



DEPARTMENT OF ARTS & HISTORY

MAYOR: Lauren McLean | INTERIM DIRECTOR: Carrie Hall

AGENDA Arts & History Commission

Wednesday, December 3rd, 2025
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** – Commission Vice Chair, Gaby Thomason
 - a. Land Acknowledgement – Commission Vice Chair, Gaby Thomason
- II. **Minutes Approval**
 - a. *ACTION REQUESTED:* Approve Minutes from October 1st, 2025 **(Exhibit A)**
- III. **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. Informational Item: BOI 100 – Savannah Shaon (10 min)
 - b. Informational Item: A&H Website Next Steps – Megan Fox (10 min)
 - c. Informational Item: America 250 - Jennifer Yribar, Lindsay Moser, and Christina Wilkens (15 min)
 - d. Informational Item: Communication priorities 2026 – Jennifer Yribar (15 min)
 - e. **Adjourn Meeting**



MEMO

TO: Mayor McLean, Courtney Washburn, Council Member Luci Willits, Arts & History Commissioners

FROM: Stephanie Johnson, Public Art Program Manager

CC: Carrie Hall, Interim Director

DATE: 11/26/2025

RE: Public Art Program Update

GENERAL FUND PUBLIC ART PROJECTS

Boise Visual Chronicle 2025

\$20,000; The BVC takes the form of an exhibition this year, **now on view** until March 2026 at the Erma Hayman House. The Jury has awarded 1st, 2nd, and 3rd awards, and a purchase award has been selected. Each artist selected for the exhibition by the jury received a small stipend for framing/display and their works are offered for sale during the exhibition. Eight artists in total are in the exhibition. Below is an image featuring artworks in the exhibition, the artwork by Margaret Pope on the far left in the image is the 2025 purchase award.



PUBLIC WORKS PUBLIC ART PROJECTS

2026 ArtPort Program

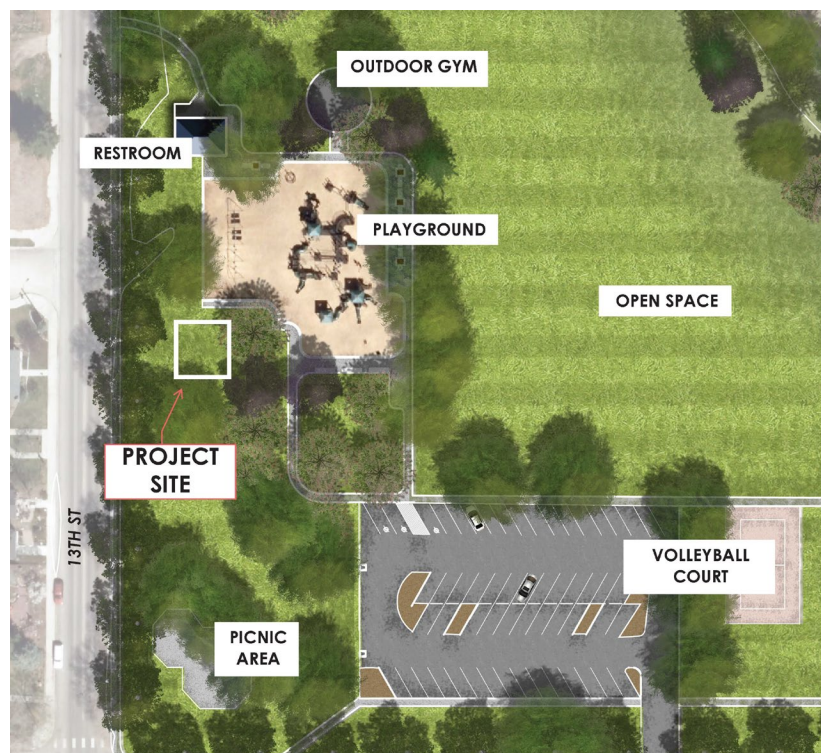
\$20,000; Annual program in partnership with BSU Sculpture class, now in its 3rd year. The artwork currently installed on Grove St. at the Modern Hotel will be rotated out for a new artwork this year.

2026 Traffic Box Art Program

\$30,000; Annual program and call. The call for artists closed on October 15, 2025, and 9 artists were selected for installation in summer 2026. This year, artists were invited to explore the intersection of community and climate action in their artwork - inspired by one of the Climate Action Roadmap priorities, with a special focus on how shared action, collective resilience, and neighbor-to-neighbor connection shape our response to climate change, offering a hopeful or solution-oriented perspective.

Water Conservation & Resiliency Public Art Project

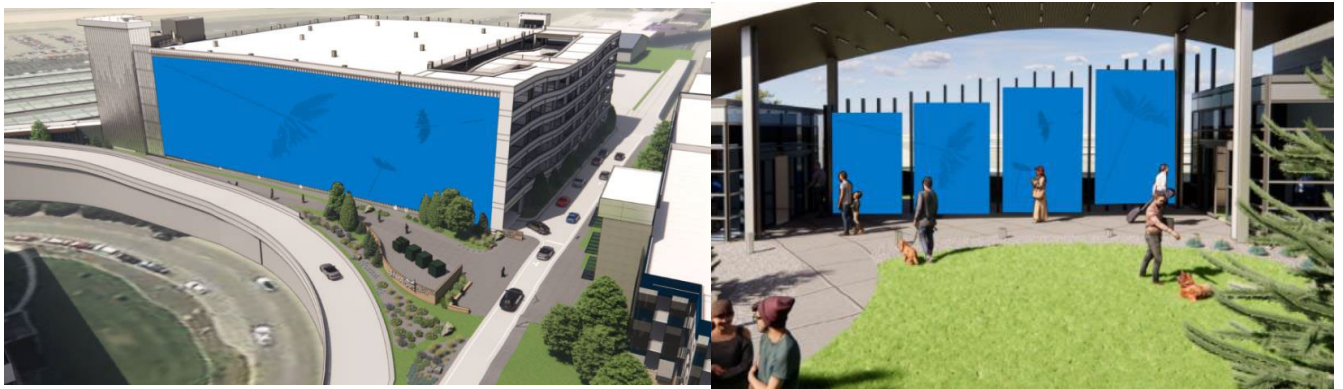
\$330,000; Public Art Project has been re-located at Camel's Back Park. The official Request for Qualifications and application period has closed, and the selection process is underway. The selection panel includes community stakeholders, Parks and Rec staff and Public Works staff. This goal of this project and resulting artwork is to raise public awareness about the region's contemporary water challenges as well as conservation and resiliency efforts. We are seeking dynamic, experiential public art that will inspire thought, provoke discussion, and elicit action. Artists with experience in environmental design, kinetic, or haptic outdoor installation are especially encouraged to apply.. Installation expected Fall of 2027. Image below shows the site location for the project at Camel's Back Park.



AIRPORT PUBLIC ART PROJECTS

ConRAC (Consolidated Rental Car Facility)

\$308,700; Vinyl banner mural installation on façade of the ConRAC building, with installation to occur alongside opening of facility in Spring 2026. This will be the first iteration of rotating installation every 3-5 years. Working with Trademark on the installation mechanism and plan. Images below show where there will be artwork. Artist Chad Otis has been selected by the selection panel. His application and proposal best embodies the project goals and prompt: *In 2026, The Boise Airport will celebrate its 100-year anniversary, and the United States will celebrate its 250-year anniversary. We asked artists to consider: While acknowledging the past years of history, what could the future of air transportation in Boise look like? How would you represent that in your artwork?*



Concourse A – Integrated Public Art

Budget under development; Multiple opportunities have been identified in the new Concourse A schematic design phase. Early identification of artwork locations/opportunities will aid in integration of artwork installation and structural needs during engineering and construction planning. Intend to release an RFQ in early Spring so artists are part of the design team and create works as a cohort. The concourse project has a 5-year timeline currently.

NEEDS FROM COMMISSIONERS

None this month



DEPARTMENT OF ARTS & HISTORY

MAYOR: Lauren McLean | INTERIM DIRECTOR: Carrie Hall

MEMO

TO: Mayor McLean, Courtney Washburn, Council Member Luci Willits, Arts & History Commissioners

FROM: Alaggio Laurino, Public Art Collections Management

CC: Carrie Hall, Interim Director

DATE: 11/26/2025

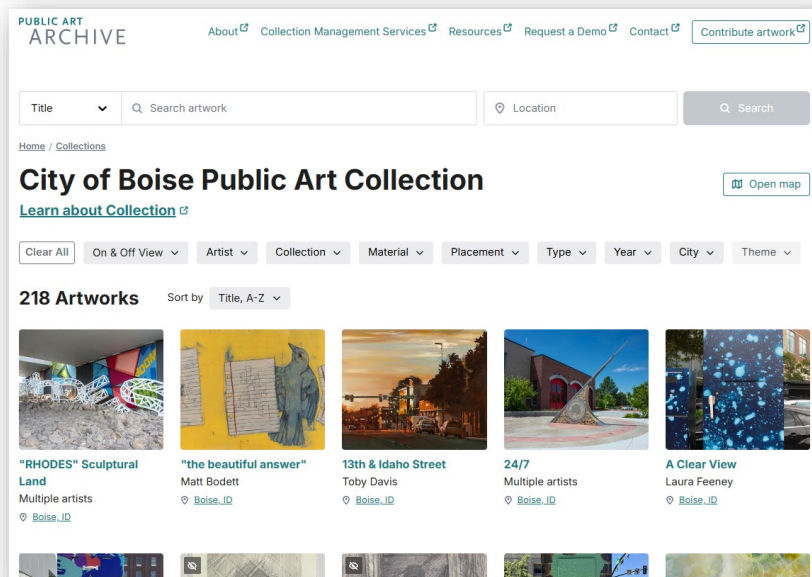
RE: Public Art Collections Management Update

ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE MONTH

New Website & Digital Public Art Collections Access

Since 2022, the Collections Management team has been transitioning our collections management software from Proficio to Public Art Archive (PAA). PAA serves as both a centralized repository for essential collections management documents and a public-facing platform, allowing the community to view artworks even when they are not on display.

The collection is viewable on the newly launched Arts & History website. As of November 24, all Site-Based Works—including artworks in Parks, Libraries, Watershed, and Boise Airport—as well as the James Castle House Artist in Residence collections have been published. Additional collections will be complete over the coming months.



Repair to River Sculpture

On June 26, a traffic accident damaged the granite façade of the *River Sculpture* located in front of the Grove Hotel at Front Street and Capitol Boulevard. This marks the second traffic-related incident affecting the sculpture within the past year.

Replacement granite for this piece is no longer available, so the damaged stone was collected and reconsolidated by Alaggio Laurino. On November 14, the reconsolidated stone sections were reinstalled by Tim Hendrix and Matthew Thorley. Some areas of loss still require additional infill and inpainting to reduce visibility.



Vehicular impact has proven to be an ongoing concern for this site and artwork. Due to limited availability of granite, repeated repairs are not a sustainable long-term solution. The Collections team is exploring alternative strategies to mitigate future damage in collaboration with Planning and Development Services (PDS).



NEEDS FROM COMMISSIONERS

None this month



DEPARTMENT OF ARTS & HISTORY

MAYOR: Lauren McLean | INTERIM DIRECTOR: Carrie Hall

MEMO

TO: Mayor McLean, Courtney Washburn, Council Member Luci Willits, Arts & History Commissioners

FROM: Matilda "Tilley" Bubba, Cultural Planner

CC: Carrie Hall, Interim Director

DATE: 11/26/2025

RE: Cultural Planning Activity

ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE MONTH

Education Planning

To provide a wholistic perspective on A&H's educational initiatives, I'm working with staff to develop an education plan that draws on education-related content from division strategic plans to create an overarching framework to position and build education programs.

2025-35 Cultural and Creative Industries Master Plan Update

I am working internally with staff to identify the primary goals and drafting plan content.

General Fund Public Arts Master Plan

Public Art staff and I are finalizing the draft text for the General Fund Public Arts Master Plan. It will go to Community Engagement for design in December 2025.

Collections Management Policy

Staff representing public art and archives are working with me to revise and craft a comprehensive collections management policy. This is a year-long project that will carry us into the next decade of collections management processes.

Community Engagement & Awareness

To stay in touch with the creative community I've attended numerous arts events this month including:

- James Castle House Opening (A&H event)
- Boise Philharmonic (Cultural Ambassador)
- Boise Philharmonic's Youth Orchestra (Cultural Ambassador)
- Boise Philharmonic Chamber Music Concert at the Shrine (Cultural Ambassador)
- Off Center Dance at BCT (grant recipient)
- Serenata Orchestra (Mayor's Arts Award Winner)
- Elijah Jensen-Lindesy's performance at the Dixon (new performance venue in GC)
- Capital City Mulligan Band (retired folks community band)

- Sherman Alexie book reading at the Basque Center (for Limberlost Press, local small press)
- Surel's Place artist talk (Chinese watercolor artist Yidan Guo)
- Matthew Thorley's opening and talk at the Common Well (A&H staff member)

NEEDS FROM COMMISSIONERS

None this month.





