



## DEPARTMENT OF ARTS & HISTORY

MAYOR: Lauren McLean | DIRECTOR: Jennifer Stevens

### AGENDA Arts & History Commission

Wednesday, February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023  
3:30 – 5:00 pm  
Boise City Hall, Greenbelt Room, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor

Virtual attendance is available. Please visit:  
<https://cityofboise.zoom.us/j/88320164448>

- I. **Call to Order** – John Hand, Chair
  - a. **Land Acknowledgment** – Commission Chair John Hand
  - b. Approve Minutes from January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023 (**Exhibit A**)
  - c. Introductions – Jennifer Stevens, Director
    - i. Elaine Clegg, Arts & History Commission Council Liaison
    - ii. Jillian Whitehill, Arts & History Executive Assistant
- 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. Boise Airport Arts Master Plan – Matilda Bubb, Cultural Planner
    - i. Approval requested
- III. **Adjourn Meeting**



# MEMO

**TO:** Mayor McLean, Courtney Washburn, Council Member Elaine Clegg, Arts & History Commissioners  
**FROM:** Jennifer Stevens, Director  
**DATE:** January 19, 2023  
**RE:** Department of Arts & History Update

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## GENERAL UPDATE

We are gearing up for an exciting year and regaining our footing in our efforts to provide cultural amenities to a wider range of Boise residents.

### Administrative

I am slowly making progress on a strategic plan, which I hope to have drafted by mid-February and completed by the March 17 team offsite at the latest. Meanwhile, department space planning is ongoing. The city's main space planner is retiring at the end of January, so there is a bit of a delay in execution. However, I am hopeful that we will have an interim rearrangement of desks and seats (according to divisions) before we seek budget for new furniture and a more comprehensive remodel in FY24.

### Hiring

On the hiring front, the team is nearly complete. We have made offers to new staff at both the James Castle House and Erma Hayman House, as well as for a new Cultural Assets Program Manager. We will be opening up a newly reimagined Grants position in February, and hiring for a Public Works Art Project Coordinator in March. We have also embarked on a small reorganization that will create a structure that encourages greater collaboration and efficiency across the department's divisions. Once those changes have been approved by Human Resources, I will provide details to the Commission.

### Public Programming: Alignment and Development

One overarching goal for the year is to work more closely as a team on initiatives to which each division can contribute and to emerge from such initiatives with a **standard set of deliverables** that can be disseminated to Boise residents well into the future.

For instance, the History Division is spearheading an oral history project with Boise's Chinese community beginning in February. The Archives Division will contribute to a Chinese-history focused exhibit with photos from the Burns Studio collection, while the Public Art Division will work to either repair and reinstall the *Historic Site: Boise*

*Chinatown, 2001* (commonly known as *Chinatown Viewers*) by Dwaine Carver located in downtown Boise or to commission new, related art. We may also host a Participatory Archiving day for Boise's Chinese community to share materials, artifacts, and other mementos to be captured by Arts & History staff and added to the Boise City Archives. With initiatives such as this one, which supports the city's vision of creating a city for everyone, we will streamline our offerings, aiming to emerge from each initiative with several standardized deliverables, including history presentations (1 aimed at adults, 1 aimed at youth) and a walking tour.

We also plan to regain a more standard and expanded rotation of exhibitions in 2023, having lost a bit of ground during Covid and staff turnover. We will be putting together a standard workflow for executing on exhibitions, creating a structure that will allow us two key things: the ability to re-use exhibits in the future, as well as the ability to deploy exhibits to locations other than City Hall, including the Main Library and library branches. We expect to emerge from these efforts with a schedule of planned exhibitions for the next several years, timing our efforts on a staggered basis in conjunction with related community events, historic and cultural heritage months.

