AGENDA
Arts & History Commission

Wednesday, October 4th, 2023
5:00-6:30 pm
Greenbelt Room, 3rd Floor, Boise City Hall
150 N Capitol Blvd, Boise ID 83702

Virtual and in-person attendance is offered.
Watch via Zoom Webinar: Registration Link

I. Call to Order – John Hand, Chair
   a. Land Acknowledgment – Commission Chair John Hand

II. Minutes Approval
   a. ACTION REQUESTED: Approve Minutes from August 2nd, 2023 (Exhibit A)

III. J.J. Saldaña Tribute

IV. Director’s Update
   a. Introducing New Staff
   b. 2024-2025 Cultural Ambassador Announcement & Introduction

V. 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 Program Update (15 min) – Stephanie Johnson
   b. James Castle House Museum Accreditation (10 min) – Kristen Hill

VI. Adjourn Meeting
TO: Arts & History Commissioners  
FROM: Jennifer Stevens, Director  
CC: Mayor McLean, Courtney Washburn, Council Member Latonia Haney Keith  
DATE: 9/27/2023  
RE: Director Update

ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE MONTH

Hiring/Organization  
As of this writing, the Department of Arts & History is fully staffed and has no vacancies.  
• In September, Arts & History welcomed Maureen Lavelle as the new History Programs Manager. She comes to Arts & History after 12 years with the National Park Service.

Mayor’s Awards for Excellence in Arts & History  
• 200 attendees  
• Venue: Treefort Music Hall  
• Entertainment: Boise State Jazz Ensemble and Boise Contemporary Theater, Boise’s Outgoing Cultural Ambassador  
• Awardees: Emerging Artist: Miguel Angel Almeida; Support for the Cultural Sector: Rich and Georgiann Raimondi and Idaho Women’s Charitable Foundation; Excellence in the Arts: Brett Perry; Excellence in History: Bob Reinhardt; Excellence in Arts Education: Idaho Youth Barbershop Festival; Lifetime Achievement: Carol Skinner and The Flicks  
• Announcement of 2023-2025 Cultural Ambassador: Story, Story Night

Advocacy Assistance  
We are working with several arts-related entities in Boise to assist with their efforts to launch an Idaho arts and culture advocacy organization. They want the entity to advocate on behalf of the arts and culture community when the Idaho Legislature is in session each year. This is an ongoing effort and we are assisting with convening the group and connecting the group with the State and Local Government Director of Americans for the Arts.

External Partnerships  
The American Association for State & Local History was held in Boise in early September. With the Mayor’s sponsorship of the conference, several staff members were able to attend the conference sessions for professional development purposes as well as the
social networking events. Our strong showing demonstrated our willingness to partner closely with the State Historical Society.

Additionally, staff members were deeply involved in the following activities:

- **Volunteer Shifts:** The entire A&H staff volunteered for at least one shift.
- **Tabling Opportunity:** A&H staffed a table in the Exhibit Hall during all open hours.
- **Tours:** There were four tours which involved A&H staff. Attendees were treated to tours of:
  - the River Street Neighborhood during a Black History Tour which included a stop at the Erma Hayman House;
  - the James Castle House;
  - irrigation in the Boise valley, with stops at Arrowrock Dam and Diversion Dam, as well as Foote Park;
  - Downtown Boise Art and related history including the Basque Block, Suffrage Quilt, and Erma’s Wall.
- **Panels:** Tenisha Eastman-Dodson and Kristen Hill led a panel that also included Kirsten Furlong and Dr. Bill White.

It was a highly successful event, and a joy to show off our beautiful city!

**NEEDS FROM COMMISSIONERS**

**Hiring**

We expect to begin the hiring process for Airport Public Art Project Coordinator position in the next few months. We’ll be sure to let you know so that you can contact your networks.

