

“ **This comprehensive city-wide cultural plan**, the first in Boise's history, lays the groundwork for the next five to ten years of development and is a legacy document for future generations to measure against and build upon. Working with the community, the Boise City Department of Arts & History will create a work plan for implementation, will measure movement on the goals, and will update the plan in five to seven years. By investing in culture, we strengthen our people, community, and economy. It is up to all of us to realize these goals and strategies in partnership. ”



What is a CULTURAL PLAN?



City of Boise's Cultural Master Plan is the City's first effort to develop a comprehensive cultural plan and advance strategies for future cultural investments. It is a tool for current and future leaders to understand the evolution of the arts communities and the richness of Boise's history. The plan positions culture prominently as a significant feature of the local economy and city government. Ultimately, this plan tells the story of Boise's multifaceted culture; it looks at what we have in place now—ranging from organizations to facilities and more; lists what is working well and what isn't; identifies new opportunities; and recommends where we, as a community, go next. This plan came from the vision of over a thousand Boise residents. It is their diverse perspectives that provide insight into the depth of Boise's cultural scene reflected in this plan. The staff of A&H shaped the goals from that vision. This participatory nature reflects how community members see and envision Boise's culture.

We encourage the community to help us communicate the importance of cultural identity; to encourage support from private philanthropists, business entities and other organizations for cultural investments; and to understand that everyone plays a role in shaping a vibrant cultural life in Boise.

BOISE: YOU'LL LIKE IT ONCE YOU GET HERE. IT'S *cool*, FRIENDLY, EASY, AND FUN. IT HAS AN INDEPENDENT *and* CREATIVE SPIRIT.

Both the capital city and the largest city in Idaho, the city grew at an unprecedented rate between 1990 and 2016—from a population of 144,665 to 216,282. This is an increase of more than 35%, which is 10% greater than the national average. Boise came out of the recession of 2008 with a vengeance as residential and commercial development increased at a rapid pace downtown and on the city's West and East Ends. Maintaining the authentic character and livability of the city through significant rapid growth and change is important. Critical in this endeavor is nurturing Boise's cultural life.

Boiseans know that our city is special for many reasons, including our proximity to open space, our commitment to economic innovation, and our steadfast support for local arts and history. We express our cultural life broadly through creation and enjoyment of visual art, history, literature, theater, dance, music, food, architecture, media, design, and fashion. It is through these disciplines that we can continually explore our quest for meaning within the context of growth and change. They provide solace and challenge as we find and sustain our connection with community and place.

People in Boise champion cultural expression every day. On any given night, residents and visitors can find dance performances, art openings, festivals, theater productions, live music, or visual arts classes to attend. Boise's cultural network contributes to stronger neighborhoods, low unemployment, and the cultivation of community character and identity. Boise's love of art and history is no accident. It represents the intentional concentration of resources and investment by civic and public entities, artist entrepreneurs, community advocates, historians, business owners, philanthropists, educators, and advocates.

Boise's Mayor and City Council know the importance of place-based culture in making Boise the most livable city in the country. They created the Department of Arts & History in 2008 to carry out the City's mission to enhance the community's quality of life by providing leadership, advocacy, education, services, and support for arts and history. This includes ensuring that consideration of Boise's culture remains an integral part of evaluating future arts and history investments, economic development strategies, and community-building efforts.

THE PLAN PRESENTS *five goals* AND MEASURABLE STRATEGIES THAT ARE NECESSARY TO FULLY DEVELOP BOISE'S LASTING, INNOVATIVE, *and* VIBRANT FUTURE. *They are:*

GOAL 1: DEVELOP CULTURAL POLICY

- Strategy 1.1 Revise Cultural Policies
- Strategy 1.2 Align Boise City Arts & History Mission: City Cultural Services
- Strategy 1.3 Consider New Cultural Policies

GOAL 2: ENHANCE AND PRESERVE NEIGHBORHOOD PLACES

- Strategy 2.1 Preserve Historical Connections
- Strategy 2.2 Cultivate Neighborhood Cultural Vitality through Interdepartmental Efforts
- Strategy 2.3 Localize Cultural Planning

GOAL 3: MAINTAIN AND DEVELOP CULTURAL ASSETS

- Strategy 3.1 Care for and Develop Facilities where Culture is Preserved, Accessed, and Experienced
- Strategy 3.2 Strengthen Leadership in the Investment and Management of Cultural Assets

GOAL 4: FOSTER ORGANIZATIONS & PARTNERSHIPS

- Strategy 4.1 Invest in Cultural Organizations
- Strategy 4.2 Build Resources for Culture
- Strategy 4.3 Provide Regional Leadership & Collaborate with Public/Private Entities
- Strategy 4.4 Lead City Inter-Departmental Partnerships Where Culture Makes a Difference

GOAL 5: EXPAND CULTURAL RESOURCES FOR INDIVIDUALS

- Strategy 5.1 Support the Cultural Work Force
- Strategy 5.2 Foster Community Diversity
- Strategy 5.3 Improve Cultural Education Access
- Strategy 5.4 Provide Greater Access to Arts & History

To see the full copy of the plan, visit our website at BoiseArtsAndHistory.org, or contact us at 208-608-7050.

Our Mission

To enhance Boise by providing leadership, advocacy, education, services, and support for arts and history in order for people to create, engage, and connect with the community.

Our Core Services

- Promote and integrate arts and history into everyday life;
- Create cultural engagement opportunities;
- Support, develop, and maintain cultural infrastructure; and
- Lead special studies and plans.

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& HISTORY**

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www.BoiseArtsandHistory.org

