The World’s Treasures
Meet Tomorrow’s Technology
at Boise State

The World Museum will be an innovative vehicle to transport our students of all ages to art galleries across the globe. Boise State’s iconic new fine arts building not only will be an attraction for students and faculty, it will also draw an entire community together for arts and humanities programming unmatched by any other public university in the state.

The interactive space will employ the latest virtual reality technology developed on Boise State’s campus. Here, technology will intersect with the arts.

A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE

Low-income students are five times more likely to graduate when they receive arts instruction.

A quality experience is needed to augment a shortage of specialists in the schools. Of 106 elementary schools surveyed, only 41 have arts specialists teaching in the schools.

Opening doors to art experiences is key. Only 28 percent of school districts in Idaho consider the arts a part of the core curriculum, yet approximately 70 percent of Idaho schools participate in arts field trips.

Idaho students need concentrated exposure to make up for fewer hours in the classroom. Average minutes studying visual art each week: Montana: 87, Wyoming 83, Utah 51, Idaho 40.

People who participate in the arts are 20% more likely to vote.

A key impact is social capital — getting people involved by connecting organizations — and by giving participants experience in organizing and working with local government and nonprofits.

Fine Arts: The Impact to Students and Our Community

Art is especially good for young students according to the first large-scale randomized-control trial study to measure what students learn from school tours of an art museum. Reported in Education Next, the study shows that students exposed to museums, galleries and performance arts centers display better critical thinking skills and education memory — along with greater tolerance, historical empathy and other attributes we all want instilled in our children and grandchildren.

Appreciation of the role art plays in a student's decision-making skills comes at a time when there has been a steep drop in school tours of art museums. And in schools such as those in the Treasure Valley, which have no access to big-city museums, students may never experience the educational value of an art museum that holds the world’s priceless treasures that spin the narrative of our civilization. Boise State’s Fine Arts Building will ensure that students in elementary and secondary classrooms across the Treasure Valley will experience a deficit of exposure to art and what it teaches us about our world.