



Rebecca Casper, I, mayor of Idaho Falls, enjoys a light moment at an area of city impact training led by Idaho Smart Growth in Idaho Falls in February.

NEWS

GOOD GROWTH

Spring 2015



IDAHO
SMART
GROWTH

and 2014 Annual Report

Planning to grow, smartly

Idaho Smart Growth has provided education, advocacy and technical assistance to Idahoans for 15 years. In that time we have become a stronger and more effective organization, and we want to build on the strengths given us by previous staff, board members and supporters. We are redoubling our efforts to help Idahoans build great places to live and have seen an increase in requests for our help from communities and partners around the state. We are looking into ways of expanding our capabilities, carefully and sustainably. Here are some those ways.

First, we're expanding our capacity organically. This year we increased the hours of two employees, now our staff is three full-time and one part-time. But there's more work to be done, and to step up to it we are looking at ways to build our bench, through staffing, contracts and internships.

With improved capacity, we need to improve our facilities. Idaho Smart Growth has been in our current office in downtown Boise since our founding in 2000. In May we are remodeling the office, for a shakedown and to give us more effective working space. Our friends at the Sonna Building are donating the work; stay tuned for an update!

In order to take advantage of the opportunities around us, we first need to increase the support we get from our members across Idaho. Individual donations are extremely important: it's what gives us the in-house capacity to respond to requests for training or assistance from communities around the state. And critically, donations are the only way we can fund our more direct advocacy and lobbying efforts, at both the local and state legislative levels. Our grant-funded projects

+1 means if you like our work, bring a friend and let's double our impact

strictly forbid lobbying activities, so in order to be more active champions of smart growth and sustainable development in Idaho we need more individual support. So we are embarking on a membership campaign we're calling "+1." Plus one, or "like," in the language of social media, means we are asking all of our friends and supporters to double down in support of ISG. Since you value our work, and see the need for more of it, please introduce us to one more friend who might share your interest. If all of us bring in a new member—or double our giving—we can have twice the impact and stimulate real, positive effects in Idaho communities.

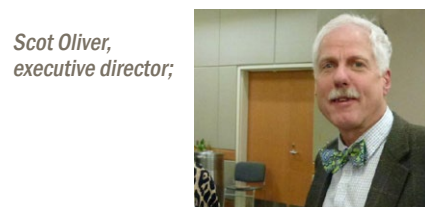
Meet the Staff



Deanna Smith, program coordinator;



Kate Rodriguez, administrator;



Scot Oliver, executive director;



Elaine Clegg, program coordinator.

Idaho Falls Area of Impact

Idaho Smart Growth works with local leaders to build a framework for good growth



Participants in the workshop rank preferred growth scenarios.

Idaho continues to grow, and most of the growth is in urban areas: in fact, over 70% of the state's population is urban, according to the 2010 census. With growth inevitably comes growing pains, often concentrated at the city edges, its area of impact. Idaho code requires agreements between cities and counties on areas of impact (AOI), but doesn't offer much guidance. To help address AOI concerns, Idaho Smart Growth, with the University of Idaho College of Law, Urban Land Institute Idaho Council and other partners, created the Area of City Impact Tool Kit in 2012 (available on our website: www.idahosmartgrowth.org/best-practices/.)

Often a toolkit alone is not enough guidance, and Idaho Smart Growth also offers presentations and workshops on area-of-impact issues. In February we provided a day-long training in Idaho Falls to help city officials and their counterparts in Bonneville County begin to build a framework for updating their AOI agreement from 2001. In advance of the training a series of phone interviews helped uncover some of the current concerns and areas of conflict. For the workshop we partnered with Jerry Mason, attorney with the Association of Idaho Cities, to provide the legal framework and best practices. The morning session was a general overview of the AOI legislation and related issues, attended by representatives from several nearby cities and counties. In the afternoon, planners and officials from Idaho Falls and Bonneville County held a frank and productive session dedicated to finding common ground for moving ahead together. The city and county now have a better shared understanding as they work to update their AOI agreement.

Our ability to provide professional facilitation and training proved helpful in Idaho Falls. Currently ISG is working with the city of McCall and Valley County on a similar project and other jurisdictions around the state have expressed interest. We are looking into funders and partners to update the AOI toolkit and provide more training opportunities around the state.

