letter from the mayor

I'm tremendously proud to present to the citizens of Boise this first annual report from the Department of Arts & History.

With the merger of our former Arts Commission and the Office of the City Historian, Boise became one of the few cities of its size in the nation to give heritage and culture full department-level status. This was no merely symbolic gesture; rather, it embodies and fulfills one of the four key pillars of Boise’s Strategic Plan: to “foster an environment where learning, the arts and recreation thrive.”

A livable city is one in which arts and history are woven seamlessly into the fabric of the community. This report documents Boise’s bold progress toward that important goal.

Sincerely,
David H. Bieter, Mayor

letter from the director

The Department of Arts & History (A&H) celebrated its first anniversary in March 2009. This report highlights accomplishments for the department’s first full fiscal year, which ran from October 1, 2008 through September 30, 2009.

The 30th anniversary of the Boise City Arts Commission (BCAC), the antecedent to the department, was also celebrated during the 2009 fiscal year. This fortuitous timing allowed us to honor the great work of the BCAC and strengthen our resolve to build on its tremendous accomplishments.

In fiscal year 2009, staff focused on establishing and strengthening the administrative foundation of the Department while concurrently managing and promoting art, history, and cultural enrichment programs; it was also a year of setting long-term goals for our department.

We have accomplished much. We developed new communication initiatives, such as our e-newsletter, website, and public art brochures; and we implemented a new contact management database to streamline and help modernize our communication strategies. The City Arts & History grant program continued to incubate grassroots initiatives while supporting mid-size and larger organizations through funding cultural organizations and individual projects. We also began a series of Culture Cafés in collaboration with the Idaho Commission on the Arts as a needs assessment of the cultural community.

Staff continued to install and maintain public art throughout the city; facilitate the mural art on 8th Street; and develop cultural programs such as Fettuccine Forum, Fall for Boise, Arts for Kids, and Performing Arts at the Market. Department staff also brought the National Art Program to Boise; developed lectures and walking tours for Preservation Month; produced a podcast tour of Capitol Ustick Dreaming by Judy and Dale Collins
Photo by Heather Collins Roe
Boulevard’s public art piece “Did You Know”; and established an oral history program. The department pursued new partnerships with other City departments as well as Go Listen Boise, Fiesta Tropical, and the Artist-in-Residence program.

The September celebration of the 21st biennial Mayor’s Awards for Excellence in Art & History were especially festive with the inclusion of history for the first time.

It was an incredible year. Department staff worked tirelessly to help the City achieve its mission by contributing toward the vitality of Boise’s downtown, neighborhoods, and civic environments. We are ever cognizant when using public money to fulfill our department and City objectives. We consider it an honor and privilege to work towards these goals and help set the stage for Boise’s cultural future.

Sincerely,
Terri Schorzman, Director
Department of Arts and History
people who make it happen...

CONTRACT AND TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE
Julie Baltes
Noriko Barnes
Rosemary Curtin
Carl Marti
Margaret Marti
Amy Pence-Brown
Rachel Reichert
Anne Wescott

INTERNS
Marc Frisk
Tegan Rawlings
Allie Talboy

VOLUNTEERS
Thank you to the many volunteers who contributed over 1300 hours of service to the Department.

Recipients of the 2009 Mayor’s Awards for Excellence in Arts And History. See page 11 for list of winners.

