



DEPARTMENT OF ARTS & HISTORY

MAYOR: Lauren McLean | DIRECTOR: Jennifer Stevens

AGENDA Arts & History Commission

Wednesday, November 2nd, 2022

3:30 – 5:00 pm

Boise City Hall, Tablerock Room, 3rd Floor

Virtual attendance is available. Please visit:

<https://cityofboise.zoom.us/j/99194398085>

- I. **Call to Order** – John Hand, Chair
 - a. **Land Acknowledgment** – Commission Chair John Hand
 - b. Approve Minutes from September 7th, 2022 (**Exhibit A**)
- II. **Presentations/Updates/Approvals** **Pursuant to Idaho Code Section 74-204(4), all agenda items are action items, and a vote may be taken on these items.*
 - a. Public Art Update – Stephanie Johnson, Public Art Manager
 - i. Informational item only
 1. 8th St Mural
 2. Redwood Park
 3. Mexican Pioneer Plaza Kiosko Project
 - b. Departmental Update – Jennifer Stevens, Director
 - i. Informational item only
 1. Administrative
 2. Hiring
 3. Public Art Team & CCDC
 4. Ordinance Updates
- III. **Adjourn Meeting**



DEPARTMENT OF ARTS & HISTORY

MAYOR: Lauren McLean | DIRECTOR: Jennifer Stevens

MEMO

TO: Mayor McLean, Courtney Washburn, Council Member Lisa Sánchez, Arts & History Commissioners
FROM: Jennifer Stevens, Director
DATE: November 8, 2022
RE: Department of Arts & History Update

GENERAL UPDATE

I'm pleased to provide an overview of my first two months as the Director of the Department of Arts & History.

Administrative

I have met at least once with each member of the staff and several times with many of them. I have taken a tour of the James Castle House, the Erma Hayman House, and the Archives on Kendall.

Organization: In September, I asked team members to take the StrengthsFinders assessment. HR provided posters for each of us showcasing our Top 5 strengths, and we have hung those visibly at our workstations. We will be doing some development work around those for the next several months.

Additionally, I have begun the process of goal setting with each program and each individual. These preliminary goals will be used for the strategic planning session and team building offsite we have planned for November 15, which will be led by Tony Liles in HR's Organizational Development. We will be reexamining our vision, mission, and values, with the goal of designing and implementing programming that rolls up to those. We also will be kicking off a re-design of the department.

Finally, I have also been working with the Facilities group on space planning. Facilities is remodeling the extreme northeast corner of the A&H space where the Frances Perkins conference room and the library are currently located, and A&H will be giving that space up to another team in the city. Therefore, it is a prime opportunity to execute on the Mayor's priority of professionalizing the A&H space. Currently, our office arrangement does not facilitate team building. We are spread out, isolated, and many spaces on the west side of our office space sit unused for days at a time, while our History team – who is in City Hall most days – sits removed from the rest of the team at the northeast corner of the space. Thus, we are in the early stages of planning for permanent workstations on the west side of the office for the teams who primarily work

from City Hall and creating “drop-in” stations for our cultural sites staff as well as the conservation staff, most of whom are away from City Hall much of the time. We will create a new and more complete library against the new wall that is going to be built at the east end of our current space where we will have an arts library, the department's vertical files, and the history library.

Hiring

Cultural Sites Team:

I have promoted Kristen Hill to the Cultural Sites Program Manager to oversee the James Castle and Erma Hayman houses, and to plan for any future acquisitions.

As a result, we have openings for both Coordinator positions. Kristen worked with HR to create a single job description for both sites; we hope to have the EHH position filled by early December, and the JCH position filled by end of February.

Conservation and Care:

We are in the process of posting Josh Olson's old position, and hope to have that filled by early December.

Public Arts:

Together with the Budget and HR teams, I have been working with Public Works and Airport staff to hire new Public Arts Coordinators to execute on the two respective Master Arts Plans. I expect those to be filled by the end of March.

