

APPROVED

**BOARD OF STATE HISTORY MEETING**

**January 25, 2024**

12:00 – 2:30 pm

Hybrid

Anchor Location: Utah State History, 3760 S. Highland Drive, SLC

Virtually, via Zoom

**ATTENDEES:**

**BOARD**

Molly Cannon, Chair  
Margaret Olson  
Kim Wilson  
Axel Ramirez

Spencer Hall, Vice Chair  
Mike Brenchley  
Tara Beresh  
Ignacio Garcia

Robert Burch  
Emily Larsen

**UTAH HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

Kevin Fayles  
Jessica Proctor  
Doug Misner  
Lisa Barr  
Nicole Sandberg  
Jordan Kiyak

Alycia Rowley  
Veronica Solano  
Mark Melville  
Wendy Rex Atzet  
Monique Davila  
Greg Walz

Eliza Carr  
Tim Glenn  
Holly George  
Haille VanPatten  
Katherine Kitterman  
Brandi Burns

**DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

Donna Law  
Katherine Potter

---

**WELCOME**

Molly Cannon opened the meeting. She welcomed Mike Brenchley and Emily Larsen, the two new board members and asked them to introduce themselves. Molly welcomed Brandi Burns, the newly hired Director of Education and Engagement; Amy Green Larsen, Data Management Specialist; Eliza Carr, Intern for the Women’s History Initiative; Lisa Barr, Director of Local History Services; Jami Van Huss, Lead Curator of the America 250 Exhibit; and Jake Jolly, Special Projects Assistant for the Museum of Utah.

**APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 26, 2023 BOARD OF STATE HISTORY MEETING**

Molly Cannon asked for a motion to approve the October 26, 2023 meeting minutes. Kim Wilson moved to approve the minutes. Ignacio Garcia seconded the motion. Veronica Solano did a roll call: Molly Cannon – aye; Mike Brechley - aye; Ignacio Garcia - aye; Emily Larsen - aye; Kim Wilson - aye; Axel Ramirez - aye; Tara Beresh - aye. The motion passed unanimously.

**ADMINISTRATIVE RULES**

The Board voted on motions to continue R455-14 Procedures for Electronic Meetings and R455-15 Procedures for Emergency Meetings. No changes were identified in either rule.

Margaret Olson made a motion to approve the continuation of R455-14 and Kim Wilson seconded. Veronica Solano did a roll call: Molly Cannon - aye; Mike Brenchley - aye; Ignacio Garcia - aye; Emily Larsen - aye; Kim Wilson - aye; Axel Ramirez - aye; Tara Beresh - aye; Spencer Hall - aye; Margaret Olson - aye; Robert Birch - aye. The motion passed unanimously.

Kim Wilson made a motion to continue R455-15 and Margaret Olson seconded. Veronica Solano did a roll call: Molly Cannon - aye; Mike Brenchley - aye; Ignacio Garcia - aye; Emily Larsen - aye; Kim Wilson - aye; Axel Ramirez - Tara Beresh - aye; Spencer Hall - aye; Margaret Olson - aye; Robert Birch - aye. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board was also presented with the other Historical Society Administrative Rules under R455, which will be updated to reflect the name change to the Utah Historical Society. No motion was needed.

R455-18 Policy for Deaccessioning of Artifacts and Documentary Materials for Education and Cultural Use became effective December 27, 2023. This rule did not require a motion.

Molly Cannon asked Brandi Burns, now in attendance, to introduce herself to the Board.

#### **PROPOSED BOARD RETREAT**

Kevin Fayles informed the Board of plans for a Board retreat set for October 24th. The UHS will develop and present a proposed agenda to the Board at their next meeting in April. The Board was already scheduled to meet on October 24th. This will be 18 months before the opening of the Museum of Utah. The previous Board retreat took place in June 2022 when strategic planning began. Kim Wilson said he would not be able to be present at the retreat. A location has not been determined but options will be presented in April.

