

SESSION 3.1: GUIDE: 21st Century Collaborators

Nebraska had two capitol buildings from 1867 to 1922. Both buildings suffered from poor construction and failing building materials. These building did not last. The current building was planned and constructed by the Capitol Commission and the Team that they selected from 1922 to 1932. The Commission Collaboration was so successful that the committee continues to preserve the present structure.

The Nebraska State Capitol Commission and their Preservation Architect are dedicated to the preservation of the Capitol. They continue to look after the interior/exterior of the building and grounds.

- The Capitol Collaborative Team worked to create parts of the original plan. Over time design projects that could not be afforded earlier have been completed. Remember that one of the beliefs of the original collaborators was to only build what could be paid for at the time. How is that different from the current way of budgeting?
- Through preservation everything else is maintained by taking care of things to keep them in their best state.
- A group of individuals collaborate to take care of what was created through restoration or repairing objects to their original condition.
- Works with a staff of researchers, archivist, preservation specialists.
- Communicates the building's history as well as future needs to the capitol commission, governor, and secretary of state.

Discussion Questions:

- Did the fact that we had two capitol buildings that lasted only a few years impact Nebraska's decision to have the Capitol Commission to care for the structure?
- Or could it be the action of interested citizens about seeing the importance of the Capitol?

"It is difficult for Nebraska to realize what it has done, but the people of your nation, and all nations, know, and they look to you for careful preservation of what has become a jewel among historical monuments."

Nebraska State Capitol Commission 1934