



Lights On! at Eccles Theater  
*The Turning Season* by Brooke Smart & Jeremy Morgan  
Photo by Kelli Freshman

## Salt Lake County Arts & Culture

### 2025 Annual Report

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## About Us

Salt Lake County's Arts & Culture Division is a team of dedicated professionals with a passion to support and expand the county's arts and culture community. We are committed to fostering deep connections through shared arts and cultural experiences. We support this mission with our Spaces, Places, Services, and Programs.

## Venue Services

Across our five performing arts venues, Arts & Culture provides exceptional spaces for creating and performing. By integrating expert event management, technical support, patron services, and ArtTix ticketing, we ensure that each client, performer, and patron has an extraordinary experience in our venues.

We provide essential operations and maintenance services to the Utah Museum of Contemporary Art, allowing them to focus on their exhibitions and programs.



## Community Engagement

We offer community building events, programs, and resources to engage new audiences; nurture arts organizations, professionals, and individual artists; and increase the organizational capacity of local arts organizations.



### Zoo, Arts, & Parks (ZAP)

ZAP educates, supports and engages partner organizations to enhance the quality of life for Salt Lake County communities and visitors through artistic, botanical, and recreational experiences.

## DIVISION DIRECTOR MESSAGE

### Dear Arts & Culture Supporters,

In 2025, we saw passionate civic dialogue around community and culture. Somewhat unusually, the arts have been at the center of many of these discussions, sparking essential conversations about our identity: What defines a community? What is the true value of art? Who has the agency to create, and which stories deserve to be told?

These conversations confirm that our work at Arts & Culture has never been more powerful or more necessary. We know the profound impact that arts and culture have in our community and in our daily lives and we remain committed to fostering deep community connections through shared arts and cultural experiences. I am pleased to share a few of our annual highlights with you.

- We completed design work on our seventh venue, the new 89,000 square foot Larry H. & Gail Miller Arts Center in South Jordan, with construction beginning in Spring 2026.
- We supported Phase I planning for the cultural facilities in the new Sports, Entertainment, Culture, and Convention District. This transformative project will revitalize downtown Salt Lake City, including the modernization of Maurice Abravanel Hall's back of house and UMOCA to ensure these essential cultural anchors remain at the heart of our community for decades to come.
- In its second year, the ZAP Impact Program supported 211 small and mid-sized organizations with skill-building workshops, leadership networking, and in-depth training cohorts, helping them deepen their capacity and take meaningful steps toward long-term sustainability.
- Art in Public Places completed a comprehensive survey and appraisal of its 864 works, hosted public art workshops with local and state partners, and received a Salt Lake County Sustainability Award for Achievement in Water for the art exhibition "The Great Salt Lake: An Uplifting Artistic Oasis."

Thank you for your unwavering support of our mission and your ongoing service to Salt Lake County's arts and culture community.

With gratitude,



**MATTHEW CASTILLO**

Salt Lake County Arts & Culture Division Director

"Our work at Arts & Culture has never been more powerful or more necessary."

# ARTS & CULTURE RESIDENCY

## Residency Program

Arts & Culture's Residency program provides direct support to several of Utah's finest performing arts organizations. Residents receive priority booking, dedicated rehearsal space, and some have on-site office and storage spaces. This stability allows Residents to focus on their artistic and creative excellence, audience development, and organizational growth.

### Our Resident Companies:

**ABRAVANEL HALL** - Utah Symphony

**CAPITOL THEATRE** - Ballet West and Utah Opera

**ECCLES THEATER REGENT STREET BLACK BOX** - JAKS Theatre Company, The Sting & Honey Company, Utah Classical Guitar, Wasatch Theatre Company

**ROSE WAGNER PERFORMING ARTS CENTER** - Gina Bachauer International Piano Foundation, Plan-B Theatre Company, Pygmalion Productions, Repertory Dance Theatre, Ririe Woodbury Dance Company

**UTAH MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART**

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## JAKS Theatre Company Resident Company at Eccles Theater Regent Street Black Box and ZAP Grantee

"JAKS Theatre Company is dedicated to providing our community an opportunity to enjoy an affordable, high quality theater experience.

**Two programs offered by Salt Lake County Arts & Culture are key to our mission: the Residency Program and ZAP.**

"As a Resident of the Regent Street Black Box, our guaranteed scheduling allows us to focus our resources on our programming and to continue fostering self-confidence, dance talent, voice and acting, and an awareness of teamwork within the rigors of musical theater productions for all JAKS participants.