DEPARTMENT OF ARTS & HISTORY

MAYOR: Lauren McLean | INTERIM DIRECTOR: Carrie Hall

MEMO

TO: Mayor McLean, Courtney Washburn, Council Member Luci Willits, Arts & History Commissioners
FROM: Kristen Hill, Cultural Sites Program Manager
CC: Carrie Hall, Interim Director
DATE: 11/26/2025
RE: Cultural Sites Division Update

ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE MONTH



Janhavi Khemka Residency

Janhavi Khemka's residency at the James Castle House was a wonderful experience for our community, especially those who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing. Born in India, Janhavi only began learning ASL in 2021 after moving to Chicago. She delivered her first presentation in ASL on November 6th, to an audience of 40 people, most of whom were Deaf. The presentation was among the best we have ever hosted.

Janhavi's stunning work will be added to the City of Boise's permanent public art collection in the form of a first-edition woodblock print as well as a digital projection inspired by her time onsite.



Taste of River Street

The Erma Hayman House hosted our second Taste of River Street event, honoring the diverse food traditions that shaped Boise's River Street neighborhood. This special gathering featured a prix fixe menu created and curated by Chef Kevin Huelsmann of KIN, inspired by the River Street Center Cookbook, a compilation of former River Street resident recipes and culinary customs. This program will continue in 2026.



Where Art Begins: Artists Creative Spaces Panel Conversation

The James Castle House hosted an engaging conversation with several Boise artists about their creative practice and the spaces they create in. William Lewis, Marianna Jiminez Edwards, Michael Candelaria and Rachel Teannalach shared more about how they craft spaces in which a creative practice can thrive.



Be A Maker

Be A Maker wrapped up this season with a multi-generational workshop at the James Castle House. Boise artist Amy Nack taught attendees the printmaking practice of collagraphy.



Echoes of Home

The James Castle House opened our new exhibition of community-owned works with a public reception on November 20th. In this exhibition, we expand our exploration of James Castle by shifting the focus from the artist himself to the community members who have formed deep connections with his work. For decades, Boise-based collectors have been drawn to Castle's enigmatic and evocative creations — works that speak to a profound sense of place and personal resonance.

Echoes of Home highlights the powerful bond between Castle's art and the people who have chosen to live with it. Featuring pieces from private local collections, this exhibition reveals the diverse range of Castle's work that has found its way into Boise



homes — and into the hearts of those who cherish it. *Echoes of Home* will be on view until May, 2026.

NEEDS FROM COMMISSIONERS – Upcoming Cultural Sites Events

Saturday, 12/13 11:00am – 1:00pm (James Castle House): *Inside the Studio with Allison Owen*

Join us at the James Castle House to meet Short Stay resident Allison Owen and learn more about her work. Allison Owen (she/her) is a multidisciplinary artist based in Poughkeepsie, NY. Through site-specific installations, ceramics, and painting, she explores interior spaces, inner life, and the stories held by objects. Her ceramics and paintings defy traditional forms, seamlessly blending two and three dimensions.

Saturday, 12/13 10:30am-12:30pm (Erma Hayman House): *Me Time, TeaTime*

This free event is designed to support moms and caregivers as they continue supporting others in their life. Participants celebrate and connect with like-hearted folks with shared values of joy, fun, and love. Hosted by Shannon McGuire, author of *To (M)others from the Hood: Conquering Fear, Uncertainty, and Chaos in Life's Most Difficult Hood* and founder of *Supreme Moms*.

Saturday, 1/17 10:30am-12:30pm (Erma Hayman House): *Me Time, TeaTime*

Saturday, 12/13 11:00am – 1:00pm (James Castle House): *Inside the Studio with Lydia Ricci*

Lydia Ricci (she/her) is a sculptor and animator who turns the discarded remnants of daily life into intimate tributes to the ordinary. Rooted in the improvisational spirit of her upbringing, Ricci's practice is built on the satisfaction of making something from nothing, a value inherited from her Ukrainian mother, who could conjure what was needed from what was available, and her Italian father, who never threw anything away because it might one day be useful.

For over 25 years, Ricci has collected the scraps that anchor her practice, crafting sculptures that echo the humor, tenderness, and beautiful disorder of everyday life.

- *Desired Action:* Please join us for any and all of our events and share with your networks!