We are also focused on working collaboratively with other departments in the city, including the Boise Public Library, Planning & Development Services (PDS), and Human Resources. We recently held a meeting with all Library branch managers to kick off planning efforts to display A&H exhibitions in their facilities' display cases. Additionally, we are discussing potential partnerships between the Archives and Library, specifically the possibility of obtaining a small reading room on the 3rd floor for Archives researchers to conduct research under the supervision of Archives staff. This partnership has a great deal of potential, since our missions are so closely aligned. A&H has also been asked by PDS Director Tim Keane to contribute content to one of his priority initiatives called "The Design of Boise". The History Division is contributing 14 historical vignettes to his product and eventually, the Public Art Division will develop a call to artists for the project. Finally, Human Resources is revamping its new employee onboarding process and asked A&H to contribute regularly to this process. As such, our team is putting together a slide presentation that will provide new employees with a brief history of Boise as well as introducing them to the department's work so that they can be prepared to call on our team as they begin their own work. All of these partnerships are working toward giving us greater visibility within the organization and elevating the work of our team externally, as well.

In fact, A&H's work with CCDC is also advancing the mission of bringing arts and culture to more residents of Boise. We will be presenting two more T4 agreements to their board in early February, which will facilitate the public art at the new park planned for 521 Grove Street as well as interpretive signage at the Erma Hayman House. The latter is critical to complete before the summer foot traffic begins to increase our visitors at the cultural site. And, by way of update since the last memo, CCDC has approved funding for at least a portion of the city's deferred maintenance plan request; we expect a formal written response in the next few weeks.



Finally, the work being done by our Cultural Planner is gaining the department additional visibility, as well. In that space, we are working on assessing the entire Public Art collection to identify gaps both in geographic location as well as representation of art and artist type. Additionally, we are working to support the Mayor's Economic Development team by examining opportunities to boost Boise's creative economy sector. Stay tuned for more details on that to come. A near-term effort will be a City Club event in late March where we will both plan and be represented on a panel related to the creative economy.





# MEMO

**TO:** Mayor McLean, Courtney Washburn, Council Member Elaine Clegg, Arts & History Commissioners

**FROM:** Travis Jeffres

**CC:** Jennifer Stevens

**DATE:** 1/25/2023

**RE:** History Program Update

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## SUMMARY

January's work focused on programming outreach and support, project coordination and development, and planning.

### Programming

- Fettuccine Forum returns Feb. 2 with "Out in Idaho: Queer Spaces beyond Boise," feat. Prof. Lisa McClain and Rachel Taylor (BSU)
- A&H will co-host "Day of Remembrance: The Power of Words" at the Idaho State Museum on February 19, 2022. History programs manager collaborated with Friends of Minidoka and Minidoka National Historic Site to plan and program the event
- Fettuccine Forum finishes up March 2 with "Traditional Chinese Medicine in Idaho and the American West: A History of Herbs and Roots," feat. Prof. Tamara Venit-Shelton (Claremont-McKenna)

### Projects

1. PDS Design of Boise – Research, writing, and revision of historical vignettes. Procurement of visual assets to accompany and collaboration on graphic design elements
2. Documenting Chinese History in Greater Boise through Oral History – transitioning from planning to implementation. Mailed narrator letters. First pre-interview this week

### Publications

- *Fighting Bob* series of children's books are in second round of proof stage. We will finalize distribution strategy in consultation with internal departments and assess needs before moving forward with first print run
- Boise History Timeline Brochures – also in second round proof stage. Ironing out some kinks with presentation/aesthetics before moving to print

### History Resource Page (webpage)

- History staff created preliminary content map and schedule. Will work to create this content throughout the winter/spring
- A&H staff consulted with IT on adjustments to the website layout to enhance navigability. Awaiting update
- Anticipated launch: June-Sep. 2023

### Outreach

- History staff researched and provided copy to Parks & Recreation regarding the history of Grove Street. This information will inform a public survey being conducted relative to 521 W. Grove St. and its future use





# MEMO

**TO:** Mayor McLean, Courtney Washburn, Council Member Elaine Clegg, Arts & History Commissioners  
**FROM:** Kristen Hill, Cultural Sites Manager  
**CC:** Jennifer Stevens, Arts & History Director  
**DATE:** 1/23/2023  
**RE:** Cultural Sites Program Update

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## SUMMARY

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

## JAMES CASTLE HOUSE

The James Castle House is pleased to welcome our new Cultural Sites Program Coordinator, Mackenzie Lawrence, who will join our team in early February.

