

ENERGIZE
our
NEIGHBORHOODS



CITY *of* BOISE
ENERGIZE OUR NEIGHBORHOODS
ANNUAL REPORT

2017



ENERGIZE OUR NEIGHBORHOODS



ENSURING BOISE'S NEIGHBORHOODS ARE VIBRANT + UNIQUE

GOALS

- Energize and enhance neighborhoods while building capacity to sustain the improvements
- Create meaningful impact by aligning city, public and private resources
- Demonstrate measurable, positive change

FOCUS AREAS

- Children and Youth
- Economic Development
- Environment
- Healthy Communities
- Housing
- Placemaking, Arts & History
- Public Safety
- Transportation

In 2014, the City of Boise partnered with residents and community leaders on the **ENERGIZE OUR NEIGHBORHOODS** initiative, aimed at celebrating neighborhoods and improving livability. With three main goals and eight focus areas at the helm, the partners got to work in the Vista neighborhood.

In three short years, we are proud to share that not only is Energize Our Neighborhoods a nationally recognized program, but that together we have surpassed expectations in what we set out to accomplish. As we move on to the next neighborhoods, we are excited to reflect on the impact made in the Vista neighborhood. Learn more by visiting EnergizeOurNeighborhoods.org.

Coming together as a community for the greater good of our city is at the heart of Energize Our Neighborhoods, and we couldn't be more excited to roll up our sleeves and start working on our next neighborhoods!

BOISE'S NEIGHBORHOODS



BOISE NEIGHBORHOOD INTERACTIVE

On October 14, 2017, over 100 residents from throughout the city gathered for the first annual **BOISE NEIGHBORHOOD INTERACTIVE**, a full-day conference designed to engage residents in the topics most important to Boise's neighborhoods and culture. The keynote address was presented by former City of Seattle Mayor Norm Rice. Participants had an opportunity to engage with local elected leaders and discuss strategies for developing strong neighborhood leadership.

The event featured 13 workshops, led by 42 speakers. Topics included:

- Building the City: An Introduction to Development in Boise
- Growing Your Community Through Volunteers
- Nurturing Vibrant Neighborhoods Through Public Art
- Open Space and Community Gardens

Neighborhood leaders facilitated three roundtable discussions that covered neighborhood association leadership, how to host great neighborhood gatherings and how neighborhoods work to collaborate.

City of Boise Mayor David Bieter recognized the commitment of those attending, "By being part of the Boise Neighborhood Interactive, you are helping us identify opportunities to align resources, make measurable

LOOKING FORWARD

The next Boise Neighborhood Interactive is scheduled for February 16, 2019. Are you interested in volunteering or presenting a workshop? Look for more information on the City of Boise's social media sites and EnergizeOurNeighborhoods.org.

change and create more vibrant and connected neighborhoods. Your work to improve your neighborhood puts you on the front lines of our efforts to make Boise the most livable city in the country."

This event would not have been possible without the dedication of many neighborhood leaders who came together to identify topics, speakers, and plan the flow of the day. To everyone who offered their support - THANK YOU!

BOISE'S NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATIONS



Boise's Esther Simplot Park is in the recently redefined West End neighborhood association.



NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION UPDATE

City neighborhood associations rolled forward with strength during 2017. Neighborhood association volunteers contributed nearly 2,000 volunteer hours toward making Boise “the most livable city in the country”.

Boise Neighborhood Associations Network (BNAN)

This year, a dozen neighborhood associations worked together to create the Boise Neighborhoods Associations Network. The group was formed to share information and knowledge, support one another and work to speak with a larger, collective voice, to become more effective in advocating for neighborhoods and to develop community leaders. The group may also hold candidate forums for City Council, ACHD Commission and Ada County Commission to enhance citizen participation. The group will consider issues of broad neighborhood significance such as historic districts, ACHD policy and roadway network design and working with local school districts in school siting and design, etc.

Boise Bike Boulevard Coalition (BBBC)

Rob Mason, Vice-President of the Sunset Neighborhood Association, invited Boise's neighborhood associations to cooperate in designing a connected low-stress bike network. The Coalition presented their design proposal to the ACHD Commission, which delayed adoption of their Roadways-to-Bikeways Plan until the coalition's recommendations could be integrated into the plan and the BBBC plan adopted. The BBBC will continue to work with ACHD and the city to secure funding for infrastructure and street designs to create the low-stress bike network.

