



Utah Division of  
**Arts & Museums**



**2025 ANNUAL REPORT**



# DIRECTOR'S NOTES

VICTORIA PANELLA BOURNS

The past year marked an exciting and significant period for the Utah Division of Arts & Museums, culminating in the successful conclusion of our 125th anniversary. UA&M reflected on and reaffirmed its commitment to preserving, promoting, and enriching Utah's varied cultural landscape, with a steadfast dedication to serving the state's vibrant arts and museums community.

Key achievements included expanding outreach programs to underserved areas and enhancing digital accessibility for collections. The year also saw the 20th

anniversary of Poetry Out Loud; full incorporation of a new art cargo van; our partnership with the National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts; and beginning the packing process to move the state art collection to the Museum of Utah. The 125th Anniversary Committee's diligent work underscored the agency's enduring impact, made possible by Utah's strong and passionate arts and museums community.

# UA&M: PRIORITY SUCCESSES



We had a fantastic commemoration of our agency's 125th anniversary in 2024. As the first state arts agency in the nation, we celebrated our role in promoting the value and impact of Utah's cultural community. Our "125 Years of Collecting" Traveling Exhibition Program, featuring selections from the State of Utah Alice Merrill Horne Art Collection, toured multiple venues throughout the state. An original oil painting by Utah artist Ben Steele, "For the Creation of a State Institute of Art," was commissioned by First Lady Abby Cox to honor Alice Merrill Horne's legacy in introducing the 1899 legislation that created our agency. The grand culminating event was our 125th Anniversary Exhibition and Opening Celebration, spotlighting a variety of art genres supported by the division, including folk arts, performing arts, and public art. More than 100 artworks and archival objects from the state art collection were on display as part of a rare, public exhibition from Dec. 10, 2024 to March 15, 2025 at the Utah Valley University Museum of Art at Lakemount.



## New Art Donation:

Our agency was delighted to accept a significant gift of art to the State of Utah Alice Merrill Horne Art Collection: "[Cache](#)," by Minerva Teichert (1934). "Cache" is one of two monumental canvases featuring the explorer Captain Bonneville. Located on the first floor of the Utah State Capitol, this Teichert mural, set in Cache Valley, shows a cast of characters present in Bonneville's journals: trappers, settlers, soldiers, and Native Americans, all gathered to cache and trade their goods. We are grateful to the Franzen and Robinson families for their generous donation. Teichert was born in Ogden and grew up in Idaho. She later attended the Art Institute of Chicago and embraced mural paintings and theatrical pageants as a way to tell the narrative of her religious heritage, as well as that of the American West.





# UA&M: PRIORITY SUCCESSES

## Expansion of the Utah Artist Fellowship:

This year we added literary arts, as well as the existing categories of design arts, performing arts, and visual arts. We saw an overall increase in applications in all categories, and 20 Utah artists each received \$5,000 in recognition of their exceptional creativity.



## Grants:

In the 2025 fiscal year, the Utah Division of Arts & Museums invested nearly \$7.5 million in the state's vibrant arts and museums community. This funding, distributed through 406 grant awards across eight opportunities, supported a wide range of recipients, including local artists, museums, and arts organizations.



# ART ACQUIRED IN FY25

In celebration of our 125th anniversary, we were able to commission two artworks for the Alice Merrill Horne Art Collection: *For the Creation of a State Institute of Art* by Ben Steele, and *Máscara de Vejigante Ponceña* by Allison Martínez Arocho. We acquired an additional 63 artworks through purchase (42) or donation (23), ranging from a monumental Minerva Teichert painting to Puerto Rican Bomba instruments to "quilted" ceramics.

Additional artwork acquisitions are on hold until we are settled into our new collections space at the North Capitol Building. We packed up over 2,300 artworks and will begin moving them to the new space in January 2026. The first to move will be the 80 artworks going on display at the Museum of Utah, opening June 27, 2026.



