



DEPARTMENT OF ARTS & HISTORY

MAYOR: Lauren McLean | DIRECTOR: Jennifer Stevens

AGENDA Arts & History Commission

Wednesday, February 5th, 2025
5:00-6:30 pm
River 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 December 4th, 2024 (**Exhibit A**)
- III. **Director’s Update**
 - a. Hiring/Organization
 - b. Upcoming Programs and Events
 - c. 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.*
 - a. Informational Item: Cultural Plan Survey Results – Tilley Bubb (25 min)
 - b. Informational Item: 2025 Communications Plan, A&H Brand Marketing and Website Update – Jennifer Yribar and Makenzi Dunstan (20 min)
- V. **Adjourn Meeting**



MEMO

TO: Arts & History Commissioners
FROM: Jennifer Stevens
CC: Mayor Lauren McLean, Courtney Washburn, Council Member Luci Willits
DATE: 1/30/2025
RE: Director's Update

HUMAN RESOURCES

City Historian: This is a newly defined position, and we had 50 candidates! We hope that the new hire will start by late February/early March.

Public Programming/Education: This is a newly defined position, and we are fielding many applications. We hope the new hire will start by mid-March.

Cultural Assets Program Manager: This position will be vacated in early March, but the department hopes that the vacancy will be filled quickly.

Two P/T Temporary Employees: We will be hiring part-time temporary staff to run tours during the spring City Steps series.

Intern: The Mayor's Office is sponsoring one college intern in the Department of Arts & History in summer 2025.

HISTORY PROGRAMS

Depot Centennial

The history team has been working closely with history consultants on a new permanent exhibition that will debut at the Boise Depot during the Centennial Celebration, April 13-16. The exhibit includes previously unseen photographs and new stories to read on the vertical panels. The history, archives, and cultural assets teams have also been working on new interpretive signage for the artifacts on display at the Boise Depot. Finally, the history team is also working closely with the Parks Department to revise and update the tour script.

Grove Street Storywalk – Type 4 Agreement with CCDC

The History Program has been working on a 15-sign interpretive self-guided tour of Grove Street with CCDC as our partners. The signs, which trace the history of Boise

through the lens of Grove Street and the changes it endured over time, will be installed by May 31. The signs will be placed between 3rd Steet and 16th Street. The content includes subjects as far ranging as the history of Boise's indigenous population (written by the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes) to modern urban renewal.

LOOKING FORWARD

City Steps

We will be hosting City Steps tours in two series this year: spring and fall. We will begin charging a nominal fee for all registrants who are able to pay.

Spring Series (early May to late June): In the spring, the department will be utilizing staff to give tours. The tour content will be the same as in 2024.

Fall Series (mid-August to early October): In the fall, we intend for AHAT members to be trained and signed up to give tours. We will be adding two new tours to the rotation: a tour of Boise's Chinatown and a tour of Grove Street's Public Art.

We intend to be more assertive when requesting attendees to evaluate the content so that we can assess the quality of the tours more critically.

Arts & History Ambassador Team (AHAT)

We will be sending invitations out to join the revived AHAT in early spring. Depending on the response rates, we may also issue a call for volunteers. This team will serve as ambassadors at department or department-sponsored events; serve on selection panels; serve as tour docents and potentially cultural site tour guides/visitor services aides.

America250

The Department of Arts & History will be celebrating the America250 between July 5, 2025 and July 4, 2026 in a variety of ways. We are excited to share plans with you and engage you at our next commission meeting.

2025 Mayor's Awards for Excellence in Arts & History

We are starting to plan for the 2025 Mayor's Awards for Excellence in Arts & History. Stay tuned for event updates and ways to support.

COMMISSION REVISION UPDATES

No update at this time.



NEEDS FROM COMMISSIONERS

Depot Centennial

Sunday April 13 through Wednesday April 16.

- Tours will be given with updated information from Arts & History
- New interpretive signage for artifacts
- New permanent exhibit

Voices of River Street

- Be sure to bring students, colleagues, friends, and family to see the *Voices of River Street* exhibit at the Hayman House before it is taken down for a new exhibition in June.