CCDC/Public Art Team

The Mayor's office indicated that streamlining the City's relationship with the Capital City Development Corporation was a top priority. That agency oversees two Urban Renewal Districts that will be sunsetting in the next few years, offering great opportunity for public art in these districts and a limited timeline in which to execute projects. Therefore, I have devoted significant resources to this effort since my arrival. The effort has involved several meetings with the CCDC staff; working with Alaggio in Conservation and Care to develop a deferred maintenance plan for all artwork in the two said districts (which CCDC staff has verbally pledged to fund); designing a new process to streamline future district art projects; and hiring arts coordinators in both Public Works and Airport so as to free up our public arts manager (Stephanie) and general fund arts coordinator (Lianna) to focus on general fund and CCDC district art projects. I hope that the team will be complete and ready to execute a cohesive public arts program across the city by early April.

Ordinance Updates

Since my arrival, the A&H staff has indicated that they are under resourced in both humans and dollars. The more I researched the issues, the more it became clear that the root of the problem lay in the Percent for Art Ordinance. When the ordinance was initially enacted in 2001, the city had a relatively small collection, totaling fewer than 300 works. Today, there are more than 800, necessitating a thorough and deliberate maintenance and care plan as well as a budget to execute on the plan.



I have been working with the Finance team to gain visibility into how the 1% as well as the .4% has been budgeted, collected, and spent across the three funds. Unfortunately, it has been inconsistent at best. The language of the original ordinance is simply too vague to make sure that the dollars are properly collected in order to care for the City's collection. Additionally, the existing ordinance lacks clear definition with regard to what the 1% dollars can be spent on, and it seems that new language is necessary to ensure that some of those dollars can be used for history and other cultural programming and acquisitions. To address these issues, I have begun working with the Mayor's office, the Finance teams in Enterprise Funds, and the Legal teams to kick off a Percent for Art Ordinance re-write.

In addition to the Percent for Art ordinance, the city ordinances that govern records management do not properly address the role of the municipal archives. With Danielle's (city archivist) and Tyler's assistance in Legal, we are working to get to the heart of these issues, as well. We met with the city clerk as well as the DFA director recently and I think that there are some genuine opportunities for collaboration, as well as changes to the ordinances to ensure the preservation of the city's history. I am hoping to engage the library director in these talks, as well. Look for more on this in the months to come.





DEPARTMENT OF ARTS & HISTORY

MAYOR: Lauren McLean | DIRECTOR: Jennifer Stevens

MEMO

TO: Mayor McLean, Courtney Washburn, Council Member Lisa Sánchez, Arts & History Commissioners
FROM: Kristen Hill, Interim Cultural Sites Manager
CC: Jennifer Stevens, Arts & History Director
DATE: 11/1/2022
RE: Cultural Sites Program Update

SUMMARY

This quarter's work was concentrated at the James Castle House (JCH) and Erma Hayman House (EHH).

JAMES CASTLE HOUSE

Antonius Tin-Bui is in residence at the James Castle House, and has hosted two open studios and one workshop. They will host a virtual final presentation Friday, November 4th and one last open studio event Saturday, November 5th.

Current/Upcoming Artist Residencies:

- Antonius-Tin Bui, September 6 - November 16, 2022
- Marc Dombrosky, December 2-12, 2022
- Amanda Hamilton, January 6-16 2023

Exhibition:

We will be installing a new exhibition in January, focusing on the James Castle works made with soot and spit in the CoB collection. The James Castle House will be closed to the public January 2-11 to allow for exhibition turnover (regular open hours only span 3 days). This exhibition will be up until the end of June, 2023.

- Ways Of Knowing, February 3 – December 31, 2022
- Untitled (soot and spit) January 12-June 24, 2023

Events:

- Free Gallery Tours (daily)
- 11/04- Antonius Tin Bui Final Presentation (Zoom) 6-7pm
- 11/05- Antonius Tin Bui Open Studio 11am-1pm
- 12/10- Marc Dombrosky Open Studio 11am-1pm
- 1/14- Amanda Hamilton Open Studio 11am-1pm

ERMA HAYMAN HOUSE

- EHH public hours are currently being staffed with support from the entire A&H Department.
- Exterior additions of gates and shade sails in progress with Guho.
- EHH Program Coordinator Position is open until 11/11, listed through City of Boise as well as several other hiring boards.
- Copy and images for exterior interpretive signage is in progress.
- SJ and KH are working on the plan for lighting “The Memoirs of Erma Hayman.”