**Arts & History Advisory Team**

We look forward to relaunching the group fondly known as AHAT in 2024. With John and Kris already on board, we are looking for any volunteers that would be interested in discussing and planning for the reimagined AHAT.
TO: Mayor McLean, Courtney Washburn, Council Member Latonia Haney Keith, Arts & History Commissioners
FROM: Stephanie Johnson, Public Art Program Manager
CC: Jennifer Stevens, Director
DATE: 9/27/2023
RE: Public Art Program Update

ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE MONTH

- Working to revise Public Art Guidelines document in response to revision of Percent for Art Ordinance revision.
- This will also trigger a review and revision of the collections policy
- Public Works Public Art Projects – Hannah has been working to orient and familiarize herself with the staff and programs within the Public Works department

Traffic Boxes 2023
$36,000; Call currently open! First official Public Works project for 12 boxes in the River/Myrtle Neighborhood. Upcoming CCDC T4 Reimbursement Agreement.

Linen District Fence 2023
$5000; selected artist Mindy Yong for the 2024 Linen District Fence Public Art, will install in October.

West Valley/Ustick NIP Public Art Project
$140,000; James Peterson of Art + Contraptions selected for the project, contract approval by City Council.

CCDC Projects with Type 4 Agreements
Erma Hayman House T4
$100,000; Interpretive signage, added lighting for artwork on wall, projection infrastructure for future art projections on River St. facing wall.

521 W Grove St. Public Space, Public Art
$400,000; City Council affirmed selection and approved the contract of Cliff Garten Studios. Cliff has been working with the design team to work through his preliminary concept and possible layout.

**Old Boise Blocks Sidewalk Element**
$23,000; Artist Mungo Ligoya selected and awarded $3000 for design; fabrication of 12 sidewalk inlay medallions.

**Old Boise Blocks Barrier**
$165,000; Call for art applications received. Selection of Bobby Zokaites and contract for approval by City Council in September.

**Linen Blocks**
$113,000; 3 projects – Landmark Billboard Sign; 2 Art Ports; Bike Trio de-install, restore and re-install, Call for artists in development. – T4 agreement to be designated in October.

**Public Art Walking Tours**
Taking place every 3rd Saturday, May through October. Tour reservations are live on our website!

**NEEDS FROM COMMISSIONERS**

**Public Art Walking Tours**
Desired Action: Share with those who may be interested that registration for this year’s public art walking tours is now open.
TO: Mayor McLean, Courtney Washburn, Council Member Latonia Haney Keith, Arts & History Commissioners
FROM: Danielle Grundel, City Archivist
CC: Jennifer Stevens, Director
DATE: 9/27/2023
RE: Archives Program Update

ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE MONTH

New Collection
Archives was recently gifted papers from Gwendolyn Smith Stevens Wilson who was a Boise resident, the City’s Recreation Supervisor, and the Assistant State Recreation Supervisor with the WPA. The records are a snapshot into a woman’s working life primarily during the WWII era. The collection contains ephemera, business materials, and some personal papers including letters from her nephew, a soldier who was deployed during WWI as well as a few artifacts.

Processed Collection
Archives has completed processing of Opera Idaho’s records and is now working on digitizing the collection, including early recorded operas, to go live in November on our digital collections website. Opera Idaho’s collection is a great example of a major Idaho cultural organization’s evolution. You can view the finding aid to the collection here, https://boiseartsandhistory.libraryhost.com/repositories/2/resources/124.

NEEDS FROM COMMISSIONERS

None this month.
TO: Mayor McLean, Courtney Washburn, Council Member Latonia Haney Keith, Arts & History Commissioners
FROM: Emily Chivers, Grants & Public Programs Manager
CC: Jennifer Stevens, Director
DATE: 9/27/2023
RE: Grants and Public Program Update

ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE MONTH

FY2024 Grants

- Finalized grant recipient awards and notified all applicants.
- Coordinated timelines and promotion strategies with Communications Manager and sent out a press release and social media posts announcing FY24 Grant Recipients.
- Finalized documents and instructions for grant recipients (Grant Recipient checklist, agreements, invoices, and final reports)
- Planning Grant Recipient Information Session at City Hall on 9/27

FY2023 Grants

- Grant recipients continue to turn in final reports and invoices for last payments.
- ~$40,000 left from FY23 grant cycle will be requested during the re-budget process in October with the hope of adding a TBD special purpose grant cycle in FY24.