Story Story Night

Please consider attending one evening of Story Story Night's Flagship season.

- *Desired Action:* Please join us for any and all of these events and share with your networks!

Selection Panels

- Annual Grants
 - ~ 60-hour time commitment reviewing applications and selecting awardees in June.
- Writer-in-Residence
 - ~ 10-hour time commitment reviewing applications and selecting awardees in August.

- *Desired Action:* Please join one of our selection panels.





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: 1/30/2025

RE: Public Art Program Update

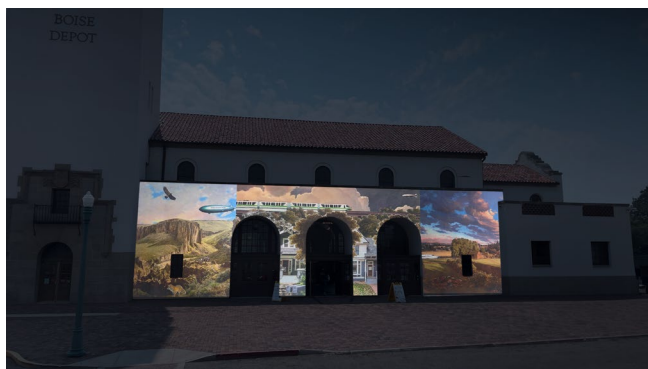
GENERAL FUND PUBLIC ART PROJECTS

Boise Visual Chronical 2025

\$20,000; Will take the form of an exhibition this year, opening in August 2025 and installed at the Erma Hayman House. This will include a jury that will award 1st, 2nd, and 3rd awards, as well as a purchase award. Each artist selected for the exhibition by the jury will receive a small stipend for framing/display and will be able to offer their works for sale during the exhibition.

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. Project progression is on track for installation in May 2025, and a dedication on June 7th during Ustick in Bloom at Redwood Park.

Linen Fence 2025

\$5,000; Artist selected and contracted. Elizabeth Hilton will install in April 2025.

CCDC PROJECTS WITH TYPE 4 AGREEMENTS

Traffic Boxes 2025

16 artists selected for new traffic boxes to be wrapped in summer of 2025. Boxes are located within CCDC's Westside Urban Renewal District. Final designs due February 17th, 2025.

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 are collaborating with the site design team architects, structural engineer, electrical engineer, and construction manager to integrate their plans into the overall site and headed into the fabrication stage. Install to take place in July 2025.

Below is a photo from the Groundbreaking Ceremony on January 22nd.



Erma Hayman House T4

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

5 artists (Miguel Almeida, Gracieux Baraka, Mungo Ligoya, 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 timeframe. Programming at the Main library will include:

- Photography workshop with Gracieux in June
- 2 Archival scanning opportunities with Carrie in August (one taking place at the library, one at EHH)



Linen Blocks T4 ArtPort Installation

\$20,000 2nd art port to be installed on Grove St. between 11th and 12th streets. Partnership with sculpture class at BSU to select and display student artwork. Installation in May of 2025.

PUBLIC WORKS PUBLIC ART PROJECTS

Warm Springs Golf Course Asphalt Mural Invitational

\$32,000; Project in conjunction with the opening of the new Warm Springs Golf Course Clubhouse. Traffic calming asphalt mural at the intersecting pathways of the Greenbelt and Warm Springs golf cart pathway. Met with panel to select the top three artists to invite to submit proposals for the project. Installation set for mid-June 2025.

Water Node

\$330,000; Water conservation and resiliency public art project at the Foothills Leaning Center. Working with Byron Folwell on preconstruction including assessments and site design plan. Call set to release in March 2025. Installation Summer of 2026.



AIRPORT PUBLIC ART PROJECTS

ConRAC (Consolidated Rental Car Facility)

\$308,700; Vinyl banner mural installation on façade of building, first iteration of rotating installation every 3-5 years. Call opens March 2025, with installation to occur alongside opening of facility in Spring 2026.

Family Restroom Wall

\$70,400; Concourse B, large wall to host installation of potentially 2D sculpture/wall mounted artwork – Project launching in fiscal year 2025.

