



City of Boise Cultural Master Plan Fact Sheet:

What do we mean when we say “culture”?

Culture, in a broad sense, is our collective beliefs and customs expressed through visual art, history, literature, theater, dance, music, food, architecture, media, design, and fashion. When using the term “culture” in this plan, the authors refer to all of these expressions unless a specific form is called out. Culture is learned and passed down from one generation to the next. Innovations in culture often occur where different cultures intersect or new technology shifts our experience of the world and understanding of our place in it.

Who contributed to the creation of this plan?

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.

Why is it important for community members to know what is in this plan?

The City of Boise needs 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.

Why create the City’s first comprehensive cultural plan now?

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.

Where do we find “culture” in Boise?

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.

Who creates and supports “culture”?

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

The Boise City Department of Arts & History's mission is 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.