STANDING COMMITTEES

CULTURAL PROGRAMS COMMITTEE
Carl Daugenti, Chair (January-December 2008)
Stephenson Youngerman, Chair (January-December 2009)
Morgan Cole
Amy Fackler, Staff
Fairy Hitchcock
Scot Oliver
Jon Swarthout

HISTORY COMMITTEE
Mark Baltes, Chair
Jennifer Armstrong
Barbara Perry Bauer
Brandi Burns, Staff
Morgan Dethman
Tully Gerlach
Suzanne Gore
Matthew Halitsky
Melissa Martin
Jody Ochoa
Cathy Sewell
Nancy Spittle

VISUAL ARTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
John Sahlberg, Chair
Karen Bubb, Staff
Jessica Flynn
Holly Gilchrist
Kathleen Keys
Debora K. Kristensen
Joshua Olson, Staff
Amy Pence-Brown
Roberta Rene
Robyn Salathe
Maggie Spurling
Richard Young
The Department of Arts & History consists of department-wide programs administrating public art, cultural programs, and history. These programs support the strategic vision of the City of Boise by providing residents and visitors with opportunities to learn about and participate in the City’s cultural life. Professional staff and community volunteers work together to achieve the department vision and mission, advocate for cultural assets and organizations, and offer programs, events, and services.

**departmental programs and administration**

The department continues to advocate for arts and cultural assets and organizations through partnerships, promotions and sponsorships, and new communication tools such as an e-newsletter, a Facebook page, and a redesigned website.

As a new department, it is imperative that the staff analyzes and improves administrative processes to help strengthen the organization. Staff identified core strategies to foster a strong, unified, and flexible department. Objectives include implementing a cohesive and efficient document management system, building a sound two-year budget, hiring professional staff, solidifying financial resources, and building interdepartmental working relationships.

**department-wide programs include:**

- The Mayor’s Awards for Excellence in Arts & History
- The City Arts & History grant fund
- Civic engagement activities, such as Culture Cafés, workshops, and presentations
- Communications and promotions

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### Idaho Press Awards for 2009 Projects

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1st Place</th>
<th>2nd Place</th>
<th>3rd Place</th>
<th>Honorable Mention</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Website</td>
<td>Special Purpose Publication</td>
<td>Special Purpose Publication</td>
<td>“Public Art Program”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Excellence, PR</td>
<td>“Public Art &amp; History Locations”</td>
<td>“A is for Art”</td>
<td>“Fall for Boise: A Celebration of Arts &amp; Community”</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*River of Trees by Judith and Daniel Caldwell*  
*Photo by Otto Kitsinger*
public art

Public art helps create an attractive and unique metropolitan identity. Boise’s public art program invests in Idaho’s creative professionals and engages citizens in the design and definition of the city’s built environment. More than two-thirds of artists hired through a public selection process are from Idaho, and their resulting commissioned artworks reflect citizens’ values, the local environment, and the artistic vitality of the community. Sculptures, murals, and artwork integrated into public facilities, such as Boise Airport and neighborhood parks, are landmarks that provide a sense of place for residents and visitors. Maintaining the integrity of these assets and caring for their condition are essential components of the public art program and signals our commitment to preserving a safe, respectful, and livable environment.

Civic investment in the arts promotes private investment. The thriving public art environment downtown demonstrates this synergy: public art projects managed as partnerships between City departments, private businesses, neighborhood representatives, and other public entities such as Capital City Development Corporation, promote an engaging and unique sense of place.
Cultural Programs provide citizens an opportunity to connect with others and their community. Exposure to arts and culture ignites innovation, which is a powerful force that benefits Boiseans now and in the future. Cultural programs offered by the City and its partners challenge us to participate in and think about our community and its place in the world, and formulate new solutions for existing problems. We learn to appreciate the legacies of cultural patterns and become more accepting of newcomers as they arrive from all corners of the globe. We learn to imagine, take chances, and to reformulate outdated patterns. Cultural programs help learning, arts, and culture thrive in Boise.

This fiscal year was a time of transition. A new staff member filled a position vacancy with a new title and focus. Through the cultural programs division, the department offered numerous engagement opportunities that helped foster an awareness of and appreciation for Boise as a stronghold of creativity. Successes include Performing Arts at the Market, Arts for Kids, Fall for Boise programs, and working with the Department of Parks and Recreation and the Department’s History division to develop an Arts & Culture program at the Depot during public access hours.

