



DEPARTMENT OF ARTS & HISTORY

MAYOR: Lauren McLean | DIRECTOR: Jennifer Stevens

AGENDA

Arts & History Commission

Wednesday, December 4th, 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** – Commission Chair, Kris Clegg
 - a. Land Acknowledgement – Commission Chair, Kris Clegg
- II. **Minutes Approval**
 - a. *ACTION REQUESTED:* Approve Minutes from August 7th, 2024 (**Exhibit A**)
- III. **Director's Update**
 - a. Welcome Student Commissioner Camryn Lafrenz
 - b. Hiring/Organization
 - c. Professional Development
 - d. Commission Revision Updates
 - e. Upcoming Events
 - f. Needs From Commissioners
- IV. **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.*
- V. **Adjourn Meeting**



MEMO

TO: Arts & History Commissioners
FROM: Jennifer Stevens, Director
CC: Mayor McLean, Courtney Washburn, Council Member Luci Willits
DATE: 11/29/2024
RE: Director Update

ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE MONTH

Hiring/Organization

We will be hiring for the following positions over the next eight weeks:

- Program coordinator at Erma Hayman House (two-year position funded by a grant from the National Trust for Historic Preservation, African American Action Fund);
- City Historian;
- Public Programs and Education Manager.

Professional Development

I attended the Western History Association conference in October. In addition to moderating a panel on redlining and two papers on Black history in the American West, I visited the train station, the local cemetery, the World War I memorial, and the Johnson County Museum. I also participated in an excellent 3-hour audio tour of redlining around Kansas City.

Commission Revision Updates

We are working with leadership to finalize recommendations on the commission.

We will include the following:

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. Keep size of commission its current size with perhaps one additional commissioner;
5. Advise staff to continue providing updates via pre-meeting memos only when there is an action item; otherwise, key developments will be presented in director's report;

6. Re-establish the Arts & History Advocacy Team (AHAT) to offer volunteer opportunities to community members and build capacity for tours and other programs.
7. Still TBD: whether we maintain requirements for project approvals by Arts & History Commission over a certain dollar threshold.

For now, we will maintain our current schedule of bi-monthly meetings and will continue to provide informational memos.

NEEDS FROM COMMISSIONERS

Please look for signup opportunities at our next meeting for selection panels, attendance at grant events, and other.





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: 11/29/2024

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 Citys 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 \(boiseartsandhistory.org\)](http://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)- Project launching 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 – Project launching in FY25

NEEDS FROM COMMISSIONERS

None this month





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: 11/29/2024
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 pieces. 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 is 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. A selection of fall plants and spring bulbs were planted in the base of the sculpture—a collaboration between Boise Botanical Gardens and Arts & History Department.

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 exhibited crumbling of the cementitious material. QRS Consulting performed a structural assessment of the footing. The deterioration was found to be cosmetic. The Collections Management team hired Alloway Electric to repair the footing. Work was completed mid-October.

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. The first 50 public art pieces are now live: <https://www.publicartarchive.org/>

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 completed 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.

Great Blues Fountain & Cottonwoods Fountain



“Great Blues Fountain” & “Cottonwoods” fountain have been turned off and winterized for the fall and winter months. Thanks to our city partners, Parks & Rec and City Facilities teams, for supporting the maintenance of both pump and plumbing systems.

River Sculpture

“River Sculpture” (1999) by Alison Sky was damaged by a car accident that occurred on September 25th. The lower right corner granite slabs were cracked and broken in the incident. Along with Boise Police Department and Risk & Safety Department, the Arts & History Cultural Assets team is working with contractors to replace and repair the stone.

Bronze Collection

In early October, Objects Conservator, Claire Dean, performed treatment and assessment of 17 bronze sculptures, plaques, and various parts of the Public Art collection. The treatment consisted of washing, waxing, and buffing. The assessment provided comprehensive observations and future maintenance considerations to best preserve the collection.

Transport

The installation titled “Transport” (2008) by Amy Westover and Lawrence KO, located on the 2nd Floor of the Boise Airport food court will be deaccessioned from the City of Boise Public Art Collection and removed due to expansion of the airport food court area beginning fall 2024. Upon approval by City Council, all current food and beverage options at the Airport will transition to new vendors or be updated. The expansion requires additional dining space at the Airport which will permanently displace *Transport*, a location-specific installation.

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: 11/29/2024

RE: Cultural Planning Activity

ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE MONTH

Arts & History Division Strategic Planning

In line with our department's overall internal strategic plan, I worked with each A&H division over the last year to create their own guiding strategic plans. Attached find a summary detailing the visions, missions, and goals of the overall department and divisions. These were shared at a recent staff retreat.

