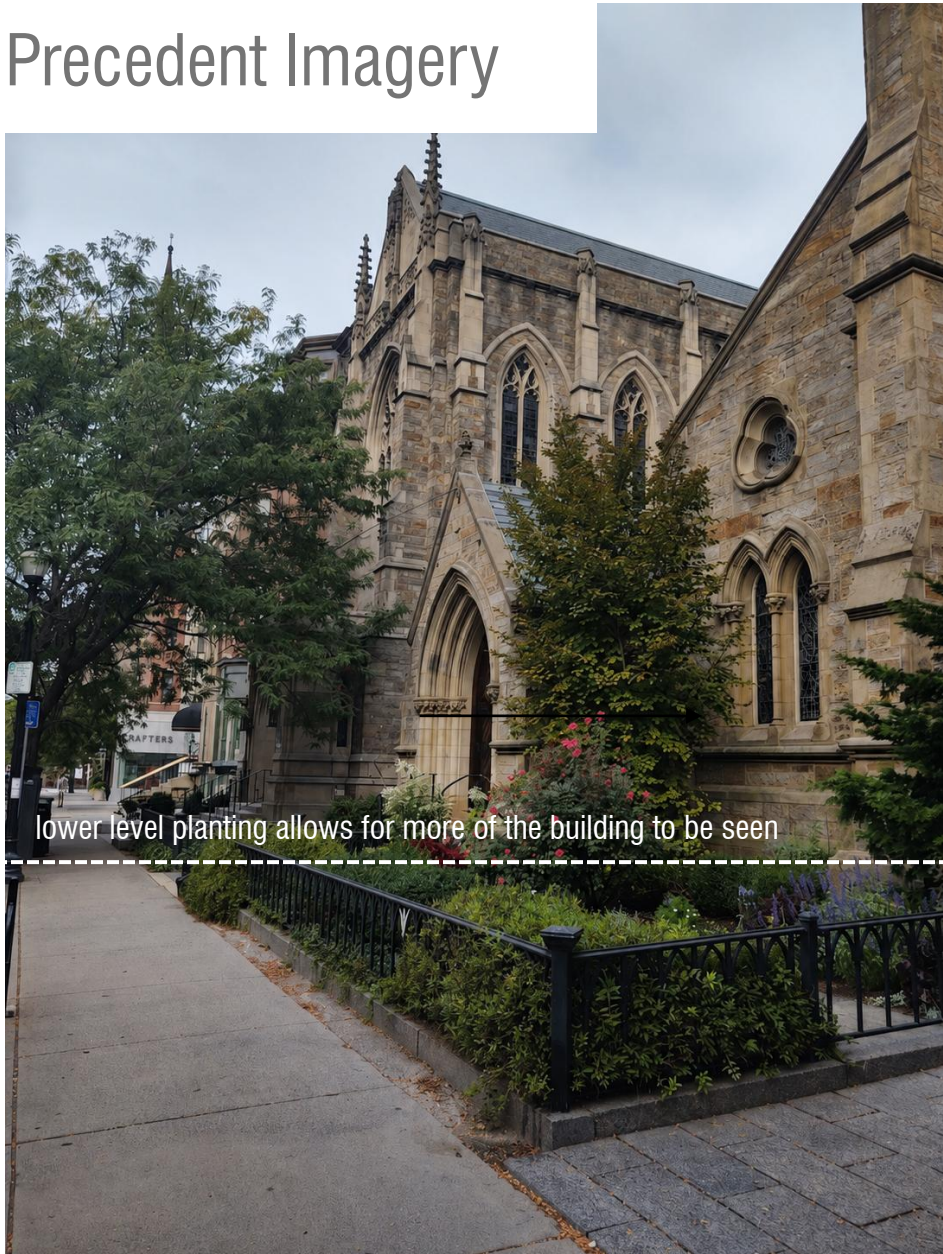


St. Mary's Catholic Church

Pedestrian Experience & Landscape Design

August 28, 2026

Precedent Imagery



Historical Images



Materiality + Details

to be complementary with restoration and improvements to the church building



existing church facade



concrete scoring

Materiality + Details

to be complementary with restoration and improvements to the church building



historic planter curb



existing west façade planter cap



chamfered planter edges

Plant Palette

- St Mary’s blue
- variation of greens
- multi-seasonal interest
- salt and heat tolerance

spring	winter berry holly blooms lilac muscari
summer	butterfly bush
fall	gro-low fragrant sumac
winter	winterberry holly red twig dogwood

ivory silk lilac tree



muscari



butterfly bush



lilac



red twig dogwood (summer / winter)



