FINDING COMMON PURPOSE:

A HISTORY OF COMMUNITY ORGANIZING IN BOISE, IDAHO

by

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The following individuals read and discussed the Public History project and concomitant written submission submitted by Emily Fritchman. The committee evaluated the student's presentation and response to questions during the final oral examination. They found that the student passed the final oral examination.

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DEDICATION

Mom & Dad –

Thank you for your tireless devotion to our community and for showing me just how much of a difference one person can make.

Grandma –

Thank you for your constant support. I wish you could have been here to see the final product, which wouldn't have been possible without you.

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PROJECT CUMULATIVE WEBSITE LINK

"Finding Common Purpose: Website Created with WIX

https://emilyfritchman.wixsite.com/boiseneighborhoods

ABBREVIATIONS

BSU – Boise State University

MAHR – Master of Applied Historical Research

NA – Neighborhood Association

NCPH – National Council on Public History

NENA - North End Neighborhood Association

OHA – Oral History Association

SENA – Southeast Neighborhood Association

WDNA – West Downtown Neighborhood Association

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INTRODUCTION

Members of neighborhood associations in Boise have long acted as advocates for historic preservation, environmental conservation, and effective urban growth management. However, little historical research exploring the impact of neighborhood activists on both the regional and national level exists. This project addresses the lack of scholarship through the creation of three key elements: a website that highlights both the history of neighborhood organizing in Boise and significant figures of the activist movement, a community lecture presenting these findings to the public, and a brochure detailing the goals of the project to neighbors. Additionally, this research highlights patterns that will provide future scholars of community organizing with insight into common issues faced by local neighborhood groups.

Not only does this project assess the behaviors and impact of neighborhood associations in Boise, but it also attempts to serve as guidance for future community activists - highlighting the ways in which neighborhood activism can both unite and divide. Community groups are capable of inspiring noble and positive change when managed by neighbors effectively. However, historical research reveals that these organizations also have the potential to be used for individualistic and harmful ends. Analyzing the ways in which these groups have deviated from creating common good historically serves as a necessary point of reflection for both present and future activists.

The key elements of this project are united by three goals. First, these pieces include detailed histories of three Boise neighborhood associations, their activists, and the impact of these organizations on the greater community. This project will also provide citizens with the resources necessary for increased involvement in their neighborhood associations, among which include brief histories of the aforementioned organizations, links to the City of Boise's

neighborhood resource page, and contact information for relevant local officials. Finally, the project will establish a foundation upon which current neighborhood associations can build. By not only analyzing Boise's diverse neighborhood histories and activists, but also addressing the ways in which they can continue to improve, community members of the present may be motivated to become more involved with their neighborhood organizations.

PART I: PUBLIC HISTORY PRACTICE

In order to create a project that possesses both academic integrity and credibility within the community, researching the best historical research practices and examining a large breadth of neighborhood histories was essential. This essay explores the application of proper scholarly and public history methods. I describe how my original research contributes to the existing body of community and neighborhood history, the process of creating a professional oral history project that follows best practices, steps taken in the creation and design of a historic website, and the lasting scholarly and community implications of this study.

I recently found myself having a conversation with a fellow historian – an individual who classified themselves as a "traditional academic" as opposed to someone who studies "public history." This person was asking me: "How do you define 'public' history?" "That degree sounds very general – what do public historians specialize in?" "Traditional academic history seems much more viable." This train of thought is not unusual among practicing historians. Often, there is an unconscious, invisible divide that splits academic history from history designed for the public.[1] The belief that these two forms of history cannot co-exist is flawed. Not only do these subsets of the discipline have a great deal in common, but there is also much that they can learn from each other. If someone is a practicing historian, whether they remain in academia or

[1] Richard Anderson, "Public History, Academic History, and the 'Job Crisis,'" (*National Council on Public History*, 02 April 2012,) https://ncph.org/history-at-work/public-history-academic-history-and-the-job-crisis/

otherwise, that person will always practice some form of public history.

Regarding intellectual consistency and viability, the theories and methodologies studied by public historians have firm roots in the historic discipline.[2] Public historians are trained to not only be proficient in community engagement, but also historical philosophy and research methods. Both the public and academic sectors require knowledge of historical research practices, the ability to identify reputable source material, and share bibliographic formatting styles. However, public history refers to the employment of historians outside of academia.[3] The two most significant differences between traditional and public history lies in audience and application. The National Council on Public History defines its namesake as follows: "Public history describes the many and diverse ways in which history is put to work in the world… (it) is usually defined as history beyond the walls of the traditional classroom."[4] Academic historians are driven to fill in areas where the discipline's knowledge is incomplete. Ultimately, they write for other historians and students of history.[5] In comparison, public historians are trained to use their skills outside of the traditional academic environment. This type of historian goes by many names - historical consultants, museums professionals, archivists, oral historians, cultural resource managers, community activists, and preservationists.

PART II: SCHOLARLY CONTEXT

[2] " About the Field," *National Council on Public History*, accessed 2020, https://ncph.org/what-is-public-history/about-the-field/

[3] Cherstin M. Lyon, Elizabeth M. Nix, and Rebecca I. Shrum, *Introduction to Public History: Interpreting the Past Engaging Audiences,* (New York: Rowman & Littlefield, 2017,) 3.

[4] " About the Field," *National Council on Public History*, accessed 2020, https://ncph.org/what-is-public-history/about-the-field/

[5] Robert Kelly, "Public History: Its Origins, Nature, and Prospects," (*The Public Historian,* Vol. 1, No. 1, Fall 1978): Heather A. Huyck, "Twenty-Five Years of Public History: Perspectives from a Primary Document," (*The Public Historian,* Vol. 21, No. 3, Summer 1999.)

HISTORIOGRAPHY

There are neighborhoods that exist throughout Boise that have yet to be studied in detail. This project seeks to further explore neighborhood organizations that have only briefly been researched by other historians. In designing this project, it is important to clarify that homeowner associations (HOAs) and neighborhood associations are not interchangeable terms. HOAs are formed by subdivision developers and require abiding by specific development codes. In comparison, neighborhood associations are formed by community members in urban areas which share specific goals and identities.[6] As of 2020, approximately thirty-six neighborhood associations are officially registered through the City of Boise.[7] This research highlights the Southeast, North End, and Boise Bench Neighborhood Associations – located within an approximately ten-miles radius of the downtown core. Architectural historian Virginia Savage McAlester identifies four neighborhood structures: urban, rural, suburban, and post-suburban. The neighborhoods addressed in this study can be classified as urban rather than suburban and consist of various architectural styles, combined commercial and residential districts, and rectilinear city streets.[8]

Several local historians have explored the topic of community development and neighborhood history in the City of Boise. However, contributions of Boise's organized neighborhood associations have yet to be explored in great detail and lack dense historiographies. A few examples of local neighborhood history books include historian Barbara

[6] Energize our Neighborhoods, "City of Boise: Neighborhood Association Toolkit," (Boise, ID: *City of Boise Planning & Development Services*, n.d). https://energize.cityofboise.org/media/468158/neighborhood-association-toolkit-web.pdf

[7] City of Boise, *Map of Registered Neighborhood Associations* [map], (Boise, ID: *City of Boise Planning & Development Services,* 2018)

[8] Ibid, 73.

Perry Bauer's *South Boise Scrapbook* (2014) and Todd Shallat's works *Growing Closer: Density and Sprawl in the Boise Valley* (2011) and *Harrison Boulevard: Preserving the Past in Boise's North End* (1989). These books are three examples of local writings that explore the histories of specific cultural and geographical areas throughout the City of Boise, including the North End, Crescent Rim, and Southeast Boise neighborhoods. The research included in this work expands upon previous studies by analyzing specific contributions of neighborhood activist groups to the local political, cultural, and physical landscape.

Currently, little historical research exists regarding neighborhood association activism in the United States. Therefore, much of the content for this project relies on scholarship from various disciplines, including urban histories, studies conducted by urban planners and sociologists, and the work of community development professionals. These scholars have conducted research exploring the value of creating a sense of community, proper ways in which to organize neighborhood groups, and place-making in urban neighborhoods.[9] However, a study that highlights the specific contributions of these organizations to the urban landscape has yet to be conducted.

Exploring how various associations have worked together to shape Boise's urban identity establishes the context for this project. Jane Jacobs, author of the influential urban studies piece *The Death and Life of Great American Cities,* presents a slightly different perspective on the functions of city neighborhoods. Jacobs states: "A successful city neighborhood is a place that

[9] Jane Jacobs, *The Death and Life of Great American Cities*, (New York: Random House, 1961); Robert Fisher, Let the People Decide: Neighborhood Organizing in America, (New York: Twayne Publishers, 1994); Jay Walljasper, The Great Neighborhood Book: A Do-it-Yourself Guide to Placemaking, (Canada: New Society Publishers, 2007; Mike, Miller, A Community Organizer's Tale: People and Power in San Francisco, (Berkeley, CA: Heyday Books, 2009); Jay Mark S. Homan, *Promoting Community Change: Making it Happen in the Real World*, Sixth Edition. (Boston, MA: Cengage Learning, 2016.) The listed works are examples of previous research that has been conducted examining patterns and methods of neighborhood organizing in the West.

keeps...abreast of its problems so it is not destroyed by them."[10] Jacobs also argues that city planners must drop any notion of neighborhoods being "self-contained or introverted units."[11] In these excerpts, Jacobs argues that a truly successful neighborhood effectively manages challenges through collaboration. The ideas that Jacobs sets forth in her piece aid in understanding both the challenges and achievements of neighborhood associations in Boise. Specifically, my research explores how neighborhoods function both individually and as a unit when faced with certain challenges. By exploring how neighborhood associations function collectively, this project will identify the ways in which these groups have influenced Boise's development over time.

Urban and regional planner Norman Tyler argues that the American neighborhood is rooted in a deep sense of place. Tyler states that place can be defined as "a collection of structures and spaces that form, in some way, a community or cultural landscape."[12] The author argues that a neighborhood is not simply a geographic location. Rather, a neighborhood serves as an expression of a group identity and collective set of values. The unique architectural styles, landmarks, and businesses within a neighborhood are reflections of the people living in that community. A collective identity and set of values shapes the cultural landscape of a neighborhood – thus providing the citizens with an avenue to decide which policies should take precedence within their communities. These neighborhoods are where citizens call home,

[10] Jane Jacobs, *The Death and Life of Great American Cities*, (New York: Random House, 1961), 112.

[11] Ibid, 114.