2025-35 Cultural and Creative Industries Master Plan Update

We released two surveys in late October, which closed November 22. The surveys targeted arts organizations, individual artists of all disciplines, and the general public. We received **1045** responses to the individual survey, of those **586** self-identified as artists and **459** as the public. We received **118** responses to the organizational survey from organizations of all disciplines, for-profit and non-profit. This number of responses exceeded our participation goals. Agnew Beck is assisting us with the analysis of the survey results, and we look forward to sharing this analysis with you when completed.

General Fund Public Arts Master Plan

I continue to evaluate 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 Boise Public Library branches, Parks and Recreation sites, Police Fire locations, City Hall downtown and West, and public streets.

Community Outreach:

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.



**Boise City Department of Arts & History
2024 Strategic Planning Summary
Department and Divisions' Missions, Visions, Goals**

ARTS & HISTORY DEPARTMENT

Vision: A leading cultural agency recognized for fostering a sense of belonging through accessible and place-based arts and history.

Mission: Cultivating a distinct sense of place that reflects Boise's rich past, diverse communities, and unique natural setting.

Values: Our operations will empower and serve Boise residents. Our activities will create opportunities that nurture and sustain Boise's past and its creative economy.

Key Questions:

1. Does it improve public access to culture?
2. Does it advance the needs of underserved populations?
3. Does it build relationships across the City of Boise or with outside, aligned organizations?
4. Does it **lift** and support an aligned community organization?
5. Does it contribute to placemaking?

Goal 1. Reimagine a department that reflects Boise's growth.

Goal 2. Create department-led meaningful, and predictable programming and opportunities, increase public awareness of and engagement with A&H Department offerings, and build and leverage partnerships to reach a greater variety and number of Boise residents.

Goal 3. Become the go-to resource and hub for cultural leaders and creators in the City of Boise, serving as a resource for residents who are or want to become self-sustaining artists, non-profits, historians, archivists, etc.

Goal 4. Enhance and streamline departmental operations to create a department culture of collaboration and teamwork.

ADMINISTRATION DIVISION

Vision

A&H's Administration Division is an organizational cornerstone and leader that drives forward-thinking initiatives, fosters collaboration, and removes obstacles to the realization of place-based arts and history.

Mission

To inspire and empower A&H's staff and stakeholders through strategic leadership, innovative policies, visionary cultural planning, and effective communication resulting in 1. a well-organized, fiscally sound, and responsive department and 2. A vibrant citywide arts and history ecosystem.

Goal 1. Engage stakeholders: Cultivate transparent internal and external relationships with elected officials, commissioners, city staff, community partners, artists, historians, and cultural and creative organizations to enhance collaboration, mutual support, and civic engagement.

Goal 2. Enrich Boise's cultural environment: Envision, develop, and support initiatives that celebrate and promote Boise's diverse historical, cultural, and creative communities, fostering inclusivity, equity, accessibility, and a place-based sensibility in A&H's work.

Goal 3. Lead A&H strategically: Develop and implement strategic plans, policies, human resources management, and procedures that guide the direction of A&H's operational and initiative actions, aligning the department internally and with the City of Boise's overall goals and priorities.

Goal 4. Practice sound financial management: Employ strong financial management practices, diligently monitor the budget process and distribution of resources (human, financial, and physical), while actively seeking and implementing strategic revenue generation avenues for A&H and Boise's creative community. This may include leveraging fundraising initiatives, pursuing grants, nurturing relationships within the Treasure Valley's philanthropic network, and exploring innovative financing mechanisms, all aimed at securing the long-term financial viability of Boise's cultural and creative communities.

Goal 5. Innovate by identifying and resolving challenges with creative solutions: Recognize and tackle barriers impeding A&H staff's progress towards initiatives, enabling us to overcome obstacles, and capitalize on emerging opportunities.

COMMUNICATIONS, GRANTS & PUBLIC PROGRAMS DIVISION

Vision

A&H is recognized as an essential resource that empowers Boise residents and visitors, creatives, and cultural organizations to access and engage in arts, culture, and history services, opportunities, and programs.

Mission

Communications, Grants, and Public Programs provides internal support to core divisions and coordinated, effective, and accessible communications, meaningful public engagement, educational and professional development opportunities, and grants with a community-centered approach.

Goal 1: Communications and Community Engagement: To uphold brand identity, provide robust public information, marketing, and public engagement through content planning and development, keeping the community informed and engaged with the department.

Goal 2: Capacity Building and Access: To build the capacity of Boise's arts and history organizations, individual artists, and historians through grants, professional development services, relationship building and partnerships, program evaluation and revision, and outreach, thus increasing public access to cultural experiences.