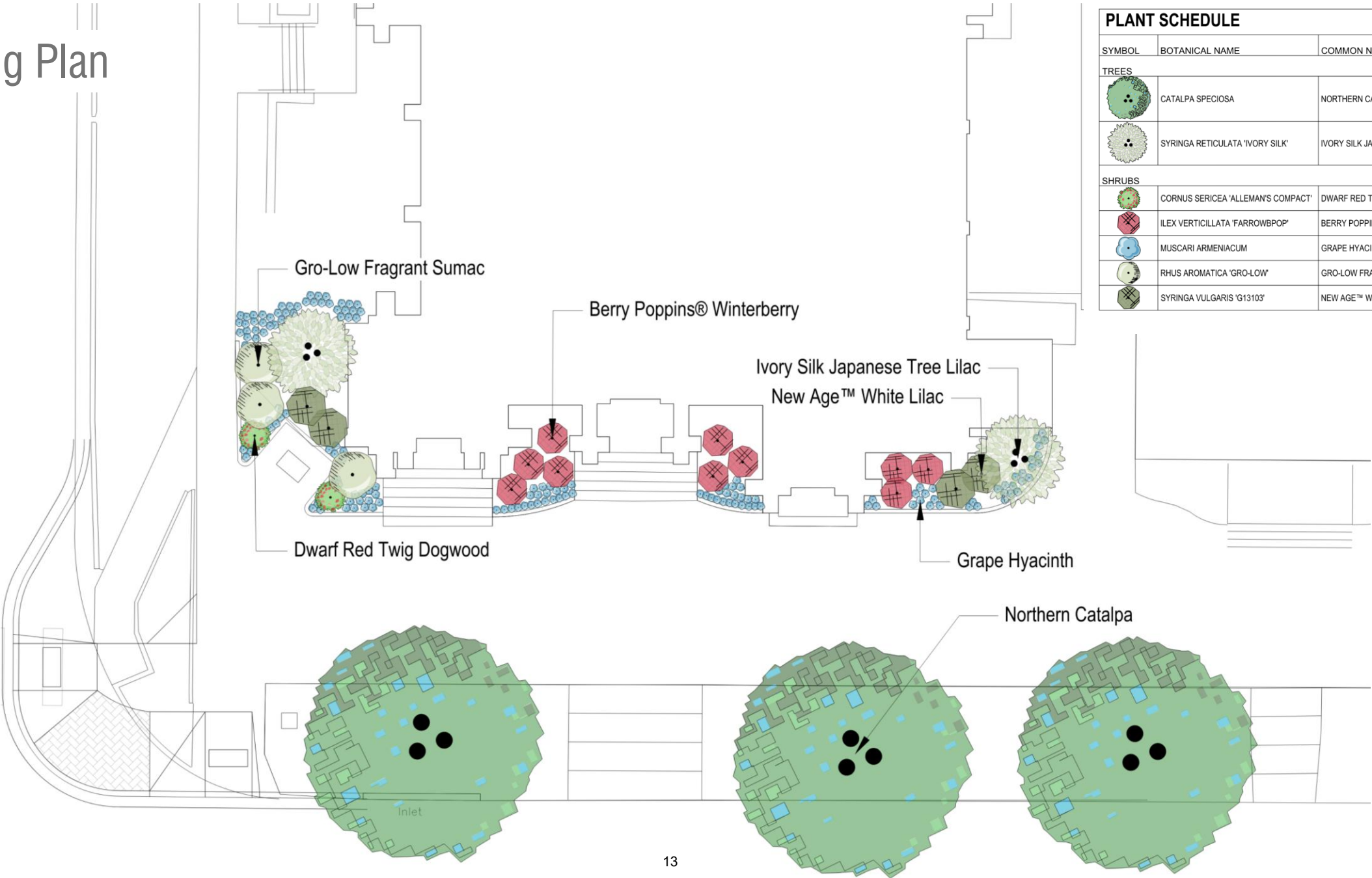
gro-low sumac (summer / fall)



winterberry (summer / winter)



Planting Plan

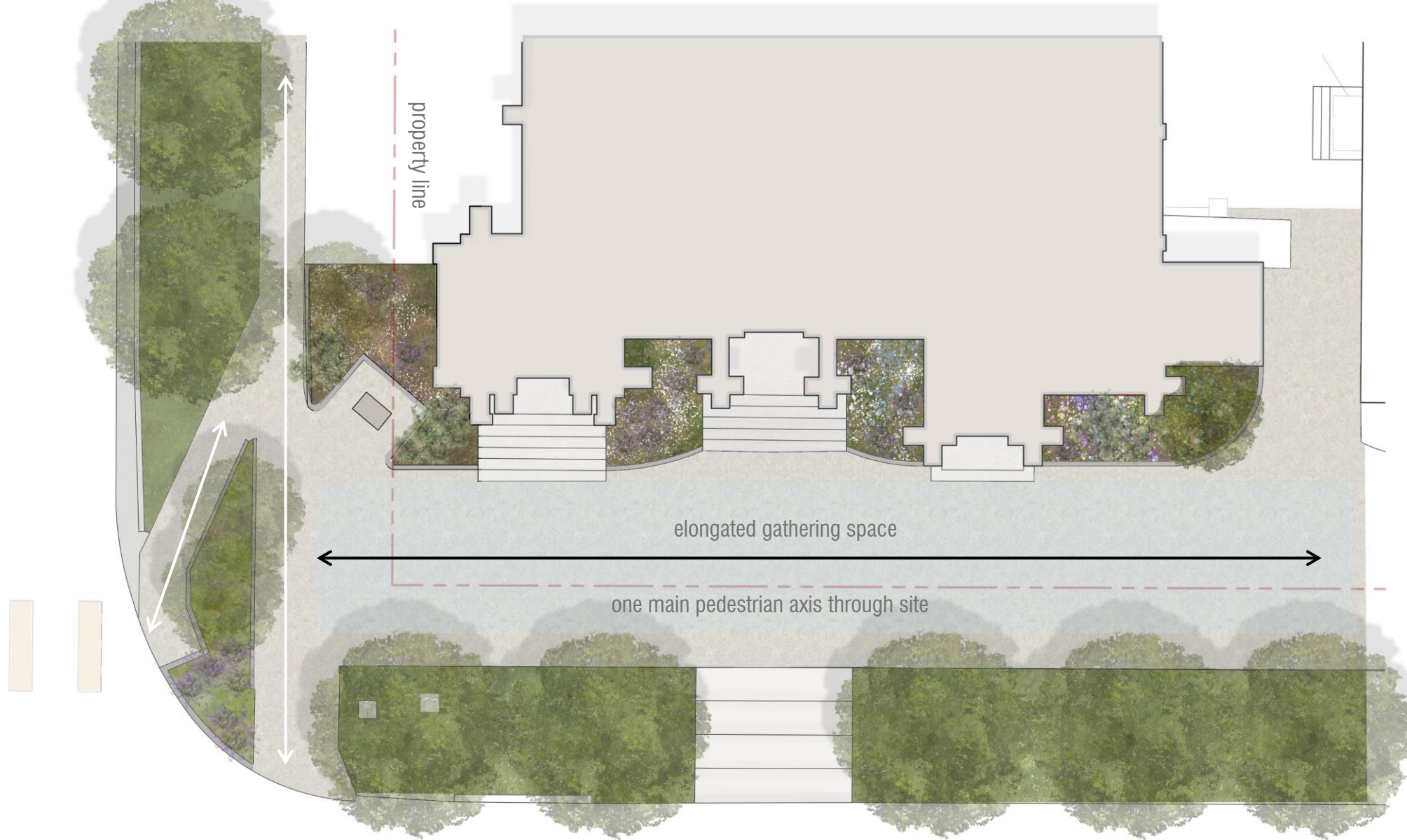


- Simple concrete scoring
- Chamfered planter curb
- Revised plant palette
- No benches proposed