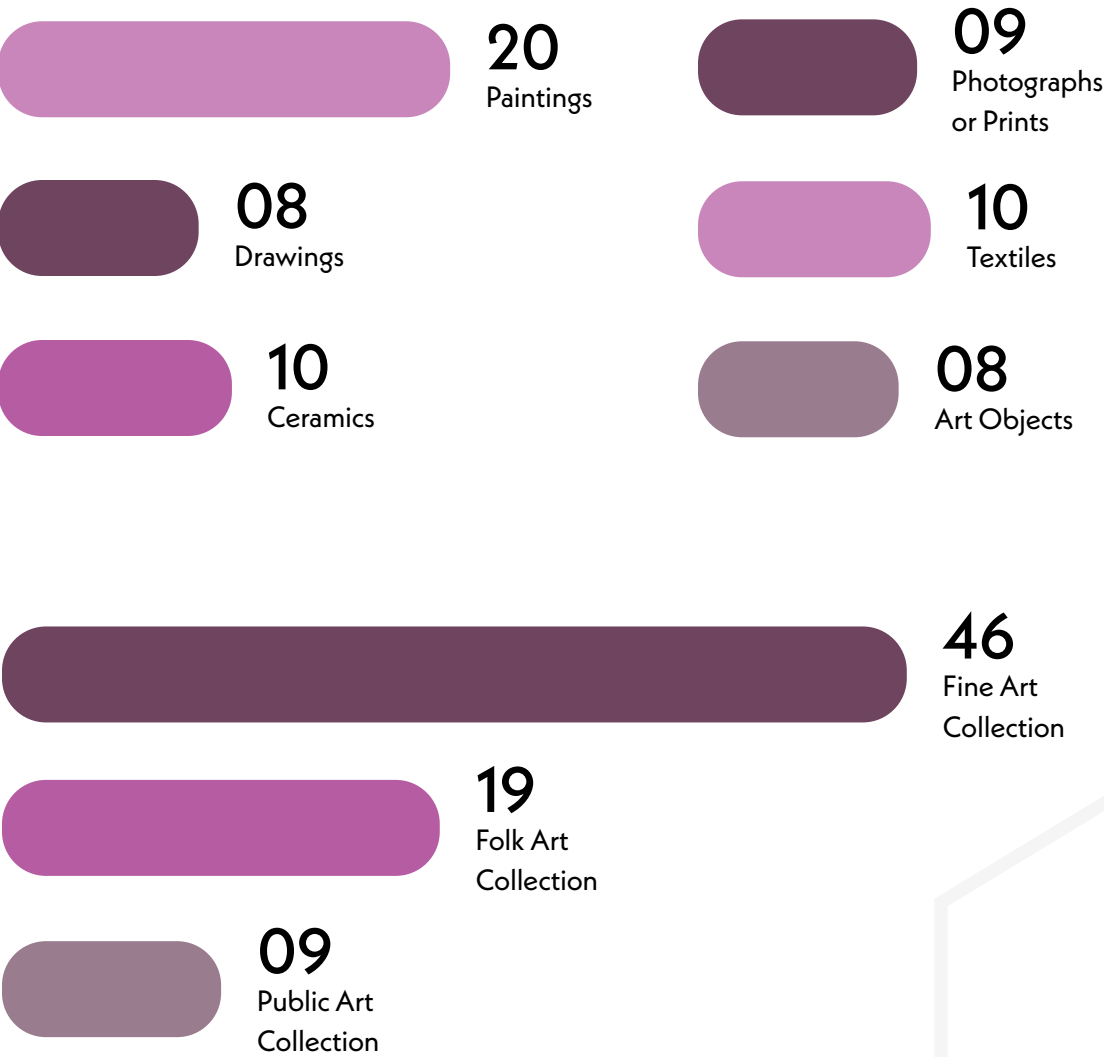
Operated by the Utah Division of Arts & Museums, the Utah Public Art program commissions and maintains site-specific public artwork across the State of Utah. In FY25, the Utah Public Art Program was pleased to welcome four completed public artworks into the collection:

- *Face-to-Face* (1) series by Gabriel Gaffney Smith, for the Utah State University Mehdi Heravi Global Teaching and Learning Center (September 2024)
- *The Anasazi* (4) by Roberto Delgado, for the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Services Foothill Dr. Store Location (February 2025)
- *Modern Nobility* (3) by Tiimo Mang, for the Tooele Technical College addition (March 2025)
- *The Firstfruits of the Harvest* (2) by Joseph Brickey, for the Utah 6th District Courthouse in Manti, Utah (March 2025)

Throughout FY25, we were able to launch six new public art projects, each serving a different county in Utah.

