



DEPARTMENT OF ARTS & HISTORY

MAYOR: Lauren McLean | DIRECTOR: Jennifer Stevens

AGENDA

Arts & History Commission

Wednesday, October 2nd, 2024
5:00-6:30 pm
Greenbelt Room, 3rd Floor, Boise City Hall
150 N Capitol Blvd, Boise ID 83702

Virtual and in-person attendance is offered.
Watch via Zoom Webinar: [Registration Link](#)

- I. **Call to Order** – Kris Clegg, Chair
 - a. Land Acknowledgement – Commission Chair Kris Clegg
- II. **Minutes Approval**
 - a. **ACTION REQUESTED:** Approve Minutes from August 7th, 2024 (**Exhibit A**)
- III. **Commission Revision Work Session (45 min)**
- IV. **Director's Update (10 min)**
 - a. Archives Consolidation
 - b. Original Boise Valley People Cultural Center Update
 - c. City Steps
 - d. America 250
 - e. Needs From Commissioners
 - f. Upcoming Events
- V. **Presentations/Updates/Approvals** **Pursuant to Idaho Code Section 74-204(4), all agenda items are action items, and a vote may be taken on these items.*
 - a. Informational Item: Catalyst Grant Round 4 – Emily Chivers (15 min)
- VI. **Adjourn Meeting**



MEMO

TO: Arts & History Commissioners
FROM: Jennifer Stevens
CC: Mayor Lauren McLean, Courtney Washburn, Council Member Luci Willits
DATE: 9/26/2024
RE: Director's Update

ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE MONTH

Archives Consolidation

Part of A&H's budget request for the upcoming fiscal year included one-time funding to consolidate the archives with the records center. This consolidation will physically merge the city's active records into the same building as the city's historic and archival records and artifacts. A parallel effort is ongoing citywide to revise the city's retention schedule. Together, these projects will make a great deal more material available to the public, as more records fall under management of the city archivist. The record center will have a public research area and open hours for research.

Original Boise Valley People Cultural Center Update

There is an ongoing effort between members of the Shoshone-Bannock and Shoshone-Paiute to work with a local landowner and the City of Boise to establish a cultural center that would honor the Tribes' history and traditions. The local landowner is sponsoring the cost of a firm to conduct strategic planning, while the city is acting as facilitator and convenor. The same local resident has donated land for the cultural center and is in possession of many artifacts located during archaeological work on his property. This project will take at least 5 years and likely longer. Stay tuned.

City Steps

We had a highly successful pilot season for the City Steps program. Four different tours – two history and two public art – were given throughout the season, and the two summer interns created two additional tours that we will incorporate into the 2025 season. A total of 47 tours were given with 297 attendees.

America250

The 250th commemoration of the founding of the United States will occur in 2026. We are beginning to work on plans for that occasion, with the Department of Arts & History leading the charge for the city. The national themes of the occasion are:

- Unfinished Revolutions

- Power of Place
- We the People
- American Experiment
- Doing History

Locally, we may add additional themes, such as resilience, belonging, renewal, representation. We will be forming an America250-Boise committee this fall and hope that at least one commissioner will want to join us.

Upcoming Selection Panels

The Public Art Program has two upcoming panels, both of which will have a 10–15-hour time commitment within the 3-month long selection panel process.

- Water Node project at the Foothills Learning Center. Selection panel will take place in early fall/late winter.
- ConRAC mural and Family Restroom Wall Installation at the Boise Airport. Selection panel will take place in late winter/early spring.

COMMISSION REVISION UPDATES

In August, I included a set of recommendations and proposals in the Director's Update (copied below for your convenience). Since that time, we have had several staff sessions to discuss this proposal and have consequently offered a few alternatives. We would like to get your feedback on these options before making a final recommendation to the Mayor's office on changes.

New Staff-recommended Alternatives/Changes from Original August Recommendations

- 1) Potentially have only two committees – ambassador and panel.
- 2) Offer leadership growth for commissioners by offering each 3-year term as a rotation. Begin on the Ambassador Committee to become familiar with the community, move to the Outreach Committee to begin giving tours, end on the Panel Committee.
- 3) Design bylaws that clearly articulate commissioner expectations, including attendance requirements for both commission meetings and committee activities.
- 4) Commission size to 12 instead of 15, plus one student commissioner. This would place between 4-6 members on each committee (depending on whether there are two or three committees).
- 5) Maintain the existing small commission with decision-making authority, and revive the Arts & History Advisory Team to serve the functions of the Panel and Outreach Committee.

