



BOISE CITY DEPARTMENT OF ARTS & HISTORY
FY17 Annual Report OCTOBER 1, 2016 – SEPTEMBER 30, 2017

A UNIQUE CITY IS DEFINED BY
THE QUALITY OF ITS ART AND
THE RICHNESS OF ITS HISTORY:
EXPERIENCE BOISE.



Terri Schorzman, *Director*
Department of Arts & History
Photo courtesy of Jay Saenz

FROM THE DIRECTOR

In fiscal year 2017, the Boise City Department of Arts & History (A&H) installed several major public art projects and historical interpretive signs, broke ground on the renovation of

the James Castle House, established the city archives, celebrated twenty years of the grant program, launched the first-ever City of Boise Cultural Plan, and cared for a growing collection of art and artifacts. These projects, among many others, helped establish A&H as an integral force in the life of Boise's arts, culture, and history.

This report, our ninth since becoming a city department, highlights these projects and more. You will see throughout the report that we—as a City of Boise team working on behalf of Boiseans—value a community that is lasting, innovative, and vibrant. The result of our work is seen and felt every day. It makes Boise a special place to be. A place where all are welcome.

We are honored to work for Boise residents to ensure all have opportunities to experience local art and history. The new Cultural Plan helps us in this quest. The plan is a tool for current and future leaders to understand the evolution of the arts community and the richness of Boise's history, and recommends goals and strategies to help develop an integrated, vibrant cultural environment. These goals are highlighted in this document and can be found in detail in the full plan at www.boiseartsandhistory.org/cultural-master-plan/.



Chiaroscuro, Kristen Hill

FISCAL YEAR 2017 QUICK FACTS

\$5,370,339

Overall value of City's art collection



16

A&H employees (full-time and part-time)

262



Oral history interviews captured and transcribed since 2009

46

Archival material accessioned in linear feet

388

A&H Grant Fund awards since 1997

33



Historic artifacts added to collection

1.4%

Of all City Capital dollars reserved for public art

68

Local contractors/fabricators/vendors hired in FY17



Artists hired in FY17



Amount from each dollar of the City of Boise budget that is dedicated to Department of Arts & History

612

Artworks in City-owned collections

\$1,125,000

Dollars awarded through the A&H Grant Fund since 1997

269

Streets made vibrant

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.

VISION

Making Boise the most livable city by ensuring that people have access to art and history and opportunities to experience Boise through a variety of cultural offerings.

ADMINISTRATION

Administrative functions encompass communications and outreach, cultural planning, and department events. See highlights below from fiscal year 2017.

COMMUNICATION & OUTREACH

Staff synthesized internal operations related to communications and engagement and aligned efforts to integrate cohesively with other departments and the Office of Community Engagement. The priorities for FY2017 included: content strategy and planning, developing assets to support department events and programs, formalizing the City of Boise's Cultural Ambassador program, finalizing graphic design and brand standards and managing all electronic media and press relations.

CULTURAL PLANNING

In March 2017, staff completed the Boise City Cultural Master Plan, a multi-year roadmap that aligns the department's mission with citywide cultural services and the broader cultural community. With its completion, Boise created a new Cultural Planner position for immediate and long-term implementation. Karen Bubb, formerly Boise's Public Art Manager, transitioned into this role after leading the cultural plan initiative.

The cultural plan established five primary goals with accompanying measurable strategies: to (1) develop cultural policy; (2) enhance and preserve neighborhood places; (3) maintain and develop cultural assets; (4) foster organizations and partnerships; and (5) expand cultural resources for individuals.

The American Planning Association (APA) Idaho Chapter honored the department by awarding the Cultural Plan a Gem Award for planning achievement and community leadership.

NEW STAFF

Jennifer Yribar joined the Department of Arts & History in February 2017 as a part-time Outreach & Education Coordinator

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CREATORS, MAKERS, & DOERS

(BLOG AND VIDEO CONTENT)
A&H continued this series to highlight local creatives and grant recipients on our blog.

SOCIAL MEDIA

(FACEBOOK, INSTAGRAM, and TWITTER)
Staff maintains a steady flow of social media content to inform the public about A&H projects, programs, grant recipient events, and professional opportunities.