Cultural programs staff also developed and supported communication strategies such as the e-newsletter Headlines and coordinates the Fall for Boise calendar and website.

Boise Korean Dance Mission, Photo by Otto Kitsinger
History programs help collect, preserve, and interpret our cultural heritage. These programs support the City’s strategic initiative to promote the City’s heritage and are accomplished by assisting other City departments with special events and related planning and programming efforts. A core goal is to collect and preserve vital historical information about the City from which interpretive programming, communications tools, publications, heritage tourism opportunities, festivals, and other initiatives emerge.

**history programs**

The Department’s history program owes deep gratitude to the strong corps of volunteers who strengthen and sustain its organizational foundation and core offerings. The History Committee volunteers are the wizards behind the curtain who worked with Boise State University Fellows (serving as City Historians) to produce the fifth season of the Fettuccine Forum lectures series; a celebration of the Depot; a suite of activities with Preservation Idaho and Boise Public Libraries to celebrate Preservation Month; and a new oral history program.

Staff and volunteers also partnered on projects with other City departments and organizations, such as preservation efforts for the James Castle Cottage and cataloging the Jensen Farm historical collection (managed by the Parks and Recreation Department).

**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 make it easy for community members to appreciate Boise’s heritage

Left to Right: Empire Building, 1911, Photo by Idaho State Historical Society Neighborhood on 12th Street, Circa 1950, Photo by Lee Burn
achievements for fiscal year 2009  
(october 1, 2008 - september 30, 2009)

The accomplishments noted below are reported according to the city's strategic plan and the department's operating plan.

City strategic plan: Foster an environment where learning, art, culture, and recreation thrive.

Department plan: increase awareness of and participation in art programs and cultural events.

Goal: Provide opportunities for the public to engage in arts and culture; heighten citizen awareness, interest and pride in the city’s heritage.

The Department of Arts & History organized free cultural events in parks and public spaces to enrich community experience, including:

- Fall for Boise opening event (City Harvest), Worldfest, and Fall Fire Finale.
- Arts for Kids, providing arts education opportunities for children on summer Saturdays at the Capital City Public Market.
- Performing Arts at the Market offering live music and dance performances that spanned the 29 weeks of the Capitol City Public Market.
- Get Sick, a teen immersion party at the Fort Boise Community Center.
- Podcasts and walking tours.
- Educational public art tours.
- Depot Day, an event with displays, events, and information about the historical significance of the Depot and Big Mike (the historic locomotive residing on site).
- Fettucine Forum presentations on six First Thursdays in downtown Boise. Topics included the 2008 election, transportation and affordable housing, and a rollicking evening with the Fool Squad.
- Preservation Month, co-sponsored by Boise Public Library, offering a series of presentations and walking tours in May about federal programs and their influence on architecture.
goal: establish and expand communication strategies and protocols

- Researched, designed, and launched new website, www.BoiseArtsAndHistory.org. This site has vastly increased depth of information, such as academic papers, photographs, virtual exhibits, educator resources and tools, and general information for artists, historians, and the community.
- Incorporated social networking (Twitter and Facebook) to complement promotional capabilities, education and outreach.
- Continued posting arts and culture events on ExperienceBoise website; linked to new website.
- Launched e-newsletter, Headlines, to better communicate with residents about departmental offerings and other arts and culture highlights.
- Managed and promoted Fall for Boise: A Celebration of Arts and Community campaign. Components included publication and distribution of 22,000 brochures and updated Fall for Boise website with two months’ worth of cultural events and contact info for Boise’s cultural organizations.
- Offered public art and history tours for school and civic groups, reaching almost 2500 people.
- Developed a podcast for public artwork related to history along Capitol Boulevard.
- Created 14,000 Public Art and History Locations brochures.
- Developed 6,000 information brochures on the Boise Visual Chronicle.
- Managed and facilitated the placement of geothermal medallions on thirty buildings downtown.

goal: maintain existing arts assets such as public art and cultural facilities

The Department’s public art staff continued implementation of the Percent for Art public art program, including new works, education, and maintenance. New public art was introduced in underserved neighborhoods such as Sycamore and Peppermint Parks, and in the new branch libraries on Ustick Road and the Hillcrest Shopping Center. Staff maintained and conserved the public art collection and public art pieces throughout downtown, the airport and parks, and the Boise Visual Chronicle collection. They also coordinated and managed periodic mural series around the downtown construction site.

