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

The Boise City Department of Arts & History’s (A&H) fiscal year 2015 was a time of transition and progress. The Sesquishop, a temporary community space created initially for BOISE 150, closed in late December 2014. Staff held a grand finale farewell party on December 21, 2014 to celebrate its two-year run.

Public art projects remained at full throttle. Staff completed four major commission projects and processed the Driek and Michael Zirinsky donation of fifty significant artworks by local artists into the Boise Visual Chronicle and Portable Works Collection. Continual ongoing conservation efforts helped to maintain the health of the collection and remedy issues that inevitably arise from age and exposure to the elements and the public.

Staff also finalized an archives and collections program plan, a long-term effort for preserving our valuable assets and making them available for research.

The History division kept busy with educational workshops and presentations; oral history interviews; objects and manuscripts processing; research, writing, and editing; and public displays and interpretation at City Hall.

The A&H Grant program awarded twenty grants for a total distribution of $76,500 to individuals and organizations. Recipients’ projects ranged from educational programs, to theater production, to a three-day World Village community event.

We also began a new major undertaking: the purchase of artist James Castle home site on Castle Drive. Immediate efforts focused upon basic clean-up of the site with concurrent planning for stabilization, construction, and programming.

The end of the fiscal year included a celebration of local artists and historians with the Mayor’s Awards for Excellence in Arts & History. Six individuals, an organization, and a business all received honors through this biennial program.

It was another whirlwind year, but one that presented opportunities for Boise citizens to create, engage, and connect with their community and in doing so make it ever stronger and culturally dynamic.

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

Boise is the most livable city in the country because it ensures that people have access to art and history and the opportunity to experience Boise through a variety of cultural offerings.

QUICK FACTS

- Full-time A&H employees: 7
- Amount from each dollar of the City of Boise budget that is dedicated to Department of Arts & History: $0.01
- Historic documents and objects saved: 1,895
- Oral histories recorded: 151
- Streets made vibrant: 216
- Artists hired in FY15: 75
- Awards through Arts & History grants and cultural Economic Development Funds: $977,710
- Individuals and organizations received funding from the A&H Grant Fund since 1997: 355
- Local contractors/fabricators/vendors hired in FY15: 66
- Individuals and Organizations honored with a Mayor’s Award since 1986: 112
- Overall value of City’s art collection: $5,490,000
PUBLIC ART

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

Public Art Projects
Eligible City of Boise capital projects have 1.4% of funds set aside to integrate public art into city-owned facilities. The Department of Arts & History public art staff manages artist selection, fabrication, installation, maintenance, and conservation of these projects. Boise City's public art collection consists of more than 450 works and is valued at $5,490,000 and growing. 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, private investors, and others who contribute funds to commission original public art in Boise.

Permanent public art:  111
Traffic box wraps:  107
Boise Visual Chronicle:  185
Digital Art collection:  19
Portable Works Collection:  44

AWARDS & HONORS
Harvard University recognized the City of Boise and its Department of Arts and History as a semifinalist for its 2015 Innovations in American Government Award, for the second time since 2013. The Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation applauded the commemoration of BOISE 150—the 150th anniversary of the city—for how it brought the community together through programming rich with meaning, authenticity, relevance, and diversity. This engagement reinforced the importance of history, art and culture within this great community.

COMMUNICATIONS AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
Videos Profiles / Blog: Creators, Makers, & Doers - This series highlights the lives and work of Boise artists and creative individuals. For fiscal year 2015, those interviewed through the videos and blog focused on public artists, with plans to continue the series and profile others who A&H directly support through funding, projects, and programs.
E-newsletter, Social Media (Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter posts)- Information and images are disseminated regularly to help inform the public about A&H projects, programs, and opportunities.
Web – Staff commenced with planning for a new A&H website that is anticipated to roll out in FY2016.

NEW PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES
James Castle Home Site – The City of Boise purchased the home of internationally known artist James Castle in July 2015. When completed, the James Castle Home Site will preserve the Castle family home, outbuildings, and grounds where James Castle lived and worked. Programming will include permanent and temporary exhibitions, an Artist-in-Residence program, and other engagement and educational opportunities. The James Castle Home Site will be the only site open to the public that commemorates the life of an Idaho artist.

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GOALS
INTEGRATE
art into the daily life of citizens, thus engaging residents and visitors in the civic environment

ENGAGE
artists and citizens in the design of the built environment.