Grants & Public Programs Planning

- Started researching and scheduling meetings with other cultural organizations to understand the current landscape of public programming and funding opportunities in Boise/Idaho.
- Working on some strategic planning and goal setting for the Grant Program and Public Programming for the department (working with Cultural Outreach and Education Coordinator to align Education and Public Programming strategy).

NEEDS FROM COMMISSIONERS

FY2024 Grant Cycle
**Desired Actions:**
- Attend upcoming grant recipient events (see newsletter).
TO: Mayor McLean, Courtney Washburn, Council Member Latonia Haney Keith, Arts & History Commissioners
FROM: Jamile Shirley, Cultural Assets Program Manager
CC: Jennifer Stevens, Director
DATE: 9/27/2023
RE: Cultural Assets Program Update

ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE MONTH

“E Pluribus Unum” Vandalism
Alaggio Laurino and Jamile Shirley removed three areas of orange spray graffiti on E Pluribus Unum. The clear anti-graffiti coating, which was applied at the completion of the mural, proved to be a valuable sacrificial barrier allowing the graffiti to be removed without damaging the mural.
Rhodes Skate Park Bird Deterrents
Alaggio Laurino oversaw the installation of bird deterrents above the underpass “Integration” mural at Rhodes Park. The deterrents will prevent bird droppings from accumulating on the mural as well as deter pigeons from nest-building in the area.

Weed Mitigation
Alaggio Laurino and Jamile Shirley removed and treated weeds growing in the expansion cracks of “Go with the Flow,” “Laiak,” and “Great Blues.” Several goat head plants were also removed along the greenbelt.

“Botanica” Skate-Stops
Procured and installed skate-stops for the curved bench-style mosaic “Botanica.” The original artist was consulted on their preference of skate-stop style, and a mutually agreed upon functional shape was chosen. The skate-stops were installed in August by Jay Blackhurst.

Primo Cleaners Traffic Box Maintenance
Primo Cleaners have been contracted to clean 214 traffic boxes. Cleaning includes removal of dirt, debris, spiderwebs, graffiti, stickers, and tape as well as providing a condition report for each traffic box.

Collections Digitizing
All 19 of the 2D framed and hanging artwork on display throughout the HR department in City Hall was deinstalled by Alaggio Laurino and Jamile Shirley in preparation for the renovation of the HR office area. The artwork was transported to Evermore Prints to be documented digitally in an ongoing effort to catalog and digitize the collection for the future improved public accessibility.

Traffic Box Labels Replacement
Advanced Sign, LLC is working to replace 214 traffic box labels. They are removing the old aluminum labels and replacing them with vinyl labels, applied directly to the traffic boxes. The aluminum labels tended to fall off and were costly in comparison. The project is to be completed by October 31st, 2023.

“Enviroguard Pipe Tree”
Jay Blackhurst has been contracted to replace the leaves on “Enviroguard Pipe Tree,” located at the Watershed. The leaves are bronze—an inherently soft metal—and fell off over time. Jay is soldering a durable stem on each leaf. The leaves will be reattached with tie wire. This project will reestablish the original artist’s intended appearance and movement of leaves.

Art Hanging Rails
A new art hanging rail system is being installed throughout the first floor of City Hall. The system will allow framed artwork to be moved more easily without requiring FSO to patch and paint the walls. Select walls were identified to receive the rail system. This pilot project is slated to expand to the other floors of City Hall and the libraries.
NEEDS FROM COMMISSIONERS

None this month.
TO: Mayor McLean, Courtney Washburn, Council Member Latonia Haney Keith, Arts & History Commissioners
FROM: Matilda Bubb, Cultural Planner
CC: Jennifer Stevens, Director
DATE: 9/27/2023
RE: Cultural Planning Activity

ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE MONTH

General Fund Public Art Assessment
After doing an initial overall assessment of Boise’s public art collection, Bubb did a deep dive into public art at the Library, analyzing the collections and interviewing branch managers. The report is part of a larger project to identify gaps in the public art program and plan for future resource allocation.

Film Permit and Industry Support
Arts & History, Economic Development, and City Clerk’s office is working together to craft a film permit and phased plan to support the industry. When it is ready to go forward to City Council staff will alert the commission.