WEBSITE

WWW.BOISEARTSANDHISTORY.ORG
Staff continually updates the A&H website, which features digitized art and history collections, interactive maps, how-to-guides, department programs, and more. The site complies with ADA accessibility requirements and responsive screen engagement.

EVENTS/PROJECTS— SUPPORT & ASSETS

The department hosted events and projects that ranged from public art dedications to the groundbreaking ceremony for the James Castle House.

EVENTS

2017 MAYOR'S AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE IN ARTS & HISTORY

The Mayor's Awards for Excellence in Arts & History is a biennial award program to honor those in our community who have demonstrated distinguished service, creative accomplishment or other work to benefit the artistic, historic, or broader cultural life of Boise.

The Department of Arts & History hosted the event with the Mayor's Office at the historic Boise Depot on Thursday, September 21. Below is a full list of the honorees:

Excellence in the Arts

Sue Latta

Excellence in History

Jennifer Stevens, PhD

Excellence in Education

James Jirak, PhD

Emerging Organizations

LED
Sector Seventeen

Support of the Arts

Rocci Johnson
Radio Boise

Spotlight Award

Boise Art Museum –
80th Anniversary



Mayor David H. Bieter and some of the 2017 Mayor's Awards and Cultural Ambassador recipients. Not pictured: James Jirak, Rocci Johnson



Pictured from left to right: James Patrick (Morrison Center for the Performing Arts), Mayor David H. Bieter, Dayo Ayodele, Girish Cherussery, and Donna Kovaleski (Global Lounge)

CULTURAL AMBASSADOR

Mayor David Bieter named Global Lounge, founder of the World Village Festival, and the Velma V. Morrison Center for the Performing Arts, Idaho's premier performing arts center located on the campus of Boise State University, as the City of Boise's 2017 cultural ambassadors. Both will serve two-year terms. As part of the recognition, Global Lounge and the Morrison Center will act as Boise's honorary representatives to the world.

Mayor Bieter and Terri Schorzman, director of the city's Department of Arts and History, made the announcement at the 2017 Mayor's Awards for Excellence in Arts & History on Thursday, September 21, 2017. The City of Boise Cultural Ambassador program is designed to share Boise's cultural and creative community with other cities across the globe and foster connection to global audiences. The Department of Arts and History staff manages the program, and the mayor presents the honorific title. Past recipients include Treefort Music Fest, Anthony Doerr, Idaho Shakespeare Festival, and Trey McIntyre Project.



James Castle at desk in trailer.
James Castle Collection and Archive, L.P.

ABOUT JAMES CASTLE

James Castle (1899-1977) was an artist, born deaf in the tranquil settlement of Garden Valley, Idaho nearly 120 years ago. Presumed to have very little language, Castle communicated primarily through his production of images drawn on found materials, such as discarded mail and food containers, with an improvised ink of his own saliva tempered by soot from the wood burning stoves of the various residences that quartered him throughout his life. His distinct drawings, assemblages, and books explored the interiors of buildings, the external landscapes, and the animals and people that filled his environment, and yet Castle's work equally explored his own interior, the housing of a soundless landscape which he appeared to roam by touch, such was the tactile and immediate, yet practical nature of his artistic impulse.



Groundbreaking ceremony at the James Castle House, June 6, 2017

CULTURAL SITES

The Cultural Sites program saves, reinvents and promotes historic properties unique to our city's history. Valuable historic buildings are saved and re-purposed, creating meaningful new opportunities for the community to collaborate and engage in physical spaces that are literally irreplaceable.

Saving and restoring a community's cultural assets plays an important role in economic development—local and national data demonstrate a high return on investment for redevelopment and historic preservation.

JAMES CASTLE HOUSE

For FY2017, the Department of Arts & History broke ground on June 6, 2017 to begin the physical restoration and renovation of the James Castle House. When completed in early 2018, the house will serve as a testimony to the life and work of self-taught visual artist, James Castle and offer diverse educational opportunities, exhibition space, and residency programs. The James Castle House will preserve Castle's spaces while supporting emerging artists offering an authentic context for better understanding the interplay between environment and creative process.