[12] Norman Tyler, Ted Ligibel, and Ilene R. Tyler. *Historic Preservation: An Introduction to Its History, Principles, and Practice*, 2nd ed., (New York: W.W. Norton, 2009.)

recreate, work, and mold their identities.[13] The close connection between Americans and the urban communities in which they live is indicative of a greater theme. Activists feel an obligation to enhance and protect their neighborhoods because the landscape serves as a reflection of their cultural identity.[14] The unique cultural landscape molded by citizens serves as inspiration for the development of neighborhood-oriented activist organizations. Professional community organizer Mark S. Homan further interprets the definition of community in his piece *Promoting Community Change: Making it Happen in the Real World.* He argues that community can either be defined as a geographic area with clear boundaries or as a place that is defined by "individuals' shared interests, activities, affection, or common identity."[15] However, for the purpose of creating a distinct community organization, Homan states: "A community is a number of people who share a distinct location, belief, interest, activity, or other characteristic that clearly identifies their commonality and differentiates them from those not sharing it."[16]

When not managed by neighbors effectively, this maintenance of cultural identity in relation to neighborhood activism may also take the shape of negative, individualistic preservation. This toxic form of activism exclusively seeks to maintain the status quo and members will hesitate to adapt or invite new ideas and individuals into the community network. Unfortunately, neighborhood organizing has historically acted as a mask for racism and classism.

[13] Yelena Mitrofanova, "Organizing a Neighborhood Association," (Lincoln, NE: Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Nebraska Extension in Lancaster County, n.d.) https://lancaster.unl.edu/community/articles/neighborhoodassoc.shtml

[14] "Neighborhood Identity," from *Portland Neighborhood Assessment Process,* (Louisville, KY: University of Louisville Center for Environmental Policy and Management, 2008.) http://louisville.edu/cepm/westlou/portland/portland-neighborhood-plan-2008-1b-neighborhood-identity/

[15] Mark S. Homan, *Promoting Community Change: Making it Happen in the Real World*, 6th ed., (Boston, MA: Cengage Learning, 2016), 132.

[16] Ibid, 133.

Kevin Kruse's piece *White Flight: Atlanta and the Making of Modern Conservatism* serves as an historic example of neighborhood organizers practicing exclusion and avoidance. During the course of racial desegregation in Atlanta, Georgia in the 1950s and 60s, working-class whites living in transition areas assumed that they and their neighbors not only shared the common qualities of race and class, but also the desire to preserve segregation in their communities. These individuals grouped together to create neighborhood and community enhancement groups - organizations whose expressed intention was to keep "undesirable neighbors" out of the area.[17] However, this desire was ultimately less focused on maintaining the collective good and more about the preservation of each individual's self-interest.[18]

PART III: ORAL HISTORY PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The most foundational piece of this study was the creation of an oral history series. This project features interviews with several long-serving Boise neighborhood association activists and members of city government. Identifying significant narrators, designing questions that bring old memories to light, and fostering meaningful connections with the interviewees were all critical pieces that I took into account when imagining this project. Though I was familiar with many of the individuals who were interviewed, the opportunity to meet and have a conversation with the narrators provided a new, meaningful layer to the historical research process. Additionally, these discussions helped me consider the theory behind and further develop my skills in the complex work of doing oral history. In order to design a collection of oral histories that were consistent with historical methodologies, I relied upon best practices as outlined by the *Oral History Association* and extensively researched a breadth of oral history projects. The

[17] Kevin Kruse, *White Flight: Atlanta and the Making of Modern Conservatism,* (Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press, 2007), 88.

[18] Ibid, 78-79.

process of conducting these oral interviews was unlike any research process I have undertaken. The resulting body of information has thoughtfully shaped my expertise as both an academic and public historian.

Community and place-making expert Jay Walljasper states: "Fixing up a neighborhood, especially an economically disadvantaged one, is hard work. It takes a lot of planning, energy, and determination…. You've got to excite skeptical neighbors and win over even more skeptical politicians, developers, and funders."[19] While the author acknowledges that being a neighborhood activist is difficult work, he also states the rewards are far greater than the challenges. Walljapser argues that truly great activists must know how to be creative, have fun, work with city hall, and be willing to share their lives with neighbors.[20] The themes that the author explores throughout his writing serve as inspiration for the oral history portion of this project. As Walljasper states in his writing, each activist brings a different set of qualities and strengths to their organization. Highlighting the unique experiences of each activist will provide the audience with insight into the range of diversity that exists within neighborhood associations.

Tradition & Theory

Oral history is deeply rooted in tradition and enveloped in theoretical concepts. Studying these academic theories aids historians in the process of understanding the roots of oral history, how the discipline has evolved, possible benefits and challenges, and where its future lies. French historian of the mid-nineteenth century, Jules Michelet, began to uncover the power of oral history when researching the French Revolution. He argues: "When I say oral tradition, I mean national tradition… (if you find) on the road a passerby at rest, you begin to converse with

[19] Jay Walljasper, *The Great Neighborhood Book: A Do-it-Yourself Guide to Placemaking*, (Canada: New Society Publishers, 2007), 152.

[20] Ibid, 150-175.

him about the rain, the season, then the high price of victuals, then the times of the Emperor, then the times of the Revolution."[21] In this excerpt, Michelet argues that oral history remains alive in each generation and that this tradition, both oral and national, remains uninterrupted. This illustration by Michelet is supported by professor of modern history Lynn Abrams, who argues that oral history is an eclectic combination of a broad range of disciplines - a combination of psychology, literature, linguistics, history, and anthropology.[22] These two authors argue that oral tradition not only possesses longevity, but also requires knowledge from a variety of disciplines. The spoken word is distinctly different from written – as language is often unfiltered, influenced by geography and upbringing, and provides the narrator with an opportunity to be more authentic than they may be in written form.

In addition to exploring where the practice of oral history fits in the realm of academia, the study of oral tradition would be incomplete without an analysis of long and short-term memory. Questions of memory have played a role in the study of orality since the practice first began. Former Director of the Columbia University Oral History Research Office Ronald J. Grele argues that historians who use the recollections of others cannot just seek facts – simply because those facts are embedded in interpretations. The structuring of oral histories, the performative nature of orality, and the ways they relate to social conditions all play a part in piecing together the historical intent of oral tradition.[23] More specifically, Grele describes how the concepts of memory and thought play roles in interpreting oral history.

[21] Jules Michelet, *Histoire de la Révolution Français,* trans C. Cocks (London: HG. Bohn, 1848; originally published in Paris, 1847), ii. 530.

[22] Lynn Abrams, "Transforming Oral History Through Theory," in *The Voice of the Past: Oral History*, ed. Paul Thompson and Joanna Bornat, 4th ed. (NY: Oxford University Press, 2017), 132-139.

[23] Ronald J. Grele, "Oral History as Evidence," in *History of Oral History: Foundations and Methodology*, ed. Thomas L. Charlton, Lois E. Myers, and Rebecca Sharpless (Plymouth, UK: AltaMira Press, 2007), 59.

Both prior and recent criticisms of the practice of oral history center around the accuracy and reliability of memory. Critics ask whether or not both long and short-term memory is reliable enough to document as historical thought. However, current research indicates that these criticisms are not substantial. Grele argues that historians bring along memory jogs by looking through photographs or documents, consulting scrapbooks, and meeting with others. Therefore, the memories we collect are refreshed – not replaced. He argues that "memory is not psychology; it is historiography."[24] American historian Jacquelyn Dowd Hall supports this theory, stating: "… we live both the history we have learned through reading and research and the history we have experienced and inherited, passed down through the groups with which we identify, sedimented in the body, and created through talk."[25]

Modern research recognizes the instability of memory. Each time a memory is recalled, it is open to change or reimagining. However, memory researchers Martin Conway and Christopher Pleydell-Pearce see autobiographical memory as being of "fundamental significance for the self, for emotions, and for the experience of personhood."[26] Whether or not a story remains consistent over time is insignificant in the context of oral history. When narrators tell stories to others, describe events, and share emotions, those memories become historically significant. Ultimately, memories are indicative of the narrator's thoughts, beliefs, and recollection of events during one point in time. Grele argues that the overarching goal of oral history is to give a voice to the public. This theory states that history should be placed in the

[24] Ibid, 75.

[25] Jacquelyn Dowd Hall, "'You Must Remember This': Autobiography as Social Critique", *Journal of American History,* Volume 85, Issue 2, September 1998, 439-465.

[26] Paul Thompson with Joanna Bornat, "Evidence," in *The Voice of the Past: Oral History*, ed. Paul Thompson and Joanna Bornat, 4th ed. (NY: Oxford University Press, 2017), 200.

hands of the people rather than exclusively be determined by interpretations of the "professional historian."[27]

In the context of neighborhood associations, memory is certainly as unstable and re-imaginable as professional oral historians argue it to be. Gerle states in "Oral History as Evidence," individuals will rewrite their memories to reflect a change in identity - expressing the pieces of themselves that they would like to have remembered and forgoing past mistakes, thoughts, or ideas. David Lowenthal's piece "History and Memory" states: "historians have always known that error and self-interest warp evidence and interpretation."[28] When looking at the work and accomplishments of neighborhood groups, understanding that stories may be recounted in error or misinformed shapes the way in which historians present the material to the public. Recalling fragile experiences, such as those relating to the history of neighborhood groups and segregationist policies, are especially ripe for reinterpretation on the part of the narrator. Filling in these potential gaps in information is essential to providing a thorough, detailed history for the public.

Best Practices

In order to become versed in oral history best methods and procedures, I participated in workshops, researching appropriate publications, books, and articles, and meeting with experienced professionals. While I was familiar with the concept of oral history and its relationship to public history as a whole, I was not aware of how detailed the process of preparing for, conducting, and processing oral interviews should be. Identifying professional standards and protocol was critical to creating both a viable and meaningful product. This variety

[27] Ronald J. Grele, "Oral History as Evidence," in *History of Oral History*, 45.

[28] David Lowenthal, "History and Memory," *The Public Historian* 19, no. 2 (1997): 32.

of experiences allowed me to both learn from others and draw my own conclusions regarding oral history methodology.

The American Association for State and Local History's *The Oral History Manual* defines oral history as primary source material created in an interview setting. This interview is conducted with a participant who has witnessed or experienced a way of life for the purpose of preserving the information and making it available to others. An oral history is both the process of interviewing and the final product.[29] A key resource utilized in both the creation and implementation of this project were disciplinary best practices as outlined by the Oral History Association (OHA). The OHA was originally founded in 1966 and acts as the principal membership and reference organization for those interested in oral history.[30] Not only is this organization among the oldest of oral history groups, but also among the most well-respected and credible – operated by professional oral and public historians.

The OHA details four key elements of oral history work: preparation, interviewing, preservation, and access.[31] I reviewed these components prior to identifying potential narrators and designing questions, as researching these guidelines ahead of time provide the best results. I created a portable outline of these elements that was brought along with me to each interview. This both allowed me to share each step with the narrator and ensured that I did not overlook any portion of the oral history process.

The Four Elements of Oral History

[29] Barbara W. Sommer and Mary Kay Quinlan, *The Oral History Manual*, 3rd ed., (MY: Rowman & Littlefield Publishing Group, Inc, 2018), 1.