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM AUGUST 2024 (repeated)

We would like to make recommendations to the Mayor and City Council regarding the structure of the Commission and the ordinance which governs its existence by September. With Mayor's approval of the recommendations' general direction, we will work to amend the ordinance which governs the Commission.



Therefore, we would like to discuss your thoughts and ideas regarding the following recommendations at the Commission meeting on August 7.

Recommendations may include many of your excellent suggestions. Some of these may be referenced in the Commission's bylaws, while some may be incorporated into the revised ordinance. These recommendations may include:

- 1) Clarify role of commission as advisory in nature;
- 2) Provide an annual schedule of opportunities to serve, presented early in calendar year, with sign ups presented on a shared document;
- 3) Outline clear roles, responsibilities, opportunities, and expectations for commissioners;
- 4) Increase Commission size to 15, plus one student commissioner for a total of 16;
- 5) Hold meetings every second month;
- 6) Advise staff to continue providing updates via pre-meeting memos;
- 7) Adopt a committee structure resembling one of the following two options (or some combination thereof):
 - a) **OPTION 1:** Commissioners serve on at least one of three committees. Committee breakouts sessions could occur after every other commission meeting to discuss upcoming needs. Potential committees, whose membership would rotate annually, include the following:
 - i) Ambassador Committee: This committee will help Arts & History spread the word about its events, calls for artists, and other opportunities, and will serve as department ambassadors at events that are sponsored by or hosted by the department. **ATTN:** Funds will be available to reimburse Ambassadors for some event costs. Roles include:
 - (1) Attend department and grantee events, wear nametags, and announce the events on behalf of the department and the city when appropriate (in coordination with staff).
 - (2) Provide feedback to staff after events via a simple form, provided by department staff.
 - ii) Outreach Committee:
 - (1) Work with staff on creating and working with docent group;
 - (2) Work with staff on tour content and ideation;
 - (3) Assist with giving tours during tour season;
 - iii) Panel Committee: This committee's members will be responsible for filling the "commissioner" seat on all the department's selection panels. Staff will provide a signup sheet early in the calendar year, with time commitment and start and end dates clear. Role will include:
 - (1) Equally sharing in selection panel needs;
 - (2) Reviewing applications for grants as well as for public art projects;
 - (3) Attending selection panel meetings.
 - b) **OPTION 2:** Commissioners serve on a designated number of selection panels; attend a certain number of events as ambassadors; and participate in docent management and tours annually. Committee breakouts could occur after every other commission meeting to discuss upcoming/unanticipated needs.



NEEDS FROM COMMISSIONERS

Events

- Support the wonderful exhibitions at both cultural sites by bringing friends, family, colleagues, etc. to see them.
- Attend grantee events





DEPARTMENT OF ARTS & HISTORY

MAYOR: Lauren McLean | DIRECTOR: Jennifer Stevens

MEMO

TO: Mayor McLean, Courtney Washburn, Council Member Luci Willits, Arts & History Commissioners

FROM: Stephanie Johnson, Public Art Program Manager

CC: Jennifer Stevens, Director

DATE: 9/26/2024

RE: Public Art Program Update

ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE MONTH

General Fund Public Art Projects

Boise Depot 100 Anniversary Projection

\$50,000; Annika Kalac and Will Miller - Artist team selected for digital projection art for temporary display on the Boise Depot across 4 days. Selected artist will collaborate with a contracted projection professional and develop artwork for display that varies daily. The artist team collaborated with staff to facilitate an activity at the Open Streets event that will inform their final artwork. Artwork will be displayed during the Boise Depot Centennial celebration event from April 13, 2025 – April 16, 2025.

West Valley/Ustick NIP Public Art Project

\$160,000; James Peterson of Art + Contraptions – Artist is moving to fabrication. Staff continues to work interdepartmentally and has made progress in developing a site plan and electrical plan in advance of permit submittal. Project progression is on track for installation in early spring 2025.

Public Art Project Honoring JJ Saldaña

\$49,000; Bobby Gaytan – Artist completed the mural and staff collaborated with the artist and design team to participate in Latino Fest Boise, to coordinate an intimate mural unveiling, and to officially dedicate the mural during the Hispanic Heritage Month Kick-off alongside the Idaho Commission on Hispanic Affairs.



