



*Preserving the Past, Enriching the Future*

For Immediate Release

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### **Idaho State Historical Society Awards \$25,000 to History Organizations Across Idaho**

**BOISE, Idaho** – The Idaho City Historical Society will use \$2,500 to digitally record, archive, and make available for public use oral history interviews as a commemoration of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the city. The Malad Valley Welsh Foundation will use \$600 to develop a temporary exhibit of pedigree charts, photos, census records, artifacts and other materials related the Malad Valley Welsh settlers for the annual Welsh Festival. These are just two of the fifteen organizations that received Community Enhancement Grants from the Idaho State Historical Society (ISHS) for the 2011-2012 funding cycle. See attached for a full list of awardees.

The Idaho State Historical Society recognizes the critical need many of our partners have in funding the projects they undertake to preserve Idaho's history and culture. The ISHS Community Enhancement Grant Program assists groups and organizations in preserving and interpreting community history in a way that meets unique local needs. "The grant program plays a vital role in the preservation and care of Idaho's collections, enhances visitor amenities, and assists in the overall development of a vibrant statewide cultural heritage industry," says ISHS Chairman Tom Blanchard.

Over the past five years, ISHS has funded 103 projects in the amount of \$233,000 across the state through the Community Enhancement Grant Program. The Community Enhancement Grant program is designed to help with operations and administration, collections management, public access or interpretive enhancements, or heritage tourism.

All grants are matched at least dollar for dollar, and applications are due annually in September. More information is on the ISHS website, [www.history.idaho.gov](http://www.history.idaho.gov), or by contacting Keith Petersen, State Historian/Associate Director, Idaho State Historical Society, 112 W. 4<sup>th</sup> St., Suite 7, Moscow, ID 83843, [keith.petersen@ishs.idaho.gov](mailto:keith.petersen@ishs.idaho.gov), 208-882-1540.

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The Idaho State Historical Society is an extraordinary system of cultural and historic resources comprised of the Idaho State Historical Museum, State Archives, State Historic Preservation Office, and Historic Sites Program. We seek to inspire, enrich and engage all Idahoans by leading the state in preserving, sharing, and using history and cultural resources relevant to today to inform and influence the future. Learn more about ISHS at [www.history.idaho.gov](http://www.history.idaho.gov).

## **2011-2012 Idaho State Historical Society Community Enhancement Grants**

### **Basque Museum and Cultural Center, Boise, \$950**

To purchase two additional computers for administrative and curatorial use to help the organization continue with its outstanding preservation efforts.

### **Burley Public Library, Burley, \$990**

To purchase microfilm copies of area newspapers from 1993-2000. The microfilms are heavily used by local residents, and this project will make this valuable resource available in the local area.

### **Cassia County Historical Society, Burley, \$1,000**

To continue upgrading its permanent exhibit, a project supported in the past by ISHS.

### **Eagle Historic Preservation Commission, Eagle, \$2,500**

To assist in the development, fabrication and installation of seven interpretive signs on the exteriors of seven historic structures in Eagle. This project will help educate the public about preserving the few historic structures remaining in Eagle.

### **Gooding County Historical Society, Gooding, \$2,000**

For a track system to exhibit photographs, for exhibit modules to assist in the development of interpretive exhibits, and for funds to conserve a 13-foot photograph of the construction of Magic Dam.

### **Idaho Association of Museums, Statewide, \$2,000**

For travel stipends for representatives from at least 5 museums to travel to the 2012 annual conference of the IAM in Wallace. The stipends will help people become professionally trained by making it possible for some to attend the 2012 conference who could not otherwise afford to travel there.

### **Idaho City Historical Foundation, Idaho City \$2,500**

To digitally record, archive, and make available for public use oral history interviews as a commemoration of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the city. The project seeks to gain perspectives on all eras of Idaho City's past.

### **Ketchum Community Library, Ketchum, \$2,000**

To scan, catalog and make available online 3,000 images of Union Pacific Railroad color photographs that were donated to the Library some years ago. Because the Kodachrome transparencies deteriorate each time the originals are removed from the vault for research use, this project will make them more accessible and help preserve the originals.

### **Latah County Historical Society, Moscow, \$1,000**

For a series of traveling exhibits that illuminate the rich agricultural history of Latah County, beginning with the Territorial period. They will be exhibited in banks, grange halls, stores, and other locations.

### **Lewis-Clark State College Foundation, Lewiston, \$2,500**

Specialized labor is required to safely disassemble Lewiston's Chinese Beuk Aie Temple alter and artifacts in one gallery of the Center for Arts and History and reassemble it in another gallery. The Temple had been removed for conservation and cleaning following a 2009 fire.

### **Malad Valley Welsh Foundation, Malad, \$600**

To develop a temporary exhibit of pedigree charts, photos, census records, artifacts and other materials relating to Malad Valley Welsh settlers for the annual Welsh Festival.

**Nez Perce County Historical Society, \$2,000**

In the spring of 2011, ISHS and the Idaho Heritage Trust provided funds to the Society to assist in the transfer of the Henry Talkington collection from Lewis-Clark State College. The collection is what remains from what was probably the second oldest museum in the state, and is a valuable collection of artifacts relating to Idaho and Northwest history. The project seeks funding to inventory and help preserve the collection.

**Teton Valley Museum, Driggs, \$1,800**

For an oversize fire-resistant filing cabinet for storage of oral history CDs.

**Twin Falls County Historical Society, Filer, \$1,080**

To install an alarm system, maintain its website, and copy and exhibit historic Twin Falls photographs.

**Wallace District Mining Museum, Wallace, \$2,000**

To digitize and make locally available records of the Idaho Geological Survey pertaining to the Coeur d'Alene Mining District. Making these records available in digital format will assist in their preservation and greatly increase access.