The themes of **ENVIRONMENT, ENTERPRISE, and COMMUNITY** are described broadly as:

**ENVIRONMENT**
Both Native Americans and early settlers in the Boise area manipulated the arid land and used its resources for subsistence. Beginning in the late 1800s, new residents began farming and developed food distribution systems, introduced extractive industries, and ultimately established recreation and conservation groups to preserve natural resources. These and other patterns, along with government initiatives such as the Federal Water Pollution Control Act of 1948 (Clean Water Act) and the creation of state and local park systems, influence the continually evolving personal and collective perceptions on the role of the environment in our lives.

**ENTERPRISE**
Boiseans made this geographically isolated city into a thriving community through building infrastructure—such as roads, rail, irrigation, homes, businesses—and other hallmarks of established communities, such as libraries and parks. Residents fostered entrepreneurialism through working with each other and often in partnership with government. They merged individual and community goals with local, regional, and national government initiatives to create a prosperous city. Enterprising residents connected systems and services within the city and to the outside world. Transportation, communications, utilities, and businesses all served to stimulate further entrepreneurship. These enterprises provided a solid base and security for citizens to pursue their livelihoods and cultivate the city's livability.

**COMMUNITY**
Native Americans lived in and around Boise for thousands of years and continue to do so today. Many other cultures, religions, ethnic groups, civic organizations, and neighborhoods, also call Boise home and all contribute to the city's collective identity. Building Boise has required compromise, collaboration, and independent initiative. Accessibility to opportunities, or lack thereof, has affected individuals and groups, providing varying degrees of inclusion and exclusion. Contemporary Boise offers a wide variety of connecting points, through educational opportunities, civic organizations, arts and cultural enrichment endeavors, availability of capital investment, and maintaining or creating distinctive group identities.
People have lived in the Boise valley for thousands of years. The Northern Shoshone occupied much of the area in prehistoric and historic eras; the Bannock and other native groups also lived and passed through the region. Their way of life changed in the 1800s with the arrival, slow at first, of explorers and missionaries. By the 1860s, miners and settlers flooded the area. Although these newcomers were primarily of Euro-American heritage, they represented a variety of ethnicities from all over the globe.

For Oregon Trail pioneers who began traveling in significant numbers in the early 1840s, the Boise region usually was a place to push through en route to more fertile coastal regions. Few saw the Boise area as more than a convenient stop in the high desert region for water and shade along what is now the Boise River.

Gold Fever hit the region in 1862 after discoveries in the Boise Basin. The allure of potential riches attracted many aspiring miners and subsequently brought opportunities for entrepreneurs to establish supply and service businesses. The rise of mining interests and the resulting population surge prompted the U.S. military to establish Fort Boise in the summer of 1863. The Fort’s commander, Colonel Pinckney Lugenbeel, began construction of the fort on July 6 and worked with new residents to plat Boise the next day. This was almost four months after U.S. Congress passed a bill to establish the Idaho Territory on March 4, 1863, legislation that President Lincoln signed into law.

The founding of this new city in a high desert environment followed a pattern that repeated itself throughout the American West. Yet Boise remains distinctive in its evolution into a modern city even though it remains one of the most geographically isolated urban areas in the United States.

The City of Boise, under the leadership of Department of Arts & History (A&H,) recognizes Boise’s sesquicentennial, its 150th anniversary.
throughout 2013. The goals of BOISE 150 are to present opportunities to reflect upon Boise’s characteristics, to explore the influences upon its past and present, and to contemplate a course for the future. Three intertwining themes – environment, enterprise, and community – anchor the year-long commemoration and help to understand how the many threads of Boise’s story weave through the past to the present day. These important concepts also help frame the discussion about the future.

Environment, enterprise, and community intersect with the broader goals of the sesquicentennial as well as with those of A&H, which encourage residents and visitors to Create | Engage | Connect with the community.

ENVIRONMENT
Boise’s Natural Resources & Livelihoods

A city’s landscape and natural resources influence its growth patterns. Over eons, the Boise River formed a fertile valley nestled between mountains to the north and the bluffs or bench lands to the south. This geography created a valley and natural trade corridor for indigenous people, where they hunted, gathered camas bulbs, and fished for salmon.

Native Americans strategically manipulated natural resources such as through setting fires in prescribed areas to yield more grasslands, which proved a steady food supply for horses and other animals. Boise's mild climate was ideal for the tribes’ winter camps and annual congregation known as the Sheewoki fair; natural geothermal springs that served as sacred healing areas were an added attraction.