MEMO

TO: Mayor McLean, Courtney Washburn, Council Member Lisa Sánchez, Arts & History Commissioners

FROM: Stephanie Johnson

CC: Jennifer Stevens

DATE: 11/1/2022

RE: Public Art Program Update

PROJECT UPDATE HIGHLIGHTS:

Linen District Fence Public Art: Artwork installed on October 11th and sign is being designed and fabricated:

Familiar Comforts, 2022

Rachael Mayer

Ripstop fabric, poly-fil

Dimensional fiber pieces invite you to touch, to reimagine the fabric in your everyday life and to draw connections between scenes of domesticity and harsh environments. When the right shades come together, they create a story, an environment.



Images:
Public Art
Team
installing
*Familiar
Comforts*,
2022 with
Rachael
Mayer

- **Traffic Box Art:** \$21,000 (NIP grants); Artists are working within their design templates to either modify finished works or to complete new works specific to their assigned traffic box. Installation expected late fall or late spring.
- **8th Street Greenbelt Tunnel Mural:** \$35,000; Artist Addie Boswell painted Oct. 12th -19th with many, many community volunteers helping to paint from Boise Highschool, Agency for New Americans, Interfaith Sanctuary, and many passersby who stopped to help.



Images: Painting of the mural, lead by artist Addie Boswell with many community volunteers

- **West Valley/Ustick NIP Public Art Project:** \$100,000; Redwood Park, Selection Committee has met twice, working on drafted RFP and working with purchasing to determine process for call for art
- **“ABC’s of Public Art” Book:** \$9000; Malia Collins, Stephanie Inman, Arlie Sommer; Project Implementation – final layout & edits
- **Pioneer Cemetery Kiosko/Mexican Pioneers Plaza:** \$20,000; Friends of Jesus Urquides, Design Phase - we have a design concept, working with design team to refine and modify, working toward final design
- **Airport Public Art Plan:** Airport Percent-for-Art; Amy Westover, content is with the designer for final layout and graphic design
- **Central Bench Transit Shelters:** \$5,246 (NIP), Installation on hold, waiting for transit shelter to be constructed
- **FY 2023 (and beyond) Planning for upcoming percent for art projects!**





MEMO

TO: Mayor McLean, Courtney Washburn, Council Member Lisa Sánchez, Arts & History Commissioners

FROM: Danielle Grundel

CC: Jennifer Stevens

DATE: 11/1/2022

RE: Archives Program Update

SUMMARY

The Archives Program is focused on foundational work, identifying potential donors, working with departments on identifying municipal records to preserve, and researching a large-scale reformatting project as well as representing A&H on the COOP committee.

Administrative:

- With the Director, Jennifer Stevens, Archives met with the DFA Director, the Clerk and her staff to discuss relationship opportunities between records and archives. We identified areas we can work together to improve the state of records and archives across the city. This will be a long-term goal and create consistency and ensure our municipal records are preserved and accessible.
- Researching the workflows and ordinances of municipal archives and records programs across the country
- Working with a cultural organization on the donation and digitization of select records to Boise City
- Developing goals for FY23 to align with the mission and vision of the department
- Worked with the History team to move artifacts to the archives where they will remain under their care

Cross/departmental work:

- Working with the Mayor's office and the Legal department to ensure the City is meeting contract obligations regarding the USS Boise collection
- Completed imaging a display project for the Fire Department before their removal
- Assisted PDS and PW on research queries

Processing:

- MS049, Adrian Godfrey Collection is currently being processed. Adrian Godfrey was a longtime Boisean resident who performed with the Boise Philharmonics

and Boise Elks Gleeman. He wrote poetry and worked with and retired from Boise Cascade.

