

ENERGIZE OUR NEIGHBORHOODS



VISTA NEIGHBORHOOD



What is Energize Our Neighborhoods?

Energize Our Neighborhoods is a strategy for keeping Boise unique and desirable. The City of Boise mapped livability indicators to study the health of our community. The results showed areas of opportunity. Since then, we designed strategies for a new and meaningful way to revitalize Boise's neighborhoods. The Vista Neighborhood is the starting point.

- **Residents**

Resident involvement is key to Energize Our Neighborhoods. Vista residents help design the strategies, prioritize projects, and serve on committees and in leadership roles.

- **Community Partners**

Community partners, both public and private, are essential to the success of Energize Our Neighborhoods. Their efforts help produce measurable change at a neighborhood level.

- **City of Boise**

The City of Boise strives to be the most livable city in the country. Energize Our Neighborhoods is helping us engage the community and change the way we do business.



Why Vista?

The Vista Neighborhood was identified as an area rich in opportunity. In part, Vista was chosen because of the City's significant assets in the area:

- **Vista Avenue** is the gateway to the City, welcoming residents and visitors alike.
- **The Whitney Community Center** is a vital resource. It offers after school programs, dance classes, teen activities, and a community garden.
- **Housing** - The City owns 80 units of affordable housing on Vista Avenue.
- **Federal Funds** - The Vista Neighborhood qualifies for federal funds administered by the City of Boise.



Fun Fact - Boise's Vista Avenue was featured in the ULI magazine, which was distributed to more than 6,000 people!

Focus Areas



1. Children & Youth

Expand opportunities for children and youth



2. Economic Development

Retain and attract compatible economic activity



3. Health & Community Services

Expand access to health/community services



4. Housing

Preserve and create affordable housing options for all incomes



5. Placemaking, Arts & History

Enhance unique neighborhood characteristics



6. Public Safety

Prevent and reduce crime



7. Sustainability

Ensure a lasting environment, innovative enterprise, and vibrant community



8. Transportation

Expand transportation choices and improve neighborhood connectivity

Urban Land Institute

Energize Our Neighborhoods is working with business owners, local government agencies, and the Urban Land Institute (ULI) to improve the economic vitality, safety, and vibrancy along Vista Avenue.

Vista Avenue was named one of four national Demonstration Corridors as part of the **ULI Healthy Corridors** project. A grant was awarded to identify opportunities to increase the area's livability by improving uses and infrastructure along the avenue, thus promoting physical activity and access to services and healthy food.

In October, City Council member Ben Quintana gave a presentation about Vista Avenue at the ULI Fall Conference. A team of national experts will visit in February 2016 to provide their recommendations for improving Vista Avenue.

ENERGIZE OUR NEIGHBORHOODS

LIVABILITY FOCUS AREAS

Children & Youth

- Goal: Expand opportunities for children and youth

Projects

- Boise Pre-K Project provides high-quality early childhood education to 60 students
- YMCA, Boys & Girls Club, and Boise Parks & Recreation partner to provide free daily programs for 50+ students

Indicators

- Idaho Reading Indicator scores for Fall Kindergarten and Spring 3rd grade
- Child nutrition program participation

Economic Development

- Goal: Retain and attract compatible economic activity

Projects

- Survey of local business owners
- ULI Healthy Corridors Grant: Assessment and recommendations from national experts regarding business development

Indicators

- Number of businesses by type
- Number and value of building permits

Placemaking, Arts & History

- Goal: Enhance the neighborhood's unique characteristics

Projects

- Documented Vista residents' oral histories
- Vista Neighborhood History Report identifies placemaking opportunities

Indicators

- Park access points and walkability
- Number of public art installations and historic landmarks



LIVABILITY INDICATORS

Vista Neighborhood Accomplishments

A Year of Action | Energize Our Neighborhoods focuses on “Livability Indicators” to measure our community’s health. Eight committees, each working on a specific focus area, are working to identify measurable goals and specific projects. Some of the projects accomplished in 2015 are listed here.



Health & Community Services

- Goal: Expand access to health/community services

Events

- Neighborhood Clean Up Event
- 4th of July Celebration

Projects

- Received American Planning Association “Plan4Health” Grant to study access to healthy foods
- Walking Path at Hawthorne
- Shoshone Park signage
- Mobile Farmer’s Market with the Mobile Rec program during summer months

Indicators

- Access to amenities (grocery stores and cultural centers, etc.)



Fun Fact - The “Sustainability Demonstration Project” property on Atlantic Street has a new “Little Library” in front of the house at 2108 S. Atlantic.

2000+ VOLUNTEER HOURS

30

COMMUNITY PARTNERS



\$125,612 NEIGHBORHOOD REINVESTMENT GRANTS

60 KIDS RECEIVE HIGH-QUALITY PRE-SCHOOL

75+ RESIDENTS INVOLVED

LIVABILITY FOCUS AREAS

Housing

- Goal: Preserve and create affordable housing options for all incomes

Events

- Awarded \$8,000 in Home Improvement Grants to residents
- Home-improvement workshops

Programs

- Home Improvement Loan Program

Indicators

- Median value of residential property
- Percent of homes improved

Transportation

- Goal: Expand transportation choices and improve neighborhood connectivity

Projects

- Complete missing sidewalk/curb/gutter on Targee & Owyhee
- Improve shelters/bike facilities/public art for bus stops on Vista
- ULI Healthy Corridors Grant - Recommendations for transportation flow and improvements to Vista Avenue

Indicators

- Bus stops and bus service area
- Areas of missing or incomplete sidewalks
- Bicycle level of service

Public Safety

- Goal: Prevent and reduce crime

Projects

- Established a new substation at 2717 S. Vista Avenue and assigned a Neighborhood Contact Officer
- Placed stop signs and mobile radar units to improve neighborhood safety
- Fire Station #8 will be relocated to the Vista Neighborhood

Indicators

- Crime statistics
- Decrease in code violations

Sustainability

- Goal: Ensure a lasting environment, innovative enterprise, and vibrant community

Events

- 118+ trees given to Vista Neighborhood residents

Projects

- Atlantic House Demonstration Project showcases compatible improvements

Indicators

- Percentage of tree canopy and impervious surfaces

Energize Leadership

Diverse Partners Lead to Success

Energize Our Neighborhoods' early success can be traced to the diverse groups of partners that are committed to making a difference in Boise's neighborhoods.

