



IDAHO
HERITAGE
TRUST

ANNUAL REPORT 2023

2023 was a banner year for the Idaho Heritage Trust, culminating in **over \$1,000,000 of grants and technical assistance** awarded to preservation projects throughout Idaho. This is the largest single year total in IHT's more than 30 years of history and is the result of concerted effort to broaden our impact through collaborating with like-minded organizations, actively seeking new ways to increase access to funding, and championing Idaho's heritage at the grassroots level.

In November, IHT announced nine **historic theaters will receive a total of \$821,000 in funding** through our Historic Theatre Revitalization Subgrant Program supported by the Paul Bruhn Historic Revitalization Grant Program funded by the Historic Preservation Fund as administered by the National Park Service (NPS), Department of Interior and the Idaho Heritage Trust Fund.

In tandem with the Historic Theatre Grants, IHT awarded annual **Heritage Grants to 22 separate projects for a total of \$161,175**, which were furnished by the Idaho Heritage Trust Fund. Of these, 22 projects, ten went to first-time awardees and 12 were returning grantees. IHT also provided **\$37,725 in technical assistance** to grant applicants in advance of their submission for funding. Technical assistance is performed on-site by an expert in the particular preservation field - usually an historical architect, but sometimes projects require input from an archivist, engineer, mason, or the like.

One major highlight among this year's grantees is the historic **McConnell Mansion in Moscow, which received \$10,000 to restore windows** in this majestic 1886 home. Built by the former Idaho Governor and Senator for which it is named, the stately Victorian mansion was a private residence to four different families until it was repurposed into a museum and event space overseen by the Latah County Historical Society.

An area of special consideration IHT has adopted in recent years is the preservation of **historic barns and silos**. They are not only an indelible piece of Idaho's agrarian history, but they also contribute to the visual landscape and unique sense of place that makes our farmland some of the most picturesque in the world.

The Stoddard Barn and Silo in Hayden is the platonic ideal of such a structure, and they were awarded **\$15,000 to evacuate and secure the structure against a number of birds** that have taken up residence. While we cannot blame them for their choice of living quarters, their roosting has caused quite a mess and is inhibiting further restoration work.

While IHT has a well-earned reputation as experts in the care and protection of historic buildings, we are making a concerted effort to seek out and fund the preservation of artifacts, collections, and other aspects that contribute to the historic fabric of Idaho's most cherished places. To that end, a pair of furnishings decorating the Bishop Tuttle House are set to be restored through a 2023 grant – **the repair of a hand-carved rocking chair and the reupholstery of an 1800s sofa**. These lovely pieces of furniture add charm and character to the gorgeous building and look especially handsome atop the newly uncovered and refinished wood floors. Soon, you, too, will be able to rest your rump on the same seat as the illustrious lineage of Boise bishops from the past century and before. In addition, the **soffits and eaves of the Bishop Tuttle House (part of St. Michael's Cathedral in Boise) got a fresh coat of paint** with help from a 2022 IHT grant. The House hosted IHT's annual November board meeting this year, which likely does not add to its historical significance, but for which we are thankful in any case.

2023 saw the completion of a number of other IHT-funded projects, perhaps none more important than the finalization of **Howells Opera House's new roof structure**, a \$300,000 project of which IHT funded nearly 10%. The project ensures the fixture of Oakley's Blaine Street, especially the tin-embossed ceiling, will maintain its majesty and continue to attract patrons from all around Oakley Valley for many years to come.

The iconic **Butte County Fairgrounds Grandstands** also received a new roof in 2023 thanks in part to IHT funding. This 500-seat wooden structure has been providing a comfortable place to watch wild rodeos, thrilling races, 4-H competitions, and any number of fair events since they were erected in 1938 with funding from President Roosevelt's WPA program. They still tower over the

town of Arco having withstood a nearly 7.0 earthquake and severe winds in recent years, and, thanks to the work spearheaded by the Butte County Fairgrounds Board, the grandstands will continue to be an indelible part of many, many memories.