Digitization:

- Gathering data on a large-scale reformatting project of approximately 4,000 cassette tapes.
- Researching options for corrective actions for cassettes that have access issues
- Reformatted 7" reel-to-reel and vinyl records of performances of the Boise Elks Gleeman





DEPARTMENT OF ARTS & HISTORY

MAYOR: Lauren McLean | DIRECTOR: Jennifer Stevens

MEMO

TO: Mayor McLean, Courtney Washburn, Council Member Lisa Sánchez, Arts & History Commissioners

FROM: Amy Fackler, Grants Manager

CC: Jennifer Stevens

DATE: 11/1/2022

RE: Board Commission Report

SUMMARY

Tracked FY2023 recipients' Agreements, invoices, events, and projects; preparing for upcoming projects; assisted with Erma Hayman House staffing during open hours.

FY2023 GRANTS

- Tracked timelines and assist recipients as needed
- Promoted grant recipient events/projects (coordinating with outreach and education communications team for social media)
- Updated Agreement language with Legal
- Processed documents and instructions for grant recipients (Grant Recipient checklist, agreements, invoices, and final reports)

PROJECTS

- Planning Candid Foundation Directory funding research workshops (platform available at Main Library; working with library staff)
- Planning mini-flash grant round (early January – February 2023)
- Planning professional fundraising consultant workshop (March 2023)

OTHER TASKS

- Attended Idaho Women's Charitable Foundation Symposium.
- Attended Indigenous People's Day at BSU
- Attended "The Latinx Experience" hosted by City Club
- Assisted with Erma Hayman House open hours staffing
- FY2023 Goal setting



MEMO

TO: Mayor McLean, Courtney Washburn, Council Member Lisa Sánchez, Arts & History Commissioners

FROM: Alaggio Laurino, Cultural Asset Program Assistant

CC: Jennifer Stevens

DATE: 10/26/2022

RE: Public Art Maintenance and Conservation

Program Updates

Since Josh Olsen's departure in late August, Alaggio Laurino has been managing the Cultural Assets Program alone. Due to understaffing, there has resulted a project backlog. Efforts are currently underway to fill the position of Cultural Assets Program Manager.

Current Project Updates

Linen Fence, Grove St.: "Familiar Comforts" by Rachael Mayer was successfully installed on October 11th by Alaggio Laurino, Stephanie Johnson, and Lianna Hamby. These pieces, made from quilted polyester fabric are a departure from the traditionally painted wood panels. They are an exciting example of an experimental tactile medium. How they will fair in their outdoor environment during their 1-year tenure remains to be seen. However, the material was selected for its resilience and the outlook is promising. Previous artworks were secured into the Linen Fence frames by carpentry screws drilled directly into the panels. This method was destructive and allowed water to seep into the wood, causing permanent damage. Alaggio Laurino devised a new method of securing the artwork into the Linen Fence frames that avoids the use of destructive screws. This will be the method used on all futured artwork at this location moving forward.

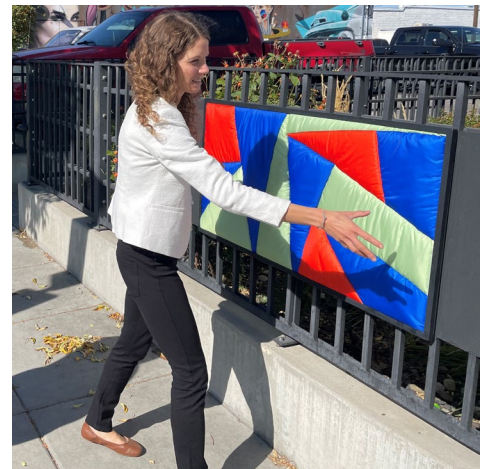


Figure 1: Installation of "Familiar Comforts" by Rachael Mayer

Bown Crossing Library Lobby: Miquel Almeida's paintings "Essential Yet Invisible" were removed from the Linen Fence location and processed into the permanent collection. They were given a condition report and cleaned. Aside from vandalism last autumn,

they weathered exceptionally well. They were then fitted with nondestructive hardware and hung at the Bown Crossing Library lobby on October 25th. Due to excessive fluctuations in light and temperature, the lobby is inappropriate for long-term exhibitions of typical fine art. However, artwork created for the Linen Fence location are designed with materials intended to withstand outdoor conditions. It is the plan moving forward that artwork featured at the Linen Fence will serve out their 1-year exhibition time and then be subsequently featured at the Bown Crossing Library lobby for a further year. This will widen their exhibition time and geographical location, allowing further opportunity to be appreciated by the people of Boise.