[30] Oral History Association, "About OHA," *Oral History Association,* accessed 2020. https://www.oralhistory.org/about/

[31] Oral History Association, "Best Practices," *Oral History Association,* accessed 2020. https://www.oralhistory.org/best-practices/

Preparation

The preparation stage is the most detailed portion of the oral history process and emphasizes receiving outside training, housing the oral histories upon their completion, and the process of identifying narrators and creating interview questions. I referred to the Oral History Association and *The Oral History Manual* as a means of creating these questions. In order to begin my training in oral history, I attended workshops through the Boise City Department of Arts & History.[32] These training sessions provided participants with several documents detailing potential oral history questions, release forms for narrators, and the best practices outlined by the Oral History Association. In addition to receiving information from formal workshops, I also connected with oral history professionals and learned about their recommended practices and experiences. Brandi Burns with the City Department of Arts & History and Barbara Perry-Bauer with TAG Historical Research & Consulting both aided me in the process of gathering the proper equipment, recommending narrators, and guiding me towards appropriate research material.

Oral historians should also identify a repository in which to house the completed series. For the purposes of this project, the Head of Special Collections and Archives for the Albertsons Library, Dr. Cheryl Oestreicher, and I created a written agreement stating that the collection would be donated to Boise State University upon its completion. Dr. Oestericher stated that these interviews do not need to be transcribed, but should include a summary form and the physical recordings. The Special Collections & Archives recommended that I use an audio recording application through my phone as opposed to renting a tape recorder – as not having to purchase tape would be more cost-effective. Practically speaking, *The Oral History Manual* indicates that

[32] Boise City Dept of Arts & History, "History," *City of Boise*, Boise, ID, accessed 2020. https://www.boiseartsandhistory.org/programs/history/

oral historians need not use equipment made for high-end music recording. However, over-the-counter audio recorders and digital-age advances will work for reproduction. Avoiding mini-forms of media, including older mini-cassettes or micro-SD cards was also recommended.[33] The technology used for this project included my cell phone with a recording application and two small microphones, which would ensure that I obtained the best possible sound quality. These recordings will be exported and placed with the interview summary forms.

After receiving the recommended training, it was time to create consent forms and identify potential narrators. The consent form used for this project mirrored both the "Donor Form" template outlined in *The Oral History Manual* and release waivers used by TAG Historical Research & Consulting.[34] (Fig. 1) This form specifies that the collection will be donated to both the Boise State University Special Collections & Archives and the Department of History – ensuring that these organizations could use these histories however they see fit, unless the narrator wishes to place specific restrictions on the interview.

The simplest part of preparing the oral history project was the identification of narrators. Though I had envisioned the kinds of narrators that would best suit this project, I relied on the expertise of experienced neighborhood historians to point me in the right direction. I decided upon four individuals that possess diverse ranges of involvement in their neighborhoods, are located in different areas throughout the City of Boise, and have experienced a variety of challenges and changes during their time with the organization. Once these individuals were selected, I called or emailed each of them describing the goals of the project and allowed for any questions. If the narrator agreed to the interview, I then forwarded them a list of questions, an

[33] Barbara W. Sommer, *The Oral History Manual*, 55.

[34] Ibid, 118.

estimated length of time to set aside for our conversation, and the consent form. I also asked each narrator to provide me with a brief biography of themselves for context. This would be included on the website and in the public presentation.

The most creative element of the preparation process is deciding which questions to ask narrators during the oral history interview. During training workshops and meetings with neighborhood and oral history professionals, it was recommended that I conduct further research on each of the narrators prior to the interviews. This would ensure that I would be able to ask more specific, detailed questions. Additionally, the OHA and *Oral History Manual* recommends that any interview questions be open-ended and an outline be created.[35] Upon completing the proper research, I designed a list of questions that were evaluated and revised by my committee members. (Fig. 2) These questions were sent to the narrator prior to the interview.

Interviewing

In my experience, the most satisfying step of the oral history process is conducting the interview. The OHA recommends that these conversations take place in a quiet location with minimal background noises and distractions. The majority of the interviews conducted took place at the narrator's home – however, one narrator suggested that we meet at the Boise Public Library for the sake of convenience. I made sure to arrive at each location between five to ten minutes early in order to set up equipment and remind the interviewee of the project goals, subjects that will be covered, and forms. In order for the narrator to feel comfortable, I tried to begin each meeting with casual conversation, setting aside time to get to know each other, and answering any questions that the narrator may have about the project. We would usually discuss the graduate program at Boise State, where the narrator grew up, how they moved to Boise, what

[35] Ibid, 78.

they like to do in their free time, and other topics. The narrators were all very hospitable and inviting – offering me tea or coffee, giving me a tour of their home, or flipping through neighborhood photographs and documents. We were each able to establish a comfortable rapport with each other prior to beginning the official, recorded interview.

I began each interview by stating both my name and that of the narrator, the full date of the recording session, location of the interview, and subject of the recording.[36] Both *The Oral History Manual* and the Boise City Department of Arts & History's pamphlet guide include a number of useful interviewing tips to be aware of when meeting with the narrator. Among these include not interrupting the narrator (i.e. letting them finish their thought completely), not being judgmental, asking about their thoughts and feelings, being prepared to ask follow-up questions, and not arguing with the narrator's information.[37] I made sure to follow these recommendations very closely during the course of the interview.

Though I had informed the narrators ahead of time that we would only need between one-two hours for the interview, which is the length of time recommended by *The Oral History Manual*, each conversation was between two-three hours in length. Though these conversations were relatively lengthy, I would rather have the narrators share as much information as possible rather than cut their stories short for the sake of time. The last step of the process was making sure to thank the narrator after each interview and delivering a written thank-you card to their home. I have invited each of the narrators to read this analytical essay, look through the website, and attend the public presentation portion of this project as my guests once they are all made available.

[36] Oral History Association, "Best Practices," *Oral History Association,* accessed 2020. https://www.oralhistory.org/best-practices/

[37] Barbara W. Sommer, *The Oral History Manual*, 78.

Preservation

Both the summary forms and digital recordings of each interview will be housed with the Boise State University Special Collections & Archives. This organization has the means to professionally manage the preservation and access of these materials – as they will be stored, processed, digitized, and made available online for future researchers. As opposed to depositing these oral histories with the Idaho State Archives or City Department of Art & History, I chose to place these histories in the care of Boise State University to ensure ease of access for future researchers and students. Additionally, the university holds historic neighborhood meeting minutes and documents from both the North and East End Neighborhood Associations. It seemed perfectly appropriate to place this material in the Boise State Special Collections & Archives care.

Prior to the deposit, the oral historian must transfer the original recording from whatever device was used into an accessible format. In addition to creating an audible format, the historian should include a copy of the project's context and goals for and organize each interview into appropriate files. This will aid the repository in organizing the material. In the context of this project, I exported the digital files to Dr. Oestreicher via email – which included the summary form, questions, project goals, and narrator biography for each file.[38] The University Special Collections will both make this body of information available online and house each file in their collections.

Access & Use

Finally, preserving and maintaining ease of access to oral histories is one of the key steps for future researchers. Though this step requires less involvement from the historian, it is critical

[38] Oral History Association, "Best Practices," *Oral History Association,* accessed 2020. https://www.oralhistory.org/best-practices/

that the donor read through this section in order to define appropriate expectations from the holding institution. The Special Collections & Archives should abide by any restrictions set forth by the narrator, be prepared to provide timely access to the material, evaluate included documentation, and honor stipulations of any agreements made with the interviewer. Additionally, the repository should strive for intellectual honesty by avoiding misrepresentation of the narrator's words, retain integrity, contextualize oral history excerpts, and provide a citation to the location of the full oral history.[39]

Challenges Faced

The joy of conducting oral history interviews far outweigh any challenges faced. In retrospect and if I had unlimited time and resources, there are a few things that I could have done differently during the course of this project. Many of these changes involve following the OHA's procedures a bit more diligently, allotting more time for the interviews, and including a broader array of narrators. While I believe that this project meets my own expectations, there are a few things I would like to consider in the future.

The Oral History Manual states that interviewers should "avoid the temptation to share your personal agreements or disagreements with the narrator's views."[40] This was particularly difficult considering that several of the narrators are family friends and I have a passion for the subject which they are describing. As an example, narrator Mark Baltes is a long-time family friend. Thus, we share many of the same opinions, both negative and positive, on city government and legislation. However, remaining objective in conversation with the narrators indicates to the public that I am conducting historical research as opposed to simply engaging in

[39] Ibid.

[40] Barbara W. Sommer, *The Oral History Manual*, 79.

a discussion with the narrator. This was the area that I struggled the most with when conducting these interviews – primarily because these are not only individuals I find interesting, but also look up to.

In addition to following procedures more closely, having a larger bank of potential narrators will be something that I will do differently going forward. Similar to many forms of public history, oral history involves timely communication between both the interviewer and the narrator. Unfortunately, I had a few potential narrators express a disinterest in aiding with the project or neglect to return my phone calls and emails. I tried my best to both be gentle and respectful in asking for their time. However, it was frustrating to be refused, ignored, or forgotten about. This was not the end of the world, but identifying a larger pool of narrators prior would reduce the blow that refusal or lack of communication causes to the project. In addition to having a larger bank of narrators, I would also like to have included individuals who have a broader range of opinions. Each of the narrators that I interviewed had very similar thoughts and ideas regarding neighborhood organizing. If I were to continue working on this project in the future, including stories from those who work with the City of Boise, developers, or individuals who have been vocal in their dislike of neighborhood associations would provide a richer historical narrative.

I would argue that the most important elements of conducting oral history interviews are communicating clearly and allotting enough time for the conversation. The OHA recommends limiting interviews to about an hour in length – which is what I suggested to narrators after they agreed to volunteer their time. However, every narrator was comfortable talking for between two-three hours. I made the mistake of placing two interviews back-to-back, which left me feeling a bit crunched for time and rushed by the end of the first interview. Not only is it critical

to schedule enough time for the interview, but communicating clearly about where and when to meet is essential. I also made the unfortunate mistake of not giving out my cell phone number to the narrators – only my email address. This became an issue when one of my narrators and I were confused as to where to meet in the public library. Though these situations were frustrating, they are easily resolved by simply communicating clearly.

Lasting Impact

When I first envisioned this project in my mind over a year ago, I had a very clear idea as to what I thought oral and community history meant. I argued in the introductory statement of this piece: "The goal of this project is to present neighbors with thoughtful historical research, shedding light on how the actions of one person can shape their communities and influence public policy." While this is true, I also believe that the actions of one person should serve the best interest of many. This project is not simply about documenting the actions of one individual – rather, how these actions have positively affected the lives of many. As a historian, it is not my job to tell people what to think. Rather, it is my obligation to document the why, how, what, and where of people's lived experiences.

This public history project documents only a small portion of Boise's vast neighborhood history. By creating a product that is easily accessible, it is my hope that this research would not only teach both native and transplanted Boiseans a bit more about their community, but also empower them by learning from the experiences of others. This project presents new insight into a historical research topic that has been largely undocumented through the voices of those who have experienced it firsthand.