Following the 2022 retirement of our renowned historical architect, Fred Walters, IHT established The Frederick Walters Award for Excellence in Historic Preservation to commemorate his skill, grace, and meticulous attention to detail. The first ever recipients were the **Coeur d'Alene Tribe and Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation** for their outstanding work preserving National Historic Landmark the **Mission of the Sacred Heart and Parish House at Old Mission State Park in Cataldo, ID**. An award and check in the amount of \$5,000 to go toward future preservation projects were presented to the awardees at a heartfelt ceremony on the steps of The Mission. We feel the honorees are particularly fitting, as Fred counts his experience working on Cataldo Mission as one of his favorite projects of his entire storied career. You can read more about this incredible undertaking on the following pages and keep your eye out for the announcement of the 2024 honorees in the coming months.

While we are certainly pleased with all we have accomplished this year, IHT is already setting its sights for 2024 and beyond. In the coming year, we will see work commence on the Theatre Grant projects, refine the processes around providing technical assistance, and seek out new and innovative ways to provide support to preservationists throughout the state. We are deeply appreciative of your continued support in our mission to serve all Idahoans by preserving our culture and heritage.

Sincerely,



Donna Woolston, Chairperson



Katherine Kirk, Executive Director



As part of our annual Fall Board meeting, we visit historic properties funded with IHT grants and learn about the preservation efforts going on in the community. This helps our board members, who travel from all over Idaho, to learn about the projects, understand the community's preservation goals and needs, and help us better serve preservationists in every nook and cranny of the gem state.

This year took us to Coeur d'Alene, where we were graciously hosted and enjoyed visiting the Hamilton House, JC White House, Northern Pacific Depot, Electric Trolley Substation, Fort Sherman Chapel, Memorial Field, and of course we had to stop by the historic carousel for a ride!



READING BETWEEN THE WALLS: LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE AWARD-WINNING RESTORATION OF THE MISSION OF THE SACRED HEART TO THE COEUR D'ALENE

As many of you know, The Mission of the Sacred Heart is Idaho's oldest intact building, one of our most recognizable historic sites, and a National Historic Landmark. Designed by an Italian Jesuit Missionary and built by the Coeur d'Alene Tribespeople themselves, this extraordinary piece of Idaho's history is safeguarded through a unique partnership between the Tribe and the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation (IDPR). At a ceremony on June 13th, 2023, the Idaho Heritage Trust bestowed the first ever Frederick Walters Award for Excellence in Historic Preservation upon these two organizations for their incredible work reroofing and repairing several of the classical columns in one of Idaho's most important historic sites.

One of the key sticking points from the outset was determining the proper materials and size for the roof. Through thorough examination, Fred discovered that the soffits, the exposed siding underneath the overhang of the roof, were made from the original four-foot cedar shakes. While cedar shakes would have been most appropriate, the cost for fabricating these proved prohibitive. Like shingles, shakes are overlapping pieces of wood that form the outer layer of a roof. Unlike shingles, however, shakes are thicker on one end and taper as they

lengthen. This style of roofing is much more difficult to create. Four-foot cedar shingles proved to be the best compromise to preserve the historic integrity of the roof, maintain its distinctive, rustic appearance, and fit within budgetary and material constraints.

With a template in hand for fabricating the desired shingles, the next issue was sourcing enough cedar of the necessary width to cover the entirety of the roof, as any deviations would stick out like a sore thumb. Jill Wagner, Ph.D., Coeur d'Alene Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, was the Tribe's staff lead in fighting for this time-consuming and costly endeavor and she felt it would be a disservice to the Mission and those who built it to cut such corners. As she so eloquently put it, using smaller shingles would "look wrong." Fred agreed, and so, too, did the Tribal Council and IDPR. With support and funding from the Idaho State Legislature, the project continued with a renewed dedication to historical accuracy and deference to those who came before.

"It is vitally important to remember who built the building, not just who designed it," says Jill. While the architectural design was created by a Jesuit missionary, the backbreaking work and painstaking detail fell to members of the Tribe, many of them women. "Spending a week in the attic with Fred was a masterclass in architecture," Jill recalls. "The respect Fred gave to builders really endeared himself to the Tribal Council and Culture Committee and showed that he was the right person to lead this project."