PLANNING FOR FUTURE SITES

Staff continues work on developing strategies for potential future additions to the Cultural Sites program and companion programming to preserve and create unique and meaningful experiences that provide a sense of place for residents and visitors.

NEW STAFF

Melissa Swafford joined the Department of Arts & History in Fall 2017 as a part-time Retail/Customer Service Coordinator.

ARCHIVES

The Archives program is responsible for identifying, preserving, and making accessible records and papers of enduring value. Correspondence, meeting minutes, photographs, and maps—they all tell a story. And like all good stories, their survival requires a collective commitment to maintain and care for them. The Boise City Department of Arts & History’s Archives program was created for this purpose.

In FY2017, staff delved into the monumental task of developing a new archives program from the ground up. In the program’s inaugural year, staff established an organizational structure for the archives and its collections that aligned with professional standards, developed short- and long-term goals, obtained physical and intellectual control over existing collections, managed controlled expansion of collections, and planned for greater public outreach and research access.

ESTABLISHING PROGRAM FOUNDATION

- Met with staff from other City Departments to inform and update on archives progress.
- Updated and finalized Collection Management Policy.
- Reviewed existing collections and determined those that required finalized legal agreements and formal accessioning.

EXISTING COLLECTION ASSESSMENT, PROCESSING, & CARE

- Rehoused the most at-risk and integral municipal records with support from the City Clerk’s Office staff. Examples include original mayor and city council minutes, ordinances, resolutions, and subdivision plat books, some of which date back to the 1860s.
- Secured a storage facility lease (renewable on annual basis) for archival and artifact collections. This required organizing and preparing collections to meet archival standards, cleaning the site, and establishing an integrated pest monitoring plan.
- Tracked and updated collection information in the Proficio database.

NEW ACQUISITIONS

- Accessioned a subset of a large photograph collection offered to the department; prioritized the most unstable photograph negatives to process first.

ENGAGEMENT

- Led outreach effort through LEAD Boise tours to inform a broad contingent of city staff about the importance of preserving records and establishing an archives program.
- Contributed to curation of A&H exhibits (3rd Floor City Hall).
- Planned and developed programming for National Archives Month (held in October 2017, the start of Fiscal Year 2018).



NEW STAFF

Stephanie Milne-Lane joined the Department of Arts & History in October 2017 as our first Archivist.

A&H EXHIBITS

Department of Arts & History staff curated five exhibits in FY2017 for public display on the third floor of City Hall. A collaborative team developed and fabricated these exhibits to showcase the culturally rich developments in the department that help make Boise lasting, innovative, and vibrant.

Twenty Years of Grants

October 2016 to January 2017

Ustick 110th Anniversary

January 2017 to April 2017

Boise WaterShed

April 2017 to June 2017

Boise Minute Maids

June 2017 to August 2017

James Castle

August 2017 to September 2017



Charles and Dee, by Samuel Paden, Boise Visual Chronicle

PUBLIC ART

Public Art contributes to Boise’s unique sense of place and engages residents in the design of our built environment.

Eligible City of Boise capital projects set aside 1.4% of funds to integrate public art into city-owned facilities. The Department of Arts & History public art staff identifies suitable opportunities and manages artist selection, fabrication, installation, maintenance, and conservation of these projects. Free tours, print media, website information, community lectures and workshops all serve to educate the public about the collections. Staff members also manage public art projects for Capital City Development Corporation and others who contribute funds to commission original public art in Boise.

PUBLIC ART ACADEMY

Staff held the fifth annual Public Art Academy in FY2017 for twenty-two participants. This eight-week program helped Boise artists strengthen their understanding about the public art process and learn how to best compete for commissions. A panel of jurors selected one artist to create a \$9,000 temporary public art project for FY2017.

BOISE CITY’S PUBLIC ART COLLECTION CONSISTS OF 612 WORKS AND IS VALUED AT OVER \$5,370,339 AND GROWING.

- Permanent public art: 150
- Traffic box wraps: 167
- Boise Visual Chronicle: 214
- Portable Works Collection: 81

NEW STAFF

Catina Crum joined the Department of Arts & History in Summer 2017 as the Public Art Assistant.