April 28<sup>th</sup> marks the 5-year anniversary of the James Castle House opening to the public. We will be planning a celebration in the coming weeks, with more information forthcoming.

Maria Michurina will be in residence at the James Castle House for a 10-week term, from February 8 – April 19, 2023. She will host several public events while in residence.

### Maria Michurina Public Events:

Inside the Studio

- Saturday, 3/04 (11:00am – 1:00pm)
- Saturday, 3/11 (11:00am – 1:00pm)
- Saturday, 3/25 (11:00 am – 1:00pm)
- Saturday, 4/08 (11:00am – 1:00pm)

Workshop

- Saturday, 3/18 (11:00am – 1:00pm)

Final Presentation (Hybrid Event)

- Friday, 4/07 (6:00-7:00pm)

Upcoming Residents

- Jean Shon, May 17 – July 26, 2023
- Clare Johnson, August 23 – November 1, 2023
- Christian Patterson, December 1-11, 2023

## Exhibition:

Hearth & Home is now open to the public. This exhibition focuses on the James Castle works made with soot and spit in the CoB collection. This exhibition will be up until July 29, 2023.

- Hearth & Home, January 12 – July 29, 2023
- 5-Year Residency Retrospective (Title TBD), August 10, 2023 – April 27, 2024

## Events:

- Free Gallery Tours (daily)
- 3/04: Inside the Studio with Maria Michurina (11:00am – 1:00pm)
- 3/11: Inside the Studio with Maria Michurina (11:00am – 1:00pm)
- 3/18: Maria Michurina Workshop (11:00 am – 1:00pm)
- 3/25: Inside the Studio with Maria Michurina (11:00am – 1:00pm)
- 4/07: Maria Michurina Final Presentation-HYBRID (6:00-7:00pm)
- 4/08: Inside the Studio with Maria Michurina (11:00am – 1:00pm)

## **ERMA HAYMAN HOUSE**

- Tenisha Eastman-Dodson is working on developing programming ideas and community partnerships with the Erma Hayman House. We will begin offering select programs in February.
- Copy and images for exterior interpretive signage is in progress.
- SJ and KH are working on the T4 for additional funding from CCDC for exterior signage, artwork, and lighting. This will be presented at CCDC February board meeting.

## Events:

- Free Gallery Tours (daily)
- 2/15: Meet up with the Mayor + A&H Director Jennifer Stevens (6-7pm)
- TBD: Coffee with a Cop







# MEMO

**TO:** Mayor McLean, Courtney Washburn, Council Member Elaine Clegg, Arts & History Commissioners

**FROM:** Stephanie Johnson

**CC:** Jennifer Stevens

**DATE:** 1/25/2023

**RE:** Public Art Program Update

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## PUBLIC ART PROJECTS:

- **West Valley/Ustick NIP Public Art Project:** \$140,000; Redwood Park, Selection Committee has met three times, drafted RFP, purchasing has acquired a new bid process/software, so waiting for that to get sorted prior to releasing the RFP
- **“ABC’s of Public Art” Book:** \$9000; Malia Collins, Stephanie Inman, Arlie Sommer; Project Implementation
- **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
- **Central Bench Transit Shelters:** \$5,246 (NIP), Installation on hold, waiting for transit shelter to be constructed
- **Linen Fence 2023:** \$5000; Call for art released/applications open end of January
- **BVC:** \$25,000; Experimenting with elevator wraps at three city hall and main library, call released in Summer
- **Projection Art Pop-up** – development and planning stage
- **CCDC Projects**
  - **Old Boise Blocks – 2 opportunities:** \$165,000 – T4 agreement in final phase for approval
  - **521 Grove St. Park:** \$400,000 –requesting funding and board presentation in February
  - **EHH/River Myrtle:** \$100,000; EHH signage (Kristen), Lighting for Memoirs of EH, Public art opportunities- requesting funding and board presentation in March
  - **Linen Blocks on Grove:** \$150,000; 2 Artports, billboard sign