Figure 2: "Essential Yet Invisible" by Miguel Almeida at Bown Crossing Library!

"Cecil D. Andrus" Bust, Cecil D Andrus Park: On October 7th, the bronze sculpture was found vandalized. An unidentified substance (likely a high-proof alcohol) was poured over the head, dissolving the wax, exposing the metal, allowing it to corrode. Remaining residue was removed by Alaggio Laurino using deionized water. Security was contacted and footage was found that showed two unidentified individuals interacting with the sculpture. Because of poor video quality, it cannot be said for certain if they were the culprits, but it seems likely. If the substance was a colorless, clear liquid, damage would not have been apparent for several days if not weeks. The artist, Ben Victor has been contacted and is planning to restore the sculpture. He will also be proposing alterations to the pedestal to allow for easier removal of the bust.



Figure 3: Observed vandalism to Cecil D. Andrus bust by Ben Victor

"Litharacnium", BODO: Welding repairs and repainting has been completed by SRM Manufacturing LLC. Reinstallation dates have been stalled because SRM's crane is out of commission. They are hiring a separate crane operator. This subcontractor is seeking permits for road closure and has yet to get approval. Installation is imminent.

"Did You Know?", Capitol Blvd: Advanced Sign Inc successfully replicated a missing sign in the "Did You Know?" series installed on lampposts along Capitol Blvd. Previous signs had been installed using a bolt drilled into the lampposts. Due to issues of electrical safety and historical preservation of the lampposts, this new sign was installed using a nondestructive method at the request of Public Works Street Light Program. This will be the method moving forward regarding all artwork or signage attached to city lampposts.

“History in Motion”, Catalpa Park: Further inspection of the sculpture revealed extensive corrosion to the steel base due to years of contact with wet soil. A weep hole was drilled into the base of the sculpture which released over 2 gallons of accumulated moisture causing unknown damage to the interior. It has been determined that the current mulch landscaping is no longer suitable. Alaggio Laurino has been in collaboration with Ken Reeves of Parks & Rec to devise a solution. The artist Mark Stasz was contacted and approved a proposed plan to replace the soil with river rock to promote drainage. Plans are to complete this before the onset of winter.



Figure 4: Observed corrosion at "History in Motion" by Mark Stasz

Erma Hayman House Wall: Low-relief sculptures by artist Vinnie Bagwell were installed at the Erma Hayman House on September 20th. Already inspections have found some cracks in the resin-cast artwork. It remains unclear if this vice is a result of fabrication, installation, or exposure to the weather. These cracks will be continuously monitored but they need to be addressed before freezing weather sets in. Stephanie Johnson is working with the artist to identify the materials used so they may be properly treated. Other adjustments to the pieces are planned to avoid further damage from cold weather conditions. These include weep holes and spacers to separate the sculpture from the surface of the concrete wall.

CCDC Westside & River Myrtle Districts Maintenance Plans: Jennifer Stevens and Alaggio Laurino are developing a priority maintenance plan for all artwork in the respective CCDC districts. This plan will identify which artworks are in need of maintenance, and outline the nature of those repairs, their relative urgency, their cost, and the anticipated timelines between now and sunset dates. Such maintenance may include but is not limited to extensive repairs to “Gentle Breeze” & “Bicycle Trio”; reimbursement for time during inspections and inventory documentation; reimbursement for scheduled cleanings or preventive maintenance done by A&H staff and annual contracted cleanings; “disposing” faded Traffic Box wraps by rewrapping them with new wraps by new artists.

