

Karen Bubb

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Arts administrator, planner, project manager, policy wonk, educator, community activist, artist, dreamer and doer, I have over twenty years of experience starting creative enterprises and operating as a collaborative team member of non-profits, public art programs, foundations, grant programs, leadership boards, and my own visual arts practice. A life-long learner and curious soul, I'm always looking for connections, meeting new friends, gaining new skills, and expanding my perspective on arts and culture-related topics.

Education:

Boise State University (BSU), Boise, Idaho

- PhD Candidate in Public Administration & Policy, focus on cultural economy, industries, and policy, 2023 anticipated completion
- Masters in Public Administration, Pi Alpha Alpha, with a focus on arts management and policy, 2008
- Graduate Certificate in Community and Regional Planning, 2008

University of Oregon, Eugene, Oregon, Bachelor of Fine Arts, 1990

Professional Associations & Activities:

- Adjunct Professor in BSU Honors College and Executive MBA programs, 2009-present
- Facilitator and guest speaker for civic groups, university classes, professional organizations, 2000-present
- Public Art Network Council, Americans for the Arts, Washington D.C., 2012-17, Chair in 2015
- Affiliate of BSU's Centre for Creativity and Innovation, BSU's Business & Economics College, 2008-2015

Volunteer Trustee/Board Member Affiliations:

- Co-Founder, Board Member, Surel's Place Artist-in-Residence Program: 2011-2021
- Trustee, Alexa Rose Cultural Foundation, 2014-2021
(the Foundation provides up to \$250,000 annually in grants to individuals for creative advancement)
- Trustee, Surel and Winston Mitchell Foundation, 2012-present
(the Foundation provides up to \$35,000 annually in grants to organizations in the arts, education, or humanities)

Honors/Awards:

- Surel's Place Excellence in the Arts Governor's Arts Award: Idaho Commission on the Arts, State of Idaho, 2018
- Governor's Arts Award for Arts Administration: Idaho Commission on the Arts, State of Idaho, 2012
- Employee of the Year Award, City of Boise: In recognition of outstanding service to the citizens, 2008
- Women of the Year Award: Idaho Business Review, selected as an honored community leader, 2008
- Accomplished Under 40 Award: Idaho Business Review, selected for leadership, professionalism, accomplishment, and drive among those under 40 years of age in the Idaho business community, 2001

Employment Experience:

Cultural Planner, Boise City Department of Arts & History, Boise, Idaho

February 2017 - Present

Responsibilities include leading the creation of Boise's first Master Cultural Plan and its implementation. This includes working with partners to develop cultural policy and programming, serving as a liaison regarding internal department strategic planning, and leading city-wide cultural development efforts.

- Co-authored Public Works Arts Master Plan and Boise Airport Arts Master Plan, 2021
- Served on a collaborative team providing grants to artists during Covid-19 shut down (CCC Fund)
- Facilitated City of Boise's first Native American Welcoming Ceremony, June 2018, and Indigenous Peoples' Day, October 8, 2018, name changes of park & reserve to Indigenous-selected names in 2019
- Organized and facilitated Southwest Idaho Regional Cultural Conference, May 2018
- Partnered with the Downtown Boise Association on event and report about the impact of the arts on downtown Boise, April 2018

Public Arts Manager, Boise City Department of Arts & History, Boise, Idaho

March 1998 – February 2017

Responsibilities included the founding of the program; passage of cultural policy; development, coordination, and promotion of public art projects and policies for the City of Boise's Percent-for-Art program and for Capital City Development Corporation's downtown redevelopment districts; creation and provision of education materials & programs for the public and artists; consultations with and mentoring of individual artists; management and curation of the overall public art collection; funding acquisition from private developers for public art; and work as a liaison between Boise City, civic, and private partners.

- Hosted the 2015 Pacific Northwest Public Art Administrator Conference in Boise
- Developed Percent-for-Art Ordinance in 2001, resulting in over six-million dollars funding for public art over 20 years
- Built a City-owned public art collection of more than 600 public art projects

Public Arts Consultant, on behalf of Boise City and as an Independent Contractor

January 2000-Present

Provides customized presentations, workshops, planning, and expertise in the arts, creativity, and policy.

- Provides workshops and presentations for artists, city councils, government staff, committees, and civic groups such as Rotary and Lions clubs regarding public art policy, program development, how-to, and community benefits of public art. Cities served as clients in Idaho include Nampa, Twin Falls, Eagle, Coeur d'Alene, Moscow, Mountain Home, Hailey, Lava Hot Springs and McCall. Out of state includes Bozeman, MT, Jackson Hole, WY, Olympia, WA, and Spokane, WA.
- Idaho Commission on the Arts (ICA): In consultation with ICA staff, developed a strategy to inventory public art in Idaho--working with, training, supervising, and assessing seven statewide consultants.
- Boise State University (BSU): In consultation with the facilities management department, developed and implemented a plan to inventory BSU owned artwork, develop a public art policy, and promote the art collection in coordination with BSU marketing efforts.
- Atlanta, Georgia: Participated as a jurist to select artists for Atlanta and Airport public art registry.

Interim Department Director, Boise City Department of Arts & History, Boise, Idaho

February 2007-October 2008

Provided leadership in the development and support of arts and history programs; hired and supervised staff; developed and managed a \$600,000 budget; approved expenditures; participated in Citywide strategic planning; facilitated development of cultural policies; implemented programs; provided regional and national advocacy; managed Mayor's Awards in the Arts event and City Art Fund grants; worked with media to promote arts and history community; and prepared and presented reports to the board, Mayor, and City Council.