Music Policy Forum
The City of Boise is one of the hosts for the Music Policy Forum, which will be held in Boise in December 2023. Bubb is on the planning committee preparing for the event.

NEEDS FROM COMMISSIONERS

None this month.
TO: Mayor McLean, Courtney Washburn, Council Member Latonia Haney Keith, Arts & History Commissioners
FROM: Kristen Hill, Cultural Sites Program Manager
CC: Jennifer Stevens, Director
DATE: 9/27/2023
RE: Cultural Sites Updates

ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE MONTH

Erma Hayman House Programming
The Erma Hayman House opened its first art exhibition on Saturday, September 23rd. Titled Afro Blue: An Ode, Celebration, and Meditation, the exhibition is a collection of photographic portraits by local artist Gracieux Baraka, which were taken in collaboration with the Idaho Black Community Alliance’s Black Excellence Gala in February. The exhibition will be on view through July 2024 and is available to view during regular open hours. We will also offer additional programming throughout its run.

The second call for program proposals is open for applications through October 8. This round will select public programs to occur on-site January-March 2024.

Erma Hayman House at AALSH
The Erma Hayman House hosted a session at the recent conference for AASLH (American Association for State and Local History). Titled, It Takes A Village: Making the Erma Hayman House, the session presented the community approach behind the project from its inception. Dr. William White, Kirsten Furlong, and Tenisha Eastman-Dodson presented their experiences with community involvement through the archaeological dig, the Erma Hayman House Task Force, public art selection, and community programs.

The Erma Hayman House was also a featured stop on a special tour of the AASLH conference, A More Complete Story: Exploring the City of Boise’s African American History.

James Castle House Residency
Fall 2023 JCH resident Clare Johnson joined us in early September for her 10-week term. She will host several public engagement opportunities including open studios and a workshop, as well as a final presentation of her works throughout her stay.
James Castle House Programming
The James Castle House launched programming centered around the current exhibition, Interlude: A Five-Year Residency Retrospective on September 29th with the first of three scheduled resident panels moderated by Brooke Burton. The first panel featured previous JCH residents Cole Calvin and Eric Follett alongside current resident Clare Johnson, for a discussion on their experiences in the space.

James Castle House at AASLH
The James Castle House hosted a half-day special tour and panel as a part of the American Association for State and Local History. During this event, we were joined by 15 guests who explored the site and listened to a panel discussion between Steven Snow (Director for the Idaho Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing), Lisa Pisano (James Castle Collection and Archive Registrar), and Kristen Hill, who discussed the impact the James Castle House has had on the art world, Deaf and Hard of Hearing community, and local Boise community.

AAM Accreditation
The James Castle House has been in the process of accreditation through the AAM (American Alliance of Museums) for the past two years. After completing our self-study and submitting initial application materials, we have been approved to move to the second stage in the process, with a site visit by two peer reviewers. These guests will be in Boise on November 16th and 17th to conduct a site visit and conduct interviews with staff and Commission members.

NEEDS FROM COMMISSIONERS

AAM Accreditation
Please let us know if you are available to join an interview with the American Alliance of Museums for James Castle House accreditation.
TO: Mayor McLean, Courtney Washburn, Council Member Latonia Haney Keith, Arts & History Commissioners
FROM: Maureen Lavelle, History Program Manager
CC: Jennifer Stevens, Director
DATE: 9/27/2023
RE: History Program Update

HISTORY PROGRAMS UPDATE

Fettuccine Forum
The first program in the 2023-2024 series (“Let’s Talk About Boise”) takes place on Thursday, October 5th, with speaker Yvette Towersap.
- The Forum has been relocated from City Hall to Trailhead (500 S. 8th St). Several A&H staff and IT met at the space to discuss staging and technology, and will do a dry run of the setup on September 28th.

Oral History Project
The “Documenting Chinese History in Greater Boise” oral history project continues, with an interview with Andy Louie on September 29th. Ten people have been interviewed over the course of this project. In addition to capturing more interviews, History staff will develop plans for public access to these oral histories, as well as goals and ideas for interpretive programming and projects that utilize information from the many oral history projects in our archives.

