Department *of* Cultural & Community Engagement

2026 Annual report

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Commissioner's statement



The Utah Department of Cultural & Community Engagement builds and strengthens communities across the state. Through historic preservation, museums, and public history, we tell the stories of the people and places that shape the world around us. Through libraries and bookmobiles, we read those stories and discuss them with our children, our friends, and our neighbors. Through performances, art exhibitions, and sporting events, we build empathy, enhance mental well-being, and reduce loneliness. Through volunteerism, cultural workshops, and community conversations we find common ground and foster human connection.

The Museum of Utah was a shining success for CCE this year. The Museum's galleries, showcasing hundreds of items from the state's historic art and artifact collection, tell the story of Utah's past and present—and help us to look to our future. The Museum officially opened to the public on June 27, 2026, and we look forward to seeing the impact that this museum will have on students and visitors who come to the State Capitol Complex.

As the 2026 fiscal year came to a close, CCE's celebration was just beginning. A few days later, Utah (and the country) celebrated the official 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Of course, CCE and our statewide partners had been celebrating the anniversary all year, beginning on July 1, 2025, with the America250 Utah launch on the steps of the Capitol. Throughout the year, the America250 Utah Commission and team engaged with all 29 counties, more than 130 cities and towns, all Utah colleges and universities, dozens of community partner organizations, and tens of thousands of Utahns through our programs to engage, educate, and unite. CCE looks forward to building upon these connections and relationships in the future as we continue to share our programs and resources across the state.

Department overview

Mission

The Utah Department of Cultural & Community Engagement listens, connects, inspires, and empowers Utahns to see themselves in the past, present, and future of our state. Through the ongoing work of our nine divisions, we provide opportunities to learn, lead, celebrate, and create—because we believe that those who engage will, in turn, contribute to the well-being and success of their communities and of Utah.

Vision

Utah is a vibrant and welcoming place where people love to live because they feel connected, empowered, and inspired.



Performance Measures

Number of leadership engagements with CCE-wide division staff

Target 25

Actual 20

Percentage of CCE employees who report feeling supported by CCE leadership

Target 90%

Actual 82%

Leadership team



Katherine Potter
Commissioner



Heidi Tak
Deputy Commissioner



Tenielle Humphreys
Finance Director



David Wicai
Director of Strategic Operations and Partnerships

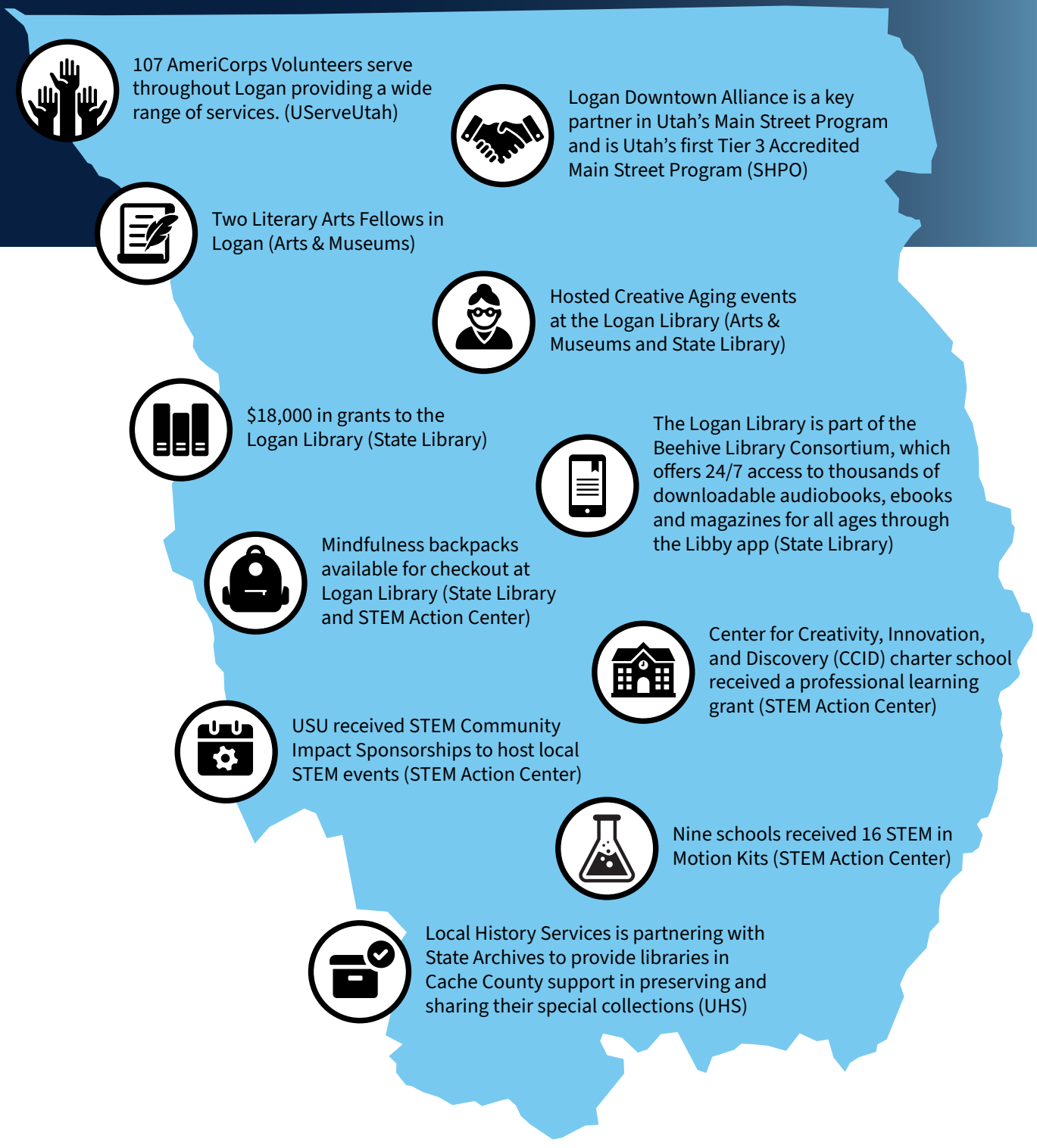


Eileen Barron
Director of Strategic Marketing and Communications

STORY OF A COUNTY

Cache County

The Utah Department of Cultural & Community Engagement supports connected and vibrant communities in Cache County through a range of initiatives that support local educators, students, and cultural institutions.



107 AmeriCorps Volunteers serve throughout Logan providing a wide range of services. (UServeUtah)

Logan Downtown Alliance is a key partner in Utah's Main Street Program and is Utah's first Tier 3 Accredited Main Street Program (SHPO)

Two Literary Arts Fellows in Logan (Arts & Museums)

Hosted Creative Aging events at the Logan Library (Arts & Museums and State Library)

$18,000 in grants to the Logan Library (State Library)

The Logan Library is part of the Beehive Library Consortium, which offers 24/7 access to thousands of downloadable audiobooks, ebooks and magazines for all ages through the Libby app (State Library)

Mindfulness backpacks available for checkout at Logan Library (State Library and STEM Action Center)