Member Column: Clay Carley

Historic Preservation is Risky and Requires Teamwork

The National Trust for Historic Preservation's recent report entitled "Older, Smaller, Better" states, "Based upon statistical analysis of the built fabric of three major American cities, this research finds that established neighborhoods with a mix of older, smaller buildings perform better than districts with larger, newer structures when tested against a range of economic, social, and environmental outcome measures."



Preserving existing assets is expensive and very risky. Older buildings have usually been altered significantly at different points during their lifetime. This means many problems are concealed and not factored into initial cost analysis. As a result, many urban developers avoid historic renovation and pursue more predictable project outcomes with new construction.

The renovation of the Owyhee Plaza Hotel was no exception. Many cost overruns and time delays occurred during its renovation. Without the support of the city of Boise, the Capital City Development Corp. and federal Historic Tax Credits this project would not have been financially feasible. Each of these entities provided support both financial and otherwise which enabled the development to be successful.

Elected officials must be very mindful of how government policy can positively impact community development and the environment. Examples like the Owyhee clearly highlight how teamwork between government and private development leads to superior urban design and function. The Owyhee now has new blood to allow for another 100 years as an icon in downtown Boise.

Clay is the general manager of Old Boise LLC and a partner in Owyhee Place LLC, which restored the Owyhee building, a 2014 Grow Smart Award winner.



Greenfield development near Idaho Falls



IDAHO SMART GROWTH

2014 Highlights

This year included advances in our strategic areas of focus: building organizational capacity for smart growth, Moving Idaho Forward and Healthy Communities. Here are a few of the highlights from the year.

Continued Moving Idaho Forward, our program for transportation policy change gained traction as ISG and our partners the Idaho Walk Bike Alliance and Conservation Voters of Idaho Education Fund held meetings in all parts of Idaho. Our MIF work rolled into the New Mobility West program, see p. 5.

Cosponsored the Creating Healthy Communities Summit in April with keynote speaker Dr. Richard Jackson and facilitator Tyler Norris. Over 300 attendees came together to learn about collaborating across sectors and why a consideration of the health

implications of transportation and land use policies is important to communities. We also arranged a separate meeting for Dr. Jackson with ACHD commissioners, staff and strategic stakeholders, and also a radio interview. We continue to have a strong role in planning and implementing the ongoing summit program.

Held second annual “Neighborhood 2 Market” valleywide event to encourage biking and walking for transportation, this year in Boise, Nampa and newly added Eagle. N2M became part of Boise Bike Week with rides from five neighborhoods to Boise farmers markets, and double the number of participants.

Increased walking to school rates dramatically in Caldwell as a result of our Safe Routes to School project there. Caldwell Planning Director

Brian Billingsly, an ISG partner, served on the school district boundary committee, and was able to include criteria for safe, direct and short walk and bike routes in the planning process. Walking and biking rates increased over 40% in one year with the resulting boundary changes.

Gave numerous presentations on smart growth, transportation policy and sustainable development subjects to local and national workshops, classes and conferences.

Provided technical assistance in integration of land use and transportation in Ponderay, Kootenai, Blackfoot and Jerome, in partnership with Vitruvian Planning with funding from ITD. We are helping these four communities improve walking and biking safety infrastructure.

Lobbied against a state law that would eliminate a community’s ability to use design review ordinances for local cultural and economic benefits. The bill was held in committee.

Participated as part of the core team in an effort to create an Eco-District for the Central Addition in downtown Boise. We worked closely with city staff, USGBC, Idaho Rivers United, Preservation Idaho and

others on the Central Addition Master Plan, adopted by the city in the fall. The Central Addition also was established as the city’s second LIV District. We organized an awareness event during the weekend of Art in the Park, celebrating the district and its history and future vision.

Participated in Aberdeen Community Review as part of Idaho Rural Partnership technical team for economic and sustainable development strategies.

Reconvened our Transportation Choices Coalition to develop positions that impact state transportation funding discussions. We held four meetings focused on mobility for all users through better walking, biking and transit access, as well as enabling a broad local-option tax to support transportation choices. No legislative action resulted but the consensus was to keep advocating for improvements.

Produced ISG events and presentations, including the National Trust for Historic Preservation, Project for Public Spaces, Charlier & Associates, Peter Koonce and others; provided local support for the annual convening of Intermountain West Funders Network for Smart Growth, which met in Boise in April.