COMMISSION AND PURCHASE
new permanent and temporary public artwork for public spaces and for the Boise Visual Chronicle.

EDUCATE
the public about Boise’s public art collection through tours, print and electronic media, and workshops and lectures.

CONSERVE AND MAINTAIN
artworks in the Boise City’s collection

I'm a 950 But I Want to Be 1000,
Stephanie Wilde
Boise Visual Chronicle
Etudes,
Cassandra Schiffler
Boise Visual Chronicle

5
Public art program staff managed a wide range of projects throughout Fiscal Year 2015:

**Completed Art Works**
- **Skybridge**, by Seth Palminter, located at Boise Airport, $55,000
- **Little Free Library: Free Brain Candy**, by Ruth Fritz and Ken McCall, located at Roosevelt Street Marliet, $3,000
- **Rivers & Roads: Out for a Walk and Rivers & Roads: Scenic Overlook**, Sue Latta, located at Boise City Hall, $10,000
- **Four Stories**, by Byron Folwell, located at Boise City Hall, $24,000

**Gifts Received**
- **Wildland Firefighter**, by Lawrence Nowlan, Donated by the Wildland Firefighter Foundation, located at Boise Airport $90,000
- **Fifty works by forty Idaho artists for the Boise Visual Chronicle and Portable Works Collection**, Donated by Driek and Michael Zirinsky, $45,500
- **Usual**, by Kerry Moosman donated by several donors, $7,000

**Public Artworks De-accessioned** (due to deterioration and sustainability issues)
- **Phillips Park sidewalk art by Elizabeth Wolf**
- **McDevit Skate Park Mural by Grant Olsen**

**Awards Received**
- **Idaho Smartgrowth Award for Community Excellence for the 30th Street Cultural Plan** by Stephanie Inman

**Education**
- Staff held the third annual Public Art Academy, an eight-week class series for Boise artists to learn about how to compete in the public art arena. Twenty artists participated in the program and three artist teams, representing four individuals, were selected to create a $3,000 commissioned, class-related Temporary Public Art project.

**CULTURAL ASSET MANAGEMENT**

**Projects**
Public art works require ongoing maintenance and conservation for all 500+ cultural assets in our inventory. These services include fall and winter preparations, such as repairs with temperature sensitive applications. Responsibilities also include contract management and monitoring for all new and existing works, communication and coordination with other departments within the City of Boise, such as Parks & Recreation, Purchasing, IT, and Risk & Safety.

In addition to oversight and maintenance of the entire collection, the following works required major undertakings in Fiscal Year 2015 related to significant preventative, corrective, and emergency maintenance:
- **River Sculpture** – Renovation
- **Boise Chinatown Historic Site** – Restore and reinstall
- **Virgo Downtown** – Preparations for removal
- **Boise Totems** – Clean, patina, and wax
- **Spring Run** – Patina restored and waxed
- **Grove Street Illuminated** – Brick work and electric repairs
- **Mayors Wall** – Material review and care assessment
- **Traffic boxes** – Cleaned, grout removal and repair/all 100 inspected
- **Beastiae Infenum and sign** – Extensive damage due to reckless truck driver
- **Aero Agoseris/Dandelion** – Powder coating and lengthening, reinstall
- **Bike Trio** – Engineering repaired/tightened and aligned/cleaned, lubed
- **Watershed Exhibits and Public Art** – Pipe Tree extensive repair and safety repair; H2O Wind Translator electric work, dust and grease

**Public Art in City Parks**
The following list summarizes maintenance completed on works in the City Parks.
- **Ivywild Park**: Historic Streetcar cleaned, waxed, and painted; replaced water-jet letters
- **Morris Hill Park**: Sprout bronze sculpture patina work completed
- **Julia Davis Park**: Jesus Urquidez bronze drainage solutions; wax and patina; stone work
- **Fort Boise Community Center**: Keepsies sculpture bronze patina resurfacing; clean and wax
- **Warms Springs Golf Course**: Made extensive repairs to Gone Native mosaic
- **Zoo Boise**: Mosaic animal sculptures removed for construction project. Relocation pending.
- **Riverside Park**: Trade Center Memorial patina wax test and bronze cleaning
CULTURAL PROGRAMS

Cultural programing cultivates and promotes the creativity and depth of our city through supporting and collaborating with organizations and individuals to develop culturally related ventures of high quality. These endeavors are powerful tools that bridge cultural gaps, create civic dialogue, and help make Boise the most livable city in the country.