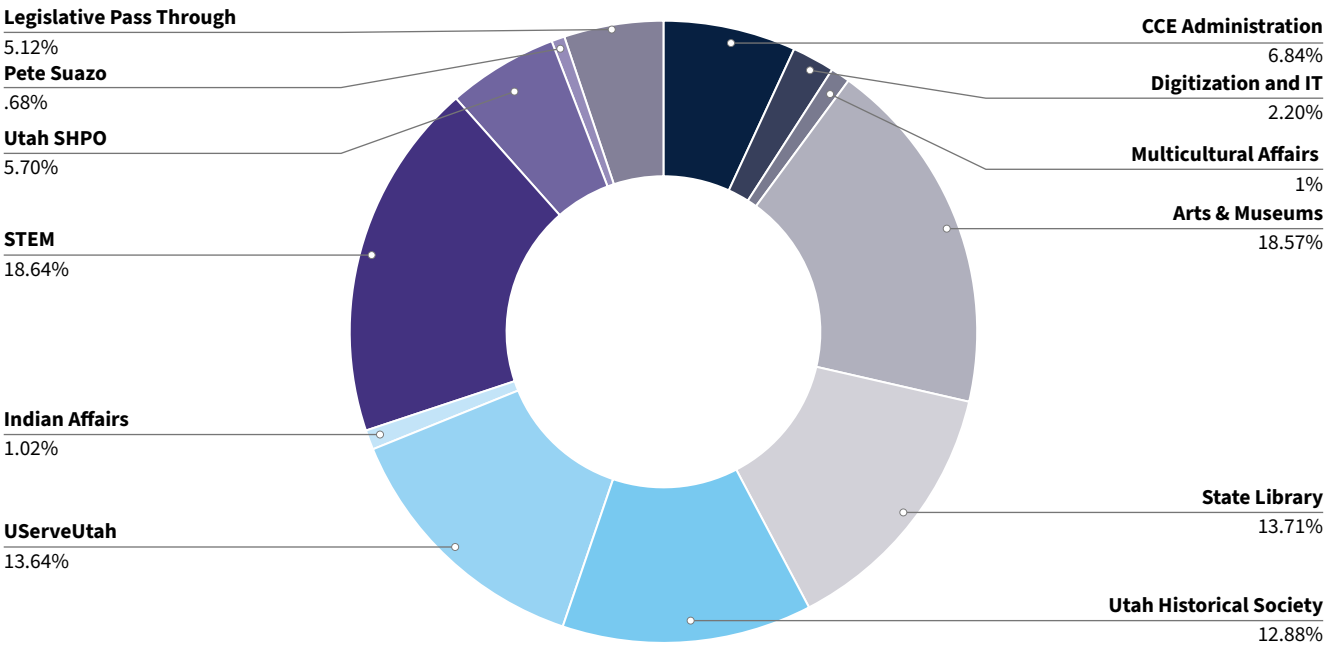
Center for Creativity, Innovation, and Discovery (CCID) charter school received a professional learning grant (STEM Action Center)

USU received STEM Community Impact Sponsorships to host local STEM events (STEM Action Center)

Nine schools received 16 STEM in Motion Kits (STEM Action Center)

Local History Services is partnering with State Archives to provide libraries in Cache County support in preserving and sharing their special collections (UHS)

Budget overview



	General Fund*	General Fund Grants	Dedicated Credits	Federal Funds	Federal Funds Grants	Transfer Funds	Beginning Balance	Closing Balance (Non-lapsing)	Lapsing Balance	Total Actuals	Total FTE	Percent of Total Budget
CCE Administration	3,703,800	-	-	-	-	-	1,946,000	(1,570,500)	-	4,079,300	16.25	6.84%
Digitization and IT	1,308,300	-	-		-		370,400	(363,100)		1,315,600	1.44	2.20%
Multicultural Affairs	689,800	-	4,000		-	-	329,500	(425,900)	-	597,400	4.25	1.00%
Arts & Museums**	3,715,700	5,231,100	22,600	157,000	596,200	-	785,500	(735,000)	-	9,773,100	22.25	16.38%
Percent for Arts***		-			-	1,069,800	3,011,000	(2,772,700)		1,308,100	0	2.19%
State Library	3,798,800	548,900	1,660,400	1,602,400	699,400	-	868,800	(998,300)	-	8,180,400	40.76	13.71%
Utah Historical Society	8,112,700	-	144,600	-	-	-	3,362,900	(3,933,700)	-	7,686,500	45.59	12.88%
UServeUtah	1,911,900	853,800	11,800	561,100	5,483,000	2,500	2,161,400	(2,847,200)		8,138,300	15.72	13.64%
Indian Affairs	721,700	-	28,900		-	-	736,000	(817,000)	(61,200)	608,400	4.06	1.02%
STEM	5,586,400	5,279,200	14,900	-	-	-	710,300	(466,200)	-	11,124,600	12.02	18.64%
State Historic Preservation Office	1,844,900	141,600	112,300	275,100	321,900	-	1,185,600	(480,800)	-	3,400,600	23.52	5.70%
Pete Suazo	206,700	-	100,200		-	-	181,700	(80,900)		407,700	2.03	0.68%
Total w/o Legislative Pass Through	31,600,700	12,054,600	2,099,700	2,595,600	7,100,500	1,072,300	15,649,100	(15,491,300)	(61,200)	56,620,000	188	
Legislative Pass Through**	-	7,870,000	-	-	-	-	18,900	(4,833,800)	-	3,055,100		5.12%
Total with Legislative Pass-Through	31,600,700	19,924,600	2,099,700	2,595,600	7,100,500	1,072,300	15,668,000	(20,325,100)	(61,200)	59,675,100	188	100.00%

*General Fund includes Restricted Revenue
**General Fund appropriation for arts and cultural competitive grants is reflected in Arts and Museums instead of Legislative Pass Through
***$1,185,400 from beginning balance is money being held for conservation

Utah Cultural and Community Engagement Foundation

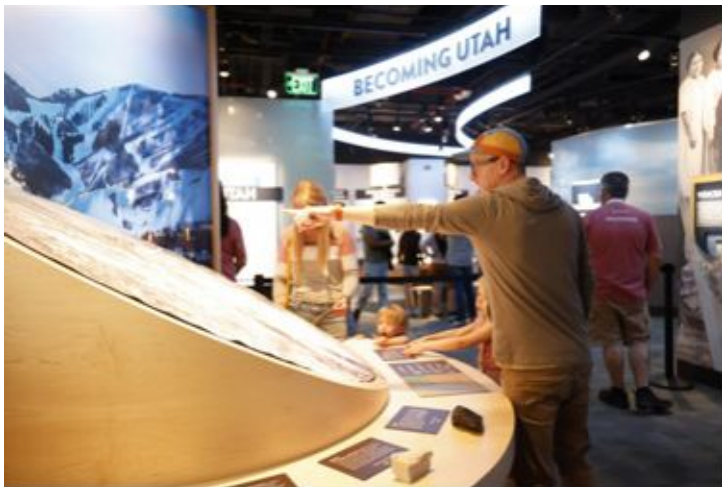
The Utah Cultural and Community Engagement Foundation is a 501(c)(3) operated by the Utah Department of Cultural & Community Engagement. The foundation contains contributions from a variety of sources, including federal grants, private foundations, individual donors, gifts, bequests, legislative appropriations, and money made available from any other source (UCA 9-1-209(4)). The funds are used to further the mission and statutory obligation of CCE.

The following represents the activities of the Utah Cultural and Community Engagement Foundation for fiscal year 2026.

July 2025-June 2026 | FY2026

Beginning Balance	$ 16,040,000
Total Revenue	$ 7,677,400
Total Expenses	$ 8,220,700
Closing Balance	$ 15,496,700







AMERICA 250 | UTAH



The America250 Utah Commission led Utah's yearlong commemoration of the nation's 250th anniversary. From the outset, our mission was to honor our history, build community, and inspire future action, guided by a vision of strengthening connection among Utahns through shared history and civic engagement. We are grateful to the America250 Utah Commission members, Governor Cox, Lt. Governor Henderson, the legislature, more than 150 municipal partners, and organizations around the state who helped bring that vision to life. As this commemoration comes to a close, we have an opportunity to consider how the relationships, resources, and momentum created through this effort can continue to serve Utah.

Nicole Handy
Executive Director
America250 Utah

Key accomplishments

America250 Utah recognized the 250th anniversary as an opportunity to strengthen civic education and create resources with lasting value for Utah students. Working with educational partners, America250 Utah curated 53 lessons and activities and created 33 new educational lessons exploring the American Revolution, the founding era, and Utah's history in 1776. Through a partnership with Utah Valley University's Center for Constitutional Studies, we distributed 500 classroom sets of the nationally recognized We the People curriculum to social studies teachers statewide. These resources are expected to benefit approximately 70,000 students annually.

America250 Utah also brought history into communities through The Pen Is Mightier: Writing a Revolution exhibit. The main exhibit at the Utah State Capitol featured fifteen artifacts and was displayed throughout 2026. Traveling versions of the exhibit visited 42 locations and reached all 29 Utah counties, allowing communities across the state to engage with stories about communication during the Revolution and Utah's contributions to the American story.