Phase 1: Switchback

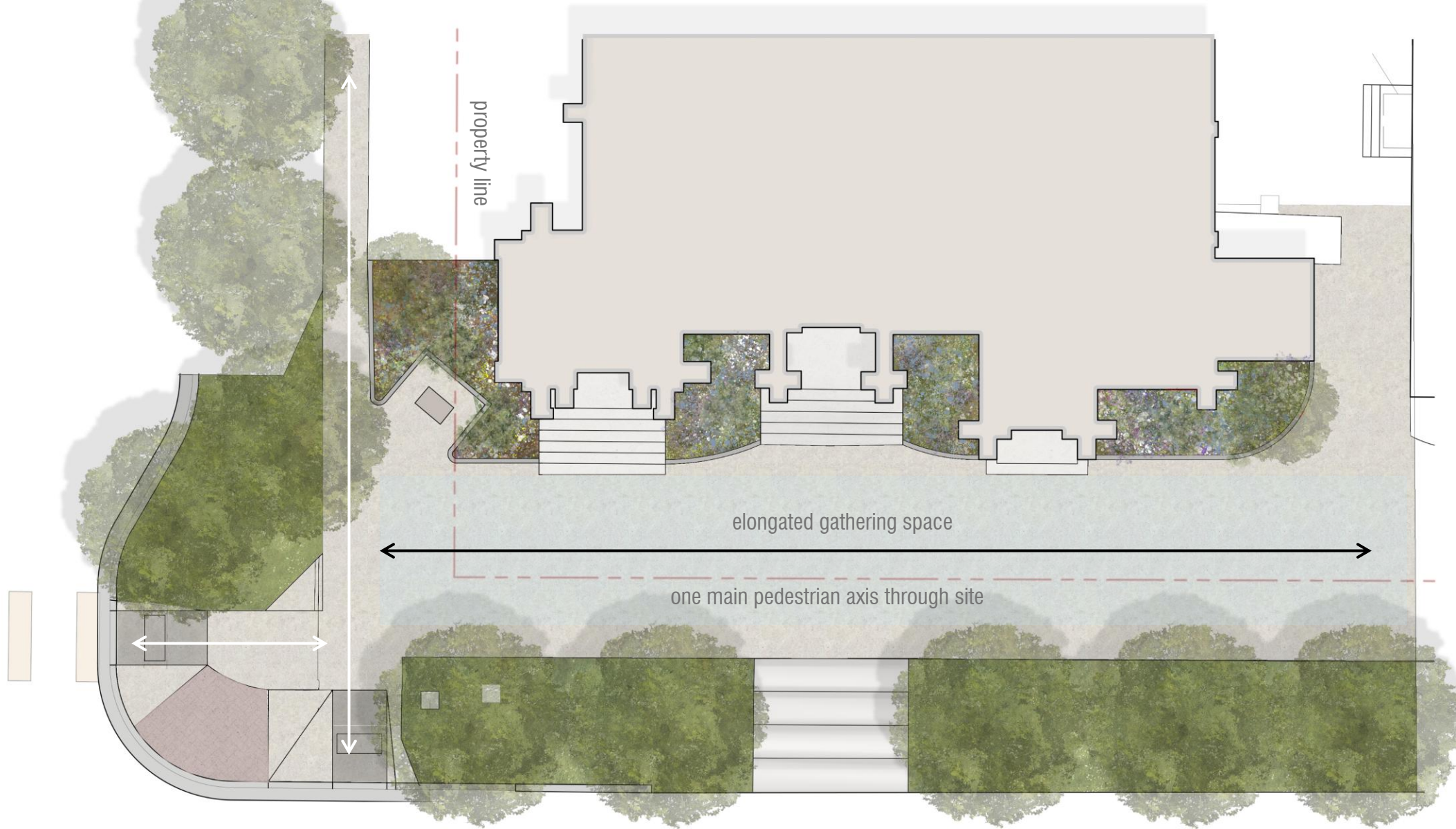
- Simple concrete scoring
- Chamfered planter curb
- Revised plant palette
- No benches proposed



Phase 1: Switchback



Phase 2: Bump Out



Phase 2: Bump Out

Previous Plan



NEBRASKA CAPITOL ENVIRONS COMMISSION STAFF REPORT

APPLICATION NUMBER	Urban Design Record #26087
APPLICATION TYPE	Certificate of Appropriateness
ADDRESS/LOCATION	Spirit of Nebraska Pathway on Centennial Mall
HEARING DATE	August 28, 2026
ADDITIONAL MEETINGS	None
APPLICANT	Mike Gloor, Nebraska Association of Former State Legislators
STAFF CONTACT	Collin Christopher, 402-441-6370, cchristopher@lincoln.ne.gov

RECOMMENDATION: APPROVAL OF CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS

Summary of Request

The Nebraska Association of Former State Legislators (NAFSL) is requesting that a new tile be installed along the Spirit of Nebraska Pathway on Centennial Mall, honoring Robert C. Ripley for his contributions to the State and the Nebraska State Capitol.

Upon receiving this request, staff worked with former City of Lincoln Historic Preservation Planner Ed Zimmer to craft the language that would appear on the tile. It reads as follows:

Name: Robert C. Ripley, FAIA
Hometown: Lincoln
Tribute: Graduate of University of Nebraska College of Architecture.
From 1983-2023 he assembled and led an exceptional team in restoration and on-going stewardship of Nebraska's Capitol, a National Historic Landmark, and in enhancement of its environs.

Honored by Nebraska Association of Former State Legislators

Compatibility with the Design Standards

The design standards do not specifically talk about the Spirit of Nebraska Pathway. However, the Pathway is obviously an integral part of the design of Centennial Mall and the intent has always been to add tiles as appropriate requests were received and approved. The standards do speak generally to the continued allowance of plaques and other surface treatments on Centennial Mall, as highlighted in Guideline 22.6.

Design Standard 22: Centennial Mall Landscape

Centennial Mall is the District's most formal landscaped mall, providing a varied, safe, and attractive pedestrian environment, with opportunities for interaction and enjoyment, within a design framework that offers continuous views of the most prominent facade of the Capitol. The redesign and rebuilding, rededicated as "Nebraska's Centennial Mall" in 2016, establishes:

- strong, well-defined edges;
- continuous, accessible walkways lined with pedestrian-scale lighting;
- open center accented with plazas and water features.

This overall design should be maintained and any proposed changes should be evaluated against whether they enhance this design.