PART IV: BOISE'S URBAN NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATIONS

The Boise Citizen's Survey of 1976

The creation of neighborhood associations in the 1970s reflected a wider desire in the Treasure Valley to preserve and enhance community livability. In this context, livability can be defined as the factors that add up to a community's quality of life. Livable areas possess economic longevity, safety, and comfort and its citizens consistently work to make the community a better place to live.[41] A Boise Citizen's Survey conducted by the Boise Center for Urban Research (the Boise Urban Observatory) in 1976 serves as an example of the opinions on urbanization held by Boiseans during these times.[42] This particular survey was established with the intention of gathering demographic information, determining potential usage of community development programming, and analyzing the needs of citizens. Similar research centers began emerging in 1975 – establishing community surveys as a means of closing the gap between citizens and their local governments.[43]

Of the 18,440 households selected for this survey, 22% completed and returned it. The majority of those who returned the form were employed females living in single-family homes. Of these respondents, 46% believed that the most important issues that need to be solved through community development programming were "conservation and environmental quality." The survey also indicated that a high percentage of respondents valued the preservation of historic buildings and had little understanding as to the methodology and decisions made by the City Department of Planning and Zoning. As reflected in this demographic community development

[41] "What is Livability?" *Partners for Livable Communities*, (Washington, D.C., 2020.) http://livable.org/about-us/what-is-livability

[42] Jim Baker, Phillip J. Hanson, "Boise Citizens Survey 1976 Final Report" (Boise, ID: Boise Center for Urban Research, 1976), Boise State University, Special Collections and Archives, F 754 .B65 B35 https://digital.boisestate.edu/digital/collection/p15948coll4/id/265/rec/1

[43] Ibid, 1.

survey, the majority of Boise citizens living during the rise of community activism valued both historic preservation and increased livability. Additionally, the lack of thoughtful communication and knowledge of procedure that exists between the city government and Boise citizens indicated the need for change. The issues outlined in this survey serve as a reflection of the goals expressed by neighborhood associations throughout the City of Boise. Conservation, environmental quality, historic preservation, and increased livability were each concerns expressed by the citizens who responded to this survey. Additionally, neighborhood organizations sought to bridge the divide between community members and local policymakers – a foundational goal for neighborhood activists.[44]

Early Neighborhood Association Origins

The organized development of neighborhood associations in Boise followed the national trend, beginning to take rise in the mid-twentieth century. According to Marvin Olsen's "Participation in Neighborhood Associations," these groups emerged with the intention of influencing the creation of livable and sustainable plans in urban communities.[45] However, in addition to being established for sustainability purposes, neighborhood organizations also developed during this time in response to ongoing racial desegregation. Kevin Kruse's piece *White Flight* describes this phenomenon in great detail - analyzing the ways in which white neighbors in Atlanta, Georgia banned together as a means of maintaining segregationist policies. While neighborhood groups in Boise did not emerge in response to desegregation specifically, local community organizations developed in response to a perceived threat in sustainability,

[44] Anne Hauswrath, interview with Emily Fritchman, 5 February 2020, Boise State University Special Collections and Archives.

[45] Marvin Olsen, Harry Perlstadt, Valencia Fonseca, and Joanne Hoggan, "Participation in Neighborhood Associations." *Sociological Focus* 22, No. 1 (1989): 1-17.

including increased density, the destruction of historic buildings, and compromising environmental quality.

When describing the emergence of neighborhood associations in Boise, it is of significance to note that the city experienced a massive population increase in the 1970s.[46] This can largely be attributed to increased tax rates, socioeconomic tension, and political uprisings taking place in the West during this period.[47] Large waves of residents moving inward from coastal communities required the city to make massive adjustments in local development plans. An example of this is evident in the Downtown Boise Redevelopment Plan proposed in 1971 – in which a 15-acre redevelopment of the area from Bannock and Front streets, Ninth Streets and Capitol Boulevard would remove sixty-four buildings from the Downtown Boise core, including the Egyptian Theater and Idaho Building.[48] Boise found itself unprepared for the rapid and overwhelming growth, which they feared would gradually compromise the preservation of old neighborhoods and their surrounding lots.

The North End Neighborhood Association (NENA) emerged as the first of Boise's organized neighborhood associations in 1976 - pioneering new avenues for asserting control over the aesthetics and character of their community. The primary issue facing NENA during their establishment was the zoning of single-family homes into multi-unit residences. Traditional Queen Anne homes that lined streets throughout the North End were being split into apartment

[46] Boise City Council, "A Policy Plan for the Boise Metropolitan Area," presented for a public hearing on 29 June, 1978 at Boise City Council Chambers, Boise City Hall, Boise State University Library, Special Collections and Archives, MSS 99, Box 44, Folder 22, page 11.

[47] Ibid, 11.

[48] The Boise Redevelopment Agency, "BOISE NOW: A PROPOSAL FOR THE REDEVELOPMENT OF DOWNTOWN BOISE," (Boise, ID: Gruen Associates, 1971) Boise State University Library, Special Collections and Archives, MSS 250.

complexes to accommodate the growth of both the student and faculty population of Boise Junior College in the 1970s. During this time, Boise grew from 34,000 to over 75,000 in a ten year period.[49] A lack of clear zoning ordinances throughout the City meant that developers were free to subdivide or demolish lots however they saw fit. North End neighbors began to flock together as a means of maintaining the quality of living throughout the district.

Beginning in the 1960s and into the 70s, the North End experienced a period of severe decline. Historic homes were either falling apart or being converted into multi-unit structures, theft, burglary and assault rates soared, and properties were being neglected.[50] The relative affordability of the North End drew in several university students and blue-collar workers - allowing these groups to purchase and rent homes at a lower cost. However, this all began to change in the mid-1970s. During this time, a 1976 article written for the *Idaho Statesman* states: "A few years ago, the North End generally was considered a dying area. The 100-year old homes were deteriorating, people were buying new homes in West Boise and the crime rate was one of the highest in the city… All that has changed."[51] As an example, a proposed development of multi-unit housing projects and a large shopping mall near the corner of Bogus Basin Road and Harrison Boulevard would have allowed for nearly double the population. NENA founder Nel Hosford argued in an interview with the *Idaho Statesman* that the association formed during the same year to combat this development.[52] During the first few months of NENA's existence,

[49] "A North End History" *The North End: Boise's Historic Neighborhood Online,* 2019, https://northend.org/boises-beginnings/a-north-end-history/

[50] "Idaho Crime Rates, 1960-2018," Disaster Center, accessed February 29, 2020. http://www.disastercenter.com/crime/idcrime.htm

[51] Rod Gramer, "In Political Arena: North End Fights for Lifestyle," (Boise, ID: *The Idaho Statesman* 31 October 1976,) 49.

[52] Ibid, 49.

membership skyrocketed to over nine hundred members. Hosford argued that the association includes members of all backgrounds, but the one common denominator is the "crusade to preserve the North End's character." [53]

Historic Preservation

The maintenance and preservation of heritage buildings is one of the most foundational goals for Boise's neighborhood organizations.[54] Though the city has only been subject to major growth in the past fifty years, there are several homes in the city of Boise that were constructed at the turn of the twentieth century and beyond. Historically, maintaining the appearance and structure of culturally significant homes has been a challenge faced by groups through the Downtown core. NENA combated this particular issue perhaps more than any other neighborhood organization in the city. The North End is currently recognized for its diversity of architectural styles and historic significance.[55] Bound by Hill Road, 28th Street, 4th Street, and State Street and as one of the oldest districts in the city, the North End contains a number of homes listed on the National Register for Historic Places.[56]

The Historic Preservation Commission is established by Boise City Council at the urging of community members in 1976, a review board that ensured "historically and culturally significant sites" would be "protect[ed], enhance[ed], and preserve[d]."[57] These community

[53] Ibid, 49.

[54] City of Boise Planning & Development Services, "Historic Preservation," (Boise, ID: City of Boise Planning & Development Services, n.d.) https://pds.cityofboise.org/planning/hp/

[55] Great Places in America: Neighborhoods, "The North End: Boise, Idaho," *American Planning Association,* Accessed 2020. https://www.planning.org/greatplaces/neighborhoods/2008/northend.htm

[56] National Register of Historic Places, *National Register of Historic Places: Boise, Idaho* [map], (Washington, D.C., National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, 2014) https://www.nps.gov/maps/full.html?mapId=7ad17cc9-b808-4ff8-a2f9-a99909164466

[57] Todd Shallat and David Kennedy, *Harrison Boulevard: Preserving the Past in Boise's North End,* (Boise, ID: Boise School of Social Science and Public Affairs, Boise State University, 1989), 100.

members include historic preservationist and current NENA president Mark Baltes and the North End Neighborhood Association.[58] Baltes, whose oral history interview is documented in this project, has lived in Boise since 1959. After marrying his high school sweetheart, he and his family bounced between Boise's neighborhoods before permanently settling in the North End. He is the current president of the North End Neighborhood Association (NENA) and is particularly passionate about historic preservation, community collaboration, and environmental stewardship. Hyde Park, located in the heart of the North End, was among the first of these historic districts to be established in Boise in 1980. In addition to protecting, enhancing, and preserving historic sites, the Preservation Commission also sets forth guideline principles that maintain the integrity of designated locations. These restrictions are set in place with the intention of preserving the historic quality of a given district while also encouraging modern livability.

The "Design Guidelines for Residential Historic Districts" manual, first established in 2006, indicates: "These guidelines encourage property owners to make design decisions which promote an environment that is scaled to the pedestrian, maintains cohesive neighborhood identity and respects the natural setting of Old Boise neighborhoods."[59] This document was financed with funds from the National Park Service, the Department of the Interior, and administered by the Idaho State Historic Preservation Office. The manual was created with the intention of designing sets of guidelines that effectively preserve the historic qualities of Districts

[58] Mark Baltes, interview with Emily Fritchman, 29 January 2020, Boise State University Special Collections & Archives.

[59] City of Boise Historic Preservation Commission, "Design Guideline for Residential Historic Districts," (Boise, ID: McKibben+Cooper , 2013), 2.

while simultaneously allowing the Districts to remain fluid and "livable by today's cultural standards."[60]

In addition to the establishment of Hyde Park, North End Neighborhood Association activists argued in favor of designating the entirety of the North End as a historic district in 1993. Mark Baltes took the lead with this movement, completing the necessary documentation and mapping as a means of creating a viable historic district. The boundaries of the neighborhood contain over four hundred homes listed on the National Register of Historic Places, whose architectural styles include Queen Anne, Bungalow, and Colonial.[61] Consultants contracted to survey the North End during this time documented detailed inventories of buildings and sites contained within the area. Photographs, architectural style, addresses, and names of the current owners of each property were included in the study as a means of establishing historical significance for the Preservation Commission.[62] Maintaining the historic integrity of both the North End and Hyde Park are critical components of NENA's mission as an organization.[63] As stated in the organizational mission statement: "NENA is a Non-Profit Organization dedicated to preserving the unique and historic character of Boise's Historic North End since 1976."

Environmental Conversation

In addition to preserving the heritage of local buildings, maintaining and enhancing the natural environment is an essential element of Boise's community activism. Advocating for the

[60] Ibid, 1.

[61] Todd Shallat and David Kennedy, *Harrison Boulevard: Preserving the Past in Boise's North End,* (Boise, ID: Boise School of Social Science and Public Affairs, Boise State University, 1989), 121-126.

[62] Boise City Planning Department, "Project II: North End Study Area and Possible Historic District," (Boise, ID: Boise City Planning Department, 1993), Boise State University, Special Collections and Archives, MSS 362, Box 1.

[63] North End Neighborhood Association, "About NENA," Boise, ID: North End Neighborhood Association (2016) http://www.northendboise.org/nena

protection of mature landscaping, promoting the construction of increased bicycle lanes, and developing local parks are of extreme importance to these organizations.[64] Many of the policies set forth by the City of Boise are reflections of the efforts of passionate neighborhood activists. However, environmental conservation has not always been an issue fought by neighborhood groups. Convincing local neighborhood associations to advocate for the natural environment emerged in small amounts; with individual neighbors taking the first steps in advocacy and later encouraging the surrounding organization to do the same. Among the most well-known neighbor -led activist movements surrounding environmental conservation revolved around current NENA board member Anne Hauswrath - founding member of the Wetlands Coalition. [65]

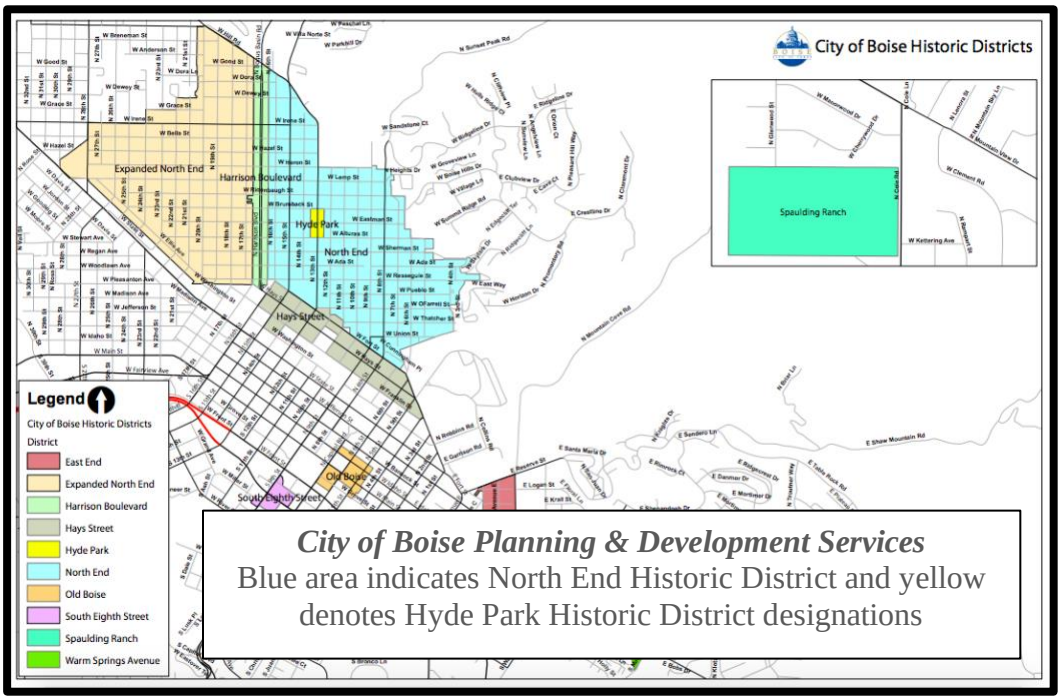
A resident of the North End since 1977, Hauswrath and her neighbor, Judy Ouderkirk, used to walk three to four times a week through the Hulls Gulch Reserve at the base of the Boise foothills. During one of their walks, they saw mounds of dirt being dumped near Camel's Back Park. Hauswrath soon discovered that a large housing development would replace their beloved nature conservatory. The two women determined that the only way to prevent such a project would be by creating their own organization – the Wetlands Coalition. The two women not only succeeded in preserving the Lower Hulls Gulch area, but Hauswrath also began a community movement that led to the Foothills Levy in 2000.[66] This Levy has allowed the City of Boise to invest in the protection of approximately 11,500 acres of Foothills open space.[67]

[64] City of Boise Planning & Development Services, "Blueprint Boise," (Boise, ID: City of Boise Planning & Development Services, 2011), 2-24 https://pds.cityofboise.org/media/151839/bb_chapter_2-06142018.pdf

[65] Dr. Jennifer Stevens, "Hulls Angels: Planning a Mountain Town and Saving Boise's Foothills, 1965-2001," (Boise, ID: Stevens Historical Research Associates, 2006,), 173.

[66] Anne Hauswrath, interview with Emily Fritchman, 5 February 2020, Boise State University Special Collections and Archives.

Hauswrath states that this is the first time she had ever heard of the term "NIMBY"- a neighborhood activism acronym that stands for "Not in My Backyard." This expression describes the phenomenon in which residents of a neighborhood protest a new development or



change in the existing landscape as inappropriate or unwanted for their area.[68] The difference between achieving a balanced good for all neighbors and exclusionary, NIMBY behaviors comes down to whether or not all members of the neighborhood are included in the decision-making process. Advocating for the common good means that the needs of all community members are taken into account rather than simply the selfish desires of a small group. Hauswrath argues that, while development can be positive, infill that puts the environment and comfort of citizens at risk should be discouraged. Though she is currently a member of the North End Neighborhood

[67] Parks and Recreation, "Open Space Levy Fund Purchase to Expand Hillside to Hollow Reserve," Boise, ID: City of Boise, 20 February 2019), https://www.cityofboise.org/news/parks-and-recreation/2019/february/open-space-levy-fund-purchase-to-expand-hillside-to-hollow-reserve/

[68] "NIMBY (Not in My Backyard)," *Canadian Observatory on Homeless*, 2019. https://www.homelesshub.ca/solutions/affordable-housing/nimby-not-my-backyard

Association, Hauswrath states that NENA was originally uncomfortable with backing the Wetlands Coalition and environmental conservation. It's likely that NENA did not want to protest such a large development because members of the organization's board would be running for elected office in the future.[69]

Anne Hauswrath successfully ran for Boise City Council in 1991 and won. As both a city councilwoman and member of NENA, she was able to influence her local neighborhood association and the greater community – advocating in favor of placemaking and environmental conservation during her tenure with Boise City Council.[70] Though Hauswrath created the Wetlands Coalition separately from NENA, her role as a member of both groups allowed for the neighborhood association to further develop their stance on issues regarding environmental conservation. Today, the North End Neighborhood Association details in their neighborhood plan that they want to both encourage the creation of natural spaces by conserving, enhancing, and protecting experiences with nature and design sustainable infrastructure systems that are focused on climate resilience.[71]

Managing Urban Density

Each of the aforementioned calls for activism pertain to the increased need to manage urban sprawl and density. As the City of Boise has grown, tools for regulating new development are continuously being designed. This is a pattern that occurred during the original population explosion in the 1970s and has continued into the current wave of expansion. Advocating for

[69] Anne Hauswrath, interview with Emily Fritchman, 5 February 2020, Boise State University Special Collections and Archives.

[70] Anne Hauswrath, interview with Emily Fritchman.

[71] North End Neighborhood Plan "Neighborhood Plan Goals," (Boise, ID: *City of Boise Planning & Development Services*, January 2020.) https://www.cityofboise.org/media/9773/neneighborhoodplan-goals-objectives-r.pdf

stricter guidelines for urban development in downtown neighborhoods has played a significant role in managing density. In order to understand the effects of urban density and sprawl in the Treasure Valley, one must first look at the capacity of the land and identify its best uses.[72] The issue of density has proven to be prominent throughout Boise's history. While members of local government tend to favor the addition of new development as a means of preventing urban sprawl, these decisions often conflict with the desires of neighbors who have grown accustomed to a more private, spacious way of life.[73] Presently, increased density in Boise occurs as a means of creating affordable housing for the cost burdened in the Treasure Valley.[74] However, historically, members of surrounding neighborhood associations affected by these developments are both disfavor the design and occupancy levels of such projects and seek to maintain existing properties .

A historic exchange between a Seattle-based development company and Boise's Depot Bench Neighborhood Association serves as an example of the often strained relationship that exists between neighborhood organizations and large-scale developments. In 2004-05, a proposed multi-unit complex designed by Clark Development met massive disapproval by members of the Depot Bench Neighborhood Association. This project, aptly titled the Crescent Rim Condominiums, is located at 3005 Crescent Rim Drive in Boise and overlooks both Boise State University and Downtown Boise. The land purchased by the development company

[72] Todd Shallat, Brandi Burns, and Larry Burke, *Growing Closer: Density and Sprawl in the Boise Valley*, (Boise, ID: Boise State University, College of Social Science and Public Affairs, 2011), 13.

[73] City of Boise Planning & Development Services, "Blueprint Boise," (Boise, ID: City of Boise Planning & Development Services, 2011), 2-24 https://pds.cityofboise.org/media/151839/bb_chapter_2-06142018.pdf

[74] KTVB Staff, " Boise's affordable housing problem gets spotlight in national study," (Boise, ID: KTVB News Channel 7, 2019). https://www.ktvb.com/article/news/local/growing-idaho/boises-affordable-housing-problem-gets-spotlight-in-national-study/277-68093c83-2a28-4325-8476-665aaf0f6d4f

included combined zoning uses, including R-1C (single-family), R-3D (multi-family), and A-1 (open-space). Neighbors in the Depot district feared that the high-density project had both an architectural design that was incompatible with the character of the community and would unnecessarily increase traffic flow.[75] Though over one hundred neighbors made an appearance at the city public hearing on 4 May 2005, the development was unanimously approved by the Planning and Zoning Commission on the condition that the number of units would be reduced and the developer would reimagine a design that divided the structure from just one building into four. Author Cindy Gould of the chapter "Does Dense Make Sense?" in the piece *Growing Closer: Density and Urban Sprawl in the Boise Valley* cites infill along Crescent Rim Drive on the Depot Bench as an historic example of a contested high-density project.[76]

While the Depot Bench NA was troubled by the potential for increased occupancy that would result from Clark Development's proposal, other neighborhood groups seek to preserve existing properties as a means of maintaining affordable housing for newcomers. Preservationists argue that older homes may be rented at a lower cost than new construction. According to former president of the National Trust for Historic Preservation Stephanie Meeks, not only does this strategy preserve historic structures, but also provides an affordable housing solution for the community.[77] Meeks argues: "In city after city, we have found that neighborhoods with older, smaller buildings and mixed-age blocks tend to provide more units of affordable rental housing… they are also denser than newer areas."[78] Recent battles regarding infill have been

[75] Ibid, 95-97.

[76] Todd Shallat, Brandi Burns, and Larry Burke, *Growing Closer: Density and Sprawl in the Boise Valley*, (Boise, ID: Boise State University, College of Social Science and Public Affairs, 2011), 91.

[77] Stephanie Meeks, "Density Without Demolition," *City Lab*, June 11 2017. https://www.citylab.com/equity/2017/06/historic-preservation-density-demolition/529821/

[78] Ibid.

taking place in high numbers near the growing Boise State University in the Southeast Boise neighborhood districts. Original South Boise, located adjacent to the University, is a largely working-class neighborhood with a median income of approximately $35,000. Many of the individuals in this neighborhood are renters rather than homeowners and only 25% of residents possess a university degree.[79] According to former SENA president Fred Fritchman, neighbors in this community seek to maintain existing single-family homes as a means of providing affordable housing for renters and young, potential homeowners, as this group serves as the largest demographic.[80]

On 21 September 2018, the Director of Planning & Development Services approved an application by developer John Hale to construct a ten-bedroom duplex in an R-2D zone (medium density residential with design review.) Located in the neighborhood southeast of Boise State University, this duplex will sit near the corner of South Manitou Avenue and West Hale Street. The applicant intends to demolish the existing single-family unit and construct a duplex in its place. Members of the Original South Boise Neighborhood Association submitted an appeal to Boise City Council to reconsider Planning & Development Service's decision regarding approval of the structure.[81] As outlined in the city's Comprehensive Plan the goals and policies for Southeast Boise include: "Preserve existing single-family neighborhoods, where possible, south of BSU (north of Boise Avenue, south of Beacon Street between Capitol Boulevard and

[79] "South Boise Village," in *City of Boise Neighborhood Data Almanac*, Vol. 1. (Boise, ID: City of Boise Planning & Development Services, March 20, 2020,) 82. https://www.cityofboise.org/media/9760/almanac_march2020_fulldoc.pdf

[80] Fred Fritchman, interview with Emily Fritchman, January 29, 2020, Boise State University Special Collection & Archives.

[81] Boise City Clerk, "City Council Meeting Minutes, March 5, 2019," (Boise, ID: City of Boise, 2019) http://boisecityid.iqm2.com/Citizens/FileOpen.aspx?Type=12&ID=2636&Inline=True

Broadway Avenue)."[82] Testimony by neighbors reveals that the rezone is not consistent with the aforementioned goals. This appeal was presented with support from NENA board members, who agreed that a "moratorium" should be set in place until a policy that recognizes these duplexes as requiring separate zoning can be approved.[83] Similar to the controversy that took place on Crescent Rim a decade earlier, this development project was met with unanimous approval by city council. This decision resulted in the demolition of a single-family residence and was replaced by a multi-unit "dormitory" style residence in spring of 2020.

Both the Depot Bench and Original South Boise neighborhood associations acknowledge that increased growth and density are to be expected when residing in urban districts. However, the ongoing challenge faced by these organizations is whether or not development projects effectively meet the needs of their communities. Blueprint Boise makes the argument that the city "will strive to maintain a predictable development pattern in which each part of the community has a distinct character and style. Growth will be planned in a manner that protects the quality of life valued by the city's residents and helps the city maintain fiscal health."[84] Approved development proposals do not always match the values of the neighborhood. Though the battle against high-density development continues to be fought by members of Downtown Boise neighborhood associations, activists remain diligent in ensuring the preservation of historical and livable communities.

[82] Ibid.

[83] Ibid.

[84] City of Boise Planning & Development Services, "Blueprint Boise," (Boise, ID: City of Boise, 2011), 2-2 https://pds.cityofboise.org/media/151839/bb_chapter_2-06142018.pdf

PART V: A HISTORY OF CONFLICT AND EXCLUSION

Modern neighborhood activists, especially those whose oral histories are documented as part of this project, seek to unite and work towards what they see as the collective good. However, the earliest forms of neighborhood organizing have deep roots in race and class-based oppression. Scholars of activist and neighborhood history reveal that while these organizations can be positive under proper leadership, they have historically been capable of exclusion and discrimination. Throughout the United States, neighbors in both urban and rural communities sought to maintain the status quo - creating restrictive real estate covenants, threatening and harassing minorities, and increasing housing costs as a means of keeping the economically disenfranchised from living in their neighborhoods.[85] Though many of these specific patterns have effectively been retired during the onset of the twenty-first century neighborhood group, the early histories of these organizations reveal much about how and why they first emerged.

Relationship Between Race, Class, and Neighborhoods

Throughout the early and mid-twentieth century, racially restrictive housing covenants dominated the landscape of America's neighborhoods. Between the 1920s-1960s, policies were created and maintained by members of the community as a means of restricting Asian, Latino, and African-American families from owning property in their neighborhoods - specifically in the dense, urban communities of St. Louis, Detroit, Seattle, and throughout the American South.[86] Minority groups moved into these areas unaware of the policies that had been set in place by organizers. Ultimately, these individuals and families were exposed to violence and harassment,

[85] Kevin Kruse, *White Flight: Atlanta and the Making of Modern Conservatism,* (Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press, 2007),

[86] Catherine Silva, "Racial Restrictive Covenants History: Enforcing Neighborhood Segregation in Seattle," *The Seattle Civil Rights & Labor History Project,* (Seattle, WA: University of Washington, 2008), https://depts.washington.edu/civilr/covenants_report.htm

forcing them to relocate into lower-income communities for their own safety. However, these covenants were protected under the Fourteenth Amendment, which allowed for private housing clauses, and could not be regulated by the courts. Though the 1948 U.S. Supreme Court case *Shelley v. Kraemer* ruled that restrictive private housing covenants are legally unenforceable under the Equal Protection Clause, the establishment of these policies continued to be legal nationwide.[87]

Kruse's *White Flight* analyzes the relationship between neighborhood organizations, race, and class. During this period, the term "community" was often used as a means of separating desirable residents from "undesirable" minorities. The process of racial desegregation during the 1950s and 60s allowed for the migration of black Americans into traditionally white communities. Though whites may have not been members of neighborhood groups prior to desegregation, the looming threat of integration prompted Euro-Americans to ban together as a means of preventing minorities from settling in their communities.[88] Atlanta's establishment of the West Side Mutual Development Committee (WSMDC) reflects this white resistance movement. The city's mayor selected six prominent, white community members to run this group - placing them in charge of investigating neighborhoods that were "threatened" by desegregation.[89] Atlanta's newly established neighborhood groups reached out to the WSMDC for protection - often using the term "community" in their pleas for help from the organization.[90]

[87] *Shelley v. Kraemer*, 334 U.S. 1 (1948).

[88] Kruse, *White Flight*, 79.

[89] Ibid, 75.

[90] Ibid, 79.

By weaponizing the concept of community development, neighborhoods throughout Atlanta were able to maintain segregationist policies via gentlemen's agreements.

Discriminatory neighborhood organizing was not exclusive to dense, urban cities. In Idaho, restrictive neighborhood ordinances existed in abundance between the 1930s and 60s.[91] Boise's African-American River Street district serves as a reflection of the effects of racially-motivated neighborhood organizing. During this time, local landlords and property owners refused to rent or sell homes to minorities in certain parts of town. Portions of Boise historically considered to be wealthy and suburban were typically owned by whites. These areas were deemed off-limits to African-American residents, and included the North End, East End, and Bench neighborhoods.[92] Minorities were thus forced into lower-income districts set apart from the rest of the city. Among these included the River Street neighborhood, a section of Downtown carved out during the 1890s and early 1900s and located between the railroad and Boise River.[93] The creation of a geographically separated district served to divide non-Euroamerican Boiseans from the white population.

Long-time Boisean Dorothy Buckner argued that the division of minorities from whites in the community began to take place after World War II. Buckner stated that while African-Americans lived throughout Boise, "there are areas that [community members] definitely did not

[91] Jill Gill, "The Civil Rights Movement in Idaho," *The Blue Review: Popular Scholarship in the Public Interest,* October 6, 2014. https://thebluereview.org/civil-rights-movement-idaho/

[92] Jill Gill, *Idaho in Black and White: Race, Civil Rights and the Gem State's Image.* Fettuccini Forum, City Hall, Boise City Department of Arts and History. (Boise, ID: March 14, 2019.)

[93] "Birth of the River Street Neighborhood," *River Street Digital History Project,* (Boise, ID: 2017,) http://www.riverstreethistory.com/evolution-of-river-street/birth-of-the-river-street-neighborhood/

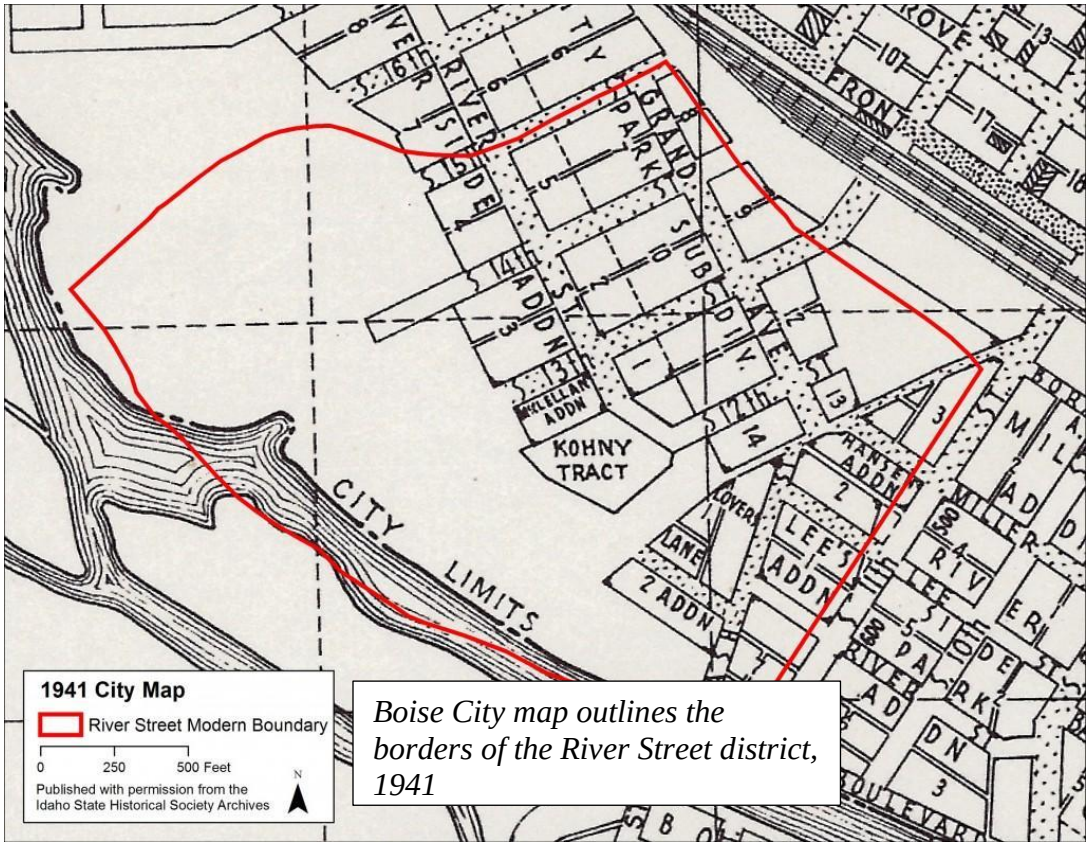
want Blacks in."[94] She recalled that restrictive homeowner associations and housing covenants abounded. The Buckner family relocated from the River Street neighborhood into a new home on the North End's Nineteenth Street in the early 1960s, a relatively affluent and predominantly white neighborhood. Upon their arrival, a large cross was set ablaze in their front lawn. Buckner would keep the burned relic for years to come as a reminder of the struggle that her family had, and would continue, to face.[95]

The state of Idaho have attempted to combat oppression by neighborhood organizers and the denial of fair housing under local non-discrimination ordinances and legislation. The Idaho Human Rights Commission (IHRC) was established in 1969 alongside creation of a statewide Human Rights Act.[96] Designing both anti-discriminatory legislation and the IHRC mirrored

[94] Dorothy Buckner, "Lee Street", typed transcript of an interview by Mateo Osa, January 23, 1981, in Boise, Idaho, Idaho Oral History Center, Oral History #562, Boise, ID: 21.