Beginning in the early 1800s, small numbers of Euro-Americans, mainly explorers and fur traders, passed through or lived in the area temporarily. Proximity and contact between Native Americans and the itinerant Euro-Americans had some devastating consequences. Disease was one. Without centuries of building immunity to diseases that were common in European populations, Native Americans had little resistance.
For example, smallpox, mumps, measles and influenza caused widespread epidemics in many Native American populations, including those in Boise. Another consequence was resource depletion. Euro-Americans began traveling the Oregon Trail in significant numbers by the early 1840s. These pioneers depleted the natural resources on and near the trail, which Native Americans depended upon. By the 1860s, increasing numbers of miners and Euro-Americans settled in the area on a semi-permanent and permanent basis. The increased competition for food and water, interruption of migration patterns, and decimation of some animal populations forced the tribes to the outer edges of their homeland.

These hardships inevitably caused conflict between Native Americans and new residents. United States military leaders established Fort Boise in July 1863 to secure the developing nation’s mining interests and ostensibly to protect new settlers and miners from Native American hostilities; the city of Boise was platted soon after, on July 7, 1863. By the time the fort was built, however, many Native Americans subsisted on reduced game populations and meager jobs from the settlers. In March and April 1869, they were forcibly removed to the reservation created for them at Fort Hall.

**BOISE RIVER**

New residents’ relationship with the environment evolved throughout the twentieth century as shown through the changes in the Boise River. Settlement remained north of the Boise River through the early 1900s due to seasonal floods. Early city leaders dammed the Boise River for irrigation and flood control. Eventually, settlers grew orchards and operated small farms on land south of the river. But arid conditions prevented these pursuits from extending up the first bluff south of the river, known as “the Bench.” Business and government leaders completed large-scale irrigation systems in the late nineteenth century, which supported new agricultural endeavors and residential development.

In Boise’s early years, many people used the river to dispose of garbage, sewage, detergents, and processing plant waste. This organic waste included
grease, potato peelings, beet pulp, paunch manure, blood, dissolved sugars, starch, silt wash water and other pollutants that reportedly caused mountains of foam in the river. The neglect and disregard shown for the river’s health posed major health hazards by the 1940s and 1950s. A combination of local, state and federal programs along with citizen initiatives helped the Boise River recover. The Federal Water Pollution Control Act of 1948 (Clean Water Act) helped set the stage to envision a clean water system and authorized federal assistance for building sewage and waste treatment plants. In 1949 the city banned all trash disposals except at designated landfills. Consequently river contamination slowly improved. Amendments through 1987 strengthened the Act, and combined with local efforts, the Boise River’s health improved.

In the 1960s, the City of Boise and local citizens used the momentum from initial water-quality improvements to initiate the concept of a greenbelt trail along the Boise River. By 1982 six miles of development had been completed, connecting all of Boise’s river-area parks. By the end of 1970s, critical estuary habitat for fish and wildlife also improved with the Idaho Minimum Stream Flow Act of 1978.

**Development & Environment**

Like many Western American cities, Boise’s growth sprawled out from its edges as suburbs emerged on what was once agricultural land. Transportation and air quality problems ensued as more people drove greater distances. Federal regulations, such as the Clean Air Act of 1970, helped bring about measures to improve and protect the valley’s air.

Suburban development also drained resources from Boise’s downtown core. Local property owners and Boise’s redevelopment agency tore down significant historic buildings in the 1960s and 1970s, which in turn prompted citizens to organize to save some of the remaining structures.
The National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 helped address rampant demolition of historic resources and the effect upon communities.

Residential housing developments began appearing in the city’s signature foothills in the late 1940s. Much in response to this development, many people began to appreciate the foothills as open space for wildlife and recreation. By the 1980s more hikers, bikers, and runners recreated in the Foothills even as increasing development pressures threatened many areas, including Hulls Gulch. Successful environmental preservation efforts culminated in the 1990s and 2000s with the creation of the Hulls Gulch Reserve and later with voter approval of the Foothills Serial Levy, which to date has preserved more than 10,000 acres.