Guideline 22.6:

Monuments, memorials, markers, plaques, and works of public art proposed for Centennial Mall should fit within the overall design concept, enhancing the pedestrian experience while respecting the dominance of views to the Capitol. As it relates to aboveground, three-dimensional monuments, memorials, markers, plaques, and works of public art, Centennial Mall's design should be considered largely complete as of 2021, and the proposal of new pieces to be located within the right-of-way shall generally be discouraged. Proposed pieces to be located outside of the right-of-way on property adjacent to Centennial Mall shall continue to be considered, assuming they fit within the overall context of the Centennial Mall landscape.

Horizontal and vertical surface treatments, such as engraved markers or plaques being inset within pavement or seat wall, shall continue to be allowed and encouraged when appropriate within the design of Centennial Mall.

Given the wording in Guideline 22.6, staff is of the opinion that the proposal is clearly compatible with the design standards.

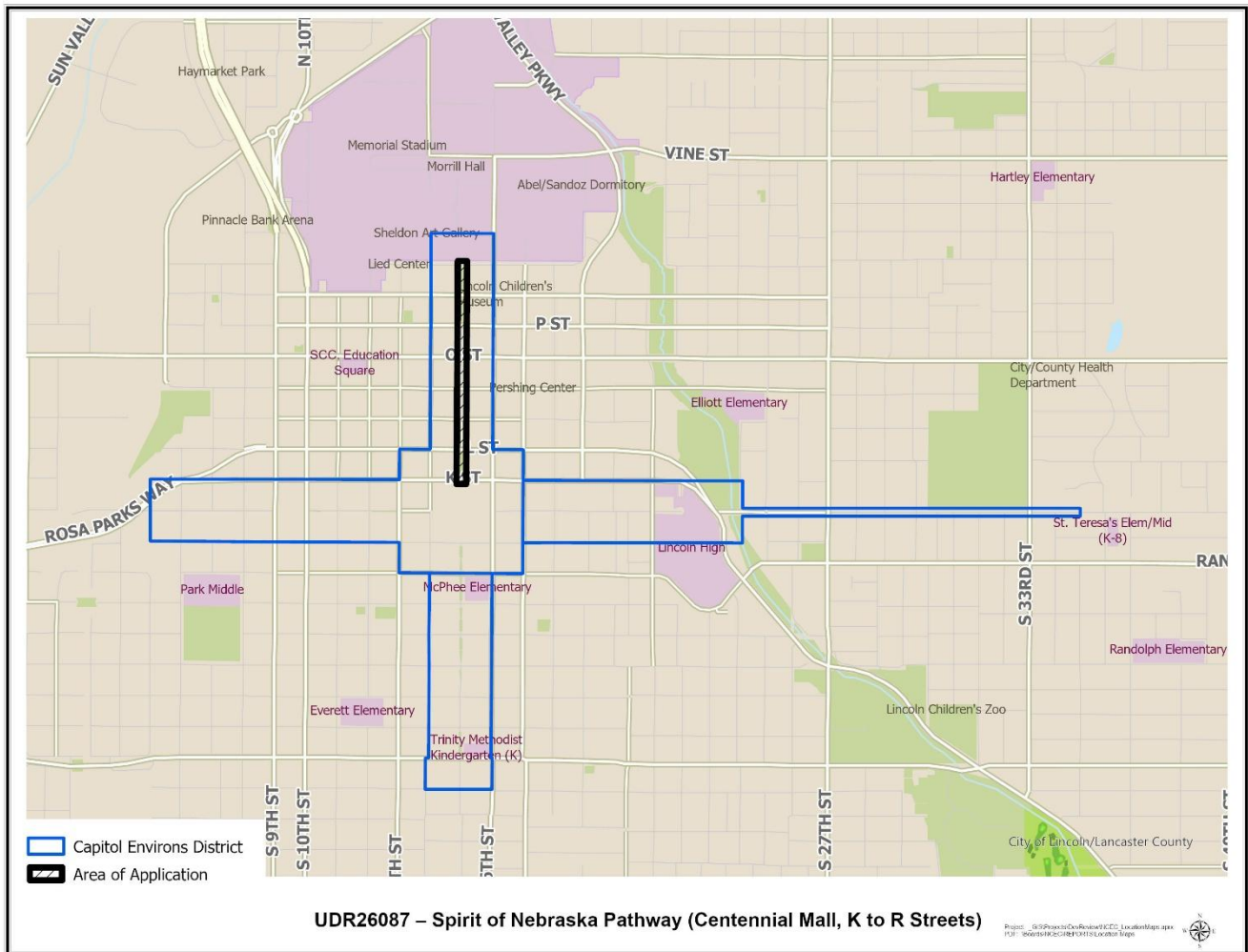
Recommendations/Action

Staff is in full support of this proposal. Mr. Ripley has been an incredible leader and advocate of the Capitol and its environs for many years and it would seem that Centennial Mall is hardly complete without formal recognition of his many contributions to the State of Nebraska, the State Capitol and the City of Lincoln.

Recommended finding: The proposed tile to be placed on Centennial Mall's Spirit of Nebraska Pathway honoring Robert C. Ripley meets the intent of the relevant Capitol Environs Design Standards.

Recommended action: Approval of a Certificate of Appropriateness for the installation of a new tile on Centennial Mall's Spirit of Nebraska Pathway honoring Robert C. Ripley and his many years of service to the Nebraska State Capitol and its environs.

ATTACHMENT A – LOCATION MAP



Name: Robert C. Ripley, FAIA
Hometown: Lincoln
Tribute: Graduate of University of Nebraska College of Architecture.
From 1983-2023 he assembled and led an exceptional team in
restoration and on-going stewardship of Nebraska's Capitol, a
National Historic Landmark, and in enhancement of its environs.

Honored by Nebraska Association of Former State Legislators

NEBRASKA CAPITOL ENVIRONS COMMISSION STAFF REPORT

APPLICATION NUMBER	-
APPLICATION TYPE	For Discussion Only
ADDRESS/LOCATION	Cameron the Capitol Cat Sculpture on Goodhue Boulevard
HEARING DATE	August 28, 2026
ADDITIONAL MEETINGS	None
APPLICANT	State Senator Jana Hughes
STAFF CONTACT	Collin Christopher, 402-441-6370, cchristopher@lincoln.ne.gov

RECOMMENDATION: DISCUSSION ONLY AT THIS TIME

Summary of Request

State Senator Jana Hughes has submitted a request for a preliminary discussion about the potential to locate a new sculpture within city right-of-way, near the southeast corner of Goodhue Boulevard and H Street. The subject of the sculpture is Cameron the Capitol Cat and is to be designed by sculptor Benjamin Victor. Victor is well known in Lincoln for his previous works in the Capitol Environs, including both the Standing Bear and Dr. Susan La Flesche Picotte sculptures on Lincoln Mall.