# MEMO

**TO:** Mayor McLean, Courtney Washburn, Council Member Elaine Clegg, Arts & History Commissioners  
**FROM:** Danielle Grundel  
**CC:** Jennifer Stevens  
**DATE:** 1/26/2023  
**RE:** Archives Program Update

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## SUMMARY

This month the Archives Program has continued to work on processing collections, supporting community organizations and researchers, and improving the safety of the archives' workspace.

### Facilities

- We have continued to experience issues with fumes from a neighboring facility impacting the air quality of our space at the Kendall Archives. Legal and the complex owners are working to find a solution to improve our air quality

### Interdepartmental work:

- Working with Parks, tracked down the original drawings of the Boise Depot, located at Columbia University

### Research:

- Identifying images to support History's vignettes of Boise's history
- Working with researcher on CCDC's collection
- Working with the Congregation Ahavath Beth Israel in support of their upcoming Gala and BSU's Americans and the Holocaust exhibit

### Processing:

- Arts & History's department records are currently being processed. The records will track how the department has evolved from the Boise City Arts Commission in 1978 to the former Director Terri Schorzman's departure
- Continued work with Parks on survey of MK's Boise Depot records in preparation for the Depot's celebration
- Working through the Burns Studio Collection, re-folding and capturing description of thousands of glass plate negatives



# MEMO

**TO:** Mayor McLean, Courtney Washburn, Council Members, Arts & History Commissioners  
**FROM:** Tilley Bubb, Interim-Grants Manager  
**CC:** Jennifer Stevens  
**DATE:** 1/26/2023  
**RE:** Board Commission Report

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## SUMMARY

Tracked FY2023 recipients' Agreements, invoices, events, and projects, planning for upcoming grant writing for foundation funding workshop (March 2023).

## FY2023 GRANTS

- Tracked timelines and assisted recipients as needed; updated spreadsheets
- Promoted grant recipient events/projects (coordinating with outreach and education communications team for social media)
- Answered queries and processed documents for current grant recipients (agreements, invoices, and final reports)

## PROJECTS

- Planning for professional fundraising consultant workshop (March 2023)

## OTHER TASKS

- Reviewed files and instructions for transition.
- Coordinating with communications staff to share information on grantee activities.
- Provided feedback as requested for input on job description.



# MEMO

**TO:** Mayor McLean, Courtney Washburn, Council Member Elaine Clegg, Arts & History Commissioners  
**FROM:** Alaggio Laurino, Cultural Asset Program Assistant  
**CC:** Jennifer Stevens  
**DATE:** 1/25/2023  
**RE:** Public Art Maintenance and Conservation

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## Program Updates

The position of Cultural Assets Program Manager was offered to Jamile Shirley on January 19, 2023. Her exact first day has yet to be determined.

## Current Project Updates

**“Slip Stream” & “Reticulated Horizon”, Boise Airport:** Both installations have been reinstalled. One panel of Slip Stream needs to be repaired and a suitable contractor is being sought out. Three sculpted glass components that were left out Reticulated Horizon’s final install remain in airport storage and need to be retrieved and put into A&H storage. Construction in the immediate vicinity of the pedestrian exit corridor continues.

**E Pluribus Unum Vandalism:** On January 5, 2023, a spray-painted swastika was found on the mural’s northern wall at the entrance closest to the Anne Frank Memorial. David Buchinskiy contacted Alaggio Laurino who removed the vandalism immediately with no deleterious effects to the artwork.