Connie Richardson, Diane Ronayne, Bennett Barr, Molly Valceschini, Jane Lloyd, Jenna Nash, David Guiotto, Jeff Baehr, Pete Friedman, Kyle Prewett, Stacey Alexander, Mathew Blandford, Laurie Barrera, Doug Fowler, Anne Wescott, Max Stein, Andrea Bogle, Kathleen and Sam Coskey, Margaret Havey, Nicole Kinney, Reiley Wagenhals, Diane Kushlan, Charlie Woodruff,



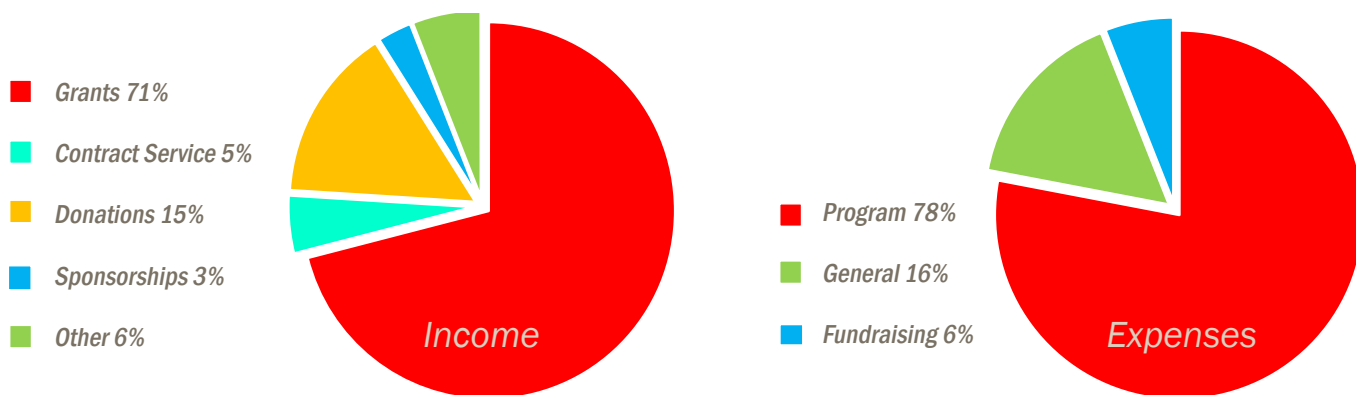
Brent Marchbanks volunteers at the Grow Smart Awards celebration.

Sheri Freemuth, Pohley Richey, Joanie Fauci, Stan Cole, Russ Dane, Daren Fluke, Maureen Gresham, Jeremy Grimm, Derek Hurd, Jaap Vos, Caroline Merritt, Jim Tomlinson, Jenah Thornborrow, Erik Kingston, Marcus Orton, Kris Wilson, Lisa Brady, Brent Marchbanks, Rocky Bogert, Dave Krick, Meuleman Mollerup, Trader Joe’s, Meg Leatherman, Payman Azadi, Lisa Levings, Samantha Martin, Dan Nar-savage, Hannah Richardson, Nate Rioux, LaRita and Gene Schandorff, Rick Tholen, Liz Paul, Bruce Wiley, Gerri Kawczynski.

+ 2014 Volunteers +

We couldn’t do it without you all!
Please let us know if we missed you, or
if you’d like to be on the list. Thanks!

2014 Finances



Statement at Dec. 31, 2014

Total Income: \$161,461

Total Expenses: \$172,379

Total Assets: \$187,035

Idaho Smart Growth is a statewide nonprofit 501c3 organization dependent on a variety of funding sources to carry out our work. While we receive private foundation grants for most of our programs, we rely on the support of nearly 350 individual members and sponsors for a significant portion. Increasingly, people like you who believe in helping communities choose responsible growth and development are critical to our efforts. Individual giving is the only funding source that allows us to respond quickly to opportunities or legislative issues as they arise in communities around the state. Individuals may be able to claim charitable-gift benefits for their contributions; businesses can consider sponsorships and advertising with us as marketing expenses. Either way, you can be proud of helping build great places to live in Idaho!

Idaho Smart Growth core strategies:

- convening** and facilitating for community-specific solutions;
- leading** and participating in advocacy and policy efforts in land use and transportation;
- building** relationships to influence growth and development;
- providing** technical assistance in smart and sustainable growth.

For more information on supporting Idaho Smart Growth, contact Kate at 208-333-8066 or kate@idahosmartgrowth.org.

Thank You!

We are extremely grateful to all our donors. Listed here are 2014 sustaining members giving monthly and those businesses and individuals who gave \$250 and above.

Gary and Liz Allen
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Mark and Becky Uranga
Rachel Winer and Tim Breuer
David Work

New Mobility West/Moving Idaho Forward

Moving Idaho Forward, our program to help change transportation systems in Idaho to improve walking, biking and transit in infrastructure, policies and activities, is now in its second year. Earlier in 2014 we teamed with the Sonoran Institute to assist with their New Mobility West (NMW) project, a similar effort that provides support to create connected neighborhoods, vibrant downtowns and healthy economies in the Intermountain West. Our Moving Idaho Forward work has allowed us to take a strong role in NMW in Idaho, and to help Sonoran Institute and their team of experts from Project for Public Spaces and Charlier and Associates with their initial focus here.

With our partners in Moving Idaho Forward, the Idaho Walk Bike Alliance and Conservation Voters of Idaho Education Fund, we leveraged our work on transportation policy change in several

Idaho communities into technical assistance and training from NMW.

Bonniers Ferry was the first community chosen for technical assistance and ISG joined the NMW team to help the community and ITD come together in reviewing the design of the programmed reconstruction of Highway 95 to serve walking, biking and the local economy.

Part of the NMW project is a series of two-day workshops called Community Mobility Institute. The first was held in November in Boise with selected teams from eight Ida-

ho communities. The workshop included training with national experts leading to development of community action plans. ISG staff served as facilitators at the institute allowing us to continue to advise the communities as they work toward implementing their goals.



Gary Toth of PPS leads a walk audit at the Community Mobility Institute.

Placemaking

Placemaking is a process communities use to reimagine and reinvent public spaces as vibrant activity centers that can invigorate neighborhoods and the overall economy. We helped the Ada County Association of Realtors apply for a placemaking grant from the National Association of Realtors to create a project in downtown Meridian. In March we brought in our partners at the Project for Public Spaces (PPS) to lead a workshop using their “Lighter, Quicker, Cheaper” approach. The project has two goals; first, to help Meridian’s downtown stakeholders come up with implementable placemaking strategies, and second, to provide ISG with hands-on experience leading placemaking workshops, so that we can offer this assistance to other Idaho communities.



Teams at work in the Meridian placemaking workshop.



N2M participants shopping at a Boise farmers market.

N2M

Neighborhood 2 Market is our program to encourage biking and walking for transportation. Through N2M we organize bike rides from neighborhoods to local farmers markets. It’s a fun way to get out, get some exercise and get down to the market! It’s also a great way to get comfortable biking on city streets. Every ride has an experienced ride leader who is well versed in bike safety. This year N2M is part of the launch of Boise Bike Week and includes several rides in Boise, Nampa and walks and rides in Eagle. More information is available on our website and facebook pages.





910 Main St., Ste. 314
Boise, ID 83702
tel. 208-333-8066
www.idahosmartgrowth.org

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Thanks to Idaho Power for printing this report.

GOOD GROWTH NEWS

Grow Smart Awards

Save the date: 2015 Grow Smart Awards,
Thursday, Nov. 12, at the Owyhee,
1109 Main St., Boise.

2014 marked the 10-year anniversary of the Grow Smart Awards, a program that recognizes exemplary application of smart growth principles in projects nominated from around the state. A volunteer jury of experts and professionals makes awards in several categories.

From the Beardmore Building in Priest River (Redevelopment Award, 2009) to the Star River Walk Master

Plan (Small Community, 2011), winners have spanned many communities and many project categories. In fact, over the past 10 years, we've given out 89 awards in 16 categories in 25 Idaho communities.

The latest award winners are CSHQA Boise Office (Green Building Award), Eighth & Main Building (Commercial), Heartwood Center, Sandpoint (Small Community); Moscow

Intermodal Transit Center (Transportation); Owyhee Place & Owyhee Flats (Mixed-Use); 30th Street Cultural Arts Plan (Community Excellence); McCall Downtown Master Plan Update (Planning). The Charles Hummel Award, chosen by the ISG board to recognize leaders who demonstrate outstanding personal integrity and commitment to smart growth principles, was given to Jane Lloyd, a cofounder of Idaho Smart Growth and longtime advocate.

Recipients l-r, Alisa Anderson, Moscow; Michelle Groenevelt, McCall; Susie Kubiak, Heartwood; John Maulin, CSHQA; Stephanie Inman, 30th Street; Mike Brown, Owyhee; Jason Butler, Eighth & Main; Jane Lloyd.



photo credits: Diane Ronayne, Scot Oliver