Walk250 Utah encouraged participants to walk 250 miles between July 2025 and December 2026. As of July 31, 2026, more than 2,500 Utahns have registered, recording more than 140,000 miles, with 618 participants completing all 250 miles. The program distributed 25,000 collectible sticker sets and was incorporated into programming by 60 communities.

Through America Gives, Utahns recorded more than 709,427 volunteer hours, while United in Service events engaged 1,427 volunteers. America250 Utah also hosted a statewide speaker series with 21 lectures at seven higher education institutions.



Key accomplishments

One of the initiative's most significant efforts to build community connections was America's Potluck, held on July 5, 2026. The Utah initiative, encouraging neighbors to gather around shared meals and conversations, ultimately grew into a national movement. In Utah, the marketing effort for America's Potluck generated 29.2 million impressions and an estimated $623,000 in advertising value. Nationally, all 50 states and Puerto Rico participated. Although it was difficult to judge exactly how many potlucks were hosted over the anniversary weekend, 1.2 billion impressions were generated, representing an estimated $30.7 million in advertising value.



Community participation was central to the commemoration. America250 Utah partnered with 157 municipalities across Utah, with hundreds of events and programs planned throughout the year. Communities received planning resources, financial support, and opportunities to share ideas and best practices with one another. In total, $365,400 was distributed directly to municipalities to support events in communities across the state. This approach allowed communities to shape celebrations around their own histories, cultures, and local identities.



As America250 Utah concludes its official year of celebration and service, the initiative leaves a collection of educational resources, community relationships, partnerships, and programs that can continue to serve Utah beyond the anniversary year. The effort demonstrated the capacity of Utah communities to come together while creating opportunities for education, civic engagement, service, and connection.



Utah Division *of* Arts & Museums



Kirsten Darrington
Division Director

This year marked the close of an extraordinary chapter for the Utah Division of Arts & Museums with the retirement of Vicki Panella Bourns after nearly a decade as division director. Vicki's time at the division reflects a deep commitment to Utah's artists, museums, cultural organizations, and communities.

During her tenure, Vicki guided the division through the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2020 Salt Lake City earthquake and subsequent relocation, fluctuation in state and federal arts funding, and the division's 125th anniversary – all while building stronger connections across Utah's cultural community. We are deeply grateful for her steady leadership, generous spirit, and lasting impact.

As I begin my tenure, I am grateful for the foundation Vicki and our team have built. I look forward to inspiring and connecting people and communities through Utah's arts and museums by building partnerships, expanding our reach, and finding new ways to support and celebrate Utah's vibrant cultural community.

Key accomplishments

This year delivered several major milestones for the Utah Division of Arts & Museums (UA&M), advancing stewardship, statewide access, and direct support for Utah's cultural sector.

Preserving Utah's State Art Collection

One of the year's most significant achievements was completing the move of the State of Utah Alice Merrill Horne Art Collection into a new collections space at the Museum of Utah. More than 2,300 artworks were prepared and relocated, improving long-term preservation and access. Eighty works were selected for display in the new museum. UA&M also partnered in the conservation and installation of five historic E. Merrill Van Frank murals on Capitol Hill, including the monumental 320-inch work, "Ward House Celebration."

Celebrating 40 Years at the Chase Home

This year marked four decades of folk art at the Chase Home Museum of Utah Folk Arts in Liberty Park. The Chase Home remains the only museum in the nation dedicated to displaying a state-owned collection of contemporary folk art. Through exhibitions, workshops, community programs, and the Folk Art Apprenticeship program, UA&M continued to celebrate and sustain Utah's living cultural traditions.

Investing in Utah's Cultural Community

Grantmaking remained one of the division's most direct investments in communities statewide. In FY26, UA&M provided $5,432,846 in grant funding to 402 organizations, supporting arts organizations, museums, artists, folk arts, and creative-aging initiatives. These investments strengthened organizational stability, artistic work, collections care, and public access to cultural experiences across Utah.

Performance Measures

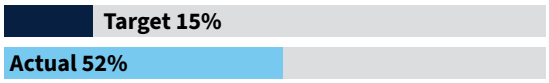
Counties served by traveling art exhibit



Grant funding to counties



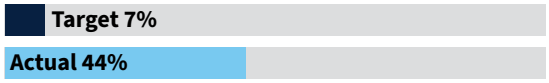
Inspection rate of public art collection



Number of activity locations provided by UA&M grantees



Number of Utah artists engaged in professional development opportunities



Number of people engaged in training and development in the cultural sector





Key accomplishments

Strengthening Leadership and Statewide Access

More than 140 executive directors participated in the second annual Executive Directors Forum, focused on organizational resiliency, sustainable funding, staff well-being, and community impact. The Traveling Exhibitions Program further extended the division's reach through a network of more than 350 schools, libraries, museums, and community locations across all 29 counties, reaching more than 75,000 people annually.

Expanding Creative Aging

UA&M secured $77,500 through the national "Creative Aging, Creative Futures" initiative. The resulting Creative Aging Advancement Collaboration supports the Utah Creative Aging Coalition and Kaleidoscope Festival, sequential arts-learning opportunities in state veterans' homes, and advanced professional development for artists and administrators serving older adults.

Together, these accomplishments reflect UA&M's FY26 priorities in action: preserving Utah's cultural heritage, investing directly in communities, strengthening the cultural sector, and expanding meaningful access to the arts across the state.







Utah Division *of* Indian Affairs



Dustin Jansen
Division Director

The Division of Indian Affairs works to promote better working relationships and collaboration between the state and Utah's eight sovereign Tribal governments. The projects and accomplishments detailed here demonstrate the work, effort, and successes of our team.

Lt. Governor Deidre Henderson has been tasked by Gov. Cox to lead the state's Indian Affairs programs. Her visits to Native communities and her efforts to understand Tribal priorities have been instrumental in creating strong relationships with Utah's sovereign Tribal nations. We strive to continue working towards building relationships of trust with our tribal partners.

With continued work and support from the Cox/ Henderson administration, the state's relationship with Tribal leaders will continue to improve. We are excited to continue to build even greater cooperation, collaboration, and communication.

Key accomplishments

Throughout this year, the Utah Division of Indian Affairs (UDIA) advanced its mission to advocate for American Indian citizens by strengthening state-tribal relations, fostering sustainable community partnerships, and empowering tribal youth and cultural preservation across Utah.

Strategic Growth & Summit Leadership

A landmark achievement this fiscal year was the completion of the UDIA 5-Year Strategic Plan. Informed by deep engagement with state and tribal stakeholders, the plan provides a clear roadmap to enhance internal capacity, refine communication strategies, expand agency liaison training, and ensure long-term, collaborative impact across all division initiatives.

Demonstrating our commitment to elevated intergovernmental dialogue, UDIA successfully hosted the 19th Annual Utah Native American Summit at Utah Valley University. A key component, the Utah Tribal Leader Summit, facilitated individual 30-minute meeting sessions between six of Utah's tribal governments and 19 state agencies—including first-time participants like the Department of Agriculture and Food, Public Lands Policy Coordinating Office, Governor's Office of Planning and Budget, and the Utah State Tax Commission. These high-level meetings directly support the Governor's "Built Here" strategic plan by driving shared economic growth and trust.

Strengthening State-Tribal Relations

Regular intergovernmental engagement remained central to UDIA's mission. Across FY26, UDIA facilitated multiple Utah Tribal Leaders (UTL) meetings statewide—including sessions in West Wendover, Cedar City, and Fort Duchesne—as well as joint sessions with the Native American Legislative Liaison Committee (NALLC).

Performance Measures

Measure of Attendees in Youth Track of the Governor's Native American Summit



Measure of state agencies with liaisons participating in Indian affairs



Measure of Tribes visited personally by the State of Utah





Beyond policy dialogue, UDIA translated relationships into tangible community safety and infrastructure improvements:

Community Safety & Energy

We collaborated with UDOT and the White Mesa Community of the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe to address community safety needs concerning pedestrian safety crossing U.S. Highway 191. Plans are moving

Key accomplishments

forward to install crosswalk lights, allowing residents to safely cross between the residential area and the community store. The division also began coordinating with the Utah Office of Energy Development to support the agency's relationship-building efforts with Utah Tribal Nations.