Linen Fence 2025

\$5,000; Call has closed, and selection panelists are in the midst of their review. Selection notifications are expected to commence in early October.

CCDC Projects with Type 4 Agreements

Traffic Boxes 2025

Call opens in September for 17 new traffic boxes to be wrapped in summer of 2025. Boxes are located within CCDC's Westside Urban Renewal District.

521 W Grove St. Public Space, Public Art

\$400,000; Artists contracted – Hua Design Studio

(<https://www.misstangq.com/installation>) (artist team Huameng Yu and Louis Chinn);

The artist team has submitted their final design and are collaborating with the site design team architects, structural engineer, electrical engineer, and construction manager to integrate their plans into the overall site. The first stage of permits have been submitted to the City of Boise.

Old Boise Blocks Barrier – Clepsydra, Bobby Zokaites

Installed and closed out!



Old Boise Blocks Sidewalk Element

\$23,000; 9 medallions have been installed in the sidewalk.

Erma Hayman House T4

\$100,000; Interpretive signage, added lighting for artwork on wall, and vinyl murals.

- **Erma Hayman House Vinyl Murals**

We received 32 applications and have selected 5 artists (Miguel Almeida, Mungo Ligoya, Gracieux Baraka, Hallie Maxwell, and Carrie Applegate) to design pairs of murals, one half to be displayed at the Erma Hayman House, the other half at Main Library. Miguel Almeida's artwork has been installed and staff are collaborating interdepartmentally to organize an artist event in conjunction with October First Thursday. Artwork will be displayed for a 6-month cycle during a 2.5-year time period.

Linen Blocks T4

ArtPort Installation, 1 art port completed on Grove St. in front of the Modern Hotel-*Reclaimed Majesty*. Partnership with sculpture class at BSU to select and display student artwork. 2nd installation to occur in 2025.



Public Works Public Art Projects

Earth Day

\$700; live sculpture build using repurposed materials, with artist Margret Pope at the City's Earth Day celebration at Kristen Armstrong Municipal Park.

WaterShed Studios

\$2,500x quarter; a series of adult workshops in partnership with the Boise WaterShed.

Youth Climate Action

Panel member in the selection of Youth Climate Action awardees. Advisor to art focused projects.

Going Public artist networking/professional development 4-part series. 4th installment coming up on October 17th!

[Going Public | Boise Arts & History \(boiseartsandhistory.org\)](https://boiseartsandhistory.org)

Water Node

Coming FY25, mid-size installation at the Foothills Learning Center. Fourth and final Art Node as a part of the FLC master plan. Overarching theme of water conservation.

Airport Public Art Projects

ConRAC (Consolidated Rent-a-car Facility)- Coming in FY25 Vinyl mural installation on façade

Family Restroom Wall - Concourse B, large wall to host installation of potentially 2D sculpture/wall mounted art work

NEEDS FROM COMMISSIONERS

None this month





DEPARTMENT OF ARTS & HISTORY

MAYOR: Lauren McLean | DIRECTOR: Jennifer Stevens

MEMO

TO: Mayor McLean, Courtney Washburn, Council Member Luci Willits, Arts & History Commissioners

FROM: Jamile Shirley, Cultural Assets Program Manager

CC: Jennifer Stevens, Director

DATE: 9/26/2024

RE: Cultural Assets Program Update

ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE MONTH

Memoirs of Erma Hayman

"Memoirs of Erma Hayman" (2022) By Vinnie Bagwell is a site-based bas-relief series mounted on the exterior retaining wall at Erma Hayman House. The Jamile Shirley and Alaggio Laurino washed, waxed, and buffed each of the components. The wax included a UV inhibitor. The coating is expected to improve the longevity and visual appearance of the cold cast bronze material.

Arbol de la Vida

"The Arbol de la Vida" (Tree of Life) (2014) by Alfonzo Soteno received a new ADA compliant vinyl label. The Arbol de la Vida is in a protective case at the Boise airport, main floor, near the stairwell leading to the security screening area.

Heliotrope

A 6-inch stainless steel toe kick was added to the sculpture "Heliotrope" (2014). by Dwaine Carver Heliotrope located in Downtown Boise at 8th Street and Front. The new toe kick is designed to prevent intrusion of winter sidewalk salts as well as pedestrians to protect the soil and plant-landscape within Heliotrope's interior space.