Boise’s outdoor enthusiasts rejoiced when Alf Engen, an Olympic ski jumper from Utah, and local ski enthusiasts selected Bogus Basin as a potential ski site. In November 1938, Governor Barzilla Clark dedicated a nineteen-mile gravel highway to the new ski area on Shafer Butte. Works Progress Administration and Civilian Conservation Corps crews built the road and the first lodge. The ski area opened December 20, 1942 with rope tows and in 1946 a T-bar ski lift was added.
Environmental Summary

Boise’s indigenous population, settlers, residents, and visitors all have benefited from the area’s rich environmental resources. A challenge remains for Boise citizens and leaders to balance development with preservation, resource extraction with environmental stewardship and recreation. Boise’s citizens and leaders can look to the past to help guide our future.

ENTERPRISE

Early Boise Livelihoods

Early Boise businesses supplied mines in the Boise Basin as well as fledgling timber and farm enterprises. In July 1863 the U.S. Army built a fort at the intersection of the Oregon Trail and roads leading to Boise Basin mining camps. On July 7 of that year, Pinckney Lugenbeel, the commander of Fort Boise, gathered his officers and eight homesteaders to plat a ten-block town site on the north side of the river. Boise was thus organized as a city, seventeen years before Idaho became a state. In 1864, Boise became the territorial capital, and the quest to become the regional center for agriculture, business, politics, and culture gained momentum. By 1868, the city boasted four hundred permanent structures, more than half of which were residential.

The success of early Boise businesses – such as Nathan Falk’s mercantile store established in 1868 and the Idaho Statesman newspaper first published on July 26, 1864 – illustrates the concerted efforts of early residents to make Boise the political and economic center for the region. It did not happen overnight. Boise’s growth remained modest until about 1890 due in large part to the national financial panic of 1883. Several major projects were deferred or scaled back during this era, including construction of a rail spur.
from the main line into Boise, a canal system originally backed by East Coast investors, and mining expansions.

Idaho was admitted to the Union in 1890. The New York Canal irrigation project resumed that same year, creating hundreds of jobs for Boiseans. Boise’s population doubled from 2,000 in April to more than 4,000 in September, thus creating a demand for local housing. An era of prosperity began.

One year later, in 1891, the new Boise Rapid Transit Company began providing streetcar service from the city center to newly built neighborhoods, known as “additions.” Over the next twenty years the streetcar proved instrumental in developing Boise’s neighborhoods, outlying communities, and commercial hubs.

**New Century, New Growth**

Between 1900 and 1910, the city’s population almost tripled due largely to the rapid growth of irrigated agriculture in Southwest Idaho. Boise businesses supplied farmers and ranchers, which stimulated additional commercial enterprise and residential real estate. Professional architects soon followed. In 1903 John E. Tourtellotte, a New Englander designer and promoter, and his business partner, Charles F. Hummel, a German immigrant and classically trained architect and civil engineer, started a new architectural firm. The architectural legacy of Tourtellotte & Hummel includes the Idaho State Capitol building, Carnegie Library, Boise City National Bank, St. John’s Cathedral, and the Union Block.

In addition to local business efforts, the federal government also supported infrastructure and job growth. The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation financed the extension of the New York Canal, built Lake Lowell (in Canyon County), and constructed Arrowrock Dam. The U.S. Army built new structures at Fort Boise, then known as The Boise Barracks. The fort continued its
expansion but closed in 1912. Since then, the Idaho National Guard, the U.S. Public Health Service, and the Department of Veterans Affairs have used the facilities.

Soon after World War I ended in 1918, prices of farm goods fell in response to overproduction. The resulting agricultural depression distressed many rural areas, including in Idaho. Consequently, Boise’s population growth slowed for a number of years.

By 1924, farm prices rose as the overall national economy recovered. Investment in city infrastructure flourished from the mid-1920s to the early 1930s; as with the streetcar in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, transportation again played a key role. The Union Pacific Depot (known as the Boise Depot in 2013) was built in 1925 after a long struggle to obtain direct rail service to Boise. Although the city was conveniently located near the Boise River and accessible to timber in the mountains, Union Pacific directors were unwilling to cover the expense of building the line into the Boise River Valley. Finally, in 1925 the eastern portion of the Boise Cutoff was completed and provided passenger service to city residents and visitors.

Aviation pioneers built an airport in 1926 on a strip of land south of the river between 9th Street and Broadway Avenue (now Boise State University). The state’s highway division built the Oregon Trail Memorial Bridge on Capitol Boulevard in 1931, which linked the Depot with the State Capitol as a grand entrance to the city. Built in the heart of the Great Depression, the bridge is an exquisite example of poured concrete construction and Art Deco architecture. Federal emergency funds of approximately $97,000 paid for the construction, with Morrison Knudsen Company as contractor. Harry W. Morrison and Morris Hans Knudsen had founded the company in 1912, and it soon became a world leader in dam, tunnel, powerhouse, bridge, canal, and highway construction.
The onset of the Great Depression in 1929 stalled local and national economic growth and construction until the mid-1930s. In an attempt to loosen the grip of the economic depression, Congress enacted recovery measures such as the National Housing Act of 1934, which made home ownership more affordable. These programs, along with an influx of Dust Bowl refugees and displaced farmers, not only helped stimulate Boise’s population growth but changed the city’s landscape.