#### **DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT (CCE) UPDATE**

Kat Potter provided the Board with an update. The department welcomed a new director: Donna Law. Kat gave an update on the legislative session. On Tuesday morning the department introduced its budget requests to the appropriations subcommittee of Business, Economic Development, and Labor. Thereafter it will go to the Executive Appropriations Committee. Pertaining to the UHS, the department requested one-time funding for the America 250 Commission. The department has published a bill tracker that follows its bills as they progress through the legislative process. The bills being tracked are those that would impact the department, its divisions, and the populations it serves. HB115 was also presented in a different committee on Tuesday. It is the department's clean-up bill and will continue the work of specifying which programs will fall under the State Historic Preservation Office and the UHS. Ignacio Garcia inquired about HB261's potential impact on the UHS. The department is working with division directors on analyzing the possible impact it will have on programs. After meeting with division leaders, CCE will inform the Board of potential impacts. Robert Burch inquired about opportunities for input on the legislation. Kat mentioned that the House and Senate review committees held public hearings for public input. No Board action was taken in regards to HB261.

#### **APPROVAL OF DRAFT UHS LOAN POLICY**

Tim Glenn informed the Board that Nicole Sandberg, UHS Registrar created a draft loan policy as one of her first assignments in the role. Prior to the Museum of Utah the existing loan policy has been very limited, since

there were no reasons to borrow artifacts. Nicole used her experience and conducted research to help create the draft document, along with Tim, Doug Misner, and Sabrina Sanders. Sabrina shared with the Board that UHS expects to bring in several artifacts for the Museum of Utah exhibits. She explained the policy is a chance to fully standardized incoming and outgoing loan processes which is an industry best practice. This would help prevent many legal, logistical, and ethical problems. The policy specifies loan eligibility and establishes procedural guidelines. Once approved the loan policy will be put to use and be published on the UHS website for public reference.

Emily Larsen asked about strategies for differentiating the proposed loan policy from the Art loan policy. She expressed concerns of confusion since the Arts and Museums collection will be housed in the same building, the public may assume the loan policies are the same for both. Nicole explained that she had studied the art loan policy before completing the UHS loan policy and shared the draft with the Division of Arts and Museums once it was completed. Tim explained that the proposed loan policy will only have authority with regards to the collections of the UHS, and not any other collection housed within the Museum of Utah. Emily asked whether the internal loan policy's flexibility could be cause for concern regarding excessive requests from other state agencies. Nicole shared that this subject had also been discussed with the Division of Arts and Museums. Doug Misner explained that previously when requests had been made the UHS did not have the level of flexibility included in the proposed policy which made it difficult to respond. Doug added that as people become more familiar with the items in the UHS collection, requests may increase and needs might require adjustments to the policy. Tim explained that the policies have been created with trying to anticipate the needs of the museum in mind but with no existing knowledge of what those needs will actually be, as such he expects adjustments will be made with time.

Molly Cannon inquired about including a clause regarding the loaning out of culturally sensitive materials. In particular she asked if there was consideration to including a consultation requirement for loan requests involving culturally sensitive items. Tim welcomed the suggestion. Doug shared that there are some items in the collection that have been restricted. Molly added that some communities might desire to be included in the discussion of loan requests regarding items related to their cultures. Tim thanked Molly for the suggestion and stated it would be added to the policy.

Robert Burch referenced the timeframe of five years for review of loaned items by UHS staff and asked if it was standard practice for an item to be loaned out for that long. Tim explained that such occasions are for a handful of items that are still owned by the UHS but are located at other sites. The policy takes into consideration the need to care for these items and limiting the demands for staff to travel to remote sites. Robert expressed concern regarding keeping an item in one location for five years and whether that would deprive the rest of the state. Tim clarified that loan agreements would be reviewed on a yearly basis, but with regards to traveling to inspect the item in person, staff should commit to at least once every five years. He stated that the practice could be reviewed. Kevin Fayles inquired about the number of items the UHS at present has loaned out. Doug Misner shared that the number is less than 20 and that there aren't many long-term loans. Doug named a raft in Green River, a wagon in Tooele, some items are in the Governor's Mansion, and some in the State Capitol. Tim shared that these were the kinds of items in mind when the review clause was created. Annual review of a loan is required but staff traveling to have eyes on an item is not. Tim commented that perhaps these items were exceptions that had shaped the clause.