Graffiti Removal

The Collections Management team continues to perform routine graffiti and sticker removal from outdoor artwork, including wrapped traffic boxes, sculptures, and murals. Please feel free to report graffiti on public art to Jamile Shirley (jshirley@cityofboise.org) and Alaggio Laurino (alaurino@cityofboise.org).

Idanha Canopies

The "Idanha Canopies" (2003) by artists Nina and Berry Yankowitz underwent a structural inspection of the four canopy footings. One footing appears to exhibit crumbling of the cementitious material at the base. QRS Consulting performed a

structural assessment of the footing. The deterioration was found to be cosmetic. The Collections Management team is working with a contractor to assess and repair the footing.

History in Motion – Rubber Ground Installation

A contractor was hired to drill weep holes in the lower legs of “History in Motion” (2003) by Mark Stasz located at Catalpa Park. The weep holes are designed to improve drainage and prevent damage from expansion and contraction of ice.

Grove Street Illuminated & Boise Canal

The original artist, Amy Westover, has been contracted to perform a one-time overall repair of “Grove Street Illuminated” and “Boise Canal” (2003), located in the streetscape of 9th Street adjacent to Grove Plaza. This T4 agreement is funded by CCDC. The goal is to improve elements based on priority of need and extend the artwork’s lifespan another decade or two.

Public Art Archive

The collaborative effort continues in migrating the collections management software (CMS) from Proficio to cloud-based platform Public Art Archive (PAA). Implementation of PAA will improve community accessibility to the Public Art collection and modernize best practices in managing the collection. The City IT team has been heavily involved in this effort as well as the PAA administrators and the Collections Management team.

Workshop Presentation

Jamile Shirley and Alaggio Laurino presented “Maintenance Considerations for Public Art” at the Forecast – Utah + Idaho Art Administrators workshop on September 5th. The presentation covered topics of maintenance types, materials, maintenance budget, determining lifespan, deaccession considerations, when to hire a conservator, and professional resources.

Mosaic Repair

A contractor has been hired to repair three (3) of the “Party Animals” (2013) by Reham Aarti which were deinstalled from Zoo Boise due to construction as well as needed repairs. The contractor will also perform repairs on several other mosaic works in the Public Art collection. Repairs are expected to be complete spring 2025.

Wind Dance

The 25” stainless steel gazing globe located at the center of “Wind Dance” (2014) by Mark Baltus sustained a large dent from unknown origin. The Collections Management team is working with the artist and fabricators to repair or replace the gazing globe. The installation is in Julia Davis Park.

NEEDS FROM COMMISSIONERS

None this month.





MEMO

TO: Mayor McLean, Courtney Washburn, Council Member Luci Willits, Arts & History Commissioners

FROM: Matilda "Tilley" Bubb, Cultural Planner

CC: Jennifer Stevens, Director

DATE: 9/26/2024

RE: Cultural Planning Activity

ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE MONTH

Arts & History Division Strategic Planning

In line with our department's overall internal strategic plan, each A&H division has created a guiding strategic plan. These internal governing documents center on the division's mission, vision, and goals.

2025-35 Cultural and Creative Industries Master Plan Update

We have contracted with Agnew Beck to assist us with rolling out three surveys in October aimed at 1. Individual artists of all disciplines 2. Arts organizations 3. General public. The survey will be open late October to just prior to Thanksgiving. Following we will conduct focus groups and interviews to deepen our understanding of current cultural conditions.

General Fund Public Arts Master Plan

I'm evaluating the existing conditions and future investment priorities for Boise's General Fund public art program. I am conducting interviews and analyzing locations of existing public art in relation to the Library branches, Parks and Recreation sites, Police Fire locations, City Hall downtown and West, and public streets.

Community Outreach:

- The Original Boise Valley People are exploring the potential for a Cultural Center. I am serving on the committee as is our director, Jennifer Stevens.
- The Film permit will go live November 1. We are working with Economic Development to communicate with the film committee to build out a resource page in association with the permit rollout.

NEEDS FROM COMMISSIONERS

None this month.