DEPARTMENT OF ARTS & HISTORY

MAYOR: Lauren McLean | INTERIM DIRECTOR: Carrie Hall

MEMO

TO: Mayor McLean, Courtney Washburn, Council Member Luci Willits, Arts & History Commissioners

FROM: Jennifer Yribar, Communications Manager

CC: Carrie Hall, Interim Director

DATE: 11/26/2025

RE: Communications, Grants, and Public Programs

COMMUNICATIONS

2025-2026 Communications Priorities

- FY26 – Q1
 - Mayor's Awards for Excellence in Arts & History and 2026-2027 Cultural Ambassador (Sept. 18)
 - James Castle Community Celebration (Sept. 27)
 - Arts & History Website launch
 - Preparation for America 250 and BOI 100
- FY26 – Q2 + 3
 - America 250 in Boise (programming: February – July 2026)
 - 25 years of the Percent for Art Ordinance (March 6, 2026)
 - BOI 100: Boise Airport's Centennial Celebration (April 6, 2026)
 - 25 years of the Foothills Levy (May 22, 2026)

Arts & History Brand Marketing

In collaboration with our staff, the Office of Community Engagement, and Information Technology Department, we continue to work on applying many of the recommendations provided by Drake Cooper in our messaging and across our outreach materials, including in our website upgrade and redesign project (planned for October).

Alongside the Office of Community Engagement, we have also completed work on a City of Boise x America 250 mark and are working on developing digital and print applications to support the city's commemoration and celebration of America's

250th anniversary. Jennifer Yribar is also serving as project co-lead alongside Lindsay Moser in the Office of Community Engagement.

Arts & History Website Upgrade & Design Refresh

Thank you to Commission Chair Thom and Commissioner Miller for attending our website open houses! We officially launched our newly upgraded website on November 19. Some key features:

- Accessibility enhancements to ensure access for visitors of all abilities
- Simplified navigation for more intuitive access to content within fewer clicks
- Streamlined interactions with partner sites, like Public Art Archive and the Boise City Archives Digital Collection

Discover more at boiseartsandhistory.org.

The James Castle House (jamescastlehouse.org) and Erma Hayman House (ermahaymanhouse.org) websites will be upgraded starting this fall through the spring of 2026.

Press Releases (Published)

- **November 20, 2025:** [Echoes of Home Exhibition Opens Thursday; Showcases Community-Owned James Castle Artworks](#)
- **November 21, 2025:** [James Castle House 2026 Residents Announced](#)

Media Coverage

- [Student wins City of Boise public art commission](#) – Boise State News
- [From storytelling to symphony: Boise Philharmonic takes lead as city's Cultural Ambassador](#) – Idaho Matters, Boise State Public Radio
- [Boise's 'Off Center Dance' awarded grant for bold, high-flying production](#) – Idaho Matters, Boise State Public Radio
- [Boise awards \\$120k to celebrate culture, history and art](#) – Idaho Matters, Boise State Public Radio
- [Boise's traffic box program combines the beauty of art and urban landscape](#) – KBOI Channel 2
- [CONGRATULATIONS](#) (mentions 2026 Writers-in-Residence) – Idaho Press

GRANTS AND OUTREACH

2026-2027 Cultural Ambassador

Boise Philharmonic is the City of Boise's current Cultural Ambassador.



Arts & History Grants Program

[FY26 Arts & History Grant award recipients](#) were announced on September 23, 2025. 44 recipients will receive funding to total \$120,000 for cultural projects that occur between October 1, 2025, and September 30, 2026, and benefit Boise residents. Grants and Outreach Program Manager Makenzi Dunstan facilitated an information session on September 25 to go over program requirements, payment, and final report and will meet one-on-one with individuals unable to attend. [Learn more](#).

America 250 Grant: Opens December 2, 2025 and closes January 16, 2026 for awards between \$1,000 and \$5,000 totaling \$30,000. This funding will support individuals and organizations in established and emerging cultural fields with projects designed to support the City of Boise's commemoration and celebration of America's 250th anniversary between April and September 2026.

Boise City Writer-in-Residence

We announced the [City of Boise's 2026 Writers in Residence: Kim Cross](#) (October 1, 2025 – March 31, 2026) and [Don Zancanella](#) (April 1 – September 30, 2026).

Outreach

No upcoming outreach events.