FY 2017 COMPLETED ARTWORKS:

➔ **Cottonwoods**

Dwaine Carver and Zach Hill
CITY HALL PLAZA
\$205,899



↑ **Integration**

Sector Seventeen

Finch Tower

Stephanie Inman

Landmark signage

Trademark Creative

States of Flow

Perri Howard

RHODES SKATE PARK (all 4 works)

\$223,200

Vox Poplar

Janet Zweig

LIBRARY! AT BOWN CROSSING

\$60,000

➔ **Call and Respond**

Ken McCall, Leslie Dixon
and Mark Baltes

FIRE STATION 8

\$45,000

Traffic Boxes

23 artists

CITYWIDE

\$42,000

Transference

Ken McCall and Leslie Dixon
BOISE STATE UNIVERSITY

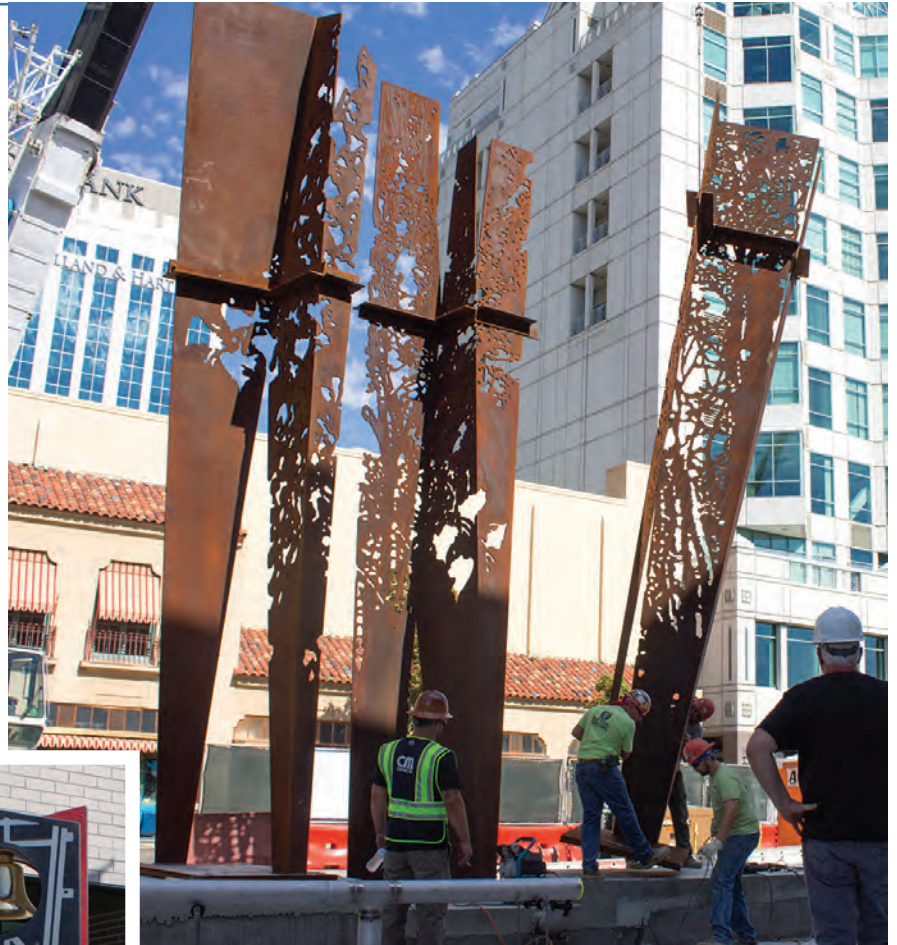
\$25,000

**Boise Visual Chronicle
Acquisitions**

6 local artists

ARTS & HISTORY COLLECTION

\$15,600



Portable Works Collection

22 acquisitions

ARTS & HISTORY

COLLECTION

\$12,680

Cottonwood Leaves

Matt Grover

BROADWAY INTERCHANGE

\$9,999

**Valley Regional Transit
Shelter Artwork**

Marlene Mussler-Wright,
Nicole MacDonald and
Connie Wood

VISTA AVENUE

\$6,000

Utility Hole Covers

Kirsten Furlong, Rick Friesen
and Charles Haman

CENTRAL ADDITION

\$6,000

Comic Con Mural

Adam Rosenlund

BOISE MAIN LIBRARY

\$3,000

Fence

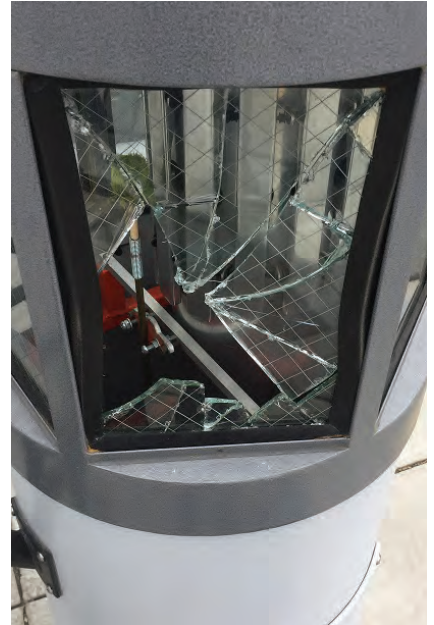
April VanDeGrift
LINEN DISTRICT

\$3,000

CARE & CONSERVATION

The City of Boise's public artworks reside inside and outside of both private and public facilities throughout the city; all require ongoing preventative, corrective, and emergency maintenance and conservation. New assets are fabricated, purchased or gifted each year, which creates an ever-increasing need for resources. Staff performed routine cleaning and inspection on all 612 assets of public art work as part of a comprehensive preventative maintenance schedule and has furthered efforts to efficiently transition each new object into city inventory and perform necessary corrective maintenance. In FY2017 staff also began exploring a broader scope of care and conservation to align with the department's new initiatives related to cultural sites, historic buildings, and interpretive panels. Staff also is planning to address the needs of "orphaned" medallions, statues, and other structures and objects in the public sector that need attention.

Staff appreciates the support from the Boise Airport, Government Building, Public Works Engineering, Human Resources, Mayor and Council, IT Department, and the Parks and Recreation Department in fiscal year 2017 care and conservation efforts.



Bike Trio - showing damage from vandalism

FY2017 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Collection Management

Updated inventory and corresponding database records

Developed signage standards related to materials, fabrication, and installation methods

Framing Standards

Designed and implemented for 35 new and existing works in the Boise Visual Chronicle Collection

Outreach

Contributed to curation of A&H exhibits (3rd Floor City Hall) and the City of Boise's Cole & Ustick Public Library

Corrective Maintenance and Conservation

Staff cleaned and repaired more than ten significant works, two of which (*River Sculpture* and *Bike Trio*) required emergency measures due to extensive damage.



River Sculpture repair, corner of Capitol & Front streets



Terra Firma by Elizabeth Wolf, 2017 reinstallation, Boise Airport

HISTORY

History programs staff documents, collects and preserves vital historical information about the city from which interpretive programming, communication tools, publications, heritage tourism opportunities, festivals and other initiatives emerge.

In FY2017, staff developed and implemented educational and collaborative programs, grew collections, managed internal department and citywide projects and conducted research generated from Boise citizen requests.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

- **Fettuccine Forum** – civic engagement program, providing informative presentations on a variety of topics.

COLLECTION MANAGEMENT

- **Oral histories** – added interviews to the Police Department collection and the Citizens of Boise project; the oral history collection now totals more than 260 interviews.
- **Historic objects and artifacts** – catalogued items from the Women’s March held on January 21, 2017 in Boise as part of a national movement.

RESEARCH & TRAINING

- Provided training in conducting oral history interviews.
- Responded to forty public research requests.
- Conducted more than 900 hours researching and inventorying objects found at the James Castle House.

COLLABORATIVE PROJECTS

Staff provided professional oversight and promoted deliverables related to the City of Boise’s Neighborhood Reinvestment Program and Neighborhood Association funded projects.