Clio and Boise Tours
History staff are working with a contractor to develop virtual, public programming offerings using Clio. This free app uses location services to alert users when they are in proximity to a historic or cultural point of interest, or users can opt to follow established tours, using the app to guide them through a building or landscape. Our contractor has developed four walking tours throughout downtown Boise, and by the end of the year, these tours will be completed, with accompanying research and materials for in-person tours and text/images for a brochure.

NEEDS FROM COMMISSIONERS

None this month.
EXHIBIT A

Minutes
Arts & History Commission

Wednesday, August 2nd, 2023
5:00-6:30 pm
Greenbelt Room, 3rd Floor, Boise City Hall
150 N Capitol Blvd, Boise ID 83702

Virtual and in-person attendance is offered.
Watch via Zoom Webinar: Registration Link

Commissioners Present: John Hand (Chair), Kris Clegg (Vice Chair), Melissa Thom (online), Gaby Thomason, Amanda Ashley, J.J. Saldaña, Catherine Seo (online)
CommissionersAbsent: Sophie Squyres
Council Liaison:
Staff Present: Jennifer Stevens, Jillian Whitehill, Tilly Bubb, Tyler Powers, Emily Chivers, Kristen Hill, Stephanie Johnson, Jennifer Yribar,
Public: Will and Ben Ashley

I. Call to Order – Commission Chair, John Hand called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m.
   a. Land Acknowledgment – Commission Chair John Hand

II. Minutes Approval
   a. ACTION REQUESTED: Approve Minutes from June 7th, 2023 (Exhibit A)
      i. Move to approve by Thomason at 5:04 pm, seconded by Saldaña at 5:04 pm. All in favor

III. Director’s Update
   a. Welcome to Emily Chivers as the new Grants and Public Programs Manager
   b. Maureen Lavelle will be joining on September 6th as the History Programs Manager
   c. Finished our office reorganization. Come visit.
   d. A&H Mission, Vision, and Values – worked with HR team and input from staff to encapsulate what our team is trying to do. Each division has created their own vision, mission, and values
      i. Vision: “To be a leading cultural agency recognized for fostering a sense of belonging through accessible and place-based arts and history.”
ii. Mission: “Cultivating a distinct sense of place that reflects Boise’s rich past, diverse communities, and unique natural setting.”

iii. Values: “Our operations will empower and serve Boise residents. Our activities will create opportunities that nurture and sustain Boise’s past and its creative economy.”

e. CCDC – Council approved art agreement for the Linen Blocks District. Next, we’ll present an agreement for historical interpretive signage from the Old Boise Blocks through to the Linen Blocks.
   i. Part of the negotiation includes a neon sign, from CCDC’s ask

f. Revised % for art ordinance is now a part of Boise City Code. In line with this we are setting up new account tracking for long-range cultural asset planning purposes.
   i. Flat rate of 1.2% of all capital projects
   ii. Maintenance plan determines by 5-year plan
   iii. Budget spent on a wider range of cultural assets

h. In June, City Council asked our Department to present on the history of the original Boise Valley people

i. In July we installed a new permanent exhibit at the Erma Hayman House and a temporary exhibit is coming in September

j. In July took a trip to Minidoka. Will be working with Friends of Minidoka on the Nisei Trials

k. Update on Mayor’s Awards – made recommendations to the Mayor today. Total of 23 nominees in Mayor’s Awards nominee categories and 10 for the Cultural Ambassador. Would love for our Commission to attend the Mayor’s Awards and help spread the word.

l. History update: Will be offering History tours on foundational Boise History. Soft launch of History website to create more accessibility to all the content we have. 3 of 4 of our Fettuccine Forum speakers selected. The theme: Let’s Talk About Boise
   i. TBD: History of Indigenous People in Boise
   ii. Renae Campbell and Priscilla Wegers (Asian American History in Boise)
   iii. Karl Brooks (Boise environmental history)
   iv. Krista Paulsen (History of the meaning of “home” in Boise)

m. Jennifer shared upcoming events

n. Ask from Commissioner Thom - Training resources for Commissioners for Public Art tours.
   i. Stephanie will send a tour script and invites to the Public Art working tour taking place the 3rd Saturday.