- Co-authored ordinances that transitioned the organization from a Division of the Mayor's Office to a Department; successfully integrated City Historian into Department and created History Committee.
- Co-authored first Department Business Plan after facilitating planning meetings with the board, staff and history task force.
- Managed the beta-testing of a new human resource performance review system with staff.

Publications:

Ashley, A., Loh, C. Bubb, K. & Durham, L. (2020). Diversity, equity, and inclusion practices in arts and cultural planning. *Journal of Urban Affairs*.

Ashley, A., Loh, C. Bubb, K. & Durham, L. (2021). Our Diversity is Our Strength: Explaining Variation in Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion: Emphasis in Municipal Arts and Culture Plans. *Journal of the American Planning Association*.

Karen Bubb Visual Arts History

Visual Artist Honors/Awards

Cultural Delegate to Beijing, Nanjing and Shanghai China, 2004: With Washington State Arts Commission
“Most Creative Design” award, 2001: Interior Design Association’s “Chair Affair” event
“Juror’s Prize” award 2001: Boise Art Museum Triennial exhibition

Artist Grants Received:

Idaho Commission on the Arts, 2019: Quick Art Grant for one-person show at the Visual Arts Collective
Idaho Commission on the Arts, 2007: Quick Art Grant for trip to Germany to document artist Amy Westover working on public art project at Derix Glass studio
Idaho Commission on the Arts, 2004: Quick Art Grant for Cultural Delegation trip to China
Idaho Commission of the Arts, 1998: Quick Art Grant for Coming Home: Why Idaho Natives Return

Collections:

Boise Art Museum
Numerous Private Collections

Art Exhibitions:

2020 Ancestors & Past Lives, Capital Contemporary Gallery, two-person show
2019 Bits of String Too Short to Tie, Visual Arts Collective, one-person show
2019 March, Because Boise, Capitol Contemporary Gallery, two-person show
2019 Capitol Contemporary Gallery, group exhibition monthly
2018 BOSCO open studios event
2017 Visual Arts Collective Boise ID: Terrarium: A Group Art Show
2016 Italian Vistas, Gallery Five18: Boise, ID: A two-person show with Karen Eastman
2016 Modern Art, Modern Hotel Boise ID: A collaborative, one night installation celebrating the Beltane.
2015 Energy Wheels, Sage Yoga, Boise, ID: A one-person show of new works related to yoga practice
2015 Sprung Rhythm/Free Verse, Gallery Five18, Boise, ID: A two-person show with D’Arcy Bellamy
2014 My Own Private Idaho, Gallery Five18, Boise, ID: A one-person show of 75 Boise encaustic paintings
2014-May 1017 Representation, Gallery Five18, Boise, ID: works always up at the gallery
2013 Dreaming of Cuba, The Linen Building Gallery, Boise, ID: A one-person show of over 100 works
2013 Wax Works, Art Museum of Eastern Idaho, Idaho Falls, ID: Group exhibition
2012 Boise Open Studios Collective (BOSCO), Boise, ID
2011 Trey McIntyre Project, Boise, ID: 10 + 1
2010 Alexa Rose Gallery, Boise, ID: Day of the Dead installation called “REST”
2009 Linen Building, Boise, ID: Linen Market: Booth exhibition
2009 J. Crist Gallery, Boise, ID: 9 + 1: Portraits of Trey McIntyre Dancers
2008 Wood River Cellars, Eagle, ID: Toast: Print exchange group exhibition
2008, 2009, 2010 Modern Hotel, Boise, ID: Modern Art: Art installation in hotel room for one night event
2007 Stewart Gallery, Boise: China Encaustics: Solo show of 260 artworks about China
1998-2007 Flying M, Boise, ID: Valentines for AIDS: Group exhibition of silent-auctioned donated artworks
2005 Stewart Gallery, Boise, ID: Encaustic paintings of North End alleys
2005 Boise Art Museum, Boise, ID: Blur Purlieu print portfolio exhibition, work added to permanent collection
2005 Temporary Location, Boise, ID: Salon de Refusé
2005 Whitworth College, Spokane, WA: as part of the Blur Purlieu print portfolio collective
2004 Fulton Street Theater, Boise, ID: Alley Scapes & Sketches: Solo encaustic exhibition
2004 Boise State University, Boise, ID: Women Making Art: Group juried exhibition
2003 San Francisco Center for Book Arts, San Francisco, CA: Group Exhibition of artist books
2002 Pritchard Gallery, Moscow ID: Quaint, Quixotic, Kitsch: An invitational group exhibition
2002 Protocol, Boise: Obsession: Drawings, Objects & Collages inspired by Protocol shoes
2001 Stewart Gallery, Boise: Balance: Drawings and Paintings of young modern dancers
2001 Boise Art Museum, Boise: Triennial: A jurored exhibition of Idaho artists
2001 Fulton Street Theater, Boise: Balance: Drawings and Collages: A one person show of work resulting from an artist-in-residence with dance company Balance.
2000 Stewart Gallery, Boise: Myths, Memory and Nature: A three-person exhibition of collage work, using found photographs from the turn of the century, dried flowers, acrylic on canvas.
2000 Basement Gallery, Boise: Reflections: A juried group exhibition of women artists work
Juror’s award for Best of Show
1999 J. Crist Gallery, Boise: All Dolled Up, a group exhibition of artist made dolls, fifteen dolls shown
1999 Esther Simplot Performing Arts Academy, Boise: Coming Home: Why Idaho Natives Return, a collaborative exhibition with photographer Laurie Blakeslee
1998 Boise State University, Boise: Do It, an invitational exhibition organized by the Visual Arts Department