The sculpture would be made of bronze and be life-size in scale at approximately 18-20" in height. The sculpture would then sit on a 28-32" pedestal built from Indiana limestone.

Compatibility with the Design Standards

The design standards do address monuments and public art, as well as the high standard of design required for proposals in close proximity to the Capitol and the importance of improvements playing a subordinate role in enhancing its setting. Some of the more relevant standards and guidelines have been provided below for reference:

Design Standard 1: Setting

The Capitol should dominate the District and other improvements in the area should play the important, subordinate role of providing its setting.

Design Standard 2: Proximity

The nearer a property is to the Capitol, the greater responsibility it bears in the District. Buildings and other improvements facing Capitol Square shall meet very high standards for design, construction, and maintenance. Improvements facing the Capitol Malls shall also meet high standards. Other improvements

within the District but not facing the Square or the Malls shall not intrude upon the Capitol's setting and shall contribute to the overall quality of the District.

Design Standard 3: Memorials and Monuments

Installation of monuments and memorials shall be based on the symbolic program established at the Capitol. Capitol Square is considered a complete and finished design, and therefore no memorials shall be added to the Capitol grounds. The Capitol itself is a memorial and has integral memorial spaces (the Nebraska Hall of Fame and Memorial Hall). Memorials may be considered for addition to the Malls, within their overall design guidelines, assigning memorials of statewide or national significance to Centennial Mall, and individual memorials to the other malls.

Guideline 3.1:

Addition of memorials and monuments facing Capitol Square (not on the Capitol grounds) and on the Malls will be evaluated within the same guidelines as other improvements such as buildings and landscape features, stressing compatibility with setting, high-quality design, and appropriate materials.

Design Standard 4: Public Art

Public art can enliven an urban environment, enrich pedestrian experience, and stimulate interaction between artist and viewer. In the District, public art, like all other improvements, is subordinate to the overall purpose of enhancing the Capitol. The Commission encourages the addition of public art to the District, while applying the same standards of fitness to place and quality of materials required of other improvements.

Guideline 4.1:

Proposals for placement of public art in the District should consider and describe the relationship of proposed works to their immediate surroundings and to the Capitol.

Guideline 4.2:

Two types of public art which may be appropriate in the District are:

- *monumental works, of national or international significance;*
- *pedestrian-scale works.*

Guideline 4.3:

Mall master plans may identify specific locations for public art, and works may be commissioned or purchased to strengthen the context of these locations.

Guideline 4.4:

Poorly maintained public art is detrimental to the District. Works should not be installed (whether acquired by gift or purchase) unless accompanied by an endowment for long-term maintenance.

Guideline 4.5:

Temporary installations of public art which are not part of a Mall's master plan may be appropriate within the Capitol Environs District if located so as not to face a Mall or Capitol Square.

Recommendations/Action

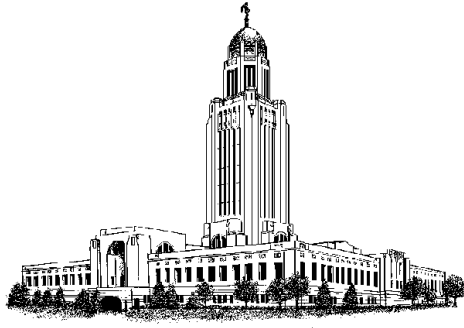
This is a discussion item only. The goal of this initial discussion is to provide the applicant with feedback on the viability of their proposal as they determine next steps. Eventually, the applicant would need to receive a Certificate of Appropriateness from the Commission in order to proceed with installation within the environs.

Maintenance is a major consideration for any monument or piece of art located within the environs. Given that this particular sculpture is being proposed on city land, staff will need to engage the applicant on an appropriate maintenance strategy and determine short- and long-term responsibilities.

Nebraska State Legislature

SENATOR JANA HUGHES

District 24
State Capitol
PO Box 94604
Lincoln, Nebraska 68509-4604
(402) 471-2756
jana.hughes@leg.ne.gov



COMMITTEES

Chairperson – Building Maintenance
Vice Chairperson – Education
Natural Resources
Education Commission of the States
Midwest Higher Education Commission

August 4th, 2026

Dear Mr. Christopher,

I would like to request time on the August 28th agenda to discuss the approval of a Cameron the Capitol Cat sculpture on the southeast corner of Goodhue Blvd and H street.

I appreciate your time and am happy to answer any questions.

Sincerely,

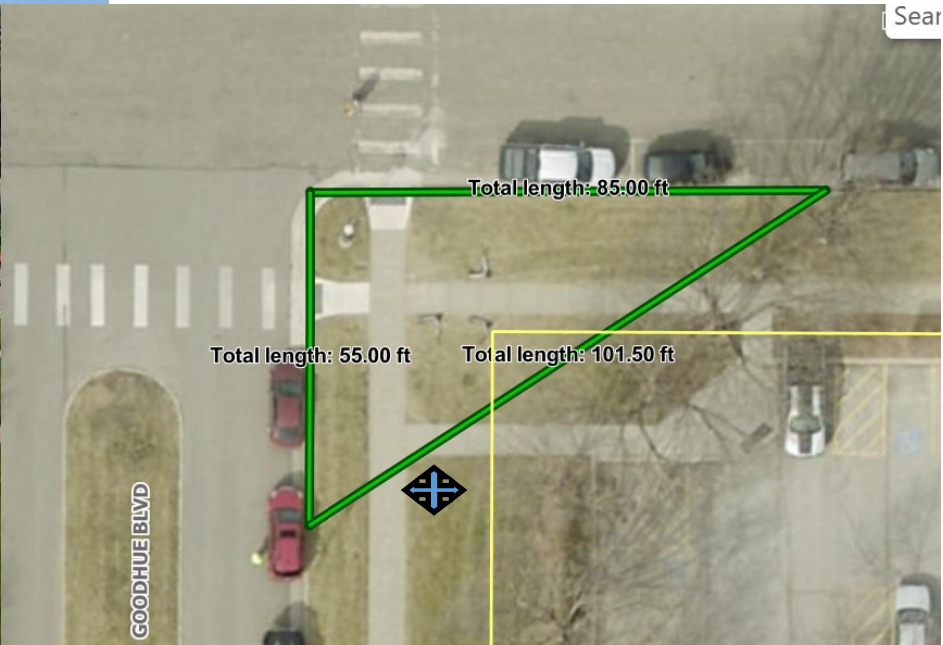
A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jana Hughes". The signature is fluid and stylized, with the first and last names clearly legible.