Goal 3: Education and Public Programs: To collaboratively develop, implement, and evaluate public programs and resources that promote learning and cultural enrichment relevant and accessible to a wide range of audiences.

Goal 4: Strategic Partnerships: To strategically identify and collaboratively manage needs, resources, and opportunities across A&H divisions, city departments, and external organizations to ensure mutually successful projects, programs, and partnerships for public benefit.

PUBLIC ART DIVISION

Vision

Boise's unique identity is visible through the city's diverse, accessible public art collection.

Mission

To provide meaningful experiences and opportunities with and for various communities through accessible public art and programming that fosters and reflects the evolving identity of Boise, thus cultivating a unique sense of place.

Goal 1. Increase public access to Boise's permanent public art collection.

Goal 2. Strategically acquire new artworks for Boise's collection that reflect the communities with whom we collaborate and Boise's evolving identity.

Goal 3. Manage and maintain the public art collection to high professional standards.

Goal 4. Develop and invest in public art management team and professional processes and grow revenue generation opportunities capitalizing on staff skills.

HISTORY DIVISION

Vision

Boise Arts & History is recognized as the lead stewards of Boise City and community history; expert service providers that elevate and amplify diverse and underrepresented voices; and trusted custodians of Boise's unique sense of place.

Mission

To create a bridge between past and present by preserving and promoting Boise's rich cultural heritage through research, archival work, placemaking, and collaboration resulting in curated educational programs, exhibits, and community engagement activities.

Goal 1. Build City of Boise inter-departmental relationships related to awareness of History Division's services and value add.

Goal 2. Establish the City of Boise as a leading example of oral history collection and archiving in the state of Idaho.

Goal 3. Effectively collect, update, manage and provide access to Boise's history artifact collection.

Goal 4. Design and implement year-round core history tours, programs, and workshops that respond to and inform growing public interest in Boise's history and contemporary identity.

Goal 5. Design and implement rotation of initiative-based history programming for diverse audiences, prioritizing A&H and Boise City departmental partnerships.

Goal 6. Increase history program support of A&H Department divisions and their related public outreach.

ARCHIVES DIVISION

Vision

The Boise City Archives is the community-recognized resource preserving and providing access to the city's historical record.

Mission

To serve as the city's memory bank of its government and cultural heritage by preserving history and enhancing public access, fostering scholarship, and diffusing knowledge, thus promoting transparency and government accountability.

Goal 1. Build a functional City of Boise records management and archives program.

Goal 2. Engage the public in building a meaningful Boise archive collection that is reflective of Boise's history.

Goal 3. Increase access and promote transparency through processing and digitization of high impact collections.

Goal 4. Provide professional opportunities and training for the next generation of archivists.

CULTURAL SITES DIVISION

Vision

The Cultural Sites Division is a local and national leader recognized for amplifying and elevating a more complete understanding of Boise's history, character, and contemporary communities through the activation of unique Boise-specific sites.

Mission

To foster a local, regional, and national appreciation of Boise's unique and complex heritage and culture by preserving and activating a network of irreplaceable sites.

Goal 1. Maintain stable and predictable operation of existing sites, acting as a resource and hub for cultural leaders and creators: Ensure the operational stability, robust community outreach and programming, and interconnectivity of existing cultural sites.

Goal 2. Develop revenue generation streams: Develop revenue generation streams to support current and future operating and programming activities and cultural asset conservation.

Goal 3. Increase local, regional, and national Cultural Sites recognition: Identify mechanisms and partnerships to develop site recognition and leadership in appropriate professional networks on various geographic scales.

Goal 4. Strategically consider growth or expansion: Identify clear criteria for the addition of sites and consider expansion when a site meets criteria, and that resources, political, and public support are available to support expansion.



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: 11/29/2024
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 went out in early October.

Jenna Inzetta Residency

The James Castle House hosted artist Jenna Inzetta for the fall 2024 residency term. During her term, Jenna created an impressive amount of work, hosted four open studios, one workshop, and a final presentation.

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.

Mari Andrews Residency

The James Castle House welcomed artist Mari Andrews to Boise in October for a one-month residency. Mari had been selected for a residency in 2021 but was forced to postpone due to a family emergency. During her term, Mari will host one open studio and donate one piece of work to the City of Boise.

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.

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, hosted a voter registration drive on Tuesday, October 8th as a way to encourage civic engagement.

Interpretive Planning at EHH

The Erma Hayman House welcomed Historic Research Associates (HRA) for a site visit and workshop as they begin the process of developing an interpretive plan for the site. Once completed, this plan will be used to help guide programming and exhibition decisions at the EHH.