Survey on Public Art in the Boise Airport

Ran December through January, composed of 10 questions (3 multiple-choice, 7 short answer) focused on what travelers want to see regarding future public art projects in the Boise Airport. Responses will support artists on public art projects, not just the two upcoming projects but also to help guide the visual identity of public art throughout the Boise Airport as it undergoes expansion and upgrades over the next several years. Total survey respondents were 657!

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: Danielle Grundel, City Archivist

CC: Jennifer Stevens, Director

DATE: 1/30/2025

RE: Archives Program Update

ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE MONTH

Summary

For the last several months, the Archives program has been working with the Office of the City Clerk to prepare for the merging of the city's records center and the city's archives into a single building. This move will help streamline records management processes across the city, establish best practices, as well as facilitate a physical access point for researchers. Part of this work has been the installation of new condensed shelving on the first floor to maximize space and allow for better organization. Additionally, the top floor will become a more robust work area to accommodate interns and large processing projects. The timeline for completion is set for this Fall

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: 1/30/2025
RE: Cultural Assets Program Update

ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE MONTH

New Signage

“Botanica,” a mosaic by Anna Webb (2013) and “Integration,” a mural by Sector Seventeen (2017) received new ADA compliant signage in December 2024.

River Sculpture Repair

“River Sculpture” (1999) by Alison Sky, was damaged by a car accident in September 2024. The damage to the stone was repaired in December. Final touches will be completed in the spring when the weather is permissive for adhesive to cure.

USS Boise Silver Polishing

Alaggio Laurino and Jamile Shirley polished and repositioned the USS Boise silver collection in the Mayor’s Office lobby, 3rd floor, City Hall. The collection is on loan from the U.S. Navy and requires yearly cleaning and condition reporting per the loan agreement.

Wind Translator

“Wind Translator” (2008) by Patrick Zentz, on display at The WaterShed will undergo restoration of the two drums. The instrument converts the wind’s direction into sound via bells and drums. The leather drum faces will be replaced with a wooden façade by the artist. This effort will greatly reduce maintenance and resources.

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: 1/30/2025

RE: Cultural Planning Activity

ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE MONTH

2025-35 Cultural and Creative Industries Master Plan Update

- **Survey:** Agnew Beck and I are conducting analysis of the rich survey results, creating comparative graphs and doing content analysis. I look forward to sharing this analysis with you at the April meeting.
- **Focus Groups and Interviews:** The next step of the process is to conduct focus groups and interviews of key stakeholders to deepen our understanding of current conditions. We will begin this process in March and are currently forming questions and identifying those to invite.

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 is live! 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

I may be reaching out to you regarding participation in the focus groups and surveys.



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: 1/30/2025

RE: Cultural Sites Division Update

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Kimberly Wetzel Residency

The James Castle House hosted artist Kimberly Wetzel for the December Short Stay residency term. During her term, Kimberly dove into the local artist community and hosted an open studio to share her works created on site.

Michael Douglas Too Residency

The James Castle House hosted artist Michael Douglas Too for the January Short Stay residency term. Michael is a Boise native who has been living in Porto, Portugal for the past three years, and was excited for the opportunity to come back and share his work with the local community. During his term, he created different site-specific installations each day that could be viewed from outside the studio between the hours of 6:00pm and 9:00pm. This unique residency experiment was captured by local photographer Peter Lovera and was shared through materials and documentation in an open studio hosted on site.

Hallie Maxwell Residency

The James Castle House will welcome local artist Hallie Maxwell for a 10-week residency on February 5th. During her stay, Maxwell intends to respond to the energy and history of the James Castle House in the creation of a new body of work. She is particularly interested in investigating the erasure and concealment of language as a legacy of family history. Throughout her term, she will host three open studios, one workshop, and a final presentation.