Tribal Broadband Expansion

In a multi-year partnership with the Utah Broadband Center and Navajo Broadband Office, UDIA supported BEAD program awards for the Navajo Nation and Ute Indian Tribe and celebrated the completion of high-speed fiber connectivity to all San Juan County schools, including Navajo Mountain. This achievement was made possible through the dedicated support of the Utah Broadband Center, the Navajo Broadband Office (NBO), the Utah Education and Telehealth Network (UETN), the Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT), Emery Telecom, and Utah Navajo communities.

Cultural Engagement & Youth Empowerment

UDIA launched the Native American Heritage Month Mini Sponsorship Program, supporting grassroots cultural initiatives across urban and rural Utah, such as the Intertribal Connections ribbon skirt workshop. The division also engaged in wellness and youth development—tabling at the Utah Conference on Traditional Tobacco in Vernal and connecting tribal youth with higher education and state government career pathways at the Ute Indian Tribe College and Career Event.

UDIA enters FY2027 firmly guided by its new strategic vision, dedicated to honoring Tribal sovereignty, expanding access, and deepening state-tribal collaboration.







Utah State Library Division



Cara Rothman
Division Director

The Utah State Library (USL) has been hard at work, reexamining and modernizing our services for Utahns and their libraries.

The library certification standards now reflect Utah's growing library landscape. Grantees share more information to help showcase how USL grants benefit Utahns. Enhanced data dashboards provide clear, accessible insights for library leadership and the public.

To streamline financial planning for member libraries, the Beehive Library Consortium transitioned from a tiered cost-sharing model to a usage-based model. We also streamlined our cost-sharing calculations to more effectively manage the high public demand for these services.

Literacy drives our programming. Through our Program for the Blind & Disabled, the Large Print Deposit Collection Program helped 28 public libraries offer large print books, expanding access statewide. The Utah County Bookmobile achieved record summer reading participation, with 752 youth reading 344,880 minutes.

As Utah grows, so does the vital role of our libraries. The USL remains committed to evolving alongside our communities with dynamic, adaptable services.

Key accomplishments

Advancing Literacy and Learning Across Utah

USL supported the America250 Utah celebration throughout the year. We distributed 65,000 mini activity booklets statewide to engage children in history and learning. Through the Beehive Library Consortium, our Read250 program provided Utahns instant access to American history e-books and audiobooks on Libby, generating 5,567 checkouts.

As lead agency for Utah Kids Ready to Read (UKRTR), the Utah State Library provides early literacy education, training, and resources for caregivers, including evidence-based science of reading strategies. Additionally, more than 6,000 copies of a new nursery rhyme booklet were distributed to libraries, health centers, and schools.

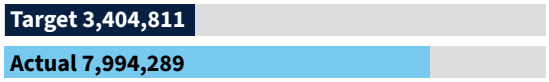
Our Program for the Blind & Disabled deepened and expanded its partnership with the Department of Corrections through the Reading for the Blind program, originally founded in 1988, producing a record 89 recordings this year. We deployed e-readers resulting in quicker turnaround of new titles, less delivery time, and more accessibility for the narrators and editing workers.

The Bookmobile & Rural Services program enhanced efficiency with a courier van to transfer materials. This improvement launched a collection-sharing network that quintupled resource access for rural patrons, expanding available items from 25,000 to 100,000 without requiring additional local storage. Additionally, bookmobile patrons can now access their catalog remotely, giving them 24/7 access to the collection.

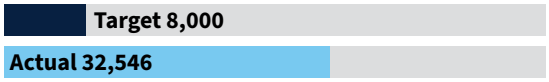
Both the Fairview City Library and Vineyard Library successfully met state certification standards. This milestone grants eligibility for critical state and federal grant funding. By achieving this status, these

Performance Measures

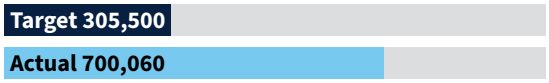
Number of checkouts of online materials



Number of in-person and online training hours for librarians



Total blind and print disabled circulation annually



Total bookmobile circulation annually



Total usage of products via Utah's Online Public Library





Key accomplishments

local libraries have reinforced their positions as vital community centers. Across the state, 62 certified libraries now serve urban, suburban, city, county, and rural communities alike.

The State Library Grants Team successfully administered 30 grants for Utah libraries, utilizing just over $2.2 million in Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) funding. This federal investment bolsters literacy throughout the state by providing Utahns with e-books and e-audiobooks via the Libby app. Additional LSTA-supported projects include modern technology upgrades for patrons, expanded youth collections, and enhanced Interlibrary Loan capabilities, such as access to our Book Buzz sets. These critical grant dollars foster local growth and community engagement in libraries across the state.

The newly established Juniper Library Consortium streamlines operations for the member libraries through a shared online catalog creating significant cost efficiencies. By modernizing legacy infrastructure with intuitive, user-friendly software, the State Library provides vital administrative support that empowers local staff and patrons alike. This initiative further strengthens community ties by enabling interlocal agreements that facilitate seamless resource sharing between participating libraries.







Utah Division *of* Multicultural Affairs



Igor Limansky
Division Director

This year the Utah Division of Multicultural Affairs (MCA) focused on creating opportunities for Utahns to build relationships, strengthen communities, and contribute to the future of our state.

Through Multicultural Youth Leadership Day, MCA created opportunities for young people to recognize their stories as strengths while building confidence, exploring future pathways, and connecting with mentors. Through the Magnify Utah Community Quest, we invited Utahns to explore the places, businesses, histories, and traditions that make our state vibrant. Our Capacity Grant directly invested in 11 community organizations, strengthening their operations and long-term sustainability.

We also began a strategic planning process that shapes a framework centered on community engagement, government and community partnerships, communications, youth leadership, commissions, and organizational excellence. The plan will connect these priorities to measurable outcomes, helping MCA evaluate impact and allocate resources.

Across each of these efforts is a common purpose: strengthening connection and creating opportunities for Utahns to contribute to the communities and state we share.

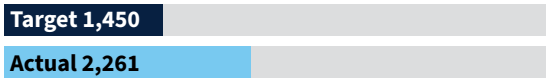
Key accomplishments

One of the year's largest programs was Multicultural Youth Leadership Day, which brought 214 students from 12 schools to the Utah State Capitol. Under the theme "Tell Your Story, Shape Your Future," students participated in leadership development, storytelling, mentorship, service, and career exploration. Lt. Gov. Deidre Henderson spoke with students about leadership and civic engagement, while keynote speaker Ciriac Alvarez Valle led an interactive workshop helping students connect their experiences, heritage, personality, and goals to their leadership identity. Students also connected with 14 mentors and 10 career and education partners. Following the event, 60% of participants reported feeling confident telling their story.

MCA also launched the Magnify Utah Community Quest, a statewide resource encouraging Utahns to explore the people, places, histories, businesses, and traditions that shape the state. The interactive passport highlights restaurants, markets, museums, historic sites, festivals, and community gathering places while inviting participants to learn something new about Utah and one another. Developed with community organizations, businesses, cultural heritage sites, and state agencies, Community Quest provides an accessible and engaging way for Utahns to build connections through curiosity and shared experiences.

Performance Measures

Increase in youth engagement



Programming availability to vulnerable student population







Pete Suazo Utah Athletic Commission



Scott Bowler
Division Director

The Pete Suazo Utah Athletic Commission had another successful and productive year, regulating more than 30 unarmed combat sporting events throughout the state. These events included professional and amateur boxing, mixed martial arts, kickboxing, Muay Thai, and bare-knuckle competition, ranging from local promotions to nationally recognized events.

Most importantly, the Commission completed the year with no major injuries, reflecting our continued emphasis on contestant health and safety, consistent regulatory oversight, and professional event operations.

We also continued to invest in the development of our officials by providing ongoing training and education for referees, judges, inspectors, and other regulatory personnel. These efforts help ensure our officials remain current on rules, procedures, and industry best practices.