EDUCATION AND PUBLIC PROGRAMS

Public Programs

We continue to engage department-wide teams in monthly Public Programs Roundtable, program team meetings, and Book Club discussions (optional), to develop shared language and best practices in public programming and community engagement. We met in September to go over the first quarter of fiscal year 2026 programming.

Education

Education and Public Programs Manager Christina Wilkens reviewed and provided feedback for the [City of Boise Youth Roadmap](#), an initiative sponsored by Council Member Jimmy Hallyburton. Many of the recommendations directly align with a need to support arts education, arts entrepreneurship, and multigenerational arts experiences.

Continuing the foundation laid for the department's Education Framework, Christina met with Boise School District content supervisors, Benji Simmonds and Dani Backer, to explore a path forward building art and history educational experiences to support student learning. Representatives from Cultural Sites (Cameron Sites-Stevens and



Mónica Galvan), as well as our History division (Ashley O'Hara) also contributed to this meeting.

NEEDS FROM COMMISSIONERS

Cultural Program Guide

The January-March Cultural Program Guide will be here soon! Learn more by visiting our [Events Calendar](#).

- *Desired Action:* Pick up a copy at our offices or at any city facility. Please consider attending any of the events listed and sharing widely!





DEPARTMENT OF ARTS & HISTORY

MAYOR: Lauren McLean | INTERIM DIRECTOR: Carrie Hall

MEMO

TO: Mayor McLean, Courtney Washburn, Council Member Luci Willits, Arts & History Commissioners
FROM: Danielle Grundel, City Archivist
CC: Carrie Hall, Interim Director
DATE: 11/26/2025
RE: Archives Program Update

ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE MONTH

Summary

Archives program has continued to work alongside the Office of the City Clerk to prepare the records & archives facility opening to the public for research. We are holding an open house for select city-staff during the month of January. Additionally, archives staff have been working towards increasing digital access to collections and supporting multiple research projects of other city departments as well as Boise State University.

Digital Collections

Archives is working with a local vendor to reformat the permanent record of City Council meeting minutes from cassette tapes to digital preservation file formats. Cassette tapes are considered high risk for loss of records due to rapid deterioration of magnetic media. These minutes will be uploaded to our digital collections platform, Quartex, for access once the project is complete.

Also, staff imaged and uploaded a new album of early days Boise. This album was transferred to us from the Boise Public Library. You may view the digital album here, <https://collections.boiseartsandhistory.org/Documents/Detail/boises-early-days-photograph-album/17712>

NEEDS FROM COMMISSIONERS

None this month



DEPARTMENT OF ARTS & HISTORY

MAYOR: Lauren McLean | INTERIM DIRECTOR: Carrie Hall

EXHIBIT A **Minutes** **Arts & History Commission**

Wednesday, October 1st, 2025
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: Melissa Thom, Amanda Ashley (virtual), Gaby Thomason (virtual), Rachel Miller

Commissioners Absent: Camryn Lafrenz, Trish Walker,

Council Liaison: Luci Willits (virtual)

Staff Present: Jillian Whitehill, Tilley Bubb, Jennifer Yribar, Courtney Washburn, Carrie Hall, Megan Fox, Christine Evangelides Dodd

Public:

- I. **Call to Order** – Commission Chair, Thom called the meeting to order at 5:10 p.m.
 - a. Land Acknowledgement – Commission Chair, Thom
- II. **Introductions**
 - a. Chief of Staff of City of Boise – Courtney Washburn
 - b. Interim Director - Carrie Hall
- III. **Minutes Approval**
 - a. **ACTION REQUESTED:** Approve Minutes from August 6th, 2025 (**Exhibit A**)
 - i. Motion: Move to approve by Commissioner Ashley at 5:16 p.m., seconded by Commissioner Miller at 5:16 p.m. All in favor. Motion approved.
- 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. Informational Item: Website Content Update – Megan Fox

- i. Commissioners asked the presenter questions and provided feedback on related topics.
 - ii. Motion: No motion, informational item only.
- b. Informational Item: FY25 Accomplishments & FY26 Initiatives – Tilley Bubb
 - i. Commissioners asked the presenter questions and provided feedback on related topics.
 - ii. Motion: No motion, informational item only.

V. **Adjourn Meeting**

- a. Commission Chair Thom asks commissioners to offer a motion to adjourn.
 - i. Motion: Commissioner Miller motions to adjourn, Commissioner Thomason seconds; all in favor. Moved at 5:53 p.m.