DEPARTMENT OF ARTS & HISTORY

MAYOR: Lauren McLean | DIRECTOR: Jennifer Stevens

MEMO

TO: Mayor McLean, Courtney Washburn, Council Member Luci Willits, Arts & History Commissioners

FROM: Kristen Hill, Cultural Sites Program Manager

CC: Jennifer Stevens, Director

DATE: 9/26/2024

RE: Cultural Sites Division Update

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

James Castle House 2025 Residency Selection

Thanks to the help of our fantastic selection panel, we were able to narrow down our JCH Residency candidates and then make a final decision based on interviews. A press release announcing our final selections will go out in early October.

Jenna Inzetta Residency

The James Castle House welcomed artist Jenna Inzetta to Boise for the fall 2024 residency term. Jenna's open studio events and workshop have been very popular, and she has been busy making lots of beautiful work.

Family Museum Day at James Castle House

The James Castle House hosted its first Family Museum Day, with activities geared towards youth and families. We had a great turnout with over 50 in attendance, and the event was a big hit with all our visitors.

Story Story Porch Night at James Castle House

Story Story Boise and the Idaho Association for the Deaf collaborated to bring a special event to the James Castle House. Story Story Porch Night: Purse ! Discusses was a night of Deaf storytellers sharing their experience with language and connection through communication. Story Tellers included Mikkel & April Nelson, JoAnn Shopbell, and Sonny Cabbage, with Idaho Association for the Deaf President Tim Blonsky serving as special guest host. The event was a huge success, with 150 guests in attendance.

Tenisha Return!!

We are so happy to have Tenisha Eastman-Dodson back at the Erma Hayman House after her maternity leave. Her beautiful baby girl is named Sonali, and she has the best smile on earth 😊

Voices of River Street Opening Reception

The Erma Hayman House welcomed visitors on site to experience our new exhibition "Voices of River Street: A History of Urban Change and Community Strength, 1940 – 1972." This exciting exhibition is the result of collaborative efforts between Cultural Sites, History, Archives, Public Art, Communications, and Director Jennifer Stevens, and features historic photos, quotes and audio clips from individuals and families who lived in the River Street Neighborhood during this period, and an interactive GIS map with census data from 1940 and 1950. Voices of River Street will be on view through March, 2025.

Mural Addition at Erma Hayman House

We are excited to announce a new public art feature at the Erma Hayman House, with a rotating mural installed on the West side of the parking garage wall facing River Street. This mural is one of a pair, with the partner residing at the downtown Library. These murals will rotate every 6 months and feature the work of local artists who have selected themes in response to the history of the site.

NEEDS FROM COMMISSIONERS

Ballots and Brews: Voter Registration Drive at the Erma Hayman House

The Erma Hayman House, in partnership with Ada County Elections and Boise State University professors Lori Hausegger and Jaclyn Kettler, will be hosting a voter registration drive on Tuesday, October 8th from 5:30 – 7:00 pm. Along with registration tables, this event will feature a timeline of US Voter History, and a sample Literacy Test, which was used in Louisiana until 1965. Bring any first-time voters in your life by for this fun and informative event!

Jenna Inzetta Final Presentation

James Castle House resident Jenna Inzetta will host a final presentation and open studio on Thursday, October 10th from 5:30 – 7:30 pm. Join us in person or on Zoom to learn about her time in residence and see the incredible works she has made while in Boise!





MEMO

TO: Mayor McLean, Courtney Washburn, Council Member Luci Willits, Arts & History Commissioners
FROM: Jennifer Yribar, Communications Manager
CC: Jennifer Stevens, Director
DATE: 9/26/2024
RE: Communications, Grants, Education and Public Programs

ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE MONTH

Arts & History Brand Marketing

In August and September, we continued work on the Arts & History Brand Marketing project, vetting and hiring Drake Cooper, a local creative agency, to help with messaging and media strategy. Alongside Leila Ramella-Rader, Creative Services Sr. Manager in the Office of Community Engagement, we met for a project initiation discussion, which will result in the development of a creative brief. We will review the brief on October 2.

As a reminder, this work aims to strengthen our professional services brand, better positioning our team to provide premium service to our internal service partners and constituents, with a clear message and clear calls to action. This work is also essential as we plan for a future website upgrade and design refresh.