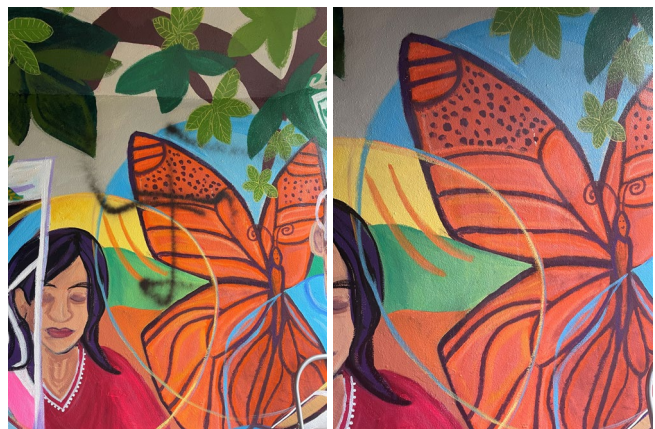


Figure 1. Mural vandalism before and after treatment.

**“Confluence”, Watershed:** Risk and Safety flagged the installation “Confluence” which functions as a water fountain as not being ADA compliant. Because there are another two standard water fountains that do meet ADA compliance, it remains unseen if the sculpture is REQUIRED to be ADA compliant. Alaggio Laurino met with architect Byron Falwell to discuss potential solutions. A conclusion/solution has not yet been reached.



Figure 2. “Confluence”

**“History in Motion”, Catalpa Park:** Parks & Recreation removed the soil surrounding the sculpture’s footings and replaced it with crushed gravel to promote drainage after excessive corrosion to the sculpture was observed. This will suffice for the time being, but it is preferred that the entire berm surrounding the sculpture be replaced with small, rounded pea gravel. A&H will cooperate with Parks & Rec to employ a landscaper in the future.

**“Litharacnium”, BODO:** Reinstallation dates remain stalled pending crane operator scheduling. Due to freezing temperatures and possible snow, installation may be postponed until spring 2023. Contracts with SRM Manufacturing LLC and the artists have been extended until April.

**“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. Construction in this area is expected to run from July to December of 2023. The sculpture will be removed prior, then stored and repaired during this period of time. Still awaiting approval to proceed based upon CCDC reimbursement agreement. No recent update.

**“Gentle Breeze”, Cheri Buckner-Webb Park/CCDC Westside District:** Ongoing maintenance and repairs to the east-facing swing continues. SRM Manufacturing LLC has been contracted to do extensive repairs to correct the misalignment of the swing. This repair is expected in early spring. Signage on the back of the swings discouraging people from pushing them will be added as well. Awaiting approval to proceed based upon CCDC reimbursement agreement. No recent update.

**Annual Maintenance Plan:** Alaggio Laurino is developing a public art collection matrix, categorizing all artwork by grouped location or mediums. From this, he is working on estimating a budget and creating a calendar for strategic implementation of scheduled inspections and anticipated general and reparative maintenance needs.



# MEMO

**TO:** Mayor McLean, Courtney Washburn, Council Members, Arts & History Commissioners  
**FROM:** Matilda (Tilley) Bubb, Cultural Planner  
**CC:** Jennifer Stevens, Arts & History Director  
**DATE:** 1/26/2023  
**RE:** Cultural Planner

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## ***General Highlights January 2023:***

### **Goal 1: Develop Cultural Policy**

- **Exploring Potential for a Boise Creative Economy Plan:** I am working with Sean Keithly and Andrea Cantor in Economic Development to plan a City Club event related to Creative Economy, assist with the film ordinance drafting, and look at how we might analyze Boise's creative economy.

### **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:** Ready to present!
- **General Fund Public Art Plan:** Stephanie Johnson and I are initiating and 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 the downtown creative economy.

### **Other Staff Activities:**

- **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.