Wildland - Urban Interface (WUI)

In response to requests from foothills neighborhoods throughout 2017, a City team (Boise Fire, Boise Police, Planning and Development Services, Ridge to Rivers, Foothills Manager, Code Compliance and Energize) will meet with WUI neighborhoods to discuss standard emergency evacuation procedures; how to improve neighborhood and first responder communications during an emergency; and to consider a block-to-block communication prototype that neighborhoods could implement to alert

residents during an emergency situation. The public outreach serves as a great example of community benefit through the One City: One Team response to residents requests.

Neighborhood Association Changes

- Depot Bench (DBNA) initiated conversations with Southeast (SENA) to integrate a section of SENA into DBNA. The segment is located above the bench, north of Federal Way.
- North West Neighborhood reinvigorated.
- Sunrise Rim suspended activity and merged with Vista Neighborhood.
- Veterans Park Neighborhood (VPNA) separated and now encompasses the northwest sections of the former VPNA.
- West End Neighborhood formed from the southeast section of Veterans Park.
- West Downtown Neighborhood reinvigorated.

Milestone Neighborhood Activities

- Central Bench and East End initiated neighborhood plans, which will be completed and presented to Council for adoption into Blueprint Boise during Fall, 2018.
- Morris Hill completed its Historic Homes Tour brochure (2013 NRG).
- Boise's Geographical Area Planners attended 40 neighborhood association meetings.

BOISE'S NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATIONS

NEIGHBORHOOD INVESTMENT PROGRAM



Annual Investment in Neighborhoods

Did you know that the city invests annually in neighborhoods? Through the **NEIGHBORHOOD INVESTMENT PROGRAM**, over \$7.6 million has been allocated to fund neighborhood projects since 1994.

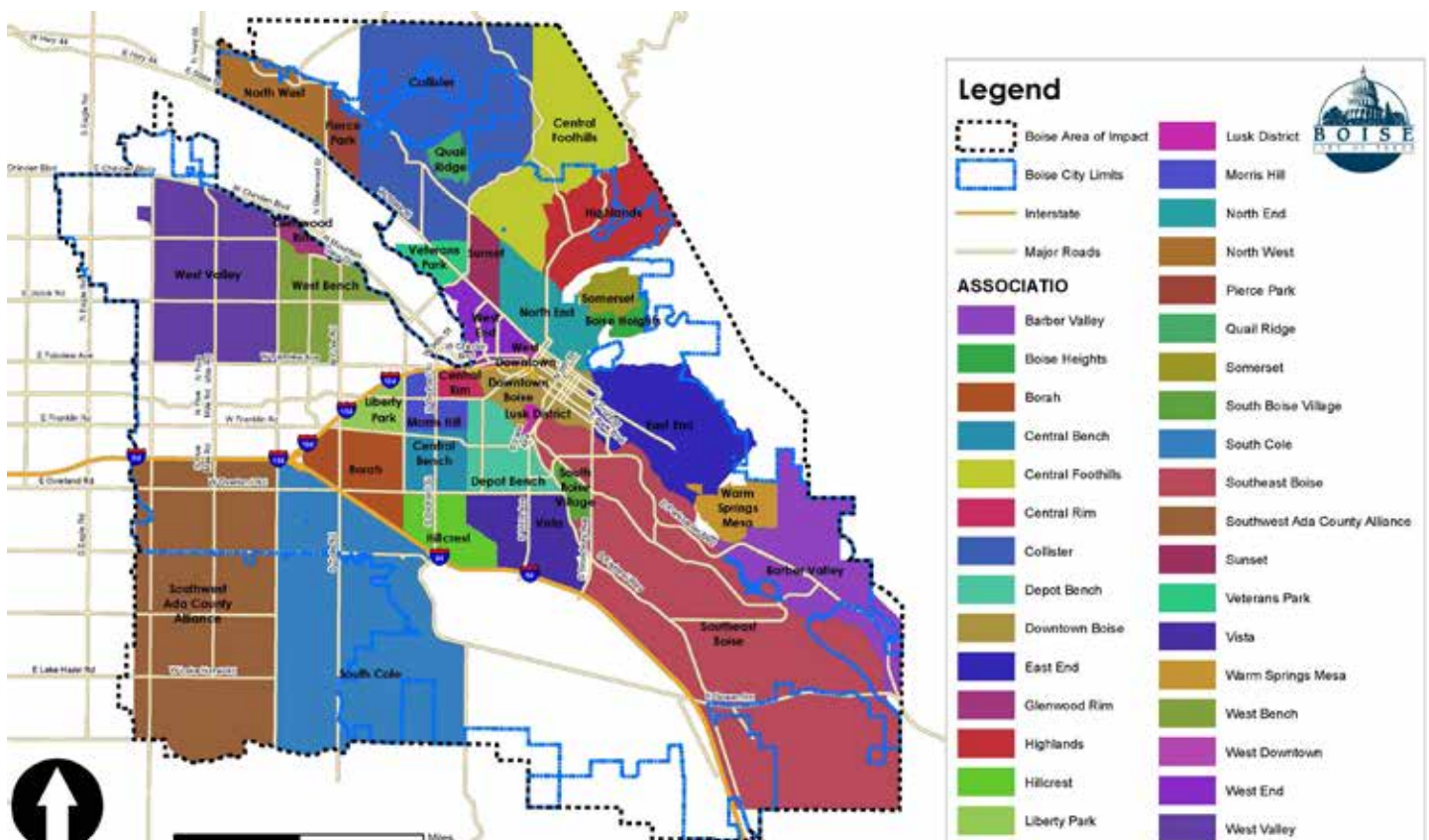
Neighborhood associations are invited to submit their projects on a yearly basis; the application period is open Nov. 1 – Jan. 31, with project awards announced in July.