Press Releases

- Boise City Writers in Residence (link forthcoming)
- [Boise Depot Centennial Call for Archives](#) (issued September 25, 2024)
- [City of Boise Announces Grant Recipients for Fiscal Year 2025](#) (issued September 17, 2024)
- [Media Advisory: Exhibition Opening Reception of *Voices of River Street: A History of Urban Change and Community Strength, 1940-1972*](#) (issued August 29, 2024)
- [Artist Jenna Inzetta Preserves Memories Through Collage at James Castle House Residency](#) (issued August 13, 2024)

Media Coverage

- BoiseDev:
 - [Idaho artist's work found in Boise home's walls; featured in Boise Art Museum](#)
 - ['Flowers for JJ': Bright new Boise mural honors Idaho leader Saldaña who died last year](#)
- Idaho Capital Sun: [A year after his death, J.J. Saldaña still brings a safe space to Idaho Latinos](#)
- Idaho Press: [Boise picks 'Flowers for JJ' — Newly completed artwork is memorial to late Latino activist](#)
- KBOI Channel 2: ['Flowers for JJ': Downtown Boise mural honors late community leader](#)
- KTVB Channel 7:
 - [Boise City 'Traffic Box Program'](#)
 - [Local dance schools receive arts and history grant](#)
 - [A new mural is coming to Downtown Boise honoring J.J. Saldaña; Mural honoring J.J. Saldaña is complete](#)

Campaigns/Content Plan

- Creatives Profiles
 - Creators, Makers, & Doers: [Cecilia Violetta López \(Opera Idaho\)](#)
 - 2024 Traffic Box Artist Profiles (17)
 - Bobby Gaytan, *Flowers for J.J. Saldaña* downtown mural
 - Old Boise Blocks artists
 - Mungo Ligoya (Sidewalk Art) – *completed.*
 - Bobby Zokaites (Waterwheel Barrier Art) – *completed.*
 - Hua Design Studio (521 W Grove St. Public Space) – *As the public site approaches active construction, we anticipate highlighting the artist team before laying the groundwork this winter and installing the artwork elements in spring 2025.*
- Residencies
 - James Castle House Summer Resident [Jenna Inzetta](#)
 - Boise City Writer-in-Residence [Heidi Kraay](#)
- Calls & Opportunities
 - [Student Commission Openings](#), Closes October 7, 2024
 - [Artist Call for Applications - Traffic Box Art 2025](#), Closes October 16, 2024
 - [Boise Depot Centennial Call for Archives](#), Closes April 16, 2025.
- Exhibitions



- [Crossroads of Culture: Boise's Chinese History from 1863 to Today](#) (Boise Downtown Library through September 30, 2024)
- [Nisei Trials: 80 Years](#) (Boise City Hall through December 31, 2024)
- [James Castle: Foundations](#) (James Castle House through February 1, 2025)
- [Voices of River Street: A History of Urban Change and Community Strength, 1940-1972](#) (Erma Hayman House through March 2025)

Grants Program

- **Annual A&H Grant**

We announced 41 recipients of grant funding for fiscal year 2025. Funding supports people in established and emerging cultural fields with projects designed to benefit the Boise residents with awards between \$1,000 and \$5,000 totaling \$150,000 annually.

[Learn more.](#)

- **Catalyst Grant**

We closed Round 4 of the Catalyst Grant and awarded the following applicants:

- Friends of Minidoka* for organizing a free public lecture on September 12 at the Idaho State Museum on the *Nisei Trials: 80 Years* with authors and scholars Frank Abe and Eric Muller.
- A queer chaplain* for organizing Idaho's first Trans March in Boise on September 13.
- Idaho Burners Alliance* for creating an artist maze during Global Lounge's World Village on September 27 & 28.
- Astri Snodgrass* for putting on a free four-part mending workshop series at Boise Public Library.
- Justin Blauch* for putting on Gleam, a monthly freeform multimedia project at Catalyst Arts Collaborative.

**Indicates first-time recipients*

Boise City Writer-in-Residence

We are closing out on the Boise City Writers-in-Residence inaugural year with Heidi Kraay's final session on Wednesday, September 25, at 6 p.m., at the Erma Hayman House.

The 2025 call to writers closed on July 29. We received 25 applications and announced two new writers in residence: [Susan Bruns](#) (October 1, 2024 – March 31, 2025) and [Alan Heathcock](#) (April 1 – September 30, 2025).



Public Programs

- We continue to engage department-wide teams in monthly Public Programs Roundtable and Book Club discussions (optional) to develop shared language and best practices around public programming and community engagement.