The Commission remains committed to maintaining Utah's reputation as a safe, professional, and welcoming destination for combat sports.

Key accomplishments

A significant focus this year was the continued development of our regulatory team. The Commission provided high-quality training and ongoing education to inspectors, referees, judges, and other officials, emphasizing consistent application of rules, proper event procedures, professional conduct, and contestant health and safety. The Commission remains focused on providing a regulatory environment in which contestants can compete safely and fairly. Our goal is not simply to regulate events, but to provide consistent, knowledgeable, and professional oversight that protects contestants while supporting the continued growth of unarmed combat sports in Utah. By investing in our people, we continue to strengthen the quality and consistency of regulation provided at every event, regardless of the size of the promotion or venue.

Our staff and officials successfully regulated a diverse schedule of professional and amateur boxing, mixed martial arts, kickboxing, Muay Thai, bare-knuckle, and other approved unarmed combat events. Each event requires extensive preparation, including licensing, medical review, matchmaking oversight, weigh-ins, rules meetings, equipment and hand-wrap inspections, event supervision, and post-event reporting.

The professionalism and dedication demonstrated by our staff and officials throughout the year continue to strengthen Utah's reputation as a trusted and respected destination for combat sports.

Performance Measures

Number of high profile events



Percent licensed



Revenue increase







Utah Historical Society
Museum *of* Utah



Jennifer Ortiz
Division Director

This year is one for the books for the Utah Historical Society. We opened the Museum of Utah, our organization's public face and final home for our state's incredible history and art collections. With ten preview events and a vibrant community opening on June 27, 2026, we welcomed Utahns and visitors to the capitol complex to learn more about Utah's unique history. The realization of the Museum of Utah was no easy effort. It required years of planning, hard work, and dedication by dozens of staff members, contractors, and supporters developing content, design, exhibit text, and selecting stories and objects that would tell Utah's complex and nuanced story.

The Museum of Utah represents more than just an exhibition space. For years to come, it will be a place to gather, to reflect community, and to serve as a home for Utah Historical Society programming. The museum offers connections to other programs housed at UHS, such as our Local History Services program, which launched both the Local History Academy and the We Are Utah program in 2026, helping strengthen museums and cultural organizations across the state. The Peoples of Utah Revisited initiative commemorated the country's 250th anniversary with the exhibition The Past Is Personal exploring Utah's connections to the semiquincentennial, new scholarship featured in the Utah Historical Quarterly, and newly collected digital collections that showcase the breadth and depth of communities across Utah.

The Utah Historical Society is indebted to our partners, members, supporters, and cheerleaders who continue to support the work of the Society.

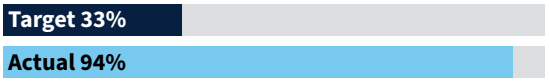
Key accomplishments

Increased Digital Access & Engagement

With the launch of a new online catalog and accelerated digitization efforts, we opened the doors to Utah's history wider than ever before. Citizens statewide utilized our website to discover books, oral histories, maps, and artifacts, driving unprecedented public inquiry and interaction with our Engagement Room and online resources.

Performance Measures

Percentage of state history collection prepared to be moved



Holistic Educational Resources

Through the America250 Utah initiative, we integrated multi-perspective educational resources spanning Native American, Spanish, African American, and European histories. Notably, our Dominguez and Escalante Expedition materials highlighted the complex intersection of Native American, Mexican, and Spanish peoples.

Fostering Future Historians and Citizens

Through National History Day, we trained students in critical information literacy, online research, and the investigation of multiple perspectives. These transferable skills not only foster informed civic engagement but also prepare students to pursue future higher education and career opportunities throughout their lives.



Key accomplishments

Intentional Culture and Capacity Building

All UHS teams implemented RACI models (Responsible, Accountable, Consulted, Informed) to intentionally define roles, establish clear cross-functional workflows, and give staff the structured space to vet ideas collectively.

Systems Standardization and Updated Budgeting

All teams adopted standardized budgeting and planning processes. These updated budget processes align with our annual plans and produce more fiscally responsible, efficient, and purpose-driven public programming.

Innovative Event-in-a-Box

Driven by a goal to deliver high-impact programming statewide, our Public Programming team launched an innovative “event-in-a-box” initiative to support local partners who are already doing great work in their communities. By providing turnkey kits featuring trivia nights, hands-on craft activities, letter-writing drives, and book clubs, we empowered 40 museums, libraries, and senior centers across 15 counties in Utah to host 50 events. While supporting local efforts, this collaborative approach dramatically expanded our geographic footprint and connected us with new audiences statewide.

Utah Pin Quest

To connect rural and urban communities, we launched “Utah Pin Quest,” a cultural heritage tourism and awareness campaign spanning 37 partner sites across 20 counties. The initiative drove traffic to local state parks, cultural centers, and museums to engage rural Utahns. Between July and October 2025, we distributed 20,000 pins statewide. The digital campaign generated 5.6 million impressions and earned coverage from local media.





Key accomplishments

The Utah Historical Society's Museum of Utah has achieved a series of significant milestones on its path to becoming the state's first dedicated history museum. After decades of research, resilience, and dedicated stewardship, the project has successfully transformed a statewide promise into a landmark institution housed within the new Michael O. Leavitt North Capitol Building. The museum now offers 17,000 square feet of gallery space and displays more than 900 artifacts, serving as both a celebration of Utah's unique history, culture, and art and a gateway to the broader Capitol Complex.

One of the museum's greatest successes has been its truly community-driven development process. Rather than being shaped in isolation, the museum was built through extensive collaboration with Tribes, historians, educators, industry leaders, state leadership, and community stakeholders across Utah. This engagement was substantial in scale, reaching more than 1,000 people statewide through focus groups, community meetings, and presentations, and the museum genuinely reflects the voices and priorities of communities throughout the state.

The museum's inaugural temporary exhibition, "The Past is Personal," represents another key achievement, thoughtfully connecting Utah's history to a significant national milestone. The exhibit examines the concept of commemoration in relation to the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, while building on the legacy of The Peoples of Utah, a groundbreaking bicentennial project originally published in 1976. Through a companion effort called The Peoples of Utah Revisited, the Utah Historical Society has successfully expanded this foundational work fifty years later, inviting visitors to explore themes of belonging and to discover their own stories within the historical record through the museum's exhibitions.





The culmination of these efforts arrived with the museum's grand opening celebration on Saturday, June 27, marking a historic milestone years in the making. Museum director Tim Glenn, joined by Utah Historical Society staff and fourth- and seventh-grade children, symbolically opened the state's first dedicated state history museum to the public. Thirty four community partners supported the event, which proved to be an overwhelming success, drawing more than 6,500 attendees on opening day.

Utah State Historic Preservation Office



Dr. Chris Merritt
Division Director

The past year has seen positive impacts from the State Historic Preservation Office's efforts to grow awareness and engagement with stewarding our collective historical resources. Our flagship Preservation Engaged conference had more than 250 attendees, the largest in history, with keynote speaker Lisa Eccles sharing her family's story. Staff trained more than 80 real estate professionals on historic preservation resources, provided advanced training for local cemeteries on headstone restoration, worked with cities and towns to list significant places like Abravanel Hall in the National Register of Historic Places, and led an archaeological excavation in the silver-mining ghost town of Alta. We can plan a brighter future by remembering and protecting the past, as our compliance team has witnessed by consulting on the transfer of the remaining pieces of historic Fort Douglas to the University of Utah, so that again our history can help shape the future of Utah.

Key accomplishments

In a first for the state, Utah Main Street and Main Street America announced that the Logan Downtown Alliance has earned both State and National Main Street Accreditation for its efforts at preservation-based economic growth.

This designation coincides with National Historic Preservation Month and marks the first time a Utah community has met the rigorous performance standards set by both the state and national organizations.“There is no better way to honor our past than ensuring our historic downtowns remain vibrant economic engines for our future,” said Utah Gov. Spencer J. Cox. “The Logan Downtown Alliance has been able to strengthen and advocate for downtown business, preserving a unique culture and celebrating community spaces.”