Many federal recovery measures in Boise were completed by the Works Progress Administration (WPA), the Public Works Administration (PWA), the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), and the Federal Works Agency. Their projects changed the city’s built environment. For example, the WPA constructed the National Guard Armory in 1936-37, the Boise Gallery of Art (now Boise Art Museum) in 1936-37, and Boise Junior College (now Boise State University) in 1940-42, including the administration building, heating plant, and auditorium. The PWA built North Junior High in 1936 and the former Ada County Courthouse in 1938-39. These federal programs also built sidewalks, roads, canals, the runway at Gowen Field, and much more. The federal government continued to construct dams and reservoirs in the years before World War II for municipal and irrigation water as well as hydroelectric power for the city.

Military presence grew in Boise when Gowen Field became a flying and training base in 1940. Servicemen from the base increased demand for rental housing, which caused shortages during and after the war. World War II also ignited economic enterprise. Jack Simplot pioneered mass production of dehydrated vegetables during World War II and subsequently became the military’s largest supplier of dried foods throughout the war. The Simplot Company later found a new use for the potato by inventing the frozen French fry.

**Boise’s Post WWII Economy**

Spurred by postwar economic prosperity, the city expanded to new neighborhoods on the bench and in the foothills. Boise's economy
strengthened after the war as new local corporations formed or expanded in response to demand. The Terteling Company, Inc., for example, got its start constructing ordnance depots, navy ammunition depots, and air bases. Harold Thomas, a lumberman, and Art Troutner, an architect/builder, invented the truss joist, a lightweight steel and wood product, which led to the founding of Trus Joist Corporation in 1960. Other major corporations grew following WWII such as Ore-Ida, a producer of diversified frozen foods; Boise Cascade lumber company; and Albertson’s grocery stores.

In the 1960s, a new charter allowed the city to annex suburban areas, which doubled the population from 34,481 in 1960 to 74,990 in 1970. Boise’s Chamber of Commerce encouraged new industry and asserted the need for a four-year college to attract business. In 1965 Boise Junior College expanded from a two-year to a four-year college and became Boise State University in 1974.

During the 1970s, two opposing trends in architecture and city planning affected Boise: demolition and preservation. The Boise Redevelopment Agency (BRA) began as a volunteer board in 1965. With funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the BRA initiated an urban renewal program that changed the physical presence of the city through demolition of older buildings in hopes of spurring new development. At the same time, citizens rallied to save the remaining buildings of early Boise. The Egyptian Theater was one architectural treasure saved from the wrecking ball.

In the late 1970s California-based Hewlett Packard built new facilities in west Boise, and by the early 1980s new endeavors by companies such as Micron Technology addressed the growing demand for digital technology. These new businesses, combined with the more established companies, plentiful jobs, and favorable climate, encouraged rapid population growth in the late twentieth century and early twenty-first century. Between 1990 and 2012, Boise’s population increased by approximately 82,000 to reach nearly 208,000.
Boise’s settlers came together with ideas and drive to make a livable modern city in the high desert. Early attempts to create a thriving city set the stage for Boise to become a place that fostered business growth, so much so that conventional municipal services like water, electricity, and roads all fell under the auspices of private companies or independent government agencies, an arrangement that holds to the present day. Boise’s leaders continue to promote small-business growth through means such as business incubators and strengthening the arts, culture, and recreation, which attract new and relocating businesses.

COMMUNITY

People

Early residents of the Boise Valley, the Shoshone and Bannock, lived and traveled throughout the region for thousands of years. They gathered annually in the valley to participate in trading rendezvous with other tribes and catch salmon in the Boise River runs to help sustain them year-round. They spent winters in the valley where the climate was milder and visited the hot springs for bathing and healing. Castle Rock, called Eagle Rock by the tribes, was and remains a sacred site.

When European-Americans settled in the Boise Valley, they pushed the indigenous people further to the edges of their ancestral lands until it was almost impossible for them to subsist. Disease, diminishing resources, and violence destroyed the traditional way of life for Native Americans in the Boise Valley. Soldiers forcibly removed the Shoshone and Bannock tribes from the area to a reservation established at Fort Hall in the spring of 1869.

Boise’s immigrants and migrants changed their surroundings and built new community structures. They started businesses, created civic organizations, developed educational institutions, and supported the visual and performing arts. Although Boise’s economic cycles fluctuated, overall the city has prospered
and thrived in geographic isolation for more than 150 years in its new context as part of the American West.

Boise has been home to myriad cultures, religions, and ethnicities, and each has contributed to the city’s collective identity. Boise attracted waves of Basque, Chinese, and Mexican immigrants from its founding through the early twentieth century. These individuals and groups started businesses or worked with other more established immigrants to create distinct communities defined in part by their Old World traditions. In the case of the Basques, for example, many of their cultural traditions survived unchanged well into the mid-twentieth century, primarily because they lived isolated in Boise, relatively untouched by forces that influenced Basque populations elsewhere. The Boise Basque community is known today for its strong cultural heritage traditions that have persevered over generations.

Other ethnic groups – the Chinese, Mexicans, and African Americans, for example – were often marginalized. As a result, by the 1950s the community appeared to be homogenous. In reality, ethnic groups concentrated in different neighborhoods throughout the community. Examples include Spanish Village, a Mexican settlement created by the mule packer Jesus Urquides; an African American and multi-ethnic community in the working-class River Street neighborhood that was home to Hawaiians, Greeks, Russians, Bulgarians, Spanish, and more; and Chinatown, first located on Idaho Street and later on Front Street.

In the mid-1990s, Boise became a primary settlement location for refugees from Africa, Eastern Europe, and the Middle East. This trend continued into the early twenty-first century with additional refugees arriving from many areas of the world.
Education

Early Boiseans prided themselves on the educational opportunities available for their children. The first school was purported to have opened in the fall of 1863 at the corner of Idaho and Seventh streets. Idaho Territory’s public school system was established in 1864, and the first public school in Boise opened in 1865. The Boise City Independent School District was created in 1881. In 1883 the District constructed the second Central School, which was located next to the Territorial State Capitol building. Boise High School, constructed in 1904, became the first high school in the state. In support of the high school and a reflection of the community’s general attitude towards education, Nathan Falk, local businessman, said in 1901, “The poor man has as good a right to give his children a high school education as the rich man who can afford to send his children away to school.”

In support of higher education during the 1930s, Boiseans pressed for a local college to make education affordable to more potential students. In response, officials established Boise Junior College (BJC) in 1934 at St. Margaret’s Hall, formerly an Episcopal school for girls. Shortly after its creation, BJC moved from the St. Margaret’s site near First and Idaho south of the river, to its current location.

Civic Organizations

Along with education, Boiseans were strong advocates of civic organizations. Some of the earliest buildings were constructed for organizations like the Masons, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows (I.O.O.F.), the Young Men’s Christian Association (YMCA), and the Fraternal Order of Eagles (F.O.E.). Fraternal organizations were typically the first to be established, but like other cities Boise had a women’s club movement that led to new organizations such as the Columbian Club, the Boise Woman’s Christian Temperance Union (WCTU), and the Young Women’s Christian Association (YWCA). Civic organizations were also founded and constructed by different ethnic groups, including the Chinese Odd Fellows Hall, the Chinese Masonic Hall, Hip Sing and Hop Sing associations, and the German Turnverein Society. Some organi-
zations grew out of established religious orders, such as the Ahavath Beth Israel, the Church of the Good Shepherd, and the Saints Constantine & Helen Greek Orthodox Church. The common goal of many benevolent associations centered on creating a better community for all.

Art and Culture

Boise’s characteristic creative energy and artistic entrepreneurship date to the founding of the city. An orchestra and traveling theater groups entertained locals in the late nineteenth century; as the twentieth century neared, theatrical performances became even more plentiful with local and traveling theater groups offering a full repertoire of plays. City founders built facilities such as the Good Templars’ Hall, the Pinney Theater, and the Sonna Opera House for theatrical and operatic performances. The city’s cultural life inspired attorney Clarence Darrow, in Boise for a major trial in 1907, to describe Boise as the “Athens of the sagebrush.”