Historic Artists' Homes and Studios Exhibition at JCH

The James Castle House will present its first collaborative exhibition with Historic Artists' Homes and Studios, a program of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. *Where Art Begins* places James Castle and the James Castle House within the context of a larger discussion about the importance of preserving historically significant structures and landscapes as part of the nation's cultural heritage. The JCH is one of 55 member sites across the United States, featuring artists such as Georgia O'Keefe, Jackson Pollock, and Norman Rockwell. This exhibition will open to the public Thursday, February 13th and remain on view through November. Information about related programming will be forthcoming.

Glocal Impact: From Idaho and Beyond at Idaho State Museum

February 6th, 5:00-8:00pm

The Erma Hayman House is partnering with the Idaho State Museum on their event Glocal Impact: From Idaho and Beyond. Featuring a social hour and interview, this is a special evening with Dr. Sydney Freeman, Jr., an international award-winning researcher at the University of Idaho, 2024 United Nations Human Rights Fellow, and Fellow of the Royal Historical Society (FRHISTS) in the United Kingdom. Dr. Freeman will explore the concept of "glocal"—the interconnectedness of local and global histories and influence—focusing on Idaho's rich Black history and sharing three key lessons on how to create lasting impact.

Living Legacies and Changemakers: Boise Women Shaping Arts and Culture

March 13th, 5:30-8:00pm at Trailhead

The Erma Hayman House is thrilled to announce our second annual Living Legacies and Changemakers event in honor of Women's History Month. This year's panel of women in the arts includes Alex Davis (Director of the Alexa Rose Foundation), Kirsten Furlong (artist and professor at Boise State University), Leta Harris-Neustaedter (Arts Educator, Musician, creator of "The Lovely Afro" podcast) Natalie Disney (writer and professor at Boise State University) and Jessica Joy Harned (violinist, podcaster, producer). Panel discussion will be moderated by Tilley Bubb.

Voices of River Street Mobile Exhibition

The Erma Hayman House has created a mobile version of the current exhibition, "Voices of River Street." This exhibition will be on display at the Idaho State Museum through February in honor of Black History Month.



NEEDS FROM COMMISSIONERS

Glocal Impact

Glocal Impact will take place at the Idaho State Museum on February 6th. The event will kick off with a social hour from 5-6PM, featuring light appetizers, a cash bar, and the opportunity to mingle with fellow attendees. Tickets are \$5 or free for students with Student I.D.

Living Legacies and Changemakers

Living Legacies and Changemakers is a ticketed event with a meal option and an on-site bar. Registration in advance is encouraged.

- Living Legacies & Changemakers: Boise Women Shaping Arts & Culture
March 13th, 2025
5:30pm – 8pm
Trailhead (500 S. 8th Street, Boise, Idaho)

Where Art Begins: The People and Places of the Historic Artists' Homes and Studios Program

The new James Castle House exhibition, *Where Art Begins: The People and Places of the Historic Artists' Homes and Studios Program*, starts February 13th and will be available to view during open hours every week through November.

- JCH Hours: Thursday-Saturday from 11:00am-5:00pm

Hallie Maxwell's Residency Events

- **Open Studio:** Saturday, February 15th, 11:00am – 1:00pm
- **Open Studio:** Thursday, February 27th 5:30 – 7:30pm
- **Workshop:** Saturday, March 15th, 11:00am – 1:00pm
- **Open Studio:** Saturday, March 29th, 11:00am – 1:00pm
- **Final Presentation:** Thursday, April 10th 6:00 – 8:00pm

- *Desired Action:* Please join us for any and all of our events and share with your networks!





MEMO

TO: Mayor McLean, Courtney Washburn, Council Member Luci Willits, Arts & History Commissioners
FROM: Jennifer Yribar, Communications Manager
CC: Jennifer Stevens, Director
DATE: 1/30/2025
RE: Communications, Grants, and Public Programs

TEAM UPDATE

We are thrilled to announce that Makenzi Dunstan, who has been with the City of Boise since 2018 and serving as Arts & History's Education and Outreach Program Specialist since 2021, has been promoted to the role of Grants and Outreach Program Manager. In this role, Makenzi will administer Arts & History's publicly funded opportunities, including the annual Arts & History Grant program, the Cultural Ambassador program, the Boise City Writer-in-Residence program, and other publicly funded initiatives. She will also serve as the primary contact for outreach and will continue in her role as Library liaison. She will also continue to coordinate public information and promotion of department-sponsored and other publicly funded projects and events, particularly for the city's Cultural Sites.