- **The Lost Town of Barber** (for the Southeast Neighborhood Association) – Project included research, report, presentations, and bike tours related to this company town and lumber mill.
- **President Franklin D. Roosevelt’s 1937 Boise visit** (North End Neighborhood Association) – Project resulted in a research report, two interpretive signs installed at North Junior High, and a commemorative bronze medallion.
- **Pocket Guide to North End Groceries** (North End Neighborhood Association) – The association printed a companion piece to their earlier project related to research and interpretive signs on the same subject.
- **Broadway Bridge mitigation project** (with Idaho Transportation Department) – project components included interpretive signs installed in April 2017 and a booklet based on the bridge’s history.
- **Boise Art Museum’s 80th Anniversary exhibit**
- **Tour of the Reserves** (Idaho Conservation League) – presented historical information related to the Boise foothills.
- Contributed to curation of **A&H exhibits** (3rd Floor City Hall)



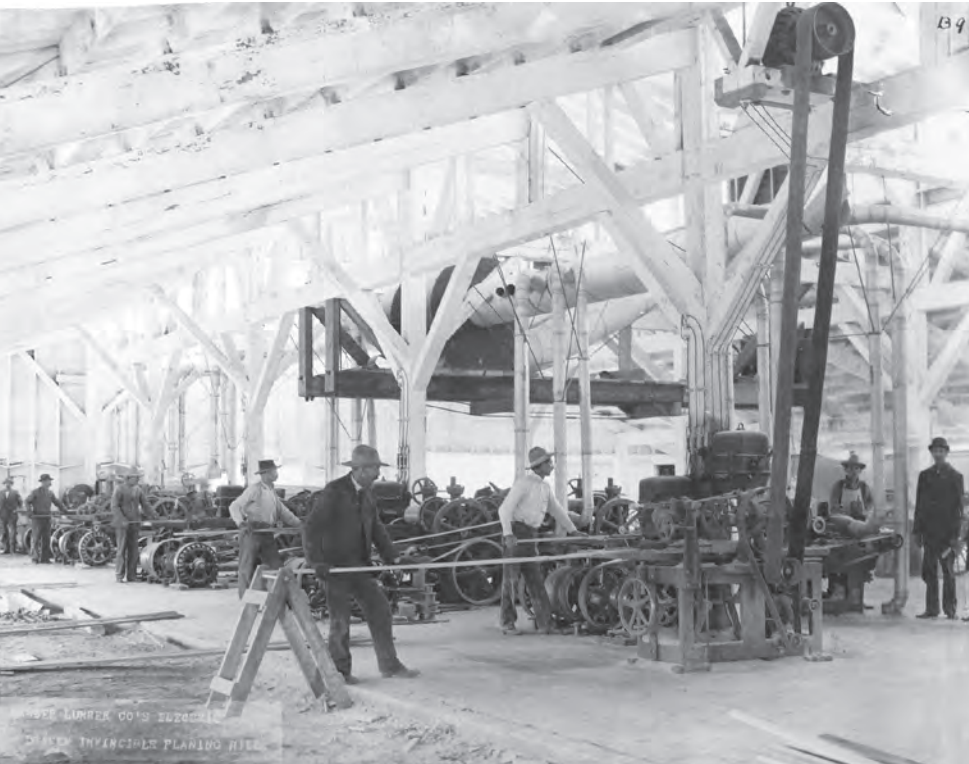
Franklin Delano Roosevelt at the Boise Depot during his visit to Boise on September 27, 1937



Streetcar traveling across the original Broadway Bridge to South Boise



Blunt's Market, a neighborhood grocery store in the North End



Barber Lumber mill in east Boise

NEW STAFF

Mark Iverson joined the Arts & History Department in February 2017 as a part-time History Programs Assistant.