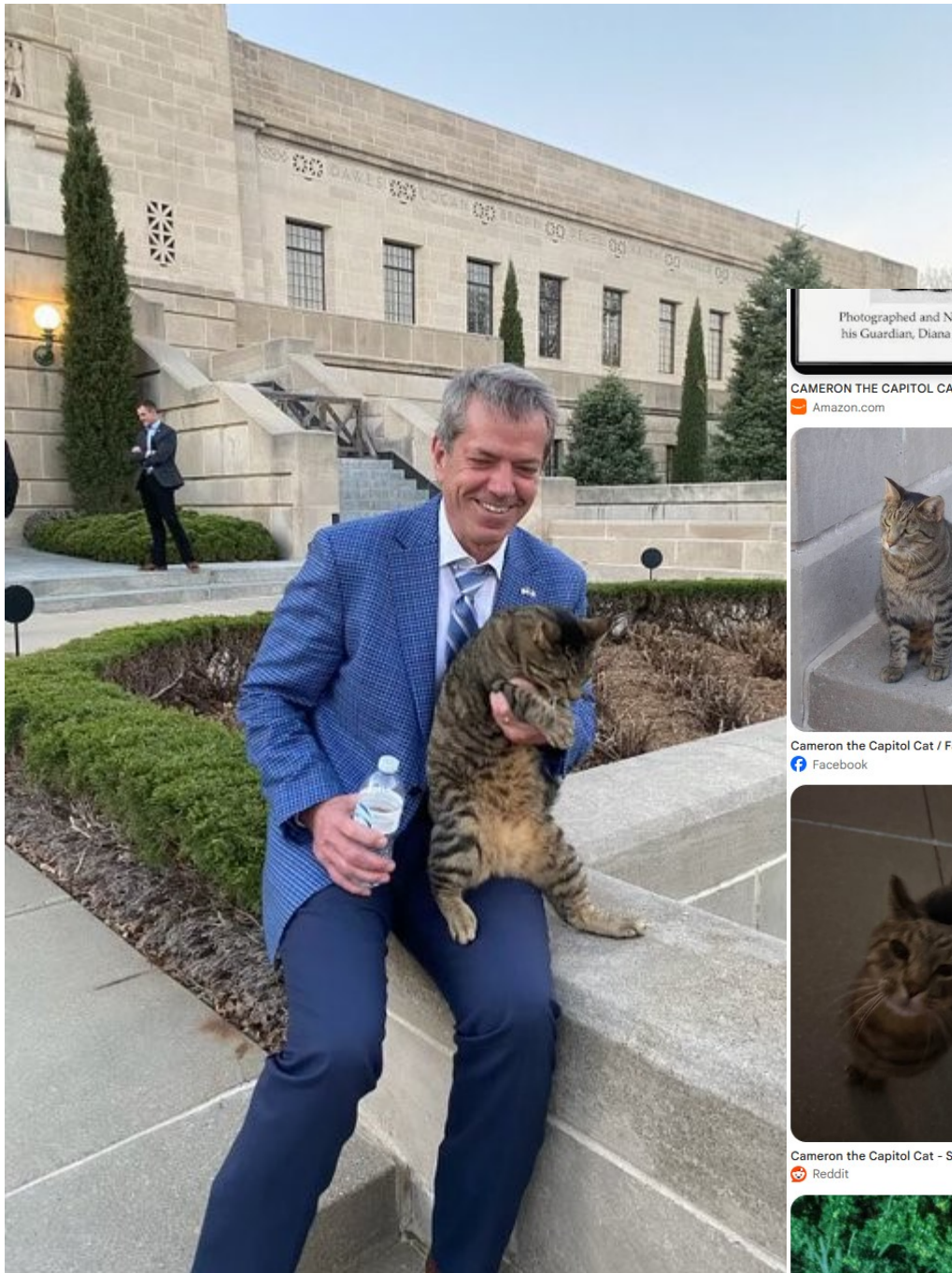
Senator Jana Hughes
District 24











Photographed and Narrated by
his Guardian, Diana McGinnis

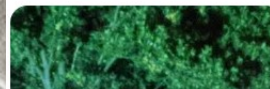
CAMERON THE CAPITOL CAT: A...
Amazon.com



Cameron the Capitol Cat / Fan Club
Facebook



Cameron the Capitol Cat - Spotted and...
Reddit



Book Review: Cameron the Capitol Cat by...
hauspanther



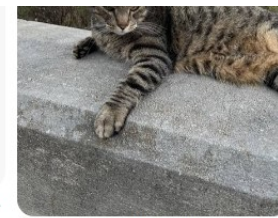
Cameron the Capitol Cat
RAYGUN - In stock



Lincoln mascot Cameron the Capitol Cat i...
KETV



Cameron the Capitol Cat / Fan Club



Cameron the capitol Cat : r/lincoln
Reddit



Nebraska's "Capitol Cat" brings paw-...
USA Today



Book Review: Cameron the Capitol Cat by...
hauspanther



Cameron should be the
president of Nebraska.
Cameron the Cat Circle Logo T-Shirt -...
RAYGUN



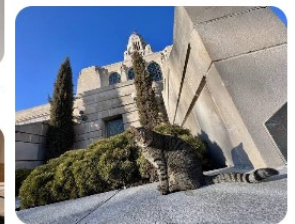
Cameron the Capitol cat settling into new...
KOLN



Book Review: Cameron the Capitol Cat by...
hauspanther



Cameron the Capitol Cat Slideshow Runs ...
YouTube





Nebraska State Historical Society · Follow
October 21, 2025 · 🌐

Grab your limited-edition signed, paw-stamped copy of "Cameron the Capitol Cat" and meet John Shaw Photography on October 25th (1-3pm) & 29th (11am-2pm) at the Nebras... See more

