

**APPROVED**  
**BOARD OF STATE HISTORY MEETING**  
**January 22, 2026**

12:00 pm

Hybrid

Utah Historical Society, 3760 S. Highland Drive, Mirror Lake Board Room, SLC, UT 84106

Virtually, via Zoom

**ATTENDEES:**

**BOARD**

Spencer Hall, Chair

Emily Larsen, Vice Chair

Molly Cannon

Michael Brenchley

Emma Moss

Axel Ramirez

Kim Wilson

Robert Goldberg

Robert Burch

**UTAH HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

Jennifer Ortiz

Kevin Fayles

Alycia Rowley

Victoria Hills

Greg Walz

Ashley Clouse

Veronica Solano

Michelle Gollehon

Mark Melville

Kimberly Kronwall

Jennifer Parish

Holly George

Emily Yankura

Tim Glenn

Stryder Hellewell

Lisa Barr

Kylin Cummings

Bryce Romleski

Sarah Mayers

Brianna Dzierzanowskil

Wendy Rex Atzet

Jessica Proctor

Eliza Carr

Brenda Hickman

Brandi Burns

Haille Van Patten

Alan Ly

Will Challis

Monique Davila

Mary-Kathleen Olpin

Carly Bagley

Jordan Kiyak

**DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

Donna Law

**PUBLIC**

None

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**WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Acting Chair, Emily Larsen, leading for Spencer Hall who was present but ill, welcomed everybody to the January 22, 2026 Board of State History meeting.

Ryan Paul was officially welcomed as a new member of the Board of State History. He is unable to attend today's meeting due to a previously scheduled speaker series at Southern Utah University.

New Staff Announcements:

- Monique Davila: Local History Services Coordinator
- Bryce Romleski: Museum of Utah Administrative Support Specialist
- Emily Yankura: Historical Archaeological Collection Specialist.
- Visitor Services Team: New museum hosts Isabel Adams, Miriam Asad, Jacob Bellows, Cory Broadhead, Olivia Brown, Emily Charland, Liam Dvoranchik, Stryder Hellewell, Sarah Mayers, Mary- Kathleen Olpin, Jennifer Parrish, and Nan Weber were introduced.

Upcoming Hiring: A final push for museum educators will begin in March 2026.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comments were received.

#### **APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 16, 2025 BOARD OF STATE HISTORY MEETING MINUTES**

Bob Goldberg made a motion to approve the October 16, 2025 meeting minutes. Emma Moss seconded the motion. Alycia Rowley called for a vote: Spencer Hall: Yes. Emily Larsen: Yes. Molly Cannon: Yes. Michael Brenchley: Yes. Emma Moss: Yes. Axel Ramirez: Yes. Kim Wilson: Not present for vote. Robert Goldberg: Yes. Robert Burch: Yes. The motion passed.

#### **CCE DEPARTMENT UPDATE**

Donna Law, Director, Dept. of Cultural and Community Engagement, provided the following updates:

The Appropriations Committee (Economic and Community Development) is currently reviewing budgets. All departments were asked to prepare for 5% cuts. Efforts are being made to protect museum operations. A request for \$100,000 to expand the high school reading tutor pilot program, Volunteer for Good, is in the Governor's budget.

The proposed sunset for the Board of State History as a Governor appointed Board to establish a UHS Director appointed board has been postponed to mid-2027.

CCE will vacate its current office building in June 2026. Approximately 120 staff will move to the 3rd floor of the Tax Commission building. Nearly 80,000 sq. ft. of state space will be freed up for sale, saving \$750,000 annually in O&M costs.

America 250: The Museum of Utah is considered a "gift to the people" for the 250th anniversary. Statewide events include a symphony concert (July 3) and America's Pot Luck (July 5). Please visit their website <https://america250.utah.gov/> for a full list of events and other programs.

Donna also shared leadership transitions. Igor Lomansky is the new Director of Multicultural Affairs. Vicki Bourns, Director, Arts and Museums, is retiring.

### **YEARLY CONFLICT OF INTEREST FORMS**

Alycia Rowley reminded board members to complete their yearly conflict of interest form to identify potential conflicts of interest with other committees you sit on, or any employment that you have. The Attorney General's Office asks all board members to complete this form yearly. A link on the agenda was provided that will give you access to the PDF form. If you have any questions, please reach out to Alycia and we will consult with our Attorney General.

### **UTAH HISTORICAL SOCIETY PROGRAM UPDATES**

**Marketing & Communications:** Haille VanPatten shared that a statewide general awareness campaign for the Museum of Utah will be launching Feb. 1st. The campaign is themed around the Google search bar, using questions that represent the four permanent galleries to pique curiosity. The answer to these questions is found "inside the new museum" opening in June. Haille provided a first look at the rebrand for the Museum of Utah. The museum is the first state entity to adopt the new statewide rebrand and logo. This prioritization ensured the campaign would not need to be redone after the rebrand. We are working with our graphic designer at the department level to create division-specific color palettes, typography, and style guides based on the proposed CCE department palette for our agency and will most likely lean into the less detail-heavy Beehive logos (the Beehive alone or the Beehive with "Industry 1896") to ensure legibility.

Haille also shared a media and public engagement update with the board. Recent media coverage included an interview with Jennifer Ortiz on KUTV regarding Utah History Month and the new Museum of Utah, coverage on Utah PinQuest, coverage for a "hike through History" event in Park City, as well as a mention in Vogue magazine. An opportunity was secured with KUTV for two monthly segments about Utah history and/or the Museum of Utah, between January and the grand opening in June. Donna congratulated Haille on the success of the Utah PinQuest campaign, which drove 58,000 hits to the website, making it second only to the homepage.

