

## SESSION 1.2: GUIDE: Background Information for Teaching Poster

Bertram Goodhue's most significant collaborators were his thematic consultant Hartley Burr Alexander and sculptor Lee Lawrie. Together the team worked out Alexander's scheme of decoration, symbolism and inscriptions. They were to create a living history book to teach the history of democracy and how it developed in the Western world. It was Alexander who carried out the Capitol Commission's wish: the character of the building must reflect the heritage of the state. Alexander planned the subjects the artists used to illustrate the story of Nebraska.

Stressing collaboration among the arts, the Nebraska Capitol Commission required that the architect identify artists that would collaborate in creating and realizing a state house ... "a real collaboration of Architect, Sculptor, Painter, and Landscapist with the architect and under his guidance." As a major principle in creating richness of architectural effect, collaboration among artists, and the use of a classical architectural vocabulary, the Capitol Commission integrated this into the call for proposals.

Goodhue provided the grand conception; sculptors, muralists, mosaicists were to work out the details. Goodhue discovered that he needed the assistance of someone more broadly educated in Nebraska history, regional history, and in the history of Western culture. Such a person could develop the entire symbological program of the capitol and coordinate the work of collaborating artists. Dr. Hartley Burr Alexander, professor of philosophy at the University of Nebraska, was hired to fulfill the duties of symbologist for the project in September 1923.

### STATEMENT BY THE PROFESSIONAL ADVISOR

..... Collaboration: It is desired in the actual building project to provide, under the guidance and control of the Architect, for real collaboration of Architect, Sculptor, Painter, and Landscapist; and to that end the competitors are asked to study the problem of how best to bring this about, and if thought advisable and to the degree so thought in each case, they should associate in their competitive work the Sculptor, Painter, and Landscapist, or either or any of them, with whom they would be likely to elect to work out the actual problem or any part or parts of it, in case of their final selection as Architect to the Nebraska Capitol Commission.

Thomas R. Kimball

Professional Advisor

Nebraska Capitol Commission

### The Collaborative Process

The infographic shows 5 steps of the art making/collaborative process which includes:

1. Definition: Define the projects themes and goals
2. Inspiration: Research, travel, read, collect and observe
3. Ideation: Prototype (sketches, models, maquettes)
4. Bring the idea to life (build, paint, sculpt, carve, etc.)
5. Preserve and Restore: Protect the work for the long term for future generations