The program funds comprehensive neighborhood plans and capital construction projects to help enrich the lives of our residents, enhance the identity and quality of life in our neighborhoods and encourage a strong sense of community. Neighborhood input is a valued aspect of the program. Active neighborhood associations are invited to generate ideas for Neighborhood Investment projects. The program is competitive and awards are limited by available funding.

In 2017, the City of Boise invested \$600,000 in 14 neighborhoods. Projects ranged from bike repair stations in the Sunset and Veteran's Park neighborhoods to traffic box art in Vista and the West Bench.

Photo courtesy of Boise City Department of Arts & History, Stratigraphy by Jacob Diaz

BOISE'S REGISTERED NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATIONS



RESOURCES



NEIGHBORHOOD TOURS



The City of Boise began an ongoing series of neighborhood tours called **EXPLORING BOISE'S BOUNDARIES**. The series started with five downtown tours. Each tour started and ended at a local gathering spot. The tours were led by teams from city departments, including Arts & History, Planning & Development Services, the Energize Our Neighborhood team and Public Works. They highlighted historic places and stories, public art, development trends and sustainability initiatives in each area, as well as interviewed local stakeholders.

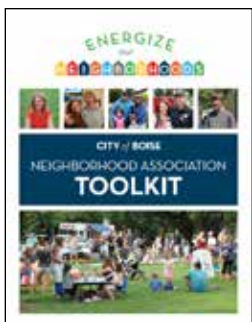
2017 Tours

- Cultural and Warehouse District
- Old Boise and Eastside Neighborhood
- Central Addition LIV District
- River Street Neighborhood
- Westside Neighborhood

Additional tours will occur throughout 2018. The tours are free, but registration is required.

Go to EnergizeOurNeighborhoods.org for more information about upcoming tour locations, dates and highlights.

NEIGHBORHOOD TOOLKIT



The **ENERGIZE OUR NEIGHBORHOODS TOOLKIT** is designed to facilitate community engagement, provide easy access to available resources, and offer opportunities to learn more about workshops, neighborhood events, leadership development, and improving livability in Boise.

In response to feedback from the City's recognized Neighborhood Associations, a resource was developed specifically to offer guidance

and support to associations as they establish, grow, sustain, and impact their communities. The Neighborhood Association Toolkit is available online at EnergizeOurNeighborhoods.org/Toolkit, or a printed copy can be requested by emailing energize@cityofboise.org.

Resources will continue to be added, so be sure to visit EnergizeOurNeighborhoods.org to see what's new!