NEBRASKA STATE CAPITOL GIFT SHOP

BOOK SIGNING

FEATURING

AUTHOR & PHOTOGRAPHER
JOHN SHAW

OCT. 25 1 PM TO 3 PM

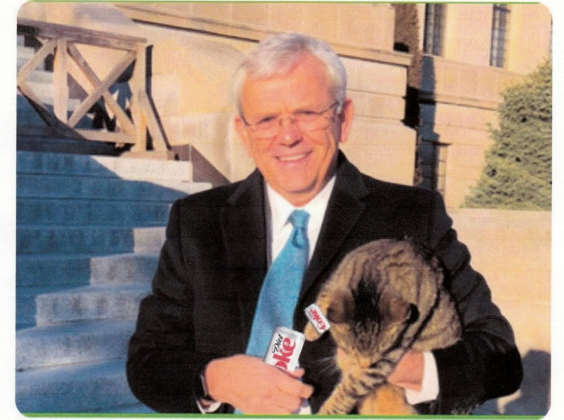
OCT. 29 11 AM TO 2 PM

Nebraska State Historical Society
Nonprofit organization

Send message



@NECapitolCat and Senator Steve Lathrop taking a Diet Coke break after a long week.



9:03 PM · 1/28/22 · Twitter for iPhone

Nebraska State Patrol · Follow
October 25, 2024 · 🌐

Captain Caradori and Cameron the Capitol Cat!

508 14 7

Nebraska State Jobs · Follow
February 28, 2025 · 🌐

Happy Fact Friday

As the weather gets warmer, keep an eye out for Cameron the Capitol Cat! State Personnel captured these pictures of the friendly guy earlier this week. Cameron's owner lives nearby and is gracious enough to let State Employees enjoy his presence too.

#NEStateJobs #GoodLifeGreatOpportunity #StateofNebraska #GoodLifeGreatCareer See less

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Paul Hammel
July 29, 2025 · 🌐

Answering [Andrew Ozaki](#) challenge
Not sure we were working here unless you count monitoring the legendary Cameron the Capitol Cat. [Nebraska Examiner](#)

88 7



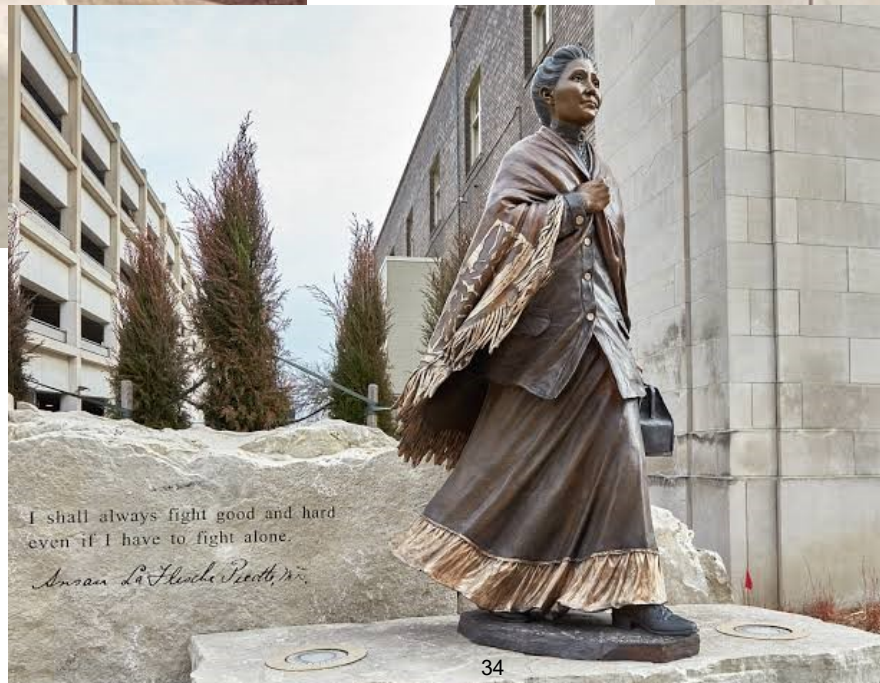
“A gift from God” is how Benjamin Victor describes his ability to create spectacular works of art. Benjamin joined the ranks of Michelangelo and Bernini by receiving his first large commission at only 23 years old. At age 26, he became the youngest artist ever to have a sculpture in our Nation’s foremost collection, the National Statuary Hall in the United States Capitol. In 2024, he achieved the remarkable distinction of becoming the only living artist to have four sculptures in Statuary Hall.

Art critics and organizations, including the National Sculpture Society in New York City, continue to recognize the aesthetic and conceptual integrity of Benjamin’s artwork. His passion and drive clearly show in each of his unique and profound creations. With expressive features, exquisite detail, and thought-provoking content, the work of Benjamin Victor is sure to take its place among the great masterpieces of art history.

Biographical Review written by Ruth E. McKinney M.F.A.

Updated by Lila Crespín Ph.D.

*Accolades updated posthumously in honor of the aforementioned art professors.



Estimated Project Cost

\$31,500—\$37,500

Itemized Cost Breakdown

- **Deep Footing & Pedestal Base (\$3,500 – \$6,500):**
 - **Sub-surface Footing:** A reinforced concrete footing poured below the local frost line (36" to 48" depth) to prevent shifting or heave.
 - **Pedestal Structure:** Textured architectural precast stone, dressed limestone, or granite veneer over a concrete core (approx. 20" x 20" x 38" tall), including concealed anchor bolts for mounting the sculpture.
- **Decorative Concrete Apron (\$1,200 – \$2,200):**
 - **Material & Finish:** A 6" thick reinforced concrete slab (approx. 6' x 6' to 7' x 7') with an exposed aggregate or tinted finish matching nearby sidewalk patterns.
 - **Site Prep:** Excavation, gravel sub-base preparation, formwork, and rebar reinforcement.
- **Cast Bronze Plaque (\$600 – \$1,200):**
 - **Specs:** Custom 10" x 14" or 12" x 16" cast bronze plaque with raised lettering, dark leatherette/stippled background patina, protective clear coat, and rear mounting studs.
- **Mobilization & Setting Labor (\$1,200 – \$2,600):**
 - **Equipment & Trades:** General contractor mobilization, masonry labor, equipment operator (skid-steer/crane), and final mounting/epoxy setting of the bronze statue to civic public art standards.



Quote

BENJAMIN VICTOR
- STUDIOS -

10619 W. Victory Rd.
Boise, ID 83709
605-380-4528
bvictor@benjaminvictor.com

QUOTE #1
DATE: 7/9/2026

TO Nebraska State Capitol
Lincoln, NE

SALESPERSON	JOB	PAYMENT TERMS	DUE DATE

QTY	DESCRIPTION	UNIT PRICE	LINE TOTAL
1	Life size Bronze of "Cameron" the cat	\$25,000.00	\$25,000.00
1	Delivery to site.	Included At No Additional Charge	\$0.00
1	Installation on site	Reimbursement of Actual Travel Costs	
1	On site sculpting	Reimbursement of Actual Travel Costs	
SUBTOTAL			\$25,000.00
TAX (IF APPLICABLE TO BE PAID BY CUSTOMER)			N/A
TOTAL AMOUNT			\$25,000.00

Design Narrative & Regulatory Compliance Statement

Project Title: Cameron the Capitol Cat Commemorative Sculpture

Location: Intersection of Goodhue Boulevard & H Street Adjacent to State Capitol Parking Lot

Sculptor: Benjamin Victor

Applicant/Sponsor: Cameron the Capitol Cat Sculpture Committee

1. Site Location & District Context

The proposed life-size bronze sculpture honoring Cameron, the beloved Capitol Cat, is sited on the softscape corner parcel at the intersection of Goodhue Boulevard and H Street, immediately west of the official state parking facilities.

Visual Corridor Preservation: Positioned well below sightline thresholds, the sculpture maintains unobstructed views along the Goodhue Boulevard mall approach and the secondary H Street corridor toward the Nebraska State Capitol.

Pedestrian Interaction & Scale: Located along the existing concrete sidewalk path, the site provides a safe, accessible node for Capitol visitors and staff without interfering with public right-of-way or high-volume vehicular traffic.

2. Materiality, Architectural Integration, and Life Cycle (Guideline 9.1)

In accordance with NCEC guidelines requiring material compatibility and long-term permanence (100-year life-cycle expectations facing the Capitol Square district):

Plinth/Base Material: The base will be constructed of high-grade Indiana Limestone, carved and finished to directly complement the primary stone facing and architectural trim of the Bertram Goodhue-designed Capitol. The stone finish, color palette, and geometric molding of the pedestal echo the understated, dignified craftsmanship of the main building's base.

Sculpture Material: The bronze statuary, executed by world-renowned sculptor Benjamin Victor, utilizes classical lost-wax bronze casting with a durable, weather-resistant patina. Bronze is a primary medium integrated across the Capitol grounds (including Lee Lawrie’s iconic Sower and decorative entry portals), ensuring full stylistic harmony.

Flagstone Foundation: The low-profile flagstone surround surrounding the pedestal sits flush with the existing turf line, defining a clean, low-maintenance protective barrier that prevents lawn equipment wear while offering a dedicated foot-standing area for visitors.

3. Massing, Height, and Spatial Impact

Pedestal Height: ~28–32 inches above grade.

Sculpture Scale: Life-size (~18–20 inches high, seated).

Overall Massing: The combined vertical elevation of the pedestal and sculpture is under 4.5 feet, keeping the overall installation well below the maximum height allowances established under District Height Regulations.

The modest human/animal scale ensures the piece serves as an intimate, ground-level point of interest that does not compete with or distract from the majestic massing of the Capitol tower or surrounding historic landscape.

4. Thematic Alignment & Cultural Significance

Capitol architect Bertram Goodhue and thematic consultant Hartley Burr Alexander intended the Capitol artwork and landscape to reflect the everyday stories, nature, and living history of Nebraska. Cameron the Capitol Cat holds a unique place in contemporary Capitol lore—serving as a symbol of community, warmth, and informal companionship for state workers, legislators, and citizens alike.

Plaque & Commemoration: A low-reflection bronze identification plaque, inset into the front face of the limestone base, features subtle, high-clarity typography consistent with District signage standards.

Public Engagement: The artwork enriches the public realm at a human scale, inviting reflection and joy while respecting the dignified atmosphere of the Capitol Environs.

5. Landscape & Maintenance Impact

Existing Flora: The placement requires minimal turf disruption and requires no removal of existing mature trees or established visual hedges lining the adjacent parking lot.

Durability: Both the Indiana limestone base and bronze statuary require minimal ongoing maintenance, designed to withstand Nebraska seasonal cycles without degradation.

Nebraska State Legislature

**SENATOR JOHN ARCH
SPEAKER OF THE LEGISLATURE**

District 14
State Capitol
PO Box 94604
Lincoln, Nebraska 68509-4604
(402) 471-2730
jarch@leg.ne.gov



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TO: Members of the Capitol Environs Commission

FROM: Speaker John Arch, District 14

DATE: August 7, 2026

SUBJECT: Support for the Cameron the Capitol Cat Bronze Memorial

To the Members of the Commission:

I am writing to express my strong support for the placement of a permanent bronze tribute honoring Cameron, the "Capitol Cat," on the parkway grounds directly south of K Street, facing the Nebraska State Capitol.

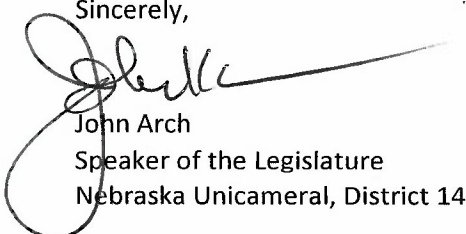
As Speaker, I see firsthand the intense energy, long hours, and rigorous debate that take place within the Unicameral. In a setting dedicated to high-stakes public policy, Cameron served a unique and comforting purpose. For over a decade, he was a peaceful constant on the south steps and lawns—offering a quiet moment of warmth to senators, legislative staff, page classes, and constituents alike as they entered and exited the building.

Legislators work tirelessly to represent the people of Nebraska, but Cameron represented the sheer goodwill of our Capitol culture. His retirement—following the relocation of his longtime caretaker, Diana McGinnis—marked the end of a remarkable era. Moving his memorial site directly across the street to the south grounds allows us to preserve his story and connection to the Capitol campus while respecting the physical integrity of the building itself.

This grass-roots, community-funded sculpture is a thoughtful addition to the Capitol Environs district. It celebrates the civic warmth, accessibility, and unique history that make Nebraska's statehouse so special.

I respectfully ask for your favorable consideration and approval of this proposal.

Sincerely,


John Arch
Speaker of the Legislature
Nebraska Unicameral, District 14