FETTUCCINE FORUM

October 6, 2016

Public Art & Public Spaces

November 3, 2016

Researching the Novel

February 2, 2017

Lessons from Nineteenth-Century Slavery Politics

March 2, 2017

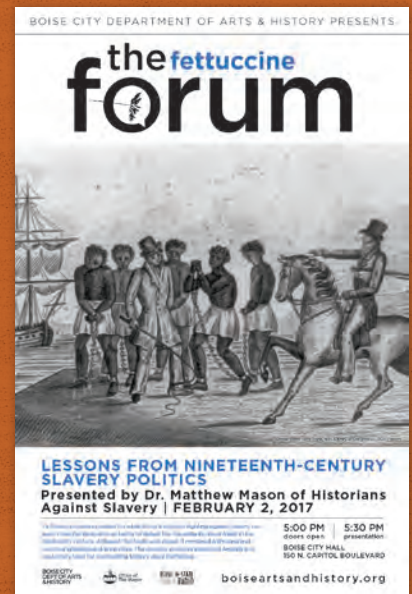
Granted: City Support for Arts & Culture

April 6, 2017

How the Greenbelt Saved Boise

May 4, 2017

Singing Their Story – A Tribute to the Shoshone-Bannock Tribe



A&H GRANTS

The Boise City Department of Arts & History celebrated the 20th anniversary of its annual grant program with a distribution of \$200,000 to 33 recipients for FY2017. The grants support quality projects or initiatives that develop, document, research, share, or reflect upon Boise's culture. A panel review team awarded amounts between \$1,000 to \$10,000 and assessed applicants based on quality, management and community accessibility—supporting projects that ultimately contribute toward making Boise a lasting, innovative, and vibrant city through arts and history.

In FY2017, staff managed all components of the application process for the FY2018 grant selection cycle.

Also of Note:

Staff implemented a new online application system used by other City Departments to streamline operations and improve efficiency. This expedited the application and evaluation process during FY2017 for FY2018 grants. Staff also organized an open call for grant review panelists in FY2017 to expand opportunities for public input in the selection process.



World Refugee Day, Grove Plaza, June 17, 2017

FY2017 ARTS & HISTORY GRANT RECIPIENTS



\$10,000

Ballet Idaho | Learning through Dance education outreach and scholarship program

↑ **Boise Contemporary Theater** | General support for 2016-2017 season and programs

Boise Philharmonic | Musicians in the Classroom 2016-2017 (Boise School District 2nd-graders)

Global Lounge | Multicultural performances for free 3-day World Village event

Idaho Horror Film Festival | Multi-faceted film festival with educational programs for emerging filmmakers

\$8,000

↓ **Friends of MK Nature Center** | Mosaic art with interpretive signage at MK Nature Center

Idaho Shakespeare Festival
Access Program, educational and experiential opportunities for underserved audiences

Mladi Behar | Sevdah Music Festival comprised of lecture, workshop, and concert



\$7,000

Bogus Basin Recreational Association
Traveling exhibit and accompanying video celebrating Bogus Basin's 75th anniversary



↑ **Idaho Dance Theatre** | Season performances with collaborative components and film production

LED | This Way to Egress performance combining dance, original live music and film

Off Center Dance | Spring 2017 performances inspired by Idaho landscapes and the four elements

\$6,000

Jordan Noël Hawkes | Filmfort year-round community workshops, screenings and discussions to support local filmmakers

Opera Idaho | Johan Strauss Jr.'s operetta Die Fledermaus performances

\$5,000

208 Ensemble | Operational and production support for 2016-2017 season

Boise Baroque Orchestra | Artistic and administrative support for 2016-2017 season

Boise Gay Men's Chorus | General support for 2016-2017 men's chorus and women's chorus

Chris Copelin | Two Quarters Collective vending machine with hand-written letters stationed at Boise Public Library

Christian Winn | Storyfort, four-day program (writing workshops, speakers, storytelling)

Elizabeth Rodgers | Collaborative short narrative film set in Boise

Ghosts & Projectors | Support for 2016-2017 poetry reading series

Idaho Green Fest | Artistic and performance components for free community event

MING Studios | Contrappunto large-scale installation and exhibition related to mega fires by Giuseppe Licari



Preservation Idaho | New website featuring cultural resources and educational offerings

↑ **Radio Boise** | Live in-studio programs and on-air recordings featuring local and visiting musicians, performers, writers and artists

Steven Cody Gittings | Production and presentation of original film Captain Marquand and the Misfits

