Leadership in Private Business, Ada County

Winner: Downtown Boise Association

Description: A key goal of Communities in Motion is “Minimize impacts to people, historic properties, and the environment.” This last year the Downtown Boise Association initiated a program to place artwork on traffic signal controller boxes in downtown Boise to make them an enhancement to the downtown Boise environment rather than a backdrop for graffiti and posters. The attractive artwork has elevated the controller boxes to a position of respect and the problems typically experienced have been minimal.

The Downtown Boise Association (DBA) is an extension of the downtown business community and is largely funded by assessments of those business properties. DBA secured a grant for the installation of art murals from Boise City and the Capital City Development Corporation. DBA worked closely with Boise’s Art and History Department in development of the program and selection of artists. The Ada County Highway District prepared the boxes and permitted the installations.

The DBA commissioned local artists to prepare design murals and has overseen the installation of the murals. The artists and the 13 intersections that have received murals in the last year are: Karen Woods (Capitol and Main), Bob Neal (Capitol and Idaho), Tarmo Watia (8th and Idaho), Pat Kilby (9th and Idaho) and Amy Lunstrum (9th and Main), Angi Grow (6th and Main), Erin Ruiz (8th and Bannock), Erin Ruiz (6th and Main), Angi Grow (8th and Bannock), Jerms Lanningham (Capitol and Front), Mike Landa (8th and Front), Bobby Gaytan (10th and Main), Randall Brown (11th and Main), and Pat Kilby (5th and Main).