“Our strategy to advocate for rehabilitation and new development projects continues to preserve Logan Downtown while creating jobs,” said Gary Saxton, Executive Director of the Logan Downtown Alliance. “These preservation-based projects boost tax revenue, attract tourism, strengthen small businesses, and improve quality of life in Cache Valley.”

Since its launch in 2003, the Alliance has worked to strengthen downtown businesses and preserve the city’s unique cultural landscape. This achievement is a shared victory for the City of Logan, resulting from a steady, year-over-year approach focused on community engagement and aligning the goals of local government, civic organizations, and residents to build a shared sense of ownership for downtown development.

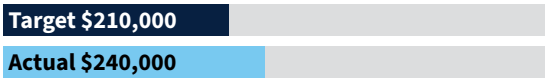
Utah Main Street is a Main Street America™ Coordinating Program, helping to lead a powerful, grassroots network consisting of over 40 Coordinating Programs and over 1,200 neighborhoods and communities across the country. Utah Main Street is committed to creating high-quality places and to building stronger communities through preservation-based economic development.

Performance Measures

Cultural compliance review rate



Dollars of Utah cultural stewardship and public outreach donated time and mileage (exceeds the cost of two state-funded FTEs per year)



Measure of Certified Local Governments involved in historical preservations



Pass through of federal grant funds to local communities for historic preservation purposes





Utah STEM Action Center



Tamara Goetz
Division Director

This year we updated our five-year strategic plan, which provided an opportunity to consider how to deepen our impact.

The STEM Action Center was created by the Utah legislature in 2013. The intent was to fill a gap for STEM education that expanded support to educators, students, industry, and families. Our mandate is to cultivate strategic partnerships that build sustainable capacity for STEM education, skill-building, and career-connected learning.

As our third strategic plan, this roadmap reflects years of growth and refined insight. To shape our strategy, we conducted focus groups and in-depth interviews with education leaders, industry partners, state agencies, community organizations, and families. And for the first time, we also incorporated student feedback.

What did we learn? We need to continue to get early STEM learning resources into Utah homes. Student voices need to guide us on how to support lifelong learning. We need to work with industry to find ways for them to connect with students, educators, and families. And we need to communicate our “why.” What we do is unique and impacts the Utah STEM ecosystem like no other organization.

Key accomplishments

UGrow: Hydroponics

The UGrow hydroponics program expanded its statewide network of sites, developed resources to support successful implementation and growth, and established new partnerships that strengthen the program's Community of Practice.

Our team prepared a Hydroponics Manual, instructional videos, and the Quarterly Hydroponics Newsletter. The newsletter was distributed to 12 libraries, 65 participating educators (43 pilot and 22 new), and Tribal and community sites. In partnership with the Utah Division of Technology Services, the team developed HydroBot, a guardrailed chatbot. The HydroBot is being piloted with educators to answer hydroponics-related questions using content from the Hydroponics Manual and a curated collection of vetted resources.

A new partnership with Intermountain Health resulted in a $320,000, three-year grant to the Utah STEM Foundation. This funding established the Utah State University-led HydroMaster statewide network, bringing together partners from Utah State University and Southern Utah University. HydroMasters will provide support to hydroponics sites in their regions.

A UGrow Youth Market Guide was created to help educators plan, grow, and sell hydroponic produce that create opportunities for students to develop financial literacy skills. The team also released an application for the next 50 hydroponics sites. These sites will join the Community of Practice in Fall 2026, further expanding access to hydroponics education in schools and community sites across the state.

mySTEM

mySTEM is a student-focused leadership and community-action program. Students participate in career-connected learning opportunities and develop an action plan. This was the second year of mySTEM

Performance measures

Number of events with engagement of corporate partners



Number of individuals in Utah reached with high quality resources that impact math attitudes and achievement.



Percent of communities off the Wasatch Front served by STEM in Motion kits



Percentage of grants and dollars awarded off the Wasatch Front





Key accomplishments

and the feedback from our participants showed huge success. Participants rated their experience 4.85 out of 5. Twenty-seven students and five mentors developed unique action plans implemented with microgrant funds.

Innovation Hub

The STEM Action Center's Innovation Hub hosted its second summer of Camp Innovate, week-long camps featuring engineering, manufacturing, and other STEM concepts. This year, families were able to choose from eight different themes ranging from Arcade Engineering to Woodworking and Fabric Forge. Camp Innovate reached 70 campers this year, welcoming back many from the 2025 cohort. We are now packaging the program's curriculum for distribution across the Utah Maker Access and Knowledge Ecosystem to bring this experience to students statewide.

Dolly Parton Imagination Library + MILO (Math Introductions and Learning Opportunities) and Friends

Math companion guides are integrated with every book provided through the Imagination Library program for families with children ages 0-5 in six Utah counties: Piute, Wayne, Sevier, Garfield, Iron, and Washington. We created 72 math guides--one for each book--and 216 extension activities for parents to help children with counting, comparing, sorting, measuring, noticing patterns, and other early math play embedded in everyday activities. Launched on June 1, 2026, the program has grown to 2,193 enrolled children as of mid-August.

STEM Best Practices Conference

Nearly 500 educators were inspired with new ideas and innovative ways to integrate STEM into their classrooms at the STEM Best Practices Conference





in June. At the Price location, held at USU Eastern, approximately 100 attendees chose from 20 breakout sessions. In Ogden, approximately 400 attendees selected STEM breakout sessions from 34 options. There were more secondary options than ever before thanks to members of our STEM Education Innovators (SEI) Secondary program who presented sessions.

UServeUtah



Loggins Merrill
Division Director

As I reflect on our work at UServeUtah, I am certain that service is the bedrock of a resilient Utah. Deeply rooted in a heritage cultivated across generations, our culture of volunteerism continuously leads the nation, fostering health, happiness, and statewide prosperity.

No act of service goes without its rewards—both intrinsic and tangible. Beyond personal fulfillment and the benefits to well-being, volunteerism delivers billions in economic value to our communities each year, positively affects individuals every day, and builds a skilled workforce for tomorrow one service act at a time. Through strategic leadership and cross-sector partnerships, UServeUtah mobilizes vital resources and strengthens community and employer volunteer networks.

Whether expanding AmeriCorps initiatives, responding to disaster relief needs, or driving high-impact community service projects, every act of service and volunteerism contributes to lasting change. I invite you to see how our programs and outcomes translate into measurable impact across our state.

Key accomplishments

AmeriCorps State

In 2026, UServeUtah strengthened local communities by providing policy, compliance, and technical oversight to ten AmeriCorps State programs. Supporting 1,735 awarded member slots and more than 250,000 service hours, our team expanded the capacity to meet critical needs throughout the state. AmeriCorps members delivered one-on-one academic support to more than 3,500 students in 70 schools. In Salt Lake County, 450 individuals received job readiness support and 207 individuals were transitioned to safe and affordable housing. Additional efforts protected 2,482 acres of parks or public land, coordinated access to healthcare for 848 individuals and families, and built lasting capacity across more than 281 host organizations.

One Utah Service Fellowship

In 2026, the One Utah Service Fellowship expanded service-to-career and higher education pathways for young adults statewide. This effort was backed by federal, state, and private funding. 817 fellowships were filled in 22 Utah counties at over 300 host sites. Fellows directly recruited and managed 8,515 local volunteers.

Utah's Youth Mental Health Corps

Celebrating a successful first year, UServeUtah launched the Youth Mental Health Corps to address core needs of youth ages 12 - 18 and facilitate career exploration in behavioral health, health care, and social services for young adults ages 18 - 24. Through partnerships with local schools and higher education, 50 young adults served across 31 sites, delivering vital mental health support to 2,500 youth statewide.

Performance measures

AmeriCorps program staff assessment of program knowledge after training



College Community Engagement council members that show an increase in skills







Key accomplishments

AmeriCorps Seniors

In support of Gov. Cox's Early Literacy Initiative and statewide efforts to foster senior independence, AmeriCorps Seniors empowers Utahns aged 55 and older to make a difference through service. Through the Foster Grandparent Program, 50 dedicated older adult volunteers across nine counties logged 19,914 hours of service—helping 441 students in 22 schools and early learning centers. The Senior Companion Program deployed 46 volunteers across 15 counties, offering 17,998 hours of care to reduce isolation, foster independence, and support family caregivers. Together, these programs enrich the lives of children who need additional support and older adults experiencing isolation, while providing meaningful opportunities for older Utahns to serve in their communities.