- Judy Collins created several glass installations for a new branch library at Cole and Ustick Roads.
- Amy Westover installed windows and the floor at the Boise Watershed Education Center.
- South Dakota artist, Benjamin Victor, fabricated and installed a World War II Bomber Pilot statue at the Boise Airport.
- Mark Baltes installed his dandelion sculpture representing wind at the entrance of the Foothills Learning Center.
- Michael Baltzell completed the painting of the building facades, installation of props, and associated murals and structures for the African Plains exhibit at Zoo Boise.
- Reham Aarti completed her mosaic mural on the park restroom at the Warm Springs Golf Course featuring Idaho native wildflowers.
Public Art programs include the implementation of the Percent for Art ordinance, management of public art projects, education, and maintenance of the collection. Special projects include the Artist-in-Residence Program, the Boise Visual Chronicle, workshops, dedication events, and art walking tours.

**Public Art**

Public art helps create an attractive and unique metropolitan identity. Boise’s public art program invests in Idaho’s creative professionals and engages citizens in the design and definition of the city’s built environment. More than two-thirds of artists hired through a public selection process are from Idaho, and their resulting commissioned artworks reflect citizens’ values, the local environment, and the artistic vitality of the community. Sculptures, murals, and artwork integrated into public facilities, such as Boise Airport and neighborhood parks, are landmarks that provide a sense of place for residents and visitors. Maintaining the integrity of these assets and caring for their condition are essential components of the public art program and signals our commitment to preserving a safe, respectful, and livable environment.

Civic investment in the arts promotes private investment. The thriving public art environment downtown demonstrates this synergy: public art projects managed as partnerships between City departments, private businesses, neighborhood representatives, and other public entities such as Capital City Development Corporation, promote an engaging and unique sense of place.

**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** or 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, workshops and lectures
- **Conserve** and maintain artworks in Boise City’s collection

**Examples:**

- Noel Weber/Classic Design Studios fabricated artwork for the exterior plaza of City Hall West (police and fire departments) focusing on the history of the Police and Fire Departments.

**Goal:** Develop policy initiatives that create incentives for private investment in arts and culture

Department staff established and encouraged public-private partnerships throughout the city. Successes included developing an ongoing Artist-in-Residence program with commercial real estate owners, and managing a program to place commemorative medallions for energy-efficient use of geothermal resources on qualified privately owned buildings.

**Goal:** Promote ethnic diversity and an understanding of cultural differences and similarities in order to create a cultural environment where people of all ethnic backgrounds feel welcome

Through programs such as WorldFest, Arts for Kids, public art, and history projects, the department showcases local diverse heritage. Also, the City Arts & History Fund Grant Program provided funding to culturally diverse artists and historians for their work in classical Indian dance, documenting Mexican corridos, folk songs, and exhibiting Jewish cultural heritage and art.

**Goal:** Attract tourists with local cultural and heritage tourism promotions

The updated Public Art and History Locations brochure is extremely popular with residents and visitors alike. The Fall for Boise brochure and calendar of activities remains an excellent source for one-stop shopping for cultural events. Both of these outreach pieces are valuable for promoting cultural and heritage tourism.

**Goal:** Encourage and facilitate public engagement

Department staff, in collaboration with the Idaho Commission on the Arts, held a series of Culture Cafés, which proved a simple yet effective means to assess “the pulse” of the cultural community. The series included a separate session for arts and culture organization leaders, visual artists, performing artists, and for people involved with the humanities. Out of one of these gatherings, a group of visual artists have joined together to form the Treasure Valley Arts Alliance.
city strategic plan: run the business

department plan: develop & strengthen department infrastructure

goal: staff the department and fulfill citywide administrative expectations

In late September 2008 Mayor David Bieter appointed Terri Schorzman as Department Director. While maintaining her role as Public Arts Manager, Karen Bubb concurrently served as Interim Department Director prior to Ms. Schorzman’s hiring. Ms. Bubb and Ms. Schorzman deftly transitioned the department to maintain program momentum, while also developing the history component of the new department and identifying staff and commission roles and responsibilities.

highlights

• Produced the October 2008 Fall for Boise events, including Worldfest and the closing Fall for Boise event.
• Evaluated staffing needs and hired new cultural programs manager to replace vacant performing arts and event manager position.
• Hired temporary, contract, and intern staff for special projects.
• Continued relationship with Boise State University for support of historian position (half-time graduate student), and identified long-term needs to build a fully integrated and comprehensive history program.
• Maintained Commission committees. Held monthly meetings for Executive Committee, full Commission, Visual Arts Advisory Committee, Cultural Programs Committee, and History Committee.

goal: improve document management and records systems

Staff strengthened core management systems for increased efficiency and transparency. This process included organizing and unifying the internal document management system and assessing the current file structures to maximize efficiency and to meet city records management and archival requirements.

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City Arts & History Fund 2008-2009

Recipients

anchor funds

Ballet Idaho
$6,510.80
Boise Contemporary Theater
$4,723.58
Boise Philharmonic
$6,696.45
Idaho Shakespeare Festival
$9,758.71
Opera Idaho, Inc.
$4,310.37
Trey McIntyre Project
$5,008.00

cultural initiatives

Morgan Dethman-Corthell
$1,000.00
“Stereo Main Street”
Noreen Shanafelt
$700.00
“Historic City Hall Photos”
Grant Olsen
$1,800.00
“Welchcock Building Public Art”
Earle Swope
$1,800.00
“Lopez Groves Historic Public Art”
Elizabeth Blin
$500.00
“History of Brazilian Music Lectures”
Darkwood Consort
$1000.00
“Virta-Bats Clarinet Duet”

continues on opposite page

Cast Pane
by Judy Gorsuch Collins
Photo by Heather Collins Roe
 highlights
• Researched, purchased, and began integrating new contact management database.
• Created and integrated new internal file structure.
• Prepared two-year budget.

goal: develop cultural planning initiatives
Staff and Commissioners participated in a facilitated discussion to identify the new role of Arts & History Commission. Staff also assessed the roles of the agency’s standing committees.

 highlights
• Completed an assessment to identify how history projects and programs can be developed through collaboration with internal and external partners.
• Initiated stakeholder engagement by co-hosting a series of Culture Cafés with the Idaho Commission on the Arts as a needs assessments for local non-profit organizations, visual and performing artists, and humanities professionals.
• Drafted the Boise City Public Art Program Booklet (a 5-year document), the Public Art FY09 Annual Report and FY10 Plan (1-year document), the revised Public Art Policy and Management Guidelines, and recommendations for the Percent-for-Art ordinance revisions.

goal: evaluate department resources and long-term strategies
As part of fulfilling the objective for resource development, Department of Arts & History staff took the following measures to ensure sound Department resources:
• Pursued funding opportunities for programs and operations.

Visit the Grants page at BoiseArtsAndHistory.com for a full description of the Cultural Initiatives.
• Received $4660 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act stimulus funding from the Idaho Commission on the Arts to retain professional curatorial contract for the Boise Visual Chronicle.