In 1931, in the heart of the Great Depression, a group of dedicated artists – known as the Hobohemians – formed the Boise Art Association, now the Boise Art Museum. The group aspired to acquire and maintain a suitable gallery, host traveling exhibitions, and promote fine art in Boise. In 1937, the Boise Art Association achieved its goals through a partnership with the City of Boise and the federal Works Progress Administration. The Boise Gallery of Art, a 3,000-square-foot Art Deco building, was constructed in Julia Davis Park. The structure has undergone two expansions.

Boise’s rich cultural heritage is a legacy from the past and a foundation for the future. The Boise Little Theater (BLT) remains an all-volunteer, non-profit organization for amateur theater in operation for more than 60 years. It is one of the longest-running community theaters in America with a reputation for producing quality plays of all genres. Other community theaters include

A professional theater company since 1977, the Idaho Shakespeare Festival began as a summer theatrical event in a downtown courtyard. The city’s other major professional theater company, Boise Contemporary Theater, began in 1997 and is housed in a renovated warehouse in Boise’s Cultural District.

James A. Pinney built the Columbia Theatre (1892), which became the site of many theatrical and musical performances. The Columbia was designed by architect John C. Paulsen, who was also designed the new City Hall at 8th and Idaho Streets around the same time. In 1908 Pinney demolished the Columbia and built the Pinney Theater across the street.

Orchestras have performed in Boise since at least the 1870s. In 1880 Boise City was renowned for having one of the best brass bands in the west outside of California. Boise’s 70-member professional orchestra traces its roots to the formation of the Boise City Orchestra in 1885; by 1960 it became known as the Boise Philharmonic. Regional opera singers began performing with the Boise Philharmonic in the early 1960s and became a separate organization, Opera Idaho, in 1973. Band music also drew in the crowd.

In 2013, Boise Music Week celebrates its 95th year. It is one of the longest-running community volunteer music festivals in the country and helped cultivate Boise’s early music scene. Since 1918 this free celebration has featured local talent performing organ recitals, school and church choral performances, a dance concert, music in the park, a silent film with organ accompaniment at the historic Egyptian Theatre, and Broadway musical productions. In addition to music and theater, dance has proliferated in Boise with long-standing professional dance companies -- Ballet Idaho and Idaho Dance Theatre -- and newcomers the Trey McIntyre Project.
In the late 1980s, a flourishing downtown cultural scene helped revitalize efforts for the city’s core. This included investment in the city’s cultural infrastructure. For example, in 1992 philanthropist Esther Simplot renovated a 1910 warehouse for a performing arts center. The result, the Esther Simplot Performing Arts Academy, houses the Boise Philharmonic, Ballet Idaho, Opera Idaho, and their youth outreach programs: the Treasure Valley Youth Symphony, the Ballet Idaho Academy of Dance, and the Opera Idaho Children’s Chorus. Currently, private galleries, restaurants, coffee shops, and other businesses regularly showcase local art. On First Thursdays of each month, galleries extend their hours to encourage a bustling atmosphere of art, community, and commerce into the evening.

In 2008 the City of Boise established the Boise City Department of Arts & History (A&H); its antecedent was the Boise City Arts Commission, which began the Boise Visual Chronicle (BVC), a collection of local art that documents life in Boise from various perspectives. A Percent for Art ordinance established in 2001 sets aside funds from city capital projects specifically for public art. The result is a growing multi-million-dollar art collection that is placed in public places throughout the city. With the support of Mayor Bieter and City Council members, A&H has also expanded opportunities for residents and visitors to learn about Boise’s history. The City and Department believes that a connection with local history helps cultivate an authentic sense of place for both residents and visitors. This is the basis for the commemoration of Boise’s Sesquicentennial in 2013 (BOISE 150).

Please take part this year to learn about our city’s past, present, and future through the BOISE 150 program and its themes of environment, enterprise, and community. The sesquicentennial commemoration will offer signature events and projects produced by A&H as well as programs created by citizens, businesses, organizations, and government entities.

2013 is an opportunity to explore how residents and visitors can better connect to Boise and ways in which areas thrive through integrating quality art and personal and collective history throughout a community.
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Thank you for taking part in THINKING 150 and learning more about our city’s past and contemplating its present and future through the BOISE 150 themes of environment, enterprise, and community.

The sesquicentennial commemoration will offer signature events and projects produced by the Department of Arts & History as well as programs created by citizens, businesses, organizations, and government entities. The year 2013 is an opportunity to help define Boise’s “sense of place” and to recognize how the integration of arts and history throughout a community help foster a unique and authentic identity that serves to connect individuals and groups and make a city livable and lovable.

A unique city is defined by the quality of its art and the richness of its history.