Community Engagement

Volunteer for Good - UServeUtah's high school service pilot - explores how service impacts students' academics, social connection, civic engagement, and mental well-being. During the 2025–26 academic year, the pilot engaged 24,238 students across 23 high schools in Garfield, Granite, Nebo, and Sevier school districts as well as Mountain Heights Academy. Students collectively completed 336,383 volunteer hours, representing an estimated $11,695,154 in economic value to their communities.



In 2026, UServeUtah advanced community capacity through Volunteer Management Training and Volunteer Programming for Maximum Impact. Hosting four sessions in three cities: Lehi, Salt Lake, and Richfield, our Community Engagement team trained 123 participants from 79 organizations. Participant feedback was exceptional with 72% rating the training extremely useful and 100% rating it very useful or higher.

Boards and commissions

The Department of Cultural & Community Engagement's work is guided by dedicated community members, government officials, and business leaders who have been appointed to serve on division boards and commissions, as established by state statutes. Throughout the year, we remain grateful for their counsel and wisdom that shapes our programs.

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 and museums)

Chris Anderson, Spring City (visual arts, media arts, architecture, or design)

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

Terry Goedel, Saratoga Springs (folk, traditional, or native arts)

Jennifer Sinor, Logan (literature)

Janet Smoak, Green River (museum professional)

Samuel Tsugawa, Provo (music)

Utah Arts & Museums Advisory Council

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

Derrek Hanson, Salt Lake City (museum professional)

Amy Jorgensen, reporting chair art acquisition council; Ephraim, Granary Art Center (visual arts)

John Sparano, Salt Lake City (architecture)

Leroy Transfield, Orem, sculptor (sculpture)

Zac Wilson, Salt Lake City (business)

Bears Ears Visitors Center Advisory Committee

The committee's purpose and function is to explore the feasibility, location, function, and other important matters surrounding the creation of a visitors center at Bears Ears. Plans to visit comparable sites and visitors centers are underway.

Gwen Cantsee, Ute Mountain Ute Tribe

Betsy Chapoose, Ute Indian Tribe

Mikah Kewanimptewa, Hopi Tribe

Rep. Logan Monson, House District 69

Anthony Sanchez, Zuni Pueblo

Curtis Yanito, Navajo Nation

Utah Tribal Leaders

The purpose and function of this committee is:

- To strengthen government-to-government relationships between the state of Utah and Tribal governments;
- Promote an atmosphere of understanding, collective decision making, uniting and

Boards and commissions

reinforcing unity among Utah's eight Tribes, streamlining communication, and honoring tribal and state sovereignty;

- Create opportunities for state agencies to provide updates on Tribal-related projects and the state's special projects, sharing information benefiting Tribal communities to implement solutions to their community concerns when it comes to economic development, education, healthcare, policy, workforce development, transportation, public safety, broadband communication, and land use.

Malcolm Lehi, chair; White Mesa councilman, Ute Mountain Ute

Amos Murphy, vice chair; chairman, Confederated Tribes of Goshute

Dennis Alex, chairman, Northwestern Band of Shoshone Nation

Corrina Bow, chairwoman, Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah

Herman M. Daniels, Jr., council delegate, Navajo Nation

Robbin Preston, Jr., president, San Juan Southern Paiute Tribe of Utah

Kyle Craig, vice chair, Skull Valley Band of Goshute

Julius Murray, chairman, Ute Indian Tribe

Native American Remains Review Committee

The committee's function and purpose is:

- Address the discoveries of new burial sites or discovery of ancient human remains directly impacting Utah's Tribes;
- Monitor the identification process ensuring that fair and objective consideration is given to all claiming Tribes;
- Review Cultural Affiliation Reports prepared by the Antiquities Section of the State Historic Preservation Office;
- Facilitate the resolution of disputes among Tribal Nations or lineal descendants and state agencies relating to the return of Native American remains;
- Consult with Tribes on matters within the scope of the review committee's work;
- Consult with UDIA in the development of rules to carry out the return of Native American remains to Tribes or placement within the burial vault.

Betsy Chapoose, chairwoman, cultural rights and protection director, Ute Indian Tribe of the Uintah and Ouray Reservation

Patty Timbimboo-Madsen, cultural/ natural resources manager, Northwestern Band of Shoshone Nation

Glenna Nielsen-Grimm, collection manager, anthropology, Natural History Museum of Utah

Paul Stavast, anthropology director, Museum of Peoples and Cultures, Brigham Young University

Tim Riley, curator of archaeology, Utah State University Eastern Prehistoric Museum

Dustin Jenkins, director, Utah Division of Indian Affairs

Jacob Crane, Tribal liaison, Utah Division of Indian Affairs

James Toledo, program manager, Utah Division of Indian Affairs

Derinna Kopp, archaeologist, Utah State Historic Preservation Office

Christopher Merritt, director, Utah State Historic Preservation Office, antiquities

Boards and Commissions

State Library Board

The purpose and function of the board is to support the Utah State Library in developing, leading, and delivering exceptional library services while optimizing Utah's investment in libraries.

Actions taken during the last year:

- Revised and updated the Book Buzz program policy
- Revised and updated the Collection Development policy
- Revised and updated the Recertification Standards for Public Libraries

Joshua Johnson, chair, Farmington

Marissa Bischoff, Provo

Davina Sauthoff, Salt Lake City

Shannon Thoman-Black, South Jordan

Daniel Mauchley, Roosevelt

Diane Wanamaker, Orem

Megan Mullins, Lehi

National Register Review Committee

The purpose and function of the committee is to provide technical review of National Register of Historic Places nominations. This committee is required for the State of Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) to receive federal grants and to administer programs that are important to Utah's economic development including the Federal Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit.

Anya Grahn, planner

Anne Oliver, architectural historian

Amy Thompson, planner

Ella Olsen, public representative

Sharen Hauri, landscape architect

Richa Wilson, architectural historian

Arie Leeflang, archaeologist

Board of State History

The purpose and function of the board is to promote understanding and appreciation of Utah history, including guiding policy in related subject matters, and to support the mission of the Utah Historical Society.

Actions taken during the last year include:

- Reviewed and approved policies on deaccessioning objects in our collection, UHS awards recognizing outstanding efforts in history, and a gift acceptance policy;
- Reviewed and approved Historical Society Fellows, Honorary Life Members, and Outstanding Achievement Award nominations;
- Provided guidance on the Peoples of Utah Revisited initiative, communications strategies, and the Museum of Utah.

Spencer Hall, chair Salt Lake City

Emily Larsen, vice chair, Springville

Mike Brenchley, Ephraim

Robert Burch, West Valley City

Molly Cannon, Logan

Robert Goldberg, Salt Lake City

Emma Moss, Vineyard

Margaret H. Olson, Park City

Ryan Paul, Enoch

Axel Ramirez, Orem

Kim Wilson, Salt Lake City

Boards and Commissions

Museum of Utah Advisory Board

Kim Wilson, chair

Steve Barth

Dina Blaes

Maura Carabello

Dustin Jansen

Mike Mower

Steve Olsen

Susan Stevenson

Daniel Thomas

Martin Luther King Jr. Human Rights Commission

The Commission promotes Dr. King's legacy of nonviolence and civil rights with guidance from civic leaders representing Utah's public, private, and nonprofit sectors. Strategic partnerships enable MLK Day to be meaningfully celebrated as an active day of service on Martin Luther King Jr. Day and year-round.

Key initiatives and partnerships include:

- MLK Youth Day: The Commission hosted MLK Youth Day at the Delta Center in partnership with the Utah Jazz and Utah Mammoth. More than 50 youth engage with the six principles of nonviolence, explore STEM and educational pathways, and complete a community service project.
- Commemorative License Plate: The Commission established the Official MLK License Plate through a statewide student design competition. The plate is available on the DMV website.
- Sharing Dr. King's Six Principles of Nonviolence: Commissioners shared Dr. King's Six Principles of Nonviolence on Good Things Utah using resources in the MLK Day Observance Toolkit.