# ART ACQUIRED IN FY25

## BY THE NUMBERS:





"The Utah Division of Arts & Museums has provided vital training, networking opportunities, and funding throughout my 30 years as an arts administrator in Utah. The incredible staff have been there for me from the time I ran the parent newsletter as a volunteer to my current position as an executive director."

— Wendi Hassan,  
executive director, Cache Valley Center for the Arts

# STAFF

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Victoria Panella Bourns, *director*

Natalie Petersen, *deputy director*

## Management

Jason Bowcutt, *director of programs*

Hannah (Barrett) Elliott, *director of collections*

Emily Johnson, *director of field services*

Alyssa Hickman Grove, *communications and literary arts manager*

Em Cebrowski, *administrative support manager*

Fletcher Booth, *traveling exhibitions manager*

Hannah Nielsen, *public art manager*

Jean Tokuda Irwin/Reilly Jensen (April),  
*arts education manager*

Jenna Ehlinger, *Chase Home Museum manager and accessibility coordinator*

Laurel Cannon Alder/Stephanie Rokich (November),  
*grants manager*

Peter Hay, *visual arts manager*

## Staff

Courtney Miller, *registrar*

Elisha Condie, *visitor services and collection move assistant*

Elizabeth Setterberg, *folk and public art assistant*

Emilie Starr, *administrative assistant*

Ian Hallagan /Jackson Medel (June),  
*folk arts coordinator*

Justin Ivie, *arts education coordinator*

Lansia Wann, *marketing specialist*

Marie Desrochers, *outreach conservator*

Racquel Cornali, *grants and data coordinator*

Reilly Jensen/Fatima Amjad (April), *museum field services coordinator*

Tracy Hansford, *community programs coordinator*



# BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

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## Utah Arts & Museums Advisory Board

The function and purpose of the board is to make rules governing the conduct of the Arts & Museums Board; receive gifts, bequests, and property; act in an advisory capacity for the Utah Division of Arts & Museums, including recommendations regarding the arts and museums grants programs; and approve the allocation of grant money and State of Utah Alice Merrill Horne Art Collection acquisition funding.

**Sharon Johnson**, *chair; Smithfield, Cache County Daughters of Utah Pioneers Museum (museum representative)*

**Juan Carlos Claudio**, *vice-chair; Salt Lake City, Weber State University (theatre, dance)*

**Robb Alexander**, *Roy, Aerospace Heritage Foundation of Utah (knowledge and interests in arts & museums)*

**John Ballard**, *Salt Lake City (technology, marketing, business or finance)*

**Janet Smoak**, *Green River (museum professional)*

**Larry Cesspooch**, *Roosevelt, Through Native Eyes Productions (visual, media, architecture, design arts)*

**Natalie Young**, *Cedar City, Sugar House Review (literary arts)*

**Samuel Tsugawa**, *Provo (music)*

**Sudha Kargi**, *Sandy, Kargi Kala Kendra (folk, traditional, native arts)*

## Utah Arts & Museums Advisory Council

**Kelly Stowell**, *reporting council chair; Kanab, Center for Education, Business, and the Arts, (at-large)*

**Amy Jorgensen**, *reporting chair art acquisition council; Ephraim, Granary Art Center, (Visual Arts)*

**Susan Adams**, *Layton (at-large)*

**Lisa Arnett**, *Salt Lake City, Prescott Muir Architects (architecture/design arts)*

**Diana Call**, *vice-chair; St. George, St. George Dinosaur Discovery Site (museum professional)*

**Derrek Hanson**, *Salt Lake City (museum professional)*

**Heidi Prokop**, *previous UA&M chair; Salt Lake City, Zions Bank (at-large)*

**Leroy Transfield**, *Orem, sculptor, (sculpture)*

**Jeni Wilson**, *Layton (at-large)*