"ZAP funding helps us reach underserved populations and work to educate and expose the next generation of theatergoers to the magic of live theater performance through the free field trip opportunity for Salt Lake County Title One Schools made possible by ZAP."



Disney's The Little Mermaid



HadesTown: Teen Edition

## 2025 Venue Services Highlights

### Patron Services



Arts & Culture's Patron Services earned the Gold designation for Volunteer Programming for Maximum Impact from UServeUtah. This honor recognizes our commitment to running a best-in-state volunteer program and in 2025, we were one of only eight state-wide organizations to achieve this status this year.

Our Gold status serves as a seal of approval from the State of Utah and demonstrates that we are dedicated to excellence and to providing a meaningful experience for all our volunteers. To earn designation, our team completed a professional development course and created a detailed plan implementing the best possible strategies for managing our volunteers.



Ticket safety and fraud prevention is always top of mind for ArtTix. In 2025, ArtTix introduced new digital tickets offering simple, secure entry to events. Tickets now include new security features, including a dynamic QR code that refreshes every 30 seconds. Screen shots and PDFs no longer scan, protecting ticket buyers from counterfeit or duplicate tickets.

### Larry H. & Gail Miller Arts Center

In 2025, we finalized the design for the new Larry H. & Gail Miller Arts Center, Arts & Culture's seventh venue, to be built in Downtown Daybreak in South Jordan. As designed by Method Studio, the venue is a work of art, featuring architectural folded planes and creases to create an interplay of light and shadow.

The venue includes traditional performance spaces, including an 800-seat proscenium theater, a studio theater and flexible space, and a rehearsal/event space. In a first for an Arts & Culture venue, Miller Arts Center features a visual art gallery and arts classrooms.

This regional cultural center is expected to become an arts destination, presenting artists from the community, the region, and across the country and will host performances, exhibitions, educational programming, and community events designed to serve audiences of all ages.

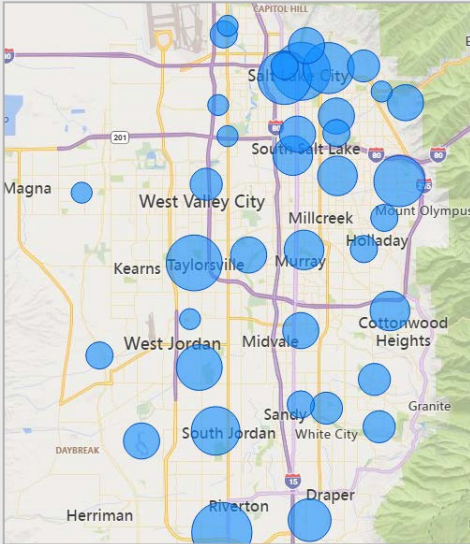


Conceptual Rendering

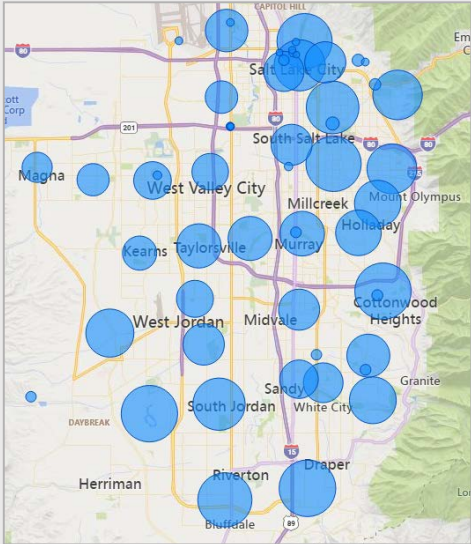
# VENUE USE & ATTENDANCE

## Salt Lake County Activity

While we regularly host national and regional arts organizations and patrons, Salt Lake County's own arts groups and patrons actively engage with the arts in our venues.



Venue Use by Salt Lake County ZIP Codes



Venue Attendance by Salt Lake County ZIP Codes

## 2025 Events and Attendance by Venue

VENUE	EVENTS	ATTENDANCE
Abravanel Hall	214	218,801
Capitol Theatre	232	142,040
Eccles Theater	387	357,869
Mid-Valley Performing Arts Center	416	72,533
Rose Wagner Performing Arts Center	632	61,906
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,881</b>	<b>853,149</b>

# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

## Community Engagement Programs

Arts & Culture's Community Engagement programming continues to expand, offering culturally resonant, free-to-attend arts experiences to the community. In 2025 we hosted **58 events and tours**, reaching more than 8,000 people and supporting 416 artists and arts organizations, including 29 that were new to our venues. According to audience surveys from our community activation events, 76% of respondents were first-time visitors to our venues.