Job Opening: [Education and Public Programs Manager](#) (closes Feb. 11, 2025)

COMMUNICATIONS

Arts & History Brand Marketing

In December, we continued working with [Drake Cooper](#), a local creative agency, on developing clear brand or strategic messaging for community impact and a media strategy (for a \$50K budget). Deliverables included a messaging deck, including by audience type (e.g. community builders, creative catalysts, cultural stewards) and service line (e.g., A&H, Archives, Erma Hayman House, Grants, James Castle House, History, Public Art), as well as tagline options and copy examples. We also received a media strategy and platform recommendations, again tailored by audience type. With

the assistance of the Office of Community Engagement and Information Technology Department, we plan to apply many of these recommendations in our messaging and across our materials (print/digital), including in our upgraded and redesigned website.

Arts & History Website Upgrade & Design Refresh

We continue to work with the city's Office of Community Engagement and Information Technology Department on the A&H Website Upgrade & Design Refresh project (boiseartsandhistory.org). 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 now July 2025. The James Castle House (jamescastlehouse.org) and Erma Hayman House (ermahaymanhouse.org) websites will be upgraded starting in November 2025 through March 2026.

Press Releases

Published:

- **Dec. 2, 2024:** [Erma Hayman House Receives \\$100k in National Grant Funding](#)
- **Jan. 10, 2025:** [City of Boise Seeks Community Input for City Flag Redesign](#) (issued by the City of Boise with A&H's involvement as an initiative partner)
- **Jan. 21, 2025:** Media Advisory: CCDC and City of Boise to Break Ground and Unveil Name of New Park at 521 W. Grove Street (issued by CCDC with A&H's involvement as a project partner)
- **Jan. 22, 2025:** Capital City Development Corporation and Partners Announce Name of New Public Park at 521 W. Grove Street (issued by CCDC with A&H's involvement as a project partner)
- **Jan. 27, 2025:** Media Advisory: Idaho State Museum Celebrates Black History Month with Collaborative Initiatives (issued by Idaho State Museum with Erma Hayman House's contributions to [Glocal Impact: From Idaho and Beyond with Dr. Sydney Freeman, Jr.](#))

Planned:

- **Feb. 3, 2025:** Media Advisory: Jerome Mapp, Boise City Council's first Black Council Member, honored at Tuesday's Council Meeting (working title)

Media Coverage

- [Downtown Boise could get a new park soon. Will it come in time for giant Basque festival?](#) [Idaho Statesman]
- [Boise breaks ground on Kaixo Corner, new park celebrating the city's Basque heritage](#) (KBOI Channel 2)
- [New Kaixo Corner park to honor Basque heritage and provide community space downtown](#) (KIVI Channel 6)
- [New Kaixo Corner park to offer community space downtown](#) (KIVI Channel 6)



- [Kaixo Corner + Klean Kitchen + Compost program expands](#) (BoiseDev)
- [The Top 10 Highest-Paying Job Openings Boise Has Right Now](#) [104.3 Wow Country]

2025 Communication Priorities

- City of Boise Flag Redesign Contest (January through May)
- Boise Depot Centennial Celebration (April 13-16, 2025)
- America250 (July 4, 2025 – July 4, 2026)
- Kaixo Corner (521 W Grove Street) Public Opening (July 2025)
- Mayor's Awards for Excellence in Arts & History (September 2025)

GRANTS AND OUTREACH

Annual Grant Program

We are planning the annual Grant Program, which is slated to open in late April or early May. 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](#).

- **Grant Writing Workshop:** We are working with [Premio Services](#), a Boise-based grant writing and consulting agency, to provide a grant writing workshop on March 5, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at City Hall. Details forthcoming.