In FY2015, Cultural Programs focused upon grant program management, archival and collections planning, and special events.

Mayors’ Awards for Excellence in Arts & History

Presented every two years, the awards celebrate people, organizations, and businesses that have contributed to Boise’s artistic and cultural community. Award recipients must have demonstrated distinguished service, creative accomplishment, and a record of publication, presentation or research that enhances the artistic, historic, and broader cultural life of Boise. The awards began in 1986; to date, more than 100 people and organizations have been recognized since its inception. Award recipients were honored at a cocktail-style reception and awards presentation on Thursday, September 10, 2015 from 5:30-7:30 pm at the Boise Depot. The Department of Arts & History hosted the event, and Mayor Bieter presented the awards.

2015 AWARD RECIPIENTS:

- Excellence in Arts – Individual: Carl Rowe
- Excellence in Art Education – Individual: Marguerite Lawrence
- Excellence in the Arts – Emerging Organization: MING Studios
- Excellence in the Field of History – Individual: Errol Jones
- Support of the Arts: Drick and Michael Zirnisky
- Business Support of Culture: Modern Hotel & Bar
- Lifetime Achievement: John Colias

GOALS

CREATE opportunities to engage citizens in the cultural life of the city.

DEVELOP awareness of and appreciation for Boise’s rich cultural resources.

PARTNER with local organizations and individuals to cultivate and expand cultural programs and opportunities.

CONNECT Boiseans with their community and with each other.

INFORM the community about the diverse array of cultural offerings.

INTERSECTION: Archives as Artistic Inspiration

Staff coordinated a public presentation with a trio from Portland, Oregon (archivist Diana Banning, artists Kaia Sand and Garrick Immita) to discuss the artist-in-residence collaboration between the City of Portland Archives & Records Center and the Regional Arts & Culture Council. The presentation was held at City Hall Council Chambers on November 19, 2014 and addressed the inspiration and logistics related to archival materials and creative artistic outcomes. A group discussion was also held at Boise State University with professors and staff.

Arts & History Grant Program

The Department of Arts & History awarded twenty different organizations and individuals grants for its Fiscal Year 2015 program. Amounts range between $1,000 to $5,000 for a total of $76,500. Grants are reviewed by a panel and awarded 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.

- Rock on Wheels: $10,000, Large-scale portraits of Boise refugees displayed in Downtown Boise
- Off Center Dance: $10,000, “Learning Through Dance” arts education program in Boise schools
- Boise Gay Men’s Chorus: $5,000, Operational and production support for 2015-16 season
- Boise Celebrates: $10,000, “Sights and Sounds of Cuba” concert and dance performance
- Boise Celebrates: $10,000, Professional development components and support for cultivating Boise’s film culture
- Boise Celebrates: $10,000, World Refugee Day community event and art mural
- Boise Celebrates: $10,000, Idaho Shakespeare Festival: “Sights and Sounds of Cuba” traveling exhibition
- Boise Celebrates: $7,500, Education and resource guide on Boise mid-century modern residential architecture
- Boise Celebrates: $7,500, Mobile educational opportunities for underserved youth and senior citizens
- Boise Celebrates: $5,000, Boise Idaho, “Taking Care of Boise’s Art and Cultural Heritage Plan,” and completed a two-week intensive archives training.

Archives and Collection Care Planning

The cultural programs manager worked on the A&H Department plans for developing a City Archives and Collections program. This involved working with other departments to gain information about current systems as well as conducting inquiries regarding collections held within departments that fall outside of the City’s Records Management Retention Schedule. In addition staff worked with a contractor on drafts of a comprehensive collection plan, finalized and published the Taking Care of Boise’s Art and Cultural Heritage Plan.

TAG Historical Research: $1,000, Brochure and presentations related to early Boise developer, Walter E. Pierce
HISTORY PROGRAMS
The history programs document, collect, and preserve vital historical information about the city from which interpretive programming, communication tools, publications, heritage tourism opportunities, festivals, and other initiatives emerge.