Outreach

First Thursdays on the Plaza

We continue to support the City of Boise's Community Engagement team with First Thursday planning and participation. October's First Thursday on the Plaza celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month. [Learn more.](#)

Open Streets Boise (f. Boise Goathead Fest)

We tabled at the inaugural Open Streets Boise presented by the City of Boise and Boise Bicycle Project on September 22 alongside the Boise Depot Centennial projection artists, Annika Kalak and Will Miller. We gathered community input for the projection art planned for the Depot's centennial community celebration in April 2025. [Learn more.](#)

Boise Comic Arts Festival (BCAF)

We supported this year's Boise Comic Arts Festival (BCAF) hosted by the Boise Public Library on August 23-25 with Original Comic Creation Content judge, panel facilitation for Librarian and Educators Day, contribution of materials for visiting artists, and a guided tour of Boise's public art located in our city's core. [Learn more.](#)

Neighborhood Concert Series

We tabled at the summer-long Neighborhood Concert Series, free pop-up concerts in parks around Boise presented by Lost Grove Brewing and the Morrison Center. [Learn more.](#)

NEEDS FROM COMMISSIONERS

Upcoming Campaigns/Content Plan

- October is Archives Month: [Boise Depot Centennial Call for Archives](#) (Sept. 25 – Apr. 20, 2025)
- City of Boise Cultural Ambassador Story Story Night (Second term begins Oct. 1, 2024)
- Miguel Almeida, *Viva La Causa* murals + First Thursday event at the Erma Hayman House (Oct. 3)
- [ArtsVote 2024](#) and Ballots + Brews Voter Registration Drive at the Erma Hayman House (Oct. 8)
- Cultural and Creative Industries Master Plan Community Survey (Oct. 24 – Nov. 22, 2024)



- *Desired Action:* Awareness

Cultural Program Guide

The October-December Cultural Program Guide is coming! Learn more by visiting our [Events Calendar](#).

- *Desired Action:* Pick up a copy at our offices (or more!). Please share widely!

Upcoming FY25 Grant Recipient Events

We invite you to attend the upcoming Grant Recipient events:

- 10/2 – [Bilingual Mending Workshop](#) with Astri Snodgrass
- 10/4 – Opera Idaho presents *Suor Angelica & Gianni Schicchi*
- 10/8 – Story Story Late-Night presents PEOPLE ARE STRANGE
- 10/9 – [Bilingual Mending Workshop](#) with Astri Snodgrass
- 10/24 – Winter Wildlands Alliance presents the 20th Annual Backcountry Film Festival Premiere
- 10/29 – Story Story Night presents THE BiG DiPPER
- 11/8-10 – Boise Old Time presents *Dare to Be Square Boise*

Learn more by visiting our [Events Calendar](#).

- *Desired Action:* Please consider attending.





EXHIBIT A

Minutes Arts & History Commission

Wednesday, August 7th, 2024
5:00-6:30 pm
Greenbelt Room, 3rd Floor, Boise City Hall
150 N Capitol Blvd, Boise ID 83702

Virtual and in-person attendance is offered.
Watch via Zoom Webinar: [Registration Link](#)

Commissioners Present: Kris Clegg (Chair), Gaby Thomason, Catherine Seo, Amanda Ashley, Rachel Miller (virtual)

Commissioners Absent: Melissa Thom (Vice Chair), Trish Walker

Council Liaison:

Staff Present: Jennifer Stevens, Jillian Whitehill, Emily Chivers, Christine Evangelides Dodd, Tilley Bubb (virtual), Jennifer Yribar (virtual)

Public:

- I. **Call to Order** – Commission Chair, Kris Clegg called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m.
 - a. Land Acknowledgement – Commission Chair Kris Clegg
- II. **Minutes Approval**
 - a. **ACTION REQUESTED:** Approve Minutes from June 5th, 2024 (**Exhibit A**)
 - i. Move to approve by Thomas at 5:03 p.m., seconded by Ashley at 5:03 p.m. All in favor
- III. **Commission Revision Work Session (45 min)**
 - a. Postponed to October Commission Meeting
- IV. **Director's Update**
 - a. Hiring/Organization
 - i. Welcome Christine Evangelides Dodd, the new A&H attorney.