## DEPARTMENT OF ARTS & HISTORY

MAYOR: Lauren McLean | DIRECTOR: Jennifer Stevens

# EXHIBIT A

## Minutes

### Arts & History Commission

Wednesday, January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023

3:30 – 5:00 pm

Boise City Hall, Greenbelt Room, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor

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

**Commissioners Present:** John Hand (Chair), Kris Clegg (Vice Chair), J.J. Saldaña, Melissa Thom, Sophie Squyres, and Gaby Thomason

**Commissioners Absent:** Catherine Seo, Alan Heathcock, Amanda Ashley

**Council Liaison:** Lisa Sánchez

**Staff Present:** Alaggio Laurino, Tilly Bubb, Danielle Grundel, Kristen Hill, Travis Jeffres, Stephanie Johnson, Lianna Hamby, Jennifer Yribar, Tenisha Eastman-Dodson, and Tyler Powers

**Public:** Christy Claymore Vance, Amy Westover

- I. **Call to Order** – John Hand, Chair
  - a. **Land Acknowledgment** – Commission Chair John Hand
  - b. **Approve Minutes** from December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2022 (**Exhibit A**)
    - i. Commissioner Saldaña makes a motion to approve. Commissioner Clegg seconds.
    - ii. No comments, none opposed. Motion approved at 3:30 p.m.
  - c. **Introductions of new staff** – KH introduces TED
    - i. Tenisha Eastman-Dodson, Cultural Sites Program Coordinator
- 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. **Department Update** – Stevens
    - i. Informational item only
      1. Administrative
      2. Hiring
      3. CCDC/Public Art
  - b. **Boise Airport Arts Master Plan** – Matilda Bubb, Cultural Planner



- i. LS Comments: Research to be done, what is the appropriate approach to be done regarding DEI
- ii. JJ Question: How are you making sure the plan and it's related opportunities reflect the entire community and Boise's full story?
- iii. LS Question: Arbol de la Vida. Is there a plan that the existing public art is called attention to? Commissioner Ivan Castillo.
- iv. JH comment: Concern is that the plan addresses history with a little "h" and a big "A"
  - 1. Literally tell the story/i.e. about the people, places, and shared experiences
  - 2. TJ adds: The timeline, past exhibitions, and oral histories with a visual component are germs of an idea to include more history into an arts hearing plan. What about exhibition display cases?
- v. KCQ: Has the Airport completed the expansion plans?
  - 1. Estimate \$700,000 in FY23. Has any of it been allocated and/or spent? No
- vi. TB: Limitations due to the percent-for-art ordinance; however, amending ordinance to more inclusive (cultural ordinance)
- vii. AL: What about long-term maintenance plan?
  - 1. TB: Would come out of the operations fund (currently) % for art for capital cost only with an ordinance revision, would change
- viii. AL: How can people access works in the secure area? No percentage break-down
- ix. LS: Amazing opportunity to tell a fuller story and undo the racist past
- x. MT: Airport should be innovative and forward thinking, not necessarily about the past
- xi. GT: Vancouver, BC airport representing Native people, immigrants, refugees, contemporary reflection of our community
- xii. AW: As a public archivist, how do we get artists to apply?
- xiii. GT: Will you be conducting informational sessions? Make sure larger swaths of populations get the info
- xiv. TB: Plan is a tool, set the stage up to Stephanie and team to create opportunities & partnerships with Airport





- xv. LS: Is it possible to have advertisers sponsor the exhibits? To ensure the revenue stream?
    - 1. General discussion
  - xvi. JH: First time we're seeing this document (one year ago) ask is that we have more regular updates on future projects; asking for updates
  - xvii. Approval requested
    - 1. Commissioner Clegg would like to have a more updated version and more time. Commissioner Thomason seconds.
    - 2. AL brings to the attention the possible deaccession of "Transport" by AW
  - c. **Communications Plan, 2023** – Jennifer Yribar, Outreach & Education Coordinator
    - i. Informational item only
      - 1. General discussion.
- III. **Adjourn Meeting**– The next Arts & History Commission meeting will be held on February 1, 2023.
- a. Commission Chair Hand asks commissioners to offer a motion to adjourn.
    - i. Commissioner Saldaña offers a motion; Commissioner Thomason seconds.
    - ii. No discussion; all in favor. So moved at 4:57p.m.