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 events:

- 2/12: [Returning To Our Senses: A Writing Workshop with Boise City Writer-in-Residence Susan Bruns](#)
- 3/19: [Writing for Life: A Writing Workshop with Boise City Writer-in-Residence Susan Bruns](#)

Cultural Ambassador

Story Story Night is the current City of Boise's [Cultural Ambassador](#) (2024-2025).

Upcoming events:

- 2/25: [Story Story Night: PAWN](#)



- 3/25: [Story Story Night: KNIGHT](#)
- 4/29: [Story Story Night: BiSHOP](#)

Outreach

In December and January, our primary outreach efforts focused on promoting participation in the [Boise Airport Public Art Community Survey](#) through airport signage (print + digital), social media, and direct outreach to airport users/employees. We received 657 responses, exceeding our goal by double.

Upcoming outreach events (**Note:** This is a *tentative* schedule. Additional opportunities may be added throughout the year. Dates and events are subject to change.):

- Feb. 1: Idaho Chinese Organization: 2025 Lunar New Year Celebration at JUMP
- April: Cultural and Creative Industries Focus Groups
- April 13-16: Boise Depot Centennial Celebration
- April 19: Earth Day
- May: Castle Hills Park Re-opening (in the James Castle House neighborhood)
- May – September: City Steps Guided Tours (except July)
- May – October: First Thursdays on the Plaza (except July)
- May 17: Summer Reading & Learning Celebration
- May 18: International Museum Day
- June: Ustick in Bloom (West Valley Neighborhood Association)
- June: World Refugee Day
- June – August: Neighborhood Concert Series
- August/September: Boise Comic Arts Festival (BCAF)
- September: Open Streets Boise
- October: Boise Neighborhood Interactive

EDUCATION AND PUBLIC PROGRAMS

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 met in December and January to review and plan out the 2025 program calendar.



NEEDS FROM COMMISSIONERS

Cultural Program Guide

The January-March Cultural Program Guide is here! 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

- 2/1: Artisans for Hope presents *Sew Tired of Winter* Sale and Open House
- 2/1: Common Ground Community Chorus presents *Retrospective: Celebrating 25 Years of Choral Music*
- 2/2: MING Studios presents *Insight of Youth* Exhibition Opening
- 3/1: Capital City Flute Club presents Flute Fest 2025
- 3/14: Pendulum Early Music Recital

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

- *Desired Action:* Please consider attending.





DEPARTMENT OF ARTS & HISTORY

MAYOR: Lauren McLean | DIRECTOR: Jennifer Stevens

Minutes 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](#)

Commissioners Present: Kris Clegg (Chair), Gaby Thomason (virtual), Camryn Lafrenz, Amanda Ashley (virtual), Rachel Miller, Melissa Thom (virtual), Trish Walker

Commissioners Absent:

Council Liaison: Luci Willits

Staff Present: Jennifer Stevens, Jillian Whitehill, Christine Evangelides Dodd

Public:

- I. **Call to Order** – Commission Chair, Kris Clegg called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m.
 - a. Land Acknowledgement – Commission Chair Kris Clegg
- II. **Minutes Approval**
 - a. **ACTION REQUESTED:** Approve Minutes from August 7th, 2024 (**Exhibit A**)
 - i. Move to approve by Thom at 5:03 p.m., seconded by Ashley at 5:03 p.m.
All in favor. Motion approved.
- III. **Director's Update**
 - a. Commission Revision Updates. Working with leadership to finalize. Will include:
 - i. Commission as advisory;
 - ii. Provide an annual schedule of opportunities to serve;
 - iii. Clearly outline commissioner role;
 - iv. Commission size will remain the same or +1;
 - v. Director's report & staff memos for action items;
 - vi. Re-establish the Arts & History Advocacy Team (AHAT) starting in Spring.
Will support Amerca250 planning. Offering engagement for community;