Story Story Night | Support for 2016-2017 storytelling season in Boise

Wingtip Press | Public printmaking workshops exploring downtown Boise's historical and cultural diversity

\$4,000

Basque Museum & Cultural Center
Interpretive signage and educational products for historic Cyrus Jacobs-Uberuaga Boarding House and Museum

Kristin Hill | Chiaroscuro experiential multi-discipline and collaborative art installation

\$3,000

Idaho Office for Refugees | World Refugee Day, free community event with cultural performances, art and citizenship ceremony

Idaho Writers Guild | Idaho Writers Conference presenting professional workshops, seminars and access to agents and manuscript editors

\$2,000

Boise Rock School | Music camp scholarships for refugee and underserved youth

PEOPLE

STAFF

Terri Schorzman, Director
 Chelsea Boehm, Graduate History Fellow, Boise State University
 Karen Bubb, Cultural Planner
 Brandi Burns, History Program Manager
 Kelsey Green / Kaycee Babb, Electronic Media Specialist
 Catina Crum, Public Art Assistant
 Amy Fackler, Cultural Program Manager
 Caitlin Hocklander, History Research Assistant
 Mark Iverson, History Programs Assistant
 Karl LeClair, Public Art Manager
 Stephanie Milne-Lane, Archivist
 Annie Murphy, Cultural Assets Program Assistant
 Jeanette O'Dell, Administrative Assistant
 Joshua Olson, Cultural Asset Program Manager
 Rachel Reichert, Cultural Sites Manager
 Melissa Swafford, Cultural Sites Retail/Customer Service Coordinator
 Jennifer Yribar, Outreach & Education Coordinator

MAYOR AND COUNCIL

Mayor David H. Bieter
 Council President Elaine Clegg
 Council Pro Tem Lauren McLean
 Council Member Maryanne Jordan
 Council Member Scot Ludwig
 Council Member Ben Quintana
 Council Member TJ Thomson

COMMISSIONERS FY2017

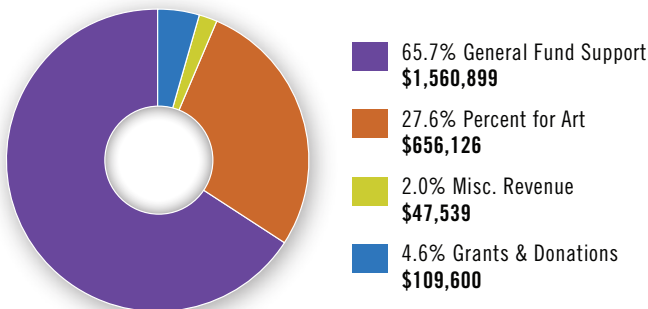
Alecia Baker (Chair)
 Eve Chandler
 Jessica Flynn
 John Hand
 Jody Ochoa
 Dede Ryan
 Hanna Hilgeman (Youth Commissioner)
 Clean McElwain (Youth Commissioner)

ARTS & HISTORY ADVISORY TEAM

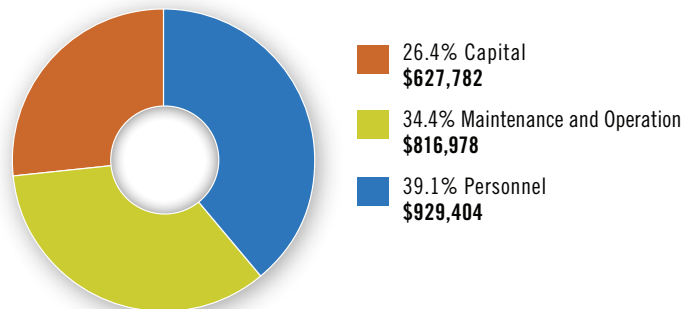
Nellie Baker
 Kelly Bickle
 Kris Clegg
 Susie Fisher
 Holly Funk
 John Hand
 Nicole Herden
 Gwyn Hervochon
 Neil Luther
 Joan Scofield

FINANCIALS

FY17 REVENUE



FY17 EXPENSES



boiseartsandhistory.org