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, the plan tells the story of Boise’s multifaceted culture: a place where we live in place—sharing from organizations to businesses and more. It’s all working well and what it is, identifies new opportunities, and recommends where we are, 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 what 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, or visual arts classes to attend. Boise’s cultural network makes a difference. 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 have 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 promoting 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. People in Boise characterize cultural experience 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 not accidental. 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.

The staff of A&H understood that everyone plays a role in shaping a vibrant cultural life and economy. It is up to all of us to realize these goals and strategies in partnership. 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 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.

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.

BOISE: YOU’LL LIKE IT ONCE YOU GET HERE. IT’S COLD, FRIENDLY, EASY, AND FUN. IT HAS AN INDEPENDENT AND CREATIVE SPIRIT.

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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 Review 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 Locate Cultural Strategy

GOAL 3: MAINTAIN AND DEVELOP CULTURAL ASSETS
Strategy 3.1 Case for and Developing Facilities Where Culture Is Preserved, Accessible, 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 Reserves for Culture
Strategy 4.3 Provide Regional Leadership & Collaborate with Public/Private Entities
Strategy 4.4 Local City-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
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.