• Assessed status of City Arts & History fund and identified areas of improvement. The results: guidelines will transition over three years to align with Department mission to build capacity in organizations. The strategies include incubating grassroots initiatives and supporting mid-size and larger organizations. We continue to refine an approach that will support our goal to encourage creativity and innovation.

**city strategic plan: develop organization capacity**

**department plan: build & expand relationships with other city departments and external partners**

**goal: maintain relationships with city departments and initiate new alliances**

• Maintained and strengthened partnerships with other City departments for public art implementation. Initiated innovative partnerships, such as with Boise Watershed staff, with whom the Department produced an activity book.

• Organized and managed an information booth at the Capital City Public Market for 29 weeks. Initiated opportunities for other City departments to share booth space and showcase current programs.

• On February 19th, at the Linen Building, hosted a party for former commissioners and committee members to celebrate thirty years of the Boise City Arts Commission and the first anniversary of the Department.

• Held the 21st biennial Mayor’s Awards for Art and History on September 25, the first ever to incorporate history. Eleven people and organizations were honored at the Powerhouse Event Center.

• Hosted the National Arts Program: (NAP), a private non-profit foundation based in Pennsylvania, which awarded the department $1000 to hold the first NAP contest in Idaho (for City of Boise employees families and volunteers). An exhibition of 180+ entries was held in early September 2009 at the Idaho Historical Museum.

• Implemented Arts & Culture at the Depot (every Sunday and Monday throughout the year) by scheduling artists, photographers, storytellers, and others. This is a free opportunity for residents to share their work with the community.
• Developed May 2009 Preservation Month activities. Offered a lecture series with companion walking tours focused on three eras of federal investment in our built environment. Co-sponsored by Boise Public Library.
• Partnered with other City departments to introduce public art or cultural activities to city-owned facilities. Boise WaterShed, Parks & Recreation Department, Library! at Cole & Ustick, City Hall West, and Fort Boise Community Center are all examples of the new partnership initiatives.

**goal: partner with external organizations and groups**

• Sponsored Go Listen Boise to help support a local music series at Alive After Five and to introduce Hold It Local, a program in which music loops (from local artists) are played on the City’s telephone system.
• Co-sponsored Fiesta Tropical, during Fall for Boise. This event showcased Boise’s professional dance companies while concurrently celebrating Hispanic Heritage month.
• Participated in the Vision for the Valley community project.
• Fostered partnerships and sponsorships with numerous organizations including:
  ▶ The Idaho Commission on the Arts to co-host Culture Cafés.
  ▶ Downtown Boise Association for Fall for Boise brochure and website, traffic call boxes, information kiosk, and Winter Windows.
  ▶ Treasure Valley Food Coalition to co-host City Harvest.
  ▶ Commuteride and Valley Regional Transit for Depot Days.
  ▶ Community Planning Association of Southwest Idaho for support of the Fettucine Forum presentation on affordable housing and transportation.
  ▶ Preservation Idaho and the State Historic Preservation Office to develop programming for Preservation Month.
  ▶ Idaho State Historical Society Museum for hosting the National Art Program in the Idaho Historical Museum and for providing historical photographs from the Public Archives and Records Center.
  ▶ Private property owners to implement the 8th Street Artist-in-Residence Program in downtown Boise, throughout the year (supported over twenty artists the first year).
  ▶ Capital City Development Corporation for a history project on downtown redevelopment, a geothermal medallion project, and coordination of downtown events and performances.
public art
cultural programs
history

City of Boise
Department of Arts & History

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Boise, Idaho 83701-0500

Street Address:
150 N. Capitol Boulevard
Boise, Idaho

208.433.5670
800.377.3529 TTY
www.BoiseArtsAndHistory.org

The Department of Art & History is committed to supporting cultural endeavors in the City of Boise without regard to race, color, creed, religion, age, gender, sexual orientation, military status, marital status, political opinion, national origin, familial status, mental and physical disability, gender identity, and source of income or disability status.

Published in 2010 by Boise City Department of Arts & History