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

63
Artists hired in FY17

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.
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.

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

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

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

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.
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.

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.
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
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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Name</th>
<th>Artist(s)</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cottonwoods</strong></td>
<td>Dwaine Carver and Zach Hill</td>
<td>CITY HALL PLAZA</td>
<td>$205,899</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Integration</strong></td>
<td>Sector Seventeen</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Finch Tower</strong></td>
<td>Stephanie Inman</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Landmark signage</strong></td>
<td>Trademark Creative</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>States of Flow</strong></td>
<td>Perri Howard</td>
<td>RHODES SKATE PARK (all 4 works)</td>
<td>$223,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Vox Poplar</strong></td>
<td>Janet Zweig</td>
<td>LIBRARY! AT BOWN CROSSING</td>
<td>$60,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Call and Respond</strong></td>
<td>Ken McCall, Leslie Dixon and Mark Baltes</td>
<td>FIRE STATION 8</td>
<td>$45,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Traffic Boxes</strong></td>
<td>23 artists</td>
<td>CITYWIDE</td>
<td>$42,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Transference</strong></td>
<td>Ken McCall and Leslie Dixon</td>
<td>BOISE STATE UNIVERSITY</td>
<td>$25,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Boise Visual Chronicle</strong></td>
<td>Acquisitions</td>
<td>ARTS &amp; HISTORY COLLECTION</td>
<td>$15,600</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Portable Works Collection</strong></td>
<td>22 acquisitions</td>
<td>ARTS &amp; HISTORY COLLECTION</td>
<td>$12,680</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cottonwood Leaves</strong></td>
<td>Matt Grover</td>
<td>BROADWAY INTERCHANGE</td>
<td>$9,999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Valley Regional Transit Shelter Artwork</strong></td>
<td>Marlene Mussler-Wright, Nicole MacDonald and Connie Wood</td>
<td>VISTA AVENUE</td>
<td>$6,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Utility Hole Covers</strong></td>
<td>Kirsten Furlong, Rick Friesen and Charles Haman</td>
<td>CENTRAL ADDITION</td>
<td>$6,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Comic Con Mural</strong></td>
<td>Adam Rosenlund</td>
<td>BOISE MAIN LIBRARY</td>
<td>$3,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fence</strong></td>
<td>April VanDeGrift</td>
<td>LINEN DISTRICT</td>
<td>$3,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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*Portable Works Collection* includes 22 acquisitions for the ARTS & HISTORY COLLECTION. *Transference* is a project for the Boise State University Campus. The *Utility Hole Covers* project is part of the CENTRAL ADDITION initiative. The *Comic Con Mural* and *Fence* are located in the Linen District.*
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.

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.
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)
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

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

Barber Lumber mill in east Boise
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.
$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

**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

$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

$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

$4,000

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

**Kristin Hill** | Chiaroscuro experiential multidiscipline 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
Chelsee 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 Ludvig
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

- 65.7% General Fund Support
  $1,560,899
- 27.6% Percent for Art
  $656,126
- 2.0% Misc. Revenue
  $47,539
- 4.6% Grants & Donations
  $109,600

FY17 EXPENSES

- 26.4% Capital
  $627,782
- 34.4% Maintenance and Operation
  $816,978
- 39.1% Personnel
  $929,404