As work continued and word spread, Jill found herself flooded with folks who wanted to see the undertaking for themselves. She learned to work the lift up to the attic and would take representatives from the Culture Committee, Tribal Council, and other interested community members up during the roofing crew's lunchbreak. It was on one such excursion where a basket maker noticed that the walls were constructed using the same method as a twined basket, which stood in stark contrast to the European flat-weave style of wattle and daub construction. "There are handprints in the clay on lower levels, the handprints of those who wove and plastered the walls. The dress on display in the lobby of the visitor's center belongs to one of the people who made those handprints."

By comparing the original plans to the current building, it became increasingly apparent how much the designers and Tribe members

deviated from the initial design to accommodate local materials and conditions. For example, the original design for a domed roof simply would not work in this climate and with the materials at hand. Attendees of the award ceremony were treated to a trip to the attic and were able to see firsthand the handprints in the mud, the adze marks on the wood, and understand how much knowledge was gained through this preservation project that would have otherwise been lost to time.

"It is really exciting to see a shift in the way we interpret the history of a place like this," says William Niska, IDPR Manager of Old Mission State Park. "Telling more of the story of the Tribe, the people who built this building, and the people who held this place sacred long before the Mission stood here." Will is excited to put the \$5,000 accompanying the award toward this end, stating they intend to add a pair of display cases in the Parish House to showcase art and artifacts that tell the story of who the Tribe is now. Will and Jill coordinate weekly tasks to stay on top of the upkeep required to keep the building in strong working order, as well as pushing forward painting projects, ADA accessibility retrofits, interpretive sign updates, and management of the grounds. "It's overwhelming some days," says Will. "But my main purpose, and the purpose of all of us who work at the Park – Tribe members and staff, IDPR staff, contractors, the local fire department – is to make sure nothing happens to this building during our watch." Felix Aripa, Tribe Elder, told Jill, "Trees this mature have a strong immune system, that's why they don't rot." While that may certainly be the case, it is heartening to know there is such a resolute team of folks making sure Idaho's oldest building remains.

Tribe and community members continue to make a pilgrimage to the Mission every year. It is an opportunity to gather together as families and as a community. Thanks to the work of the Coeur d'Alene Tribe, and the IDPR team, there is more to learn, share, and appreciate about this sacred place and the building on which it stands than ever before.

IHT would like to say thank you to the Coeur d'Alene Tribe and the IDPR team for such incredible stewardship of The Mission of the Sacred Heart.



2023 HISTORIC THEATRE GRANTEES

The Idaho Heritage Trust (IHT) has selected **nine historic theatres to receive \$821,000 in funding** through our Historic Theatre Revitalization Subgrant Program in order to facilitate the restoration of these vital structures in Idaho’s rural communities (defined as having a population less than 50,000 people). This program is supported by the Paul Bruhn Historic Revitalization Grant Program funded by the Historic Preservation Fund as administered by the National Park Service (NPS), Department of Interior and the Idaho Heritage Trust Fund. The recipients will match ten (10) % or more of the award amount to complete their restoration projects.

The goals of this program are to **(1)** preserve and protect buildings of historic significance, **(2)** ensure our rural communities have access to the arts and culture, **(3)** reinvigorate a key economic component of historic Main Streets, and **(4)** provide a tool for our smaller communities to capitalize on Idaho’s growing population and heritage tourism industry. Work on these projects is set to begin in 2024, and we look forward to updating you on their progress this time next year.



IDAHO HERITAGE TRUST
Historic Theatre
Grant Program

National Park Service,
Department of Interior

PROPERTY	GRANT	TOWN	COUNTY
Kenworthy Performing Arts Centre	\$100,000	Moscow	Latah
Nuart Theatre	\$49,000	Blackfoot	Bingham
Bovill Opera House	\$100,000	Bovill	Latah
Burley Theatre	\$100,000	Burley	Cassia
The Liberty Theater	\$100,000	Lewiston	Nez Perce
Historic Opera Theater	\$100,000	Glenns Ferry	Elmore
The Roxy Theater	\$72,000	Cascade	Valley
Shoshone Showhouse	\$100,000	Shoshone	Lincoln
Panida Theater	\$100,000	Sandpoint	Bonner