[95] Ibid, 20.

[96] [Idaho Statute] Commission on Human Rights, 1969 Leg., § 67-5909 (ID. 1969)



Boise City map outlines the borders of the River Street district, 1941

national policy, in which the Supreme Court created additional layers of protection for ethnic and cultural minority groups under the Equal Protection Clause.[97] The 1968 statewide fair housing law was also established in an attempt to eradicate discrimination. Though local and state officials were taking steps in the right direction, blacks continued to experience discrimination in their homes and neighborhoods - as made evident by the Buckner's experience living in the North End. In 1971, a federal Housing and Urban Development administrator criticized Idaho's fair housing law as weak and in need of improvement.[98]

The Idaho Human Rights Act specifies that discrimination against a person on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, or national origin is forbidden. Specifically, section eight of the

[97] [Amendment] U.S. Const. Amend. XIV. Sec 1. [Article] U.S. Const. Article I. Sec. 1. Cl. 1.

[98] Jill Gill, *Multiple Property Documentation Form Historical Context, Untold Stories: The African American Civil Rights Movement in Idaho,* for Idaho's State Historic Preservation Office, (Boise, ID: July 23, 2019), 52.

legislation outlines discrimination relative to real estate transactions – refusing to partake in real estate transactions with certain persons, discriminating against a person in housing transaction terms and limits, and refusing to share property listings with certain people are all forbidden under the statewide Human Rights Act. Likewise, the Fair Housing Act prohibits discrimination in the sale of housing or rentals on the basis of race, color, and national origin. Though this legislation does not include neighborhood associations in its language, outlining policies pertaining to real estate and housing forbids community groups from legally discriminating against minorities.

The Threat of Differing Opinions

Scholars and professionals of neighborhood organizing argue that the identification of community values are essential to enacting meaningful change.[99] Authors of *Slow Democracy* Susan Clark and Woden Teachout assert that democracy has foundations in common interest and equal respect.[100] *Slow Democracy* recognizes that not every citizen will agree. Thus, the implementation of effective conflict management skills are essential when forming any community organization. However, while identifying common goals plays an important role in the formation of any group, it is neither possible nor realistic for neighbors to always be in agreement with one another.

Narrator Mark Baltes recalls his early involvement with NENA as being a bit different than what he had expected. When Baltes first became interested in the organization, he recalls neighbors engaging in violent physical and verbal altercations with each other – often

[99] Susan Clark and Woden Teachout, *Slow Democracy: Rediscovering Community, Bringing Decision Making Back Home,* (White River Junction, VT: Chelsea Green Publishing, 2012,) 155.

[100] Ibid, 155.

disagreeing on how to communicate effectively with the local government and debating over which neighborhood issues should take precedence. Baltes recalls that NENA election ballots had to be divided into two separate categories because members could not come to a consensus.[101] North End neighbors found themselves constantly split on issues intended to unite. After years of contentious and failed attempts at community organizing, the division among NENA members forced a restructuring of the group around 2000.

As made evident by Baltes' experiences, members of neighborhood organizations do not always agree on which issues to combat and how to enact meaningful change. There are those who are in the minority and those whose views dominate. Neighbors who are generally in favor of increased urban development, against the preservation of historic properties, or lack environmental conscientiousness historically have tended to hold unpopular positions among community activists in Boise. Thus, these individuals run the risk of being disregarded for their opinions. When reflecting upon the oral histories conducted for this project, the majority of those that hold leadership positions in Boise's neighborhood associations argue in favor of free and diverse expression. However, many neighborhood activists would rather eliminate opposing views rather than encourage an open dialogue.

Neighborhood associations in Boise serve as an avenue for communication between city government and community members. However, Clark and Teachout of *Slow Democracy* argue that "citizens of all political persuasions have a tendency to ignore information they don't want to hear… then, we're wired *not* to take in new information that threatens our existing beliefs."[102] Neighborhood organizations are faced with the decision to either include or exclude those whose

[101] Mark Baltes, interview with Emily Fritchman, January 29 2020, Boise State University Special Collections & Archives.

[102] Clark and Teachout, *Slow Democracy*, 83.

worldviews differ from the majority. Though effective democratic systems encourage neighborhood groups to be inclusive, differences in morality, politics, and values will always influence the dynamic of the organization. Whether or not a variety of opinions will be welcomed by the community is not always guaranteed.

The Watchdog Role of Neighborhood Groups

The historic changes and policies implemented throughout Boise as a result of neighborhood organizations indicates the role that passionate community members play as local activists. Ultimately, neighborhood associations not only drive and inspire the city's vision, but also serve as watchdogs. Thus holding government officials accountable regarding legislation and policy-making. As the community continues to expand, a greater number of neighbors will seek resources and support from those close to home. Local leaders have proven to be receptive to meeting the preservation and environmental needs of neighborhood groups – the redesign of Boise's comprehensive plan reflects this openness to change.

Governmental commitment to maintaining the integrity of local communities is outlined in chapter three of Blueprint Boise, stating: "Boise is characterized by its many strong, healthy neighborhoods that are well-defined by geography, history, unique design, and by the social interaction of the residents, there is a feeling of community in these neighborhoods, and individual identity has not been lost… Although many of the city's neighborhoods will continue to evolve over time, protective measures may be necessary in some locations to ensure that each neighborhood's distinguishing characteristics are retained."[103] This excerpt argues that while

[103] City of Boise Planning & Development Services, "Blueprint Boise," Boise, ID: City of Boise (2011), SE-10 https://pds.cityofboise.org/media/114868/blueprintboise_06142018_web.pdf, 2-36.

Boise is both unique and unusual, the city will continue to grow over the time. It is the responsibility of local government officials to protect the city's feeling of history, community, and identity while these changes take place.

This growth also means that neighborhood groups will continue to be established and redeveloped. A recent addition to the list of registered community organizations is the Central Bench Neighborhood Association, bound by Overland Road, Roosevelt Street, Curtis Road and Alpine Street. In 2016, the Central Bench NA applied for funding from the City of Boise's Neighborhood Reinvestment Grant program to conduct a planning process and produce a neighborhood plan. City neighborhood planning and the neighborhood reinvestment program is a collaborative effort between the city and neighborhood associations to guide the future of Boise's neighborhoods.[104] The Central Bench is among the most culturally diverse and affordable of the neighborhoods surrounding the Downtown core - containing a blend of refugees, Latino, Asian, and white-Americans. This working-class neighborhood possesses a median annual household income of approximately $20,000-30,000 and is primarily renter versus owner occupied.[105] The emergence of this organization is indicative of the evolving desire to include the voices of minorities and the working-class in Boise's continued vision.

Exploring the history of neighborhood associations in Boise represents a grander narrative that prevails throughout urban American culture. A neighborhood cannot exclusively be defined as a geographic region, but as a space that fosters a significant connection between

[104] City of Boise Planning & Development Services, "Neighborhood Planning," Boise, ID: City of Boise. https://www.cityofboise.org/departments/planning-and-development-services/planning-and-zoning/comprehensive-planning/neighborhood-planning/

[105] "Central Bench," in *City of Boise Neighborhood Data Almanac*, Vol. 1. (Boise, ID: City of Boise Planning & Development Services, March 20, 2020,) 24. https://www.cityofboise.org/media/9760/almanac_march2020_fulldoc.pdf

citizens and their sense of place. Preserving historic structures, encouraging environmental sustainability, and advocating in favor of effective urban density management serve as reflections of those that live within the bounds of their communities. Recognizing the prominent role that place plays in the historical narrative establishes the foundation for neighborhood preservation. The history of neighborhood organizing in Boise is reflected in the policies that are set forth today. Ultimately, the actions of local community groups have effectively promoted manageable urbanization strategies, heritage preservation, and environmental conservation. When at their best, these groups contribute to the City of Boise's vision to become the "most livable city in the country."[106]

PART VI: FINAL REFLECTION

This research project has provided me with the opportunity to explore new avenues for public history, expand my understanding of historical research methods and theory, and strengthen my professional skill set. The opportunity to engage with and create something for the community has been a rewarding experience. Ultimately, the goal of this research is to not only inform the public on the history and impact of Boise's neighborhood associations, but also explore further opportunities for growth among community groups. Namely, how these organizations may be more inclusive and diverse in both membership and action, which I believe this research does effectively. However, there are research elements that I wish had been done differently and more thoroughly. These changes are primarily related to the way in which the research was conducted and scope of the project in its entirety. Future implementation of these revisions will provide the project with greater scholastic integrity and allow for greater inclusion among community members.

[106] LIV Boise, "Liv Boise," Boise, ID: City of Boise (2017), https://www.livboise.org/

The primary elements to be expanded in this project center upon both the quantity and scope of oral history interviews conducted. In retrospect, including oral histories with city planners, developers, and members of local government would provide the audience with a greater diversity of opinion. These individuals generally hold differing ideas on the strengths and weaknesses of neighborhood organizations than the active members who were interviewed in for this project. While community activists are often focused on making decisions that will benefit their neighborhood, private developers or those who work for the city often have a different set of interests in mind. Interviews with these figures would provide the public with a greater understanding as to the potential conflict of opinion that exists.

In addition to including a greater scope of experiences from those outside of the neighborhood association community, increasing the amount of interviews with neighbors would provide the foundation for stronger scholarship. The oral histories found in this research primarily focused on the North End, Bench, and Southeast Boise neighborhoods. Community members living in West Boise, near the airport, or in rural areas likely experience different challenges than those located near the downtown core. Documenting this range of experiences as oral histories provides greater context for future researchers. Additionally, highlighting the stories of these neighbors allows for increased inclusion of community members.