1. Clegg: Notes that the AHAT committee provides experience for future Arts & History Commissioners.
- vii. TBD: project approvals.
- viii. For now, hold bi-monthly meetings and provide informational memos.
 1. Thom: Asks what help the department needs from the Arts & History Commission to establish AHAT?
 2. Stevens: Replies that no responsibility is needed from the Arts & History Commission. The new Public Programs & Education Manager will recruit for and manage all volunteers and interns which will include AHAT.
 3. Thom: Asks if there will be any communications about AHAT opening that the A&H commissioner can share with their networks.
 4. Stevens: Shares that the department will start by contacting the prior members of AHAT to see if there is interest in re-joining. Then the department will put a call out and would welcome the A&H commission sharing this call.
 5. Clegg: Notes that she has the orientation materials from when she joined AHAT and would be willing to share these if they are helpful.

b. Hiring

- i. Program coordinator at Erma Hayman House (two-year position funded by a grant from the National Trust for Historic Preservation, African American Action Fund). Supporting programming and building relationships with the community.
- ii. City Historian. Initial search failed so have updated the job description and will open hiring in early 2025.
- iii. Public Programs and Education Manager. This position will manage our volunteer core.
 1. Ashley: Asks who wrote the grant for the Erma Hayman House position?
 2. Stevens: Explains that she did.



3. Ashely: Congratulates the work and shares gratitude for the Cultural Sites team and all of the community members that have helped to lift up the Erma Hayman House.
 4. Willits: Asks if the Public Programs and Education Manager will be an additional FTE or reorganizing of current FTEs.
 5. Stevens: Confirms that is reorganizing the responsibilities of two current roles. Moving forward it will be Grants and Outreach Manager and the Public Programming and Education Manager.
 6. Willits: Ask for clarification on the term Advocacy in the AHAT.
 7. Stevens: Explains that members will attend A&H grant funded events on behalf of the Arts & History team an will help to promote department events.
 8. Willits: Expressed worry that Advocacy might imply lobbying and suggested Ambassador as an alternative word.
 9. Stevens: Appreciates the suggestion.
 10. Walker: Asks where to send a recommendation letter for a candidate for the Erma Hayman House Coordinator position.
 11. Stevens: Suggests sending this to the Cultural Sites Manager.
- c. America250 commemoration running from July 4th, 2025 to July 4th, 2026.
- i. Department of Arts & History taking lead on organizing this for the City but will be working extensively with the community to create programming.
 - ii. National themes include: Doing History, We the People, Power of Place, Unfinished Revolutions, American Experiment.
 - iii. Possible local themes: Resilience, Belonging, Renewal, Representation.
 - iv. Forming America250-Boise committee January/February and hope that at least one commissioner will want to join.
 1. Willits: Asks if the State of Idaho has picked their official themes?
 2. Stevens: Explains that they have not officially declared these.
 3. Willits: Offers to help with this.
- d. Needs from Commissioners
- i. Join our upcoming Public Art selection panel
 1. ConRAC mural and Family Restroom Wall Installation at the Boise Airport



- a. Need to know by January. Panel runs February-April. 3-5 meetings, 1.5-3 hours each, plus independent scoring of applicants. 10–15 hour total time commitment
 - 2. Water Node, outside Foothills Learning Center. Will be located on the berm between 8th st. and parking lot. Will be using feedback from community survey.
 - 3. Asphalt Art (by invitation). Near Greenbelt at Warm Springs Golf Course.
 - ii. Pick up a copy of our January-March Cultural Program Guide and share widely!
 - iii. Support & attend A&H and grantee events
 - iv. Have awareness of upcoming campaigns
- e. Upcoming Events
 - i. 12/6-15 – Ballet Idaho Presents The Nutcracker
 - ii. 12/7 – Opera Idaho Children's Choruses Holiday Concert
 - iii. 12/11: Returning To Our Senses: A Writing Workshop with Boise City Writer-in-Residence Susan Bruns
 - iv. 12/14 – Backyard Artists presents Paper Plane Press Volume I Launch Party
 - v. 12/17 – Story Story Late-Night presents THE END
 - vi. 12/26 – Story Story Night presents KiNG

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.*

- a. Boise Arts & History Annual Report – Jennifer Stevens
 - i. Department goals
 - 1. Align department’s work and public programming with the city’s vision
 - 2. Create predictable services and public programming
 - 3. Update department’s vision/mission/values to reflect the city’s diverse populations to enhance connection to place and encourage civic engagement
 - 4. Build and strengthen relationships with city departments and community partners
 - 5. Focus on department’s long-term sustainability



- ii. Throughlines today
 - 1. Boise resident opportunities
 - a. Involvement in City work
 - b. Attendance at cultural events
 - 2. Partnerships
 - 3. Accessibility
 - 4. Resident engagement
- iii. Predictable, repeatable, programming:
 - 1. CORE: City Steps, Cultural Ambassador, Annual Grants, Level Up, Writers in Resident, Artists in Resident
 - 2. Initiative programming
- iv. Department Identity and Collaboration
 - 1. Mission: Cultivate a distinct sense of place which reflects Boise's rich past, diverse communities, and unique natural setting.
 - 2. Departmental Reorganization: professional development and leadership growth opportunities
 - 3. Interdepartmental Collaboration: Parks, Library, Public Works, Airport
 - 4. Predictable, repeatable programing
 - 5. CORE: City Steps, Level Up, Artist in Residence, Writer in Residence, Cultural Ambassador, Annual Grant Program
 - 6. Other: Initiative-based, opportunistic
 - 7. Predictable, repeatable programming schedules
- v. Increase in art installations both large scale and small creating opportunities for various artists. Including Bronze medallions in Old Boise Blocks, 199 traffic box wraps, photographs added to our Boise Visual Chronical collection, working with BSU to create art for art ports (artwork that can be rotated out every 2 years).
 - 1. Thom: Shares experience from selection panel and appreciated the partnership element with BSU professors who offered to support the artist selected.
 - 2. Ashley: Notes value in mentorship opportunities to work with artists who either create larger scale projects or murals, etc.
 - 3. Stevens: Asks if commissioners who sat on this panel have any feedback that she can share with her staff.



4. Thom: Recommends starting out the next selection panel by highlighting this one as an example of success and sharing it as an opportunity of growth for the student artist.
5. Ashely: Reiterates gratitude for the opportunity.
6. Miller: Asks if these calls ever have a two-step process? Concept proposal first then more in-depth proposal second. Notes value in creating an opportunity for professional development.
7. Stevens: Considers the opportunity and acknowledges that professional development is something the A&H department is trying to offer and would like to work with the A&H Commissioners to identifying the best path forward.

vi. Cultural Sites:

1. Family Museum Day: Creating and hosting more intergenerational programming
2. Hosted an event by Story Story Night: Focused on stories from African Americans. What to create programming that invites
 - a. Thom: Suggestion bringing this back for America250
3. Would like to boost memberships at both sites. Are looking for ideas and help with encouraging folks to attend both sites. Still looking at identity at both places.
 - a. Lafrenz: Notes that for youth, verbally promoting events is more successful than posting flyers.
 - b. Clegg: Notes the opportunity for commissioners to support in this capacity.
 - c. Stevens: Shares that the department is in the process of mobilizing a youth advisory committee.
 - d. Thomason: Highlights limited parking as an accessibility issue, particularly for the Erma Hayman House. Are there opportunities to create parking for the Erma Hayman House?
 - e. Stevens: Agrees and explains that she is currently trying to work on this and will keep the commission updated.



- vii. Merging of the Boise Archives with the City Records. With the goal of having a public facing space for citizens to complete research in. Will help to create transparency.
- viii. Partnering with the Library to rotate history exhibitions and create relevant programming.
- ix. Opportunities and programming have increased in the last year. At the same time our applicants for opportunities have also increased. We are unable to meet the demand and are trying to find ways to accommodate.
- x. Deaccessioned a few pieces in the last year.
- xi. Ended the Fettuccine Forum due to steady decline in attendance but are hoping the new City Historian can create a new program in its place.
- xii. Will be expanding upon youth programming.
 - 1. Miller: Shares idea of creating an exhibit from the art created by students the department visits.

V. **Adjourn Meeting**

- a. Commission Chair Clegg asks commissioners to offer a motion to adjourn.
 - i. Miller motions to adjourn, Thomason seconds; all in favor. Moved at 6:17 p.m.