Workshops
Staff developed and offered the following free workshops: total of 132 attendees
- Save Your Stuff: How to Physically & Digitally Preserve Family Heirlooms
- Write Your Memoir
- Genealogy 101: How to Get Started with a Digital Family Tree
- Interview Your Family—Oral History Basics
- Writing Your Family Stories

Fettuccine Forum
In FY2015, A&H continued this well-loved lecture and community engagement program with six events on First Thursdays between October 2014 – May 2015. The forum moved to Boise City Hall, Council Chambers.
- October 2, 2014 - Beer Heritage: Boise’s Love Affair with Brewing (panel of local experts)
- November 6, 2014 - Dangerous Patterns: Conspiracy Theories and History (David Walker and Tim Guill)
- February 5, 2015 - Hate, Harassment, and Human Rights in Idaho (Steve Shaw)
- March 5, 2015 - Get in the Helicopter: Lead a Life of Adventure by Going With Your Gut and Taking Risks (Buddy Levy)
- April 2, 2015 - Why is it Called Atlanta? Migration to Idaho and the West after the Civil War (John Bieter, PhD)
- May 7, 2015 - Closing the Gap: Bringing Natural and Cultural Resource Preservation Together (Sheri Freemuth and John Freemuth, PhD)

Oral History Program
Staff grew the Cultural Oral History collection by adding 28 interviews (nineteen from local cultural organizations and nine Vista Neighborhood residents). The collection now totals 151 interviews.

GOALS

PRESERVE
the place of history in Boise’s community through local advocacy and partnership with other organizations

PROMOTE
Boise’s historic and cultural landmarks by encouraging education, outreach, and cultural tourism

DOCUMENT
ways to incorporate history in future city projects, programs, and policies

COLLECT
the city’s history by preserving oral, written, and visual documents and material culture

CELEBRATE
historic and cultural events to foster an appreciation for Boise’s heritage

Objects and Manuscript Collections
In FY2015, staff processed 1,839 accession numbers as part of the archives and objects collection. The number of items in individual accession numbers varies; one accession number could have 1 item or hundreds. This includes 56 manuscripts in the collection that vary in size. The entire collection now totals 1,895 accessions.

Research Requests
Forty requests completed. Staff, interns, and volunteers fielded these requests that vary in their complexity and resource requirements.

Display Cabinet
Five displays were completed in FY2015. These were displayed on the third floor of City Hall where leadership staff and visitors could easily view them. Each exhibit requires detailed research, curation, interpretation, and fabrication. The intensive resources needed prove worthwhile as they provide visibility for the Department and education for those interested in Boise’s history and culture.
- Boise Greenbelt (October 2014)
- Boise Winter Wonderland (December 2014)
- The Basques in Boise (July 2015 – as part of Jaialdi held every five years)
- Boise’s Water (September 2015)

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PEOPLE

STAFF
Terri Schorzman, Director
Karen Bubb, Public Art Program Manager
Brandi Burns, History Program Manager
Amy Fackler, Cultural Program Manager
Karl LeClair, Program Assistant
Annie Murphy, Collections Processing Assistant
Kaci Nicks, Graduate History Fellow, Boise State University
Joshua Olson, Cultural Assets Program Manager
Rachel Reichert, Community Relations Manager
Korena Wright, History temp

INTERNS
Mandy Moncu
Kyle Giovannini
Jazmin Cartner

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

COMMISSIONERS FY2015
Alecia Baker
Eve Chandler
David Hale
Kay Hardy
Jody Ochoa
Dede Ryan
Kate Simonds, youth commissioner
Ben Quintana, Council liaison

HISTORY COMMITTEE
Alecia Baker
Mark Baltes
Amber Beierle
Eve Chandler
Matthew Halitsky
John Hand
Jennifer Holley
Katy Magee
Jody Ochoa
April Raine
Cathy Sewell

VISUAL ARTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Amanda Johnson Ashley, PhD
Eve Chandler
Steve Christiansen
Jessica Flynn
Holly Funk
Danielle Hurd
Gregory Knight
Jane Lloyd
Angela Machado
Robyn Salathe
Richard Young
Dana Zuckerman

FINANCIALS

FY15 Revenue
- 89.2% GF Support, $1,028,463
- 3% Percent for Art, $35,000
- 1.5% Misc. Revenue $17,031
- 6.3% Grants & Donations, $72,804

FY15 Expenses
- 0.1% Misc. Expenditures $1,764
- 33% Capital $462,508
- 22.5% M&O $315,629
- 44.4% Personnel $622,805

Photo by Melanie Flitton Folwell