NEEDS FROM COMMISSIONERS

None this month.





MEMO

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

FROM: Jennifer Yribar, Communications Manager

CC: Jennifer Stevens, Director

DATE: 11/29/2024

RE: Communications, Grants, and Public Programs

ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE MONTH

Arts & History Brand Marketing

In October and November, we continued working with Drake Cooper, a local creative agency, on the Arts & History Brand Marketing project. Alongside Leila Ramella-Rader, Creative Services Sr. Manager in the Office of Community Engagement, we reviewed and approved a creative brief outlining our main objective (i.e., Communicate value of engaging with the arts and history of Boise and their economic impact) and started developing brand messaging and a media strategy. We are on track to complete this project by the end of the year.

Arts & History Website Upgrade & Design Refresh

Alongside the city's Office of Community Engagement and Information Technology Department, our entire team kicked off the A&H Website Upgrade & Design Refresh project on Oct. 14. This project aims to upgrade our content management system to a current version, remediate accessibility compliance to meet new federal requirements (compliant by April 2026), and enhance the website user experience while honoring the unique features of Arts & History's brand. Project timeline is TBD, but could take up to a year and a half.

Press Releases

- Oct. 15, 2024: [James Castle House 2025 Residents Announced](#)
- Oct. 29, 2024: [City of Boise Seeking Input on Cultural and Creative Industries](#)

Media Coverage

- [Driver crashes into famous artwork at Boise's Grove Hotel. Here's what happened, damage](#) [Idaho Statesman]

- [Scavenger hunt backfires + Illegally killed deer + Traffic box art](#) [BoiseDev]
- [Boise State alums named 2024-2025 Boise City Writers-in-Residence](#) [Boise State University]
- [Lighting up history: Classic Boise signs go up downtown](#) [BoiseDev]
- [Fighting Bob: Boise's favorite ostrich turned children's book character](#) [KTVB Channel 7]
- [Blasts from the Past: Boise's neon signs of yesteryear are set to have a new home downtown](#) [Idaho Press]
- [Historic neon signs from Boise businesses of the past now light up Grove Street](#) [KIVI Channel 6]
- [City of Boise calls on creative community for feedback in new survey](#) [Boise State Public Radio]
- [A Boost for Boise's Creative Scene](#) [IdaHome Magazine]
- [It's your move: Story Story Night's next flagship season kicks off Nov. 26](#) [Idaho Press]

Campaigns/Content Plan

In October and November, our primary campaign and content plan focused on promoting participation in the [Cultural and Creative Industries Community Survey](#). As a result of this work and robust outreach efforts conducted by Cultural Planner Tilley Bubb, we received:

- 1,096 responses to the artist/individual survey (586 self-identified as artists or creative professionals)
- 127 responses to the cultural organization survey

Annual Grant Program

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.](#)

Boise City Writer-in-Residence

We announced the [City of Boise's 2025 Writers in Residence: Susan Bruns](#) (October 1, 2024 – March 31, 2025) and [Alan Heathcock](#) (April 1 – September 30, 2025).

Upcoming event:

- 12/11: [Returning To Our Senses: A Writing Workshop with Boise City Writer-in-Residence Susan Bruns](#)



Public Programs

We continue to engage department-wide teams in monthly Public Programs Roundtable, Book Club discussions (optional), and individual meetings to develop shared language and best practices in public programming and community engagement. We will meet in December to review and plan out the 2025 program calendar.

Outreach

In October and November, our primary outreach efforts focused on promoting participation in the [Cultural and Creative Industries Community Survey](#) through direct outreach to artists, creative professionals, and representatives of cultural organizations, as well as other cultural leaders and influencers.

NEEDS FROM COMMISSIONERS

Upcoming Campaigns

- December 6, 2024 – January 10, 2025: Boise Airport Public Art Community Survey
- January – April 2025: Boise Depot Centennial Celebration

➤ *Desired Action:* Awareness

Cultural Program Guide

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

➤ *Desired Action:* Pick up a copy at our offices or at any city facility. Please share widely!

Upcoming FY25 Grant Recipient Events

- 12/6-15 – Ballet Idaho Presents *The Nutcracker*
- 12/7 – Opera Idaho Children's Choruses Holiday Concert
- 12/14 – Backyard Artists presents *Paper Plane Press* Volume I Launch Party
- 12/17 – Story Story Late-Night presents THE END
- 12/26 – Story Story Night presents KiNG

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

➤ *Desired Action:* Please consider attending.





DEPARTMENT OF ARTS & HISTORY

MAYOR: Lauren McLean | DIRECTOR: Jennifer Stevens

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.