Molly Cannon pointed out the loan policy's action item status and asked how the Board's suggestions could be adopted in the loan policy. Alycia Rowley explained that the Board could approve the draft loan policy based

on the changes the Board recommended, or the Board could abstain from taking action until their suggestions were included in the policy. Tim Glenn shared with the Board the desire to begin using the policy considering the stage of museum design, and asked the Board for approval of the draft loan policy with the expectation that their suggestions would be adopted. Emily Larsen made a motion to approve with the expectation that the Board's suggestions would be included in the final loan policy and that it will be provided to the Board. Nicole Sandberg asked for clarification regarding which suggestions were to be included in the approved loan policy. Robert Burch expressed the need to review the outgoing loan time frames. Ignacio Garcia asked whether the Board could approve the policy minus the points of contention. Molly suggested approving the loan policy as-is with the expectation that staff will present amendments to it at the next board meeting in April. Tim expressed support for this course of action. Margarete Olson made the motion to approve the policy as stated. Kim Wilson seconded the motion. Veronica Solano did a roll call: Molly Cannon - aye; Mike Brenchley - aye; Ignacio Garcia - aye; Emily Larsen; Kim Wilson - aye; Axel Ramirez - aye; Tara Baresh - aye; Spencer Hall; Margarete Olson; Robert Burch - aye. The motion passed unanimously.

### **PROGRAM UPDATES, OPPORTUNITIES, & CHALLENGES**

Kevin Fayles introduced the process for program updates: programs will share their updates and in between each program the Board will be given opportunities to ask questions and provide suggestions. He expressed excitement over the programs' accomplishments as well as staff expertise.

### **PUBLICATIONS**

Holly George provided the update for Publications. She shared the focus and themes for the upcoming Winter, Spring, Summer, and Autumn issues of the *Utah Historical Quarterly* (UHQ). The UHS will be hosting an event with the Mexican Consulate on March 28th in celebration of the collaboration on the Spring 2024 issue of the UHQ. Opportunities and challenges for the program include a graphic redesign for the UHQ, which has not occurred for over a decade. Holly provided membership figures. Mark Melville is curating public-facing reading lists from UHQ content. Special attention will be placed on adding new voices to the UHQ. Holly encouraged board members to direct their students to the UHQ for publishing. She also encouraged subscribing to the UHQ, purchasing gift subscriptions, and spreading the word about the UHQ.

Robert Burch asked about membership goals. Jessica Proctor explained that there is still work being done to understand membership trends, which will inform goals. Axel Ramirez asked Holly George for clarification on the process of publishing student work in the UHQ. Holly explained that if students are working on original research pertaining to Utah history, board members should refer them to Holly. She will review their work and guide them along the way to publishing. She extended this to include amateur historians. Margarete Olson asked if it would pose a conflict for her to submit research work to Holly for consideration, to which Holly said, "no". Kevin Fayles added that some work might be shared via blogpost or a poster session at a future conference.

### **PEOPLES OF UTAH REVISITED (POUR)**

Monique Davila and Jordan Kiyak provided an update on the POUR program. Monique described the process and shared results for Scan and Share events that took place in 2023. She provided information on future Scan and Share events for 2024, as well as improved strategies for engagement. Monique presented the board with an overview of the Oral History program results for 2023, as well as expectations for 2024.

Jordan Kiyak presented an overview of the POUR Research Project. She detailed support strategies including events, such as: symposia, one-on-one meetings, and virtual community building via social media. Jordan

encouraged the board to share information regarding the program within their networks and attendance at POUR related events.

### **WOMEN'S HISTORY INITIATIVE**

Katherine Kitterman presented the board with an overview of the Women's History Initiative which included purpose as well as strategies. The initiative collaborated on the "Roses in the Garden Mural" in Rose Park. The "Utah Women Make History" event will be hosted in partnership with Better Days and the Lt. Governor's Office at the Utah State Capitol on February 13th. Several events are planned for Women's History Month in March both in person and online. Katherine expressed interest in partnering more, and supporting research, programming, and exhibits throughout the state.

### **K-12 PROGRAMS**

Wendy Rex Atzet provided the board with an update on the K-12 program. The programming includes National History Day, I Love History, Our Past Their Present, a partnership with Utah Education Network, and connecting with history students and practitioners across the state. Wendy provided further information on the trends in National History Day participation over the past five years. The program is attracting new educators through its rebuilding efforts. Wendy encouraged the board to participate in judging at National History Day, as well as sharing information about the programming with educators within their networks. Axel commended the I Love History resource for educators.

### **COLLECTIONS**

Doug Misner gave the board an overview of the Collections program. Collections has had a year to settle into the new locations. They're working with potential donors, processing new materials, taking research center appointments, and providing support to both museum exhibits and field services. Doug shared 2023 statistics for the Engagement Room. He introduced new staff and their respective projects. He also shared upcoming projects and events scheduled for 2024. Doug encouraged the board to promote the program and help make connections. He also encouraged becoming better acquainted with Collections by getting to know the team and scheduling a tour. Margarete Olson expressed interest in scheduling a tour of the collections facilities. Molly Cannon suggested scheduling a tour for the board following a meeting or as part of the board retreat.