From Top Left to Right: Panida Theater photo by Doug Jones, Bovill Opera House, Burley Theater, Glenns Ferry Opera House photo by David Payne, Lewiston Liberty Theater photo by August Frank *Lewiston Tribune*, Roxy Theater, Shoshone Showhouse, Nuart Theatre, Kenworthy Performing Arts Centre photo by Andrew Botterbusch



2023 IHT AWARDED GRANTS

19 participating Idaho counties | 22 projects funded | \$161,675 granted



PROPERTY	COMMUNITY ORG	GRANT	TOWN	COUNTY
St Ann's Catholic Church (The Historic Pearl Theater)	The Pearl Theater	\$14,500	Bonnors Ferry	Boundary
Bunker Hill Company Staff House	Shoshone County Mining and Smelting Museum	\$8,000	Kellogg	Shoshone
Lake City Dairy, Stoddard Barn	City of Hayden	\$10,000	Hayden Lake	Kootenai
Chapin Drug Store (Post Falls Museum)	Post Falls Historic Society, Inc.	\$1,000	Post Falls	Kootenai
McConnell Mansion Historic House Museum	Latah County Historical Society	\$10,000	Moscow	Latah
Nutting House (Heritage House)	Nez Perce County Historical Museum	\$7,500	Lewiston	Nez Perce
Hiláwlimqsa Talapónsanwaas (First Indian Presbyterian Church)	First Indian Presbyterian Church	\$5,000	Kamiah	Lewis
Weippe Community Hall	Weippe Community Club	\$1,000	Weippe	Clearwater
SITPA Garage/Bunkhouse	Central Idaho Historical Museum	\$10,000	McCall	Valley
Bishops' House	Friends of the Bishops' House	\$3,600	Boise	Ada
Ann Morrison Park Clock Tower	Harry W. Morrison Foundation, Inc.	\$15,000	Boise	Ada
Goodrich Schoolhouse	Friends of the Goodrich Schoolhouse	\$5,000	Council	Adams
Wheaton Theater (The Star Theater)	Illustrious Onionskin Players	\$5,000	Weiser	Washington
Our Lady of Tears Catholic Church	Diocese of Boise	\$10,000	Silver City	Owyhee
Marsing Train Depot	Owyhee County Museum	\$5,000	Murphy	Owyhee
Glenns Ferry High School (Glenns Ferry Historical Museum)	Glenns Ferry Historical Museum	\$2,655	Glenns Ferry	Elmore
Elba Relief Society Building (Elba Community Building)	Elba, Inc.	\$8,000	Elba	Cassia
Bannock County Serviceman's Building (Veterans Memorial)	Bannock County Veterans Memorial Association	\$10,000	Pocatello	Bannock
Evans Co-op/Malad Co-op	City of Malad	\$9,500	Malad	Oneida
Nels and Emma Just Home	Presto Preservation Association	\$3,920	Firth	Bingham
Darling Idaho School House (Blizzard Mountain Ski Area Lodge)	Lions Club of Arco	\$12,000	Arco	Butte
Johnny Sacks Cabin (Fred Walters Award for Excellence)	USFS/Fremont County	\$5,000	Island Park	Fremont



\$6.2 Million

GIVEN SINCE 1990

900+ Projects

RECEIVED FUNDING

A STANDING OVATION FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Since our founding in 1990, IHT has awarded **918 Grants** and provided more than **\$6.2 million** in grant funding, technical assistance and education.

In 2023 alone, we funded **\$1.1 million** in support of our mission to serve all Idahoans by preserving our cultural legacy.

There is always room in the stands for more fans of historic preservation. Visit idahoheritagetrust.org to learn more about our grassroots efforts on behalf of all Idahoans to honor the legacy of our ancestors, enrich our present, and ensure our collective heritage will be enjoyed for generations to come.



*Your License
Plates at Work!*

The iconic Scenic Idaho Red, White, and Blue license plate was created for use by the Centennial Foundation to raise funds for the celebration of Idaho's 100th anniversary as a state. The trademark was passed to the Idaho Heritage Trust in 1991, and the plate became the standard in our state in 1992. The state pays the Trust a fifty-cent-per-plate royalty fee for the use of our trademarked image, and these fees have served as our primary source of funding ever since.