The MLK Human Rights Commission remains committed to building new partnerships, sustaining existing relationships, building meaningful youth programs, and continuing Dr. King's legacy throughout the state of Utah.

Daneka Souberbielle, Chair, SUU Vice President of Community Outreach and Engagement

Rand Lunceford, Vice Chair, International Association of Administrative Professionals

Kameron Abilla, WAVV Communications

Latonya Howell, Diversified Botanics

Scott Hughes, Cicero Group

Claudia Loayza, Developed By Women

Michelle Love-Day, Love-Day Educational Consulting

Alaina Marti, Bryant Middle School

Michelle Mooney, Salt Lake City Corporation

Liz Owens, YWCA Utah

Jamey Williams, Utah Valley University

Multicultural Commission

The Utah Multicultural Commission brings together community leaders, state agencies, policymakers, and partners to ensure community perspectives inform government priorities. The Commission serves as a bridge between communities and government, helping identify strategies that expand opportunities for all Utahns.

Thirteen commissioners represent state agencies and communities across the state.

This year our commission is focused on Gov. Spencer Cox and First Lady Abby Cox's statewide literacy Initiative and how to ensure this initiative reaches Utahns across Utah.

Nune Phillips, Co-Chair, DHHS Assistant Deputy Commissioner - Healthcare Administration

Boards and Commissions

Rhiana Medina, Co-Chair, Moab Valley Multicultural Center

Luna Banuri, Utah Muslim Civic League

Shawn Newell, Waves Consulting

Rich Nye, Governor's senior advisor, education

Emmie Gardner, Holy Cross Ministries

Tracy Gruber, Governor's senior advisor, health and human services

Kevin Nguyen, University of Utah

Trhas Tafere, Bear River Health Department

Tyler Clancy, Governor's Office – State Homeless Coordinator

Lita Sagato, Equity Real Estate

Sydney Jorgenson, Policy analyst for Gov. Spencer J. Cox

Van Nguyen, Executive Director, Juvenile Justice & Initiatives

UServeUtah: Commission on Service and Volunteerism

The purpose and function of the commission is to:

- Administer the selection, development, and oversight of programs funded and established by the National Community and Service Trust Act;
- Pursue opportunities for sustainable and high-impact community service;
- Develop and annually update a three-year community service plan for the state, including the establishment of state priorities;
- Stimulate increased community awareness of the impact of volunteer service.

Actions taken by the commission during the last year:

- Worked to prepare for its new three year strategic plan for 2027-2029, leveraging multiple avenues to collect feedback from Utahns such as a public survey, in-person and virtual listening tours, and stakeholder interviews;
- Reviewed and assessed progress made by commission staff on key performance indicators, resulting in goals remaining on track, met, or exceeded for the year;
- Evaluated the overall NOFO (Notice of Funding Opportunity) process and approved the top AmeriCorps grant applications;
- Amplified service-to-career pathway efforts with our stakeholders and programming with The One Utah Service Fellowship, Volunteer for Good, and the first year of implementation of Utah's Youth Mental Health Corps;
- Championed UServeUtah's Day on the Hill, promoting the educational and interactive service event about the commission's programming, impact, and outcomes with legislators and partners.

Lt. Gov. Deidre M. Henderson

James Ostergar, designee, Office of the Lieutenant Governor

Max Rogers, chair

Kim Hammer, vice chair, Utah Division of Emergency Management

Joanne Brattain, community member, Cedar City

Maylin Carter, student, Brigham Young University

David Francis, Utah State University, Out of School Youth

Cassidy Hansen, Utah League of Cities and Towns

Molly Hart, Utah State Office of Education

Bethany Marker, designee, Utah State Board of Education

Melissa Huntington, Four Corners Behavioral Health

Boards and Commissions

Chauma Kee-Jansen, American Indian Services

Geoffrey Landward, Utah System of Higher Education

Katie Mazzi, past chair and designee, Utah State Board of Education

Amanda Morton, Cyprus Credit Union

Jake Murakami, Utah Department of Human Services, Aging and Adult Services

Carla Nunez, ex-officio, AmeriCorps

Donna Law, Former Commissioner, Utah Department of Cultural & Community Engagement

Julie Rich, Weber State University

Charity Rowberry, Weber Human Services

DeLaina Tonks, Mountain Heights Academy

Ruby Vejar, student, Weber State University

Don Willie, The Point

Utah STEM Action Center Executive Advisory Board

The purpose of the board is:

- To facilitate coordination of programming and effective leveraging of services, with representatives from Utah State Board of Education, Utah Department of Workforce Services and Utah System of Higher Education;
- To ensure different perspectives for strategic planning and a conduit for STEM education in business and industry.
- To ensure industry members help to bring an industry view to how companies can and are able to engage in STEM education.

Actions taken during the last year:

- Provided input and guidance for the operating and programmatic budget;
- Participated in the creation of 2021-2025 STEM Action Center Strategic Plan;
- Reviewed evaluation and assessment data for STEM AC programs making recommendations for improvement;
- Provided guidance for the design and implementation of new programs including new STEM topics for consideration;
- Facilitated partnerships and expansion of the STEM AC network.

Vance Checketts, Auticon, US, COO; board chair

Katherine Potter, CCE commissioner

Rebecca Banner, Department of Workforce Service, deputy director

Aniza Brown, Rosie Project, CEO

Molly Hart, Utah State Board of Education, superintendent

Vic Hockett, USHE, associate commissioner of Talent Ready Utah

Chiao-ih Hui, Arcserve, director of global operations

Andrea Ibanez, Streemly, CEO and founder

Jamie Morningstar, Qualtrics, director of engineering, methods and practice

Kennedy T. Mpungu, Cytiva, lead scientist, chemistry and raw materials

Rich Nye, governor's senior advisor of education

Sarah Reale, Utah State Board of Education

Mark Sunday, Oracle, retired CIO and senior VP

Utah STEM Foundation Board

Eric Pope, VP of operations, US Synthetic; chair

Josh Brown, Utah Manufacturers Association, senior director of government affairs

Angela Mastaloudis, Brassica Protection Products, LLC

Brian Parker, VP and K-12 leader, MHTN Architects

Boards and Commissions

Vanessa Perez, senior manager, external relations, Micron Technology Utah

Brad Shafer, senior manager, government and public relations, Marathon Petroleum

Pete Suazo Utah Athletic Commission

The purpose and function of this commission is:

- To oversee and regulate professional and amateur combat sports, including boxing, mixed martial arts (MMA), and kickboxing;
- To ensure these sports are conducted fairly, safely, and in accordance with established rules and regulations.

Troy K. Walker, commission chair

Bruce Baird, commissioner

Tamara Leavitt, commissioner

Brian Miller, commissioner

Chris Barney, commissioner

America250 Utah

The function and purpose of the commission is to create statewide opportunities for Utahns to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

Ron Fox, co-chair; public historian, author, The Fox Group president

Mindy Benson, co-chair; president of Southern Utah University

Christine Durham, co-chair; lawyer and former Utah Supreme Court Justice

Kathryn Asay, vice president general, National Society Daughters of the American Revolution, Washington, D.C.

Barbara Jones Brown, historian and publisher

Andrea Clarke, managing partner, Clarke Capital, philanthropist

David Clark, consultant, former chair, Utah Tech University Board of Regents; former Utah state representative and House speaker

Sanchaita Datta, inventor and co-founder of FatPipe Networks

Brandon Fugal, real estate executive and entrepreneur

Alan Hall, founder and former CEO, Marketstar; philanthropist

Steve Handy, marketing consultant and former Utah state representative

Jani Iwamoto, former Utah state senator and Salt Lake County commissioner

Luis Lopez, Ogden City Council

Douglas McGregor, state secretary, Sons of American Revolution

Darren Parry, Tribal leader in the Northwestern Band of the Shoshone Nation and writer

Kristy Pike, writer and community leader

Byron Russell, marketing consultant

Don Stirling, business Leader

Brian L. Tarbet, retired U.S. Army major general

Kim Wilson, lawyer and community leader

Department *of* Cultural & Community Engagement

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