### **MUSEUM OF UTAH**

Tim Glenn provided an update on the Museum of Utah. This included an overview of the project, operations impact, and project timeline (2024-2026). Tim encouraged the board to participate in the process of the project. Board members can consider joining the museum subcommittee, support public engagement efforts, take part in focus groups, and refer quality candidates for hiring opportunities. Additionally, when the time comes, advocating and championing the Museum of Utah.

Kevin asked Tim to give a brief of tribal engagement efforts. Tim shared that he and Jacob Crane, Cultural Liaison for Division of Indian Affairs, had met with all eight of Utah's federally recognized tribes in consultation over areas throughout the museum. This process is ongoing and the levels of engagement vary. Tim will travel to Portland, Oregon in February to meet with representatives from six of Utah's eight federally recognized tribes at the Oregon Historical Society. The Oregon Historical Society's exhibits will be assessed. Trust building efforts with tribal representatives will continue through consultations.

Kim Wilson serves on the Governor's America 250 commission and shared that it will adopt the opening of the Museum of Utah as an official celebration project. He expressed excitement for the opening of the

museum.

## **ENGAGEMENT & EDUCATION**

Brandi Burns shared 2024 projects and goals for the program. This included convening the team through retreats. They will work on defining concepts and articulating goals. The team will work on foundation building. She connected these goals with the UHS's vision. Brandi highlighted elements of the strategic plan that related to the programs ongoing and upcoming efforts.

## **LOCAL HISTORY SERVICES**

Lisa Barr shared the vision and goals for the Local History Services program with the board. Goals of the program include: supporting and expanding partnerships with Utah Field Services, supporting the Museum of Utah and developing the "We are Utah" exhibit, evaluating new local history audiences and their needs, and creating new programming in response to those needs.

Lisa provided an evaluation of the Historical Society's current audiences. She encouraged the board to share contacts that they think would be good for her to reach out to.

## **DEVELOPMENT**

Jessica Proctor presented the board with updates regarding the membership program which included current and future program strategies. She encouraged board members to provide feedback on these. Jessica provided an update on development efforts for the Museum of Utah. She also provided updates on additional development efforts for National History Day, the NCPH/UHS 2024 joint conference, donation webpage, and grant applications.

## **MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS**

Haille VanPatten shared with the board the progress made in updating the UHS website to reflect the rebrand. She provided data on increased traffic and engagement with the website. Haille also provided information regarding media coverage of the UHS and social media strategies and engagement. She encouraged the board to engage with and share the UHS social media accounts and their published content.

## **ADMINISTRATION**

Kevin Fayles provided the Administration update. This included the growth of UHS staff as well as the projected new hires in 2025. Special efforts will be made to refine the organizational structure as the UHS continues to grow. New policies, procedures, and resources will be developed. Existing and new programs will be coordinated. Strategic plan objectives will continue to be implemented through staff discussions and reporting. Incorporation of the objectives with program plans will be refined. Kevin thanked the board for their support.

## **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Kevin Fayles provided the Director's Report on behalf of Jennifer Ortiz. He directed the board to the 2024 Big Picture document. The UHS has no requests for the 2024 legislative session. Kevin shared that Elliot Clark from the Attorney General's Office provided an update regarding the transfer of Locomotive 223. Within the next two weeks the Locomotive will officially be Ogden's. The UHS History Awards Ceremony on January 8th at the Governor's mansion was a success. Jennifer Ortiz and Kevin created a rubric to strengthen the awards process. Staff is working on creating processes for the public to provide nominations online. UHS staff met in December

to discuss Strategic Plan implementation. Staff are able to use the plan to guide their programming. This is especially useful to new staff. The historic license plate fund has raised \$2,2 million in the span of 12 months. The funds will function as an endowment that can be accessed for unforeseen expenses.

Donna Law introduced herself to the board as the new director of the department of Cultural and Community Engagement. She commended the new staff for their contributions to the UHS. She shared her professional background and intention to become a member of the UHS. Donna also spoke about her experience working with the legislature and excitement for working with the divisions of the department. She thanked the board for their work and commitment.

#### **ADJOURN**

Molly Cannon asked if there were any other items to be discussed. None were brought up. The meeting was adjourned.