Sense of Place

Boise Mayor David H. Bieter

"One of our most important assets is the strength of our neighborhoods. We want to make sure that there is a sense of place in the city, and that we energize all of those neighborhoods and provide amenities and opportunities in all of them."

Learn As We Go

Ben Quintana

Boise City Council Member & Energize Co-Chair

"We're going to learn a lot, we're going to build some plans and we're going to try and replicate this across the entire city, customizing it for each neighborhood and learning as we go."

A Positive Effect

Brock Martinson

Leadership Team & Vista Resident

"The positive relationships that I have developed with my neighbors, my fellow local leaders, and the City of Boise make me confident that the Vista neighborhood can become a benchmark for other neighborhoods to look to as an example of the positive effect that the Energize our Neighborhoods program can have. I am ready and excited to help this amazing program continue to chart its course forward!"

Get Involved

Dave Kangas

Vista Neighborhood Association President

"If you doubted Energize, doubt no more, it's happening and we still need more help to make it even better!"



The City of Boise's **AnaMarie Guiles** and **Brian Powell** at the Neighborhood Clean Up & Community Fair

Welcome to the City

Brian Powell

Transportation Committee & Vista Resident

"I want to see how the City of Boise, ACHD, and the community is able to come together to take on a much needed and pretty big obstacle; I'm excited to see Vista Avenue as a real gateway into Boise and how that comes to fruition."

Change Starts Here

Mac Wrigley

Leadership Team & Vice President/Branch Manager at D.L. Evans Bank

"If you want to change the world, you have to start in your own back yard. We have an opportunity to set the framework not just for this neighborhood and the families that live in it or the small businesses in this community. We have an opportunity to set the framework for the entire city. What we do here has the potential to impact lives far beyond Vista. But it starts here and now with the understanding that what we are doing matters."

Keshia Mendez

BSU Student

"It is amazing to see that we did something that is really benefiting my community, to see the change it is making and to be able to tell people that my class did this project, that we did something that really helped our own community."

ENERGIZE OUR NEIGHBORHOODS



Energize Events

Neighborhood Clean Up Day & Community Fair

On May 2, over 100 volunteers joined forces to help clean up the Vista Neighborhood. Republic Services collected 63.78 tons of trash, tires, and other debris from homes throughout the area. A Neighborhood Fair held at the Whitney Community Center that day provided information and resources for residents.

Fourth of July Celebration

In partnership with Vista Neighborhood churches, the Health & Community Services Committee hosted a community celebration at Shoshone Park on the 4th of July. Residents enjoyed a hot dogs, ice cream, water games, a dunk tank, lawn games, and a chance to build community at this first-annual event.

Boise Pre-K Project Launch

On November 2nd, the Boise Pre-K Project started at both Whitney and Hawthorne Elementary Schools. By providing high quality early childhood education to 60 Vista Neighborhood students, the Pre-K Project aims to close or reduce the achievement gap for students beginning Kindergarten. The program, made possible by partnerships with United Way, Micron, the Boise School District, and the City of Boise, will increase the livability of the Vista Neighborhood.

Community Partners

Thank you to the community partners that have helped make the first year of Energize Our Neighborhoods a success!

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| Ada County Highway District | Idaho Statesman |
| Albertsons | Idaho Youth Ranch |
| American Planning Assoc. - Idaho Chapter | Integrated Design Lab |
| Auto Metric | Integrity Hardwood Floors |
| Blue Cross of Idaho | Interior Systems, Inc. |
| Foundation for Health, Inc. | Love Inc. |
| Boise Office Moving & Storage | Mesa Moving & Storage |
| Boise School District | Micron Foundation |
| Boise State University | Musgrove Engineering |
| Boise Weekly | NeighborWorks Boise |
| Boys & Girls Club | New Beginnings Housing, LLC |
| Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints | OnPoint Advantage, LLC |
| City of Boise | Oppenheimer Companies |
| CSHQA | Paige Mechanical Group |
| CTA | Republic Services |
| Day Realty Co., LLC | Retail West Properties |
| Divine Lotus Tea Co. | SoJourn Church |
| D.L. Evans Bank | Saint Alphonsus Health System |
| Downtown Boise Association | St. Luke's Medical Center |
| El-Ada Community Action Partnership | St. Vincent de Paul |
| Foerstel Design | Treasure Valley YMCA |
| George & Bev Harad | United Way of Treasure Valley |
| Go Green Insulation | Urban Land Institute |
| Hawthorne Elementary PTO | USGBC, Idaho Chapter |
| Hellmann Construction | Valley Glass |
| Idaho Department of Health & Welfare | Valley Regional Transit |
| Idaho Power | Vista Neighborhood Association |
| Idaho Public Health Authority | Wells Fargo |
| | Whitney Baptist Church |
| | Whitney Elementary PTO |
| | Whitney United Methodist |
| | Whole Foods |