“Gentle Breeze”, Cheri Buckner-Webb Park/CCDC Westside District: Ongoing maintenance and repairs continues at this location. Due to continued structural piston failure of the east-facing swing, drastic re-engineering is required to recenter the upper swing apparatus. A toned rubber bumper may be used in the meantime to soften leverage impact point. Signage on the back of the swings discouraging people from pushing them is also recommended. As previously mentioned, this sculpture stands in the CCDC Westside District and will be included in their requested art maintenance plan.

“Bike Trio,” Linen District/CCDC River Myrtle District: Removal, restoration, and new footings are still being planned for this artwork. The artists have been contacted for estimates and availability dates. Because this sculpture stands in the CCDC River Myrtle District, it too is being included in their requested art maintenance plan. A better understanding of available funds would be preferred before plans are finalized.

Traffic Box Collection: Periodic inspections and cleanings of the City's 215 Traffic Boxes continues. All existing aluminum signage will be removed and replaced with vinyl signage in Spring, 2023. Signage will be incorporated into all future traffic box vinyl wraps. A comparative quality assessment has also been conducted on older Traffic Boxes to determine the source of those which have drastically faded, peeled, or crack over time. A preferred fabricator has been identified who can provide a product that will last for 12+ years with little loss of quality or color.



Figure 5: Traffic Box on Main & Capitol, Before & After Cleaning

“Gem Block”, Main St between 10th St and 11th St: The artwork was deaccessioned by a unanimous vote by Arts & History commission on February 2nd, 2022. Renovations have continued at the site but removal/disposal has yet to occur for reasons unknown. One of the six pieces will be saved for archival purposes at Kendall.

Boise Airport Installations: Construction continues on the TSA Corridor Expansion. Two installations must be removed and will be reinstalled in their original respective locations when construction is complete by the end of November.

“Slip Stream”: The glass fish were removed and placed into storage on site by contractors with the supervision of Alaggio Laurino on October 6th. The glass curtain behind the installation was removed at a later date.

“Reticulated Horizon”: Reinstallation has begun. Alaggio Laurino will attempt to supervise.



Figure 6: Removal of “Slip Stream” at Boise Airport



DEPARTMENT OF ARTS & HISTORY

MAYOR: Lauren McLean | DIRECTOR: Jennifer Stevens

TO: Mayor McLean, Courtney Washburn, Council Member Lisa Sánchez, Arts & History Commissioners
FROM: Tilley (Karen) Bubba, Cultural Planner
CC: Jennifer Stevens, Arts & History Director
DATE: 11/1/2022
RE: Cultural Planner

General Highlights October 2022:

Name Change: I am legally changing my name to Matilda Rose Bubba and am going by Tilley.

Goal 1: Develop Cultural Policy

- **Exploring Potential for a Boise Creative Economy Plan:** I am looking at models of creative economy studies from cities such as Seattle, New Orleans, and Detroit that show the impact of creative workers with an interest of developing something similar for Boise.

Goal 2: Enhance and Preserve Neighborhood Places

- **Erma Hayman House Opening:** I am providing staff coverage of open hours and learning more about the history of the neighborhood and site.

Goal 3: Maintain and Develop Cultural Assets

- I am developing implementation overviews for Public Works and Boise Airport Arts Master Plans.
- **Boise Airport Public Art Plan:** Melissa Osgood, designer, is preparing the designed version of the Boise Airport public art plan for the existing airport campus and new construction.
- **General Fund Public Art Plan:** Stephanie Johnson and I are initiating preparing to work on a public art plan for the general fund, which includes the parks, libraries, City Hall, police and fire facilities, and art on the streets.

Goal 4: Partner with Organizations

- **Cultural Research:** I am meeting with the Downtown Boise Association about how we might support their new strategic plan focusing on cultural initiatives such as classes, walking tours, and a City Club event focused on downtown creative economy.

Other Staff Activities:

- **Public Art Tours:** I conducted public art tours for Healthwise, BSU classes, special interest groups and the general public.

- **Percent-for-Art Ordinance:** I am working with legal, public art team, and our director to revisit this ordinance and its language with the goal of more consistency in the .4% allocation and ability to consider history and archive investments.