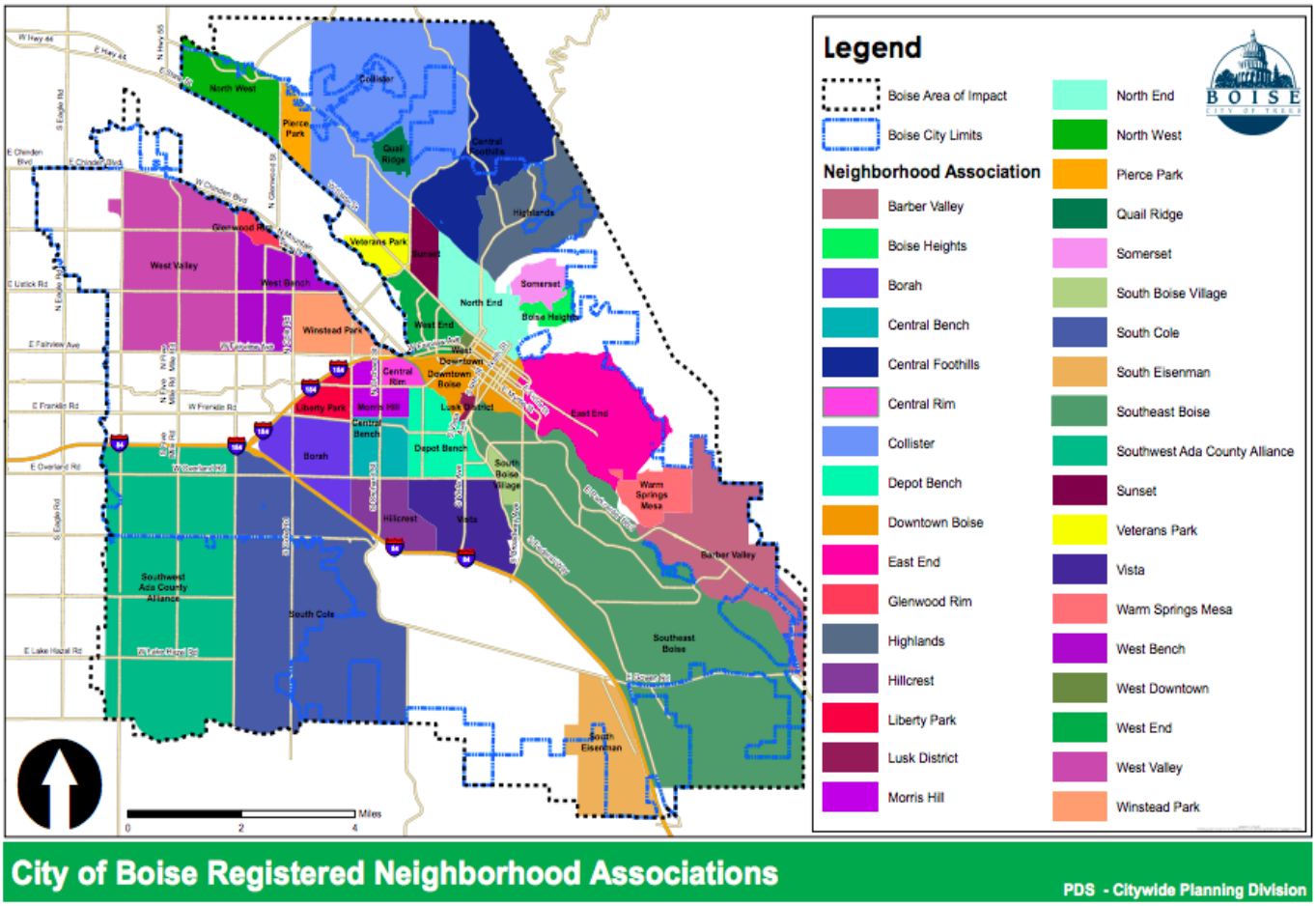
As someone who was raised by active neighborhood association members, it is difficult to approach this research from a neutral perspective. The accomplishments of local neighborhood groups are extensive. However, that does not mean that community organizations are not without fault. As Clark and Teachout argue in *Slow Democracy,* human beings are imperfect and are not always in agreement on issues of morality, politics, and decision-

making.[107] In describing the history of neighborhood organizations, exploring the nature of human institutions provides the audience with a greater understanding as to the reality of activism and community engagement. Additionally, continuing to unpack the ways in which neighborhoods have historically responded to issues of race, class, and affordable housing will provide readers with a greater understanding as to the strengths and potential pitfalls that emerge relative to community activism. Remembering to be aware of these differences and conflict will guide my scholarship going forward.

This project is intended not only for future scholars and researchers, but for the Boise community as a whole. The historian seeks answers to the truth by looking to the past. In the context of this research, choosing to study a topic of personal significance forced me to challenge any previous misconceptions or biases regarding neighborhood organizations. Choosing a project of this nature provided me with the opportunity to challenge my own beliefs and preconceptions – a task that the historian is encouraged to meet. In describing the history of local community organizing in this way, future scholars and neighbors are given the opportunity to draw their own conclusions however they see fit.

[107] Clark and Teachout, *Slow Democracy*, 83.

FIGURE 1: CITY OF BOISE REGISTERED NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATIONS[108]



[108] City of Boise "City of Boise Registered Neighborhood Associations," (Boise, ID: City of Boise Planning https://www.cityofboise.org/programs/energize/neighborhood-associations/

FIGURE 2: ORAL HISTORY RELEASE

RELEASE OF RECORDS AND OTHER MATERIAL TO BOISE STATE SPECIAL COLLECTIONS AND ARCHIVES AND THE BOISE STATE UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

We, _____and _____

(NARRATOR) (INTERVIEWER)

hereby give, grant, and donate this (these) recording(s) and all other related material – such as indexes or transcripts – along with any and all rights, including copyright, therein to the Boise State University Special Collections and Archives and the Boise State University Department of History. We understand that conferring these rights to the Special Collections and History Department does not prohibit us from using this (these) interview(s) for original work of our own creation, as long as we give Special Collections and the Department of History attribution.

These recordings are considered a gift to the Boise State University Special Collections and Department of History for such scholarly and educational purposes – including, but not limited to, use in books, articles, newsletters, public presentations, museums exhibits, lectures, websites – as at their sole discretion they shall determine.

The space below or on the reverse side is given for us to place any restrictions on this (these) interview(s).

Restrictions:

Date of Interview

Location of Interview

Narrator's Signature	**Interviewer's Signature**
Narrator's Address & Phone Number	**Interviewer's Address & Phone Number**

FIGURE 3: INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

2019-2020

1. How long have you lived in Boise?
2. How did you become active in your neighborhood?
3. What were some important neighborhood activities/events that you were involved in? What impact did that have on your neighborhood?
4. Could you tell me what you think the role of neighborhood associations in Boise should be?
5. What effects do you think your neighborhood association has had on its residents? How has it made a difference for the people who live here?
6. What advice would you give to a group of neighbors wanting to start their own organization?
7. What do you think has worked or what does not work regarding neighborhood activism?
8. What other stories of your neighborhood would you like to share or think are meaningful?

FIGURE 4: BALTES, MARK – SAMPLE ORAL HISTORY SUMMARY

ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW SUMMARY FORM	
PROJECT NAME: "Finding Common Purpose: An Oral History of Neighborhood Associations in Boise, Idaho"	
Narrator	**Interviewer**
Mark Baltes	Emily Fritchman
[redacted]	[redacted]
Interview Date	**Interview Length**
01/29/2020	1.6 hours
Interview Location: Boise Public Library, Main Floor, 715 S Capitol Blvd, Boise, ID 83702	
Recording Medium	**Delivery Medium**
Digital audio	Sound file
Technical Notes: Audio recorded using Voice Recorder application for iPhone, Movo Professional Lavalier Lapel Clip-on Microphones. Format recorded in .mp3.	
Interview Notes: - Mild to moderate white noise and voices can be heard in the background from fellow library visitors – but the microphones picked up all of the interview.\ - At around 25:50/32:15, the narrator refers to the Neighborhood Data Almanac sitting on the table and the sound of pages being flipped can be heard in the background.	

- Narrator seemed relaxed and is a family friend – rapport is casual rather than formal.
Date Donor Form Signed: January 29th, 2020
Proper Names and Keywords: Mark Baltes, North End Neighborhood Association (NENA), Neighborhood Data Almanac, Boise Working Together, Activism Action Steps, Hyde Park Street Fair, North End Historic District, historic preservation, planning & zoning

Summary of Interview Content:

0:00 Introductions

0:11 Moving to Boise – Early Days

1:37 Boise in the 1970s – Frustrating, not much to do in the city

2:**55** Boise grows more vibrant

3:22 Relocating to different Boise neighborhoods

4:15 Appeal of North End, walkability, large tree canopy, diversity of neighborhood – has lived in 17th St house since Aug. 1995

5:47 Early involvement in neighborhood activism

8:05 Joining the North End Neighborhood Association (NENA) – early problems, challenges, transition in leadership, shift in approach

10:45 Working as NENA's historic preservation board member

11:48 Boise 1890 program at the Egyptian Theater

12:30 Personal passion for historic preservation and architecture

14:55 Significant neighborhood events & activities with NENA

15:40 Professionally managing Hyde Park Street Fair (1979-present)

19:48 Popularity of Hyde Park Street Fair, appeal of North End

22:05 Why people are attracted to traditional, historic neighborhoods

26:15 People relocating to Boise – drawn to walkability, safety

27:56 NENA's relationship with Boise City Hall – rezoning, redesign of 8th and 9th streets, Harrison Boulevard

31:10 Establishment of North End as historic district and historic overlay creation, 2002-2004

33:03 Appointed member of Historic Preservation Commission for one term

33:34 Process of creating North End historic overlay district

35:08 Historic overlay pushback from neighbors, St. Luke's Hospital

37:54 Involvement with creation of City Department of Arts & History – briefly stepped away from neighborhood association (NA)

38:44 Neighbors can burn out from involvement in NAs

40:22 How to encourage neighbors to return or get involved in their NA

43:34 Importance of getting neighbors to see results

44:06 Narrator's leadership roles within NENA

48:00 NENA's outreach, nonprofit involvement with environmental groups

52:33 NENA's unique income stream requires responsibility – generous group of board members, help other NAs

54:42 The role of NAs in Boise – point of contact, help incoming and current neighbors, conduit to city government

61:26 Navigating neighbors with a variety of different opinions, sharing personal experience

63:52 NENA split around 1999

68:28 How NENA's reputation has evolved in the past twenty years

69:27 The importance of relationship building

70:10 Positive changes that have been made during narrator's time with NENA

70:33 Design guidelines affect new development, planning & zoning, historic preservation environmental conservation

74:05 Block 75, Cathedral of the Rockies vacant block – parking restrictions

80:05 Being an example of how neighbors can work and collaborate with developers

83:07 What works and what does not when working with neighbors – knowledge and listening

84:18 Asked to give presentation on activism for Idaho Smart Growth

85:02 Narrator's five action words of activism: motivation, activation, collaboration, participation, education – communication is the glue that holds them together

88:26 Advice that narrator would give to a group of neighbors that wanted to start their own NA

92:38 Defining the success of a NA

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Shelley v. Kraemer. 334 U.S. 1. 1948.

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