**Local History Services:** Lisa Barr shared that she is thrilled to welcome Monique Davilla as the new Local History Services program coordinator. The oral history program is also transitioning to the Local History Services program. Key initiatives include continuing oral

history grants with Utah Humanities, updating the Oral History Toolkit, creating five oral history equipment kits available for public rental and scheduling 2026 oral history training.

Lisa introduced the new Local History Academy program, which was piloted last fall through workshops with the Sevier County Archives and Heritage Services. The content from these workshops will be offered in three webinars scheduled February - April.

As part of the move into the Museum of Utah in February, the team will manage the creation of a conservation lab for training, preservation, and conservation workshops in partnership with the Division of Arts and Museums and likely the Marriott Library. The space will be available for collection staff and potentially for public institutions to contract with conservators. It will be well-equipped for most conservation work, including object, paper, and paintings conservation, but may not handle large textile conservation.

**Education & Engagement:** Brandi Burns shared an update on upcoming programming. The *Echoes of 76* panel, which connected the Dominguez and Escalante expedition to America 250, recently concluded. The UHS Annual Awards program will be held on January 28th. Board members were invited to attend. March is Women's History Month. E&E is piloting a new programming format by creating toolkits for partner organizations to host their own events. Organizations can select from book discussions, trivia nights, or craft nights. A total of 18 events are planned for the month, including 3 book nights, 4 trivia nights, and 6 craft nights with partner organizations. The National History Day (NHD) state contest is April 24th. Judges are still needed. A cacao making workshop will also be held in April. Museum field trips will begin in September. The online link for teachers to book trips goes live next week. UHS is co-sponsoring the Western Museums Association/Utah Museums Association conference, (September 23rd–26th. The team will also host the Utah History Summit on September 22nd at the museum.

**Membership & Development:** Jessica Proctor provided an update on membership and development efforts. As of January 1st, there are 646 total members, a continued month-over-month increase. Fiscal year membership revenue to date is just over \$17,000, already exceeding last year's total revenue of \$16,000 with six months remaining in the fiscal year. Many complimentary members have been transitioned to paid memberships. The Seagull Circle Campaign continues to grow, with 64 members to date. This is a special, additional membership campaign—a charter membership to the Museum of Utah—for both new and existing Utah Historical Society members. Members gain Seagull Circle status forever with a one-time \$100 contribution.

Jessica also shared an update on fundraising and development. Approximately \$19 million has been raised for the museum to date. Recent major gifts include a finalized \$1 million

agreement with the George S. and Dolores Dory Eccles Foundation and a \$2 million verbal pledge from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Jennifer Ortiz was credited for her extensive work in securing this gift. The team is hopeful that ongoing conversations with other organizations and foundations will continue to increase this total. The historic license plate funding amount is constantly changing as new funding is still being received.

Other member benefits and outreach include the new *Utah History Explorers* activity kit for kids and intergenerational learning, a 10% discount in the new museum store, and a special museum opening preview event for members. A direct mail invitation was recently sent to approximately 1,700 lapsed members to encourage re-engagement. Planning has begun for Member Month in August.

**Museum of Utah:** Tim Glenn provided an update on the Museum of Utah. The North Capitol building is now open to the public following a ribbon cutting last week. The public is welcome to walk through the public spaces, but the galleries remain closed for exhibit development and collections installation. The museum store is expected to open during the legislative session and will serve as part of the welcome to the Capitol complex through the museum services desk. Most museum staff will move from the Highland building and some from the Midvale collections storage to the North Capitol building the week of February 2nd. Other staff will move later in the year as collections are relocated.

Exhibit materials and mounts from Midvale will be moved in at the end of February and installation into cases and exhibits will begin. Installation is expected to be finished by the end of May to allow for June preview events. After the public opening, the remaining collection materials will be moved to the North Capitol Building. The Main Street location will be maintained for some oversized materials.

The North Capitol Building is still in a growth period. Meeting dates and locations may be subject to change. Security is managed by UHP and is heavily controlled; visitors will require a guest pass or be admitted by staff. New public parking is available on the north side of the building, accessible by entering on the east side of the Capitol.

Upcoming preview and grand opening events include:

- A staff tour for legislators is scheduled for February 23rd.
- Various preview nights are planned throughout June for different audiences:
  - June 9th: Donors and Board Open House night (official invitations pending).
  - June 25th: VIP Dinner for the Board and others.
  - VIP Open House for elected officials, tribal leaders, donors, board members, Capitol staff, and contractors.

- CCE Friends and Family Night.
- The public grand opening and ribbon cutting will be held on June 27th.

### **Director's Update**

Jennifer Ortiz provided an update on the significant progress made against the organization's strategic plan (2023–2027). This plan, the first in over 10 years, contained 90 objectives across four strategic priorities:

- Strengthen the health and sustainability of UHS.
- Increase public outreach, community engagement, and audience development statewide.
- Enhance and clarify communication and marketing efforts.
- Expand opportunities to exchange knowledge and resources that support the practice of history statewide.

51 objectives are now complete. 25 objectives are either ongoing or in various levels of completion. 13 objectives were identified to be pushed to a future plan due to ambitious initial scope and organizational changes.

The new planning process will begin at the end of this calendar year, with implementation launching next fiscal year. A new subcommittee may be created for the Board's involvement. A blind spot identified in the current plan was the lack of full integration of the Museum of Utah throughout the plan, which will be a larger focus in the next strategic cycle as a vehicle for UHS programming and educational objectives.

Jennifer shared that additional tickets are now available for the UHS Awards Ceremony at the Hill Aerospace Museum. A link to the registration site was provided to board members. Jennifer's other updates planned on the move to the Tax Commission building and fundraising updates were noted as having already been covered by Donna Law and Jessica Proctor.

### **NEXT MEETING**

The next Board meeting is scheduled for April 16, 2026.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned.