



BOISE CITY
DEPT OF ARTS
& HISTORY



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EMBARGO UNTIL WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29 @ 7AM MT

NEW COMMISSIONING FUND ANNOUNCED TO KEEP LOCAL CREATORS CREATING, CAPTURE COVID EXPERIENCES

A collaborative partnership organized by Treefort Music Fest, The Velma V. Morrison Center for the Performing Arts, and the Boise City Department of Arts & History will advocate for the Treasure Valley's creative community

BOISE, IDAHO — April 29, 2020 — A new fund to support the local creative community was announced today: The **COVID Cultural Commissioning Fund (CCC Fund)**. A collaborative partnership organized by **Treefort Music Fest, The Velma V. Morrison Center for the Performing Arts, and the Boise City Department of Arts & History**, the fund is intended to support the Treasure Valley's creative community and capture creative expressions during an unprecedented world event.

The CCC Fund is a one-time award program that will fund the creation of individual creative work that explores, documents, and/or reflects on personal experience of the COVID-19 pandemic and resulting social distancing, changes in social patterns, health concerns, job instability, and other impacts.

"During these uncertain times, it is important for our creative community to document their experiences for future generations and to provide space for the healing that comes from self-reflection," said John Michael Schert, executive producer of Treefort Music Fest. "The personal testimonies and narratives collected from this commissioning process will strengthen our community and aid us in our ability to come out of this experience stronger and closer as neighbors, friends, and citizens. Through these works, we will help future generations understand this unique time and tell stories that will be recounted for generations to come."

Creators across all disciplines are welcome to apply. To be eligible, individuals must be 18 years of age or older, live in Ada, Canyon, Boise, Gem, or Owyhee Counties of Idaho, and be able to demonstrate a sustained commitment to their work, careers, and a public audience. Applications will open on Wednesday, April 29, 2020 at 1:00 PM MT and close on Friday, May 8, 2020 at 11:59 PM MT. A to-be-determined number of awarded individuals will receive a one-time \$1,000 commission. A panel of local community stakeholders and national arts experts will review applications and announce awarded individuals mid-May.

"The Boise City Department of Arts & History is committed to supporting Boise's cultural community throughout this global health crisis and is honored to join partners in offering this one-time award opportunity, the COVID Cultural Commissioning Fund," says Director Terri Schorzman. "By collecting individual work that explores, documents and/or reflects on personal experiences of the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on our community, we are creating a special and critically-needed collection in the City Archives that will not only include creative works, history interviews, photographs, data, and more, but will also record the universal experience of the pandemic for the future."

As part of this effort, a *Survey on the Impact of COVID-19/Coronavirus on Boise's Creative Sector*, designed by the Boise City Department of Arts & History, will be launched to better understand the immediate and long-term impact of the public health crisis upon Boise's cultural and creative sector. Arts and cultural [organizations](#), as well as [individuals](#) (artists, educators, teaching artists, creative workers, etc.), are encouraged to participate.

The COVID Cultural Commissioning Fund is generously supported by the J.A. and Kathryn Albertson Family Foundation, the Velma V. Morrison Center for the Performing Arts, and Extra Mile Arena. The initiative will also be funded by support from the Treasure Valley community at large. All funds will be awarded directly to creators; all partners are involved as volunteers and none of the funds are used to cover overhead costs.

The community is encouraged to support the CCC Fund by contributing via The Treefort Community Fund on Cauze. All gifts contributed via Cauze will be matched by a generous gift from the Rolph Charitable Fund. To learn more and make a contribution, www.treefortmusicfest.com/ccc/donate.

"The Morrison Center values our creative community as audiences and performers. Our empty stage is a reminder of the importance of creative expression and the desire to connect with each other in real time. We are proud to be included in this partnership to celebrate the extraordinary makers who call the Treasure Valley home," said Laura Kendall, executive director of the Morrison Center. "In this moment, we have a responsibility to invest back into the ideas, hearts, and minds of our artists as they have given us so much over the years. This collaboration will give them an opportunity to keep their art and passions alive and well. It will be a significant collection that will go down in history to inspire future generations."

To apply, donate and learn more about the CCC Fund, visit www.treefortmusicfest.com/ccc.



COVID Cultural Commissioning Fund

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About Treefort Music Fest

Conceived as an extension of the current momentum in the Boise music scene and art scene at large, our vision is that Treefort will provide the opportunity for Boise to play host to the national and regional music scenes while showcasing the local up-and-coming talent. Treefort Music Fest was proudly recognized as the Cultural Ambassador for the City of Boise 2015-2017. www.treefortmusicfest.com

About the Velma V. Morrison Center for the Performing Arts

Located on the campus of Boise State University, the 2,037-seat Velma V. Morrison Center for the Performing Arts is Idaho's premier performing arts center. The Center is recognized as a Cultural Ambassador for the City of Boise and a major destination for arts and culture, annually hosting hundreds of live entertainment and arts education offerings that serve to enrich the lives of patrons of all ages. As a Boise State affiliate, the Center is a non-profit organization supported by ticket sales, facility rentals, donations and the generous support of the Morrison Center Endowment Foundation, Inc. www.morrisoncenter.com

About the Boise City Department of Arts & History

The Department of Arts & History's mission is to provide leadership, advocacy, education, services, and support for Arts and History to enhance the community's quality of life. Our vision is to make Boise the most livable city in the country because it ensures that people have access to art and history and the opportunity to experience Boise through a variety of cultural offerings. www.boiseartsandhistory.org