THE VISTA NEIGHBORHOOD

BOISE'S PRE-K PROJECT

In 2015, the City of Boise, along with public and private partners, embarked on an innovative approach to address early childhood education gaps in our community. At the onset, data was used to help inform the program's structure and focus. Using the data as guideposts, the city and partners launched the **BOISE PRE-K PROJECT** for 80 income-qualified preschoolers at Whitney and Hawthorne elementary schools. The project goals were to:

- Reduce achievement gaps for incoming kindergartners
- Follow participants through 3rd grade to assess the investment's impact
- Enhance neighborhood livability through education investments
- Use project results to spark discussions about investing in early childhood education

"I can confidently say that without this program, my children would not have been ready for kindergarten."

The City of Boise and the Boise School District recently shared results detailing the success of the first two years of the program. The data shows the program has a significant impact on children's readiness to enter kindergarten. In fact, in the fall of 2016, more than 86 percent of the children enrolled in the program scored at or above benchmark scores on the Idaho Reading Indicator, compared to just 53 percent of their peers not enrolled in the program.



Mayor David Bieter and Dr. Don Coberly, Superintendent of Boise School District, meet with students in the Pre-K program.

Feedback from parents speaks volumes about the program's benefits. One parent said:

"I feel very blessed to have had two children go through the Pre-K program. . . Neither of my children could accurately say or recognize their ABC's when they entered the program and had only socialized with each other, for the most part. By the time they graduated the program, they not only knew their ABC's, but they associated sounds and how to spell words. Among all the great things taught in the program, [my children] learned how to sit still during story time and follow directions, make friends . . . and how to treat each other with love and kindness. I can confidently say that without this program, my children would not have been ready for kindergarten."

VISTA AVENUE MEDIAN ART

Vista Avenue is a five-lane corridor that runs through the heart of the Vista Neighborhood, from I-84 to Capitol Blvd. It is the gateway to Idaho's Treasure Valley, welcoming both commuters and travelers from the Boise Airport alike.

The City of Boise received a \$50,000 grant from Together Treasure Valley, which was matched by \$70,000 of the city's Community Development Block Grant and Percent for Art funds, to bring a significant piece of gateway art to the median on Vista Ave. The City of Boise, in partnership with Together Treasure Valley and the Vista Neighborhood, placed an open call-to-artists for sculptural artwork to be placed in two medians on Vista Avenue. The artwork will go in the medians between Targee and Sunrise Rim.

Energize Our Neighborhoods worked with residents and community partners to identify challenges associated with Vista Avenue. Due to high traffic volume and limited cultural opportunities, the area along Vista Avenue lacks a sense of place and has lost its historic neighborhood character.

Public art has the power to change the perception along Vista Avenue. The Urban Land Institute's "Building Healthy Corridors" project examined the Vista Avenue corridor and identified improvements to art and placemaking as key opportunities. The Western States Arts Federation's "Cultural Vitality Index" rated cultural facilities and public art as the top concern among their indicators in the area.

Construction is expected to begin in 2019.

THE VISTA NEIGHBORHOOD



ACCOMPLISHMENTS

CHILDREN & YOUTH

- Boise Pre-K Project provides early childhood education for 80 students at Whitney and Hawthorne elementary schools.
- Energizing Out of School project provides before and after school programs to Hawthorne students, in addition to summer-time programming at little-to-no cost through partnership between Parks & Recreation, YMCA and Boys & Girls Club.
- Van-Go program at South Junior High offers 40 students/week an opportunity to engage in after school activities offered by the Sierra Club, local businesses and other community partners at little-to-no cost.
- Native Plant Learning Center at Hawthorne Elementary, funded in part through the city's Neighborhood Investment Program.
- Expanded the community garden at Whitney Elementary, funded through the Plan4Health Grant.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Formed the Vista Bench Business Association (VBBA) to support economic development on the Vista Bench.

THE VISTA NEIGHBORHOOD

ENERGIZE OUR NEIGHBORHOODS and the **VISTA NEIGHBORHOOD** partnered from 2014-2017.

- **3,387** volunteer hours at community events
- **\$1,143,411** invested by community partners
- **\$6,713,020** invested by the City
- **\$169,712** in projects funded by the Neighborhood Improvement Program
- **115+ RESIDENTS** served on committees and supported events

- VBBA sponsored monthly First Friday events and community events like the Vista Neighborhood Scavenger Hunt and Vista Bench Summer Bash & Car Show.
- As of 2018, the VBBA and the Gem Center for the Arts are collaborating to offer "Third Thursdays on the Bench."
- Vista Ave. was selected as one of four nation-wide demonstration corridors by the Urban Land Institute, and was awarded a \$25,000 grant to study opportunities to improve health and economic vitality for surrounding residents and business owners.

ENVIRONMENT

- NeighborWoods provided 118+ free trees to Vista neighborhood residents.
- Opened the Atlantic Idea House, which showcased energy efficient and sustainable improvements that can be incorporated into any home.

HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

- The Healthy Communities Committee supported the Vista Neighborhood Association and local churches at the Whitney Block Party, 4th of July celebrations, South Junior High Spring Fling and other events.

THE VISTA NEIGHBORHOOD



- Removed over 60 tons of debris at a Vista Neighborhood Clean Up Day.
- Added a walking path at Hawthorne Elementary using Neighborhood Investment Program funding.
- Mobile Farmers Market offered SNAP match & Mobile Rec programming at Vista Neighborhood apartments.
- Plan4Health awarded \$125,000 in grant funds to develop a tool kit and set of recommendations for improving the health of Vista Neighborhood residents. The grant funding was also used to expand the community garden at Whitney Elementary.
- Installed a new shelter at Shoshone Park, which was funded through the Neighborhood Investment Program.

HOUSING

- Offered hands-on Housing Education Workshops with opportunities to learn about home care and maintenance.
- Awarded \$8,000 to Vista Neighborhood residents to make health, safety, accessibility and energy efficiency improvements to their homes.
- Broke ground on the Ormond Street Cottages, which will provide home ownership opportunities to income-qualified families.

PLACEMAKING ARTS & HISTORY

- Compiled the history of the Vista Neighborhood in a report, available at EnergizeOurNeighborhoods.org
- Highlighted unique and historic aspects of the neighborhood with a series of walking tours.
- Featured Boise State student art in a Vista Neighborhood pop-up art gallery.
- Added three public art traffic box wraps in the Vista Neighborhood.
- Included art wraps designed by Boise artists on new transit shelters installed at multiple locations along key bus routes throughout the Vista Neighborhood.
- Received a \$50,000 grant from Together Treasure Valley, which was matched by \$70,000 of city funds, to bring a significant piece of gateway art to the median on Vista Ave.
- A Creative Placemaking grant was awarded to ULI for a sidewalk activation project linking Hawthorne Elementary to Shoshone Park.

PUBLIC SAFETY

- Located a Boise Police Sub-Station and Neighborhood Contact Officer in the Vista Neighborhood.
- Installed stop signs at 17 uncontrolled intersections.
- Offered public safety workshops on topics including self-defense, home security, code enforcement and emergency preparedness.
- Installed 260+ smoke alarms in Vista Neighborhood homes through a partnership with the American Red Cross, Air National Guard, United Way and community volunteers.
- Fire Station #8 opened in its new location.

TRANSPORTATION

- Made significant pedestrian improvements, including new sidewalks, curbs and gutters, installed near Hawthorne Elementary School and Whitney Elementary School.
- Installed signage to Shoshone Park along Vista Avenue
- Coming soon - New pedestrian signal to cross Vista Avenue and improved bike connections.
- Installed transit improvements (bike racks and new bus shelters featuring public art) along Vista Avenue.

THE VISTA NEIGHBORHOOD



ATLANTIC IDEA HOUSE

A Model Home for a Better Future

When the City of Boise acquired a house on the 2100 block of Atlantic Street in the Vista neighborhood, it quickly decided to make the home part of its Energize Our Neighborhoods initiative.

Known as the “Atlantic Idea House”, this residential home was upgraded with sustainable and energy efficient features in mind and was used as an education tool to demonstrate energy efficiency and sustainable practices for homes in the community.

The home’s energy-efficient features included all-new foam insulation, triple-pane windows, and a ductless heat pump system. While these upgrades were more expensive, they boosted the energy efficiency of the house. Other energy conservation items included LED lights, weather stripping, energy-saving blinds, a solar tube, and energy star appliances.

To conserve water, the city installed low-flow fixtures and incorporated water saving ideas into the landscaping, including low-water plantings, mulch, drip irrigation, and a rain barrel.

Onsite crews were mindful of indoor air quality and used low volatile organic compound (VOC) products and installed a radon mitigation system. Whenever possible, the city used sustainable materials and practices, including cork flooring, granite remnant counter tops, tiles and laminate made from recycled content, a patio made from old concrete pieces, locally hand-painted kitchen cabinet knobs, and refinished the existing hardwood floors.

To showcase improvements and encourage homeowners to take similar steps toward making their home more energy efficient, the city hosted open houses and tours where community members learned how they can implement one or several of these changes to save energy, money and the environment. With the Atlantic Idea House, the City of Boise empowered area neighbors and the community to see first-hand what is possible for improved energy efficiency.



THANK YOU

The Atlantic Idea House was made possible by these generous donors:

- Boise Parks and Recreation Dept.
- Boise Public Works Dept.
- Borah High School, Jen Compton’s art class
- Ceramica
- Dave Kangas
- Go Green Insulation
- Idaho Power
- Integrity Hardwood
- Interior Systems Inc. (ISI)
- Kathrine Delrich
- Musgrove Engineering
- OnPoint
- Paige Mechanical Group
- Pomeroy House Interiors
- Republic Services
- Shaw Flooring
- Solar Concepts
- Split Pea Edible Landscaping
- Suez
- Vikki Paulson
- Wall 2 Wall
- Whole Foods

WEST VALLEY



Ustick Mercantile, A. H. Pelton, Prop. Photo courtesy of Michael Meade.

WEST VALLEY NEIGHBORHOOD

Ustick Townsite Beautification Project

The **USTICK TOWNSITE BEAUTIFICATION PROJECT** was funded through the Neighborhood Investment Program in 2017. The West Valley Neighborhood Association had a specific vision that included “a re-birth of this once thriving community by working with Boise City and community partners to re-create a pedestrian friendly neighborhood in which West Boise residents can once again connect and commune. Our vision includes trees, landscaping, historical street lamps, sculpture and artwork that will soften the area to make it a pleasant place to walk and bicycle. We also envision a welcoming place with shops that are within easy walking distance and historical interpretative signage to educate the public about the townsite of Ustick.”

Learn more about the project at usticktownsite.org.



Ustick Streetscape Design Concept by Tyler Chambers and Sarah Sundquist.

STAY IN TOUCH

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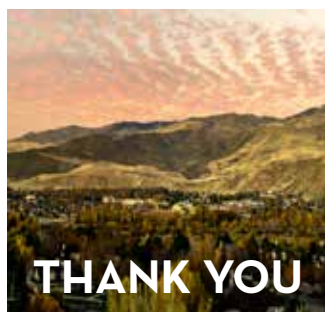
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Ada County Highway District
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American Red Cross of Idaho & Montana
Autumn Gold
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Becki & Friends
Beford Flooring
Blue Cross of Idaho Foundation for Health
Boise Office Moving & Storage
Boise School District
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Boys & Girls Clubs of Ada County
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Canine Design

Ceramica
Church on the Bench
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Day Realty Co., LLC
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Downtown Boise Association
El-Ada Community Action Partnership
EMC Sugar
Flagship Motors
Flowers at Will
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George & Bev Harad
Go Green Insulation
Hardwoods Hardware Hobbies
Hawthorne Elementary PTO
Hellmann Construction
Idaho Angler
Idaho Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence
Idaho Community Foundation
Idaho Dept. of Health & Welfare
Idaho Power
Idaho Public Health Authority

Idaho Statesman
Idaho Youth Ranch
Integrated Design Lab
Integrity Hardwood Floors
Interior Systems, Inc.
Katherine Delrich
Keynetics
Laura Moore Cunningham Foundation
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Micron Foundation
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New Beginnings Housing
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Paige Mechanical Group
Pomeroy House Interiors
Quinn's Restaurant Republic Services
Retail West Properties
Saint Alphonsus Health System
Shangri-La Tea Room
Shaw Flooring
St. Luke's Health System
St. Vincent de Paul
SoJourn Church

Solar Concepts
South Junior High Partnership Action Team
Split Pea Edible Landscaping
SUEZ Water
Terry Reilly Health Services
the BENCH Salon & Gifts
Treasure Valley YMCA
United Way of Treasure Valley
Urban Land Institute
U.S. Bank
USGBC - Idaho Chapter
Valley Glass
Valley Regional Transit
Veronica's Scooters
Vikki Paulson
Vista Neighborhood Association
Vista Village
Vita Novu
Wall 2 Wall
Wells Fargo
Whitney Baptist Church
Whitney Elementary PTO
Whitney United Methodist
Whole Foods Market
Willowcreek Grill
Women's and Children's Alliance
Zen Riot



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