- ii. History Program Manager position recently closed and new manager to start by end of August.
 - iii. Hosted three interns this summer. Two interns gave City Steps tours, both history and art based, and created two new tours that will be used in the next City Steps season. One intern helped to support the History division.
 - b. Staff Professional Development
 - i. City Archivist attended The National Association of Government Archives and Records Administrators Conference. Communications Manager attended National Association of Government Communicators conference. Staff attended a virtual American Association for State and Local History conference which included discussions on the future of interpretation. Finally, Jennifer Stevens will attend and present at the Western History Association conference.
 - c. Commission Revision – postponed until next commission. Stevens asked if Commissioners had any initial feedback.
 - i. Clegg liked having more Commissioners to increase involvement and sees value in the various options for engagement.
 - ii. Stevens outlined next steps. Staff will review the draft internally and Stevens will bring that feedback to the next commission meeting.
 - d. Needs from Commissioners
 - i. Please grab a copy of our newest Cultural Plan and attend our upcoming grants and department events.
 - e. Upcoming Events

V. **Presentations/Updates/Approvals** **Pursuant to Idaho Code Section 74-204(4), all agenda items are action items, and a vote may be taken on these items.*

- a. Informational Item: Annual Grant – Emily Chivers
 - i. Background – began in 1997. Has funded over 500 grant projects/programs. Total of over \$2.5 million given in 27 years.
 - ii. Review Process and Timeline – public announcement will go out in mid-September.
 - iii. Overview - \$150,000 available and total requests for \$244,300.



- iv. Entry Point – Goal is to create an entry point for grantees to gain skills to apply for other grants as well. Offered in-person and virtual information sessions, grant writing workshop, office hours, and application reviews.
 - 1. Thomason asked whether the virtual or in-person sessions had more attendance.
 - 2. Chivers explains that the recorded session from the virtual session had the most views.
 - 3. Ashley asks if the requested amount was higher this year than last year.
 - 4. Chivers confirmed that this year the requested amount was higher.
 - 5. Ashley asks if Chivers knows why this might be.
 - 6. Chivers explains that the biggest reason is due to inflation and the increased costs to run events.
 - 7. Ashley asks how long ago the \$5,000 max was set.
 - 8. Chivers wasn't sure of the exact date but can confirm that it has been at the \$5,000 max for at least the past 4 years.
 - 9. Steven explains that Chivers is in the process of analyzing feedback from grantees and will use this feedback to revise the program.
 - 10. Thomason notes that this year there has been additional effort to outreach and expand the audiences reached.
- v. Overview of the of review team and how applications are evaluated based on eligibility, quality, community benefit, mission alignment, accessibility, management, special considerations.
- vi. Recommendations shared.
 - 1. 54 total applicants. 12 new applicants (7 recommended for funding). \$ 244,300 total request. \$150,000 total awarded. 41 total applicants awarded: 26 applicants recommended at requested amounts and 15 applicants recommended for award lower than requested. 13 applicants declined.
 - 2. Clegg notes that she really appreciated that there were new reviewers on the grant panel which brought in different perspectives and great dialogue.



3. Ashley inquires why DBA First Thursday was declined.
 4. Chivers notes some of the considerations for this review, including funding/event alignment.
 5. Thomason adds that with limited Arts & History grants funding the grants team had to make tough calls and this was situation a where the grant applicant could find separate grant funding for their event.
- b. Informational Item: Catalyst Grant Round 3 – Emily Chivers
- i. About the program – supports small-scale and medium-sized arts, history, and cultural activities.
 1. Ashely inquires if there are guidelines outlining what small-scale means.
 2. Chivers shares that it is self-determined and guidance on which grant to apply to is given individually based on the program needs.
 - ii. Program details - \$40,000 available in one-time funding. Standard award size of \$2,000. Applications accepted in four (4) rounds (with deadlines in February, April, June, August). Up to five (5) projects awarded each round; any unexpended funds will roll over to the next round. Activities must be completed with final reports submitted prior to September 30, 2024.
 - iii. Overview of the review team, program eligibility, and grant criteria (same as annual grants).
 - iv. Summary of round 3 – 11 total applicants. 8 first time applicants (3 recommended for funding). \$22,000 total amount requested, and \$10,000 total awarded.

VI. **Adjourn Meeting**

- a. Commission Chair Clegg asks commissioners to offer a motion to adjourn.
 - i. Ashley motions to adjourn, Thomason seconds; all in favor. So moved at 6:06 p.m.