.o. Suggestion from Commissioner Thom to review Mayor’s Awards nomination form on Submittable and make it more assessable to those submitting nominations.
IV. 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. ACTION REQUESTED:** Approve FY24 Grants Outcome (30 min) - Tilley Bubb, Emily Chivers, & Commissioners: Emily shares the update on process and timeline. More requests came in this year. Two sessions were hosted in person and others virtually for folks to learn about the granting process. In-person reviews of applications and ideas to create more support and accessibility for individuals going through the process. The panel consisted of 3 commissioners and 4 community members who had served on prior panels.

   i. Thomason – really values that relationship building is part of the process. Thought there were a lot of really great grants. Very excited about the organizations we’ll be funding
   ii. Saldana – Wanted to fund all the grantees. Really glad to see how everything turned out.
   iii. Clegg - Really interesting seeing the strong applicants come through. Strong organizations in the community

**b.** Emily shares the guidelines and criteria of the grants: timelines, locations, meeting ADA and accessibility guidelines, equal opportunity statement, and accessibility to the cost of programming. Criteria, quality 30% community benefit 40%, management 30%.

**c.** Emily shares which applicants were declined and why, and which are up for recommendation for Council approval.

**d.** Recommended partial amount awardees: Boise Baroque Orchestra, Boise Philharmonic, Capital City Flute, Idaho dance Theater, LED, Lost Grove Brewing, Stars in Steinway, and Winter Wildlands Alliance.

**e.** Recommended awards of $1,500-2,500: Kate Walker, Boise Chinese Traditional Dance Group, Colossal Cinematic Showcase, Boise Community Band, and Idaho Prison Arts Collective


**g.** Recommended awards of $4,000 - African Community Development Project, Ballet Idaho, Boise Contemporary Theater, Brett Pery, Downtown Boise Association, Global Lounge, Idaho Concerts in Care

**h.** Recommended awards of $5,000 – Idaho Shakespeare Festival, Indonesian Idaho, Kevin McTeague, MING studios, Story Story Night, The Makatas Heart Foundation, TRICA.

   i. Commission Hand asks if there is any possibility of growing our grant funds?

      1. JS – We are rethinking our grants program so that it better uplifts organizations and supports them in becoming more sustainable.
Once that work has been done, we will have more credibility to ask for more funds for this program.

2. JY – We will be gaining input from our cultural sector and tailoring to those needs
   
   ii. Commissioner Ashley notes that she appreciates the mentorship that was offered to grant applicants that were declined. Appreciated hearing about those awarded and why.
   
   iii. Saldana motions for approval at 6:07pm, Ashely seconds, all in favor. Motion approved.

i. Informational Item: Old Boise Blocks Public Art Update (10 min) – Stephanie Johnson. Within the last 5 months the Public Art team has had 5 public art selection panels and has selected 5 artists! Stephanie provides an update on these artists selected and where their work will be located.

j. Informational Item: Erma Hayman House Update (5 min) – Kristen Hill. Next month Erma Hayman House will have been open for a year. Completed first panel for EHH and said yes to all applicants. Events are planned through December, next call will be September 1st. Hosting First Thursdays. Sept. 23rd exhibition opening partnership between Gracieaux Baraka, Idaho Black Community Alliance, Public Art & Cultural Sites. Lastly, Erma Hayman House signage is coming soon!
   
   i. JHC 5 year retrospective exhibit coming, first time contemporary art is next to JCH art.

k. Stevens – Unfortunately, Sophie is not here, but today marks the transition of Sophie’s term ending as the voting member and Catherine starting her term as the voting member. Checking in with Mayor on how to move forward with student appointments.

l. Commissioner Saldaña - Hispanic Heritage month from September 15th - October 15th

m. Commissioner Ashely – Happy work anniversary to Jen!

V. Adjourn Meeting

a. Commission Chair Hand asks commissioners to offer a motion to adjourn.
   
   i. Saldaña motion to adjourn, Clegg seconds; all in favor. So moved at 6:23 p.m.