**Eccles Presents Salt Lake Speaks.** Celebrating the power and passion of the spoken word at the **Slam Poetry Exhibition** and the multi-lingual **Feelings of Fall** poetry events.



Poet RJ Walker at Salt Lake Speaks  
Photo by Todd Collins



Combo Chimbita at Voces en Bloom  
Photo by Farris Gerard

**Eccles Presents Voces en Bloom**, a Spanish English outdoor concert on McCarthy Plaza at Eccles Theater, featured local and national rising Latino bands and honored our community's rich Hispanic heritage.



Danza Y Color at Westside CultureFest  
Photo by Kelli Freshman

**Westside CultureFest** at Mid-Valley Performing Arts Center. Two-day arts festival showcasing the creative heartbeat of the county's west side. Featured 31 live performances and 20 artisans in the Artist Marketplace.



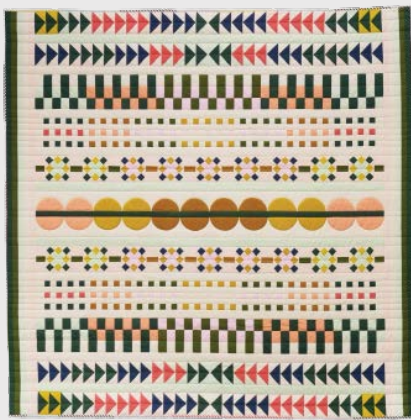
Mariachi Fuego, Mariachi Sol de Jalisco,  
Mariachi Mexico en Utah at Mariachi Festival  
Photo by Kelli Freshman

**The Third Annual Mariachi Festival** featured Mexico's beloved musical traditions with performances from local and national bands, and celebrated cultural and community pride at Eccles Theater. Presented in partnership with The Blocks Arts District, Consulate of Mexico in Salt Lake City, and UtahPresents.

## 2025 Acquisitions

In 2025, the Art in Public Places program acquired artworks from 13 new artists for the Visual Art Collection. These acquisitions expand the Collection across mediums and perspectives, strengthening our commitment to preserve and share the creative work of artists in our community.

The Visual Art Collection was honored with generous donations of multiple artworks from two significant Utah artists – Philip Fisher Barlow and Anna Campbell Bliss. We are proud to steward these new works in our Visual Art Collection for current and future generations.

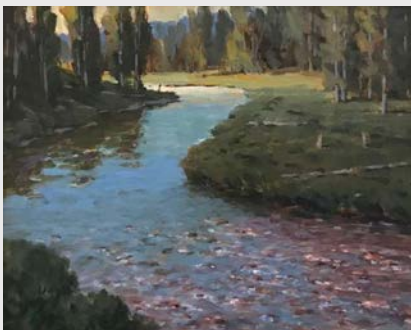


Mary Toscano and Andrew Rease Shaw, *Sequencer/Sampler*, 2025, quilt and sound piece

### Acquisition Highlight: *Sequencer/Sampler*

The Collection reached a milestone with the acquisition of its first sound-based artwork *Sequencer/Sampler*, by Mary Toscano and Andrew Rease Shaw. The work explores the artists' shared language of quilting and synthesizers. In music, a low frequency oscillator shapes sound through waveforms such as sine, square, triangle, and sawtooth waves. These forms echo traditional quilt patterns — squares, triangles, and curved arcs — creating a powerful link between visual design and sound structure.

Please scan the QR Code to hear the sound composition of the work.



Philip Fisher Barlow, *Blue*, c. 2000, Oil on panel

### Donations to the Visual Art Collection

The family of Philip Fisher Barlow (1933–2018) donated six of his works. A University of Utah graduate, Barlow built a successful design firm before dedicating decades to painting in watercolor, acrylic, and oil. His work was exhibited throughout the region, and he served as President of the Utah Watercolor Society.

The Collection also received a significant gift of works by Anna Campbell Bliss (1925–2015), donated by the Robert L. and Anna C. Bliss Memorial Trust. An architect and artist trained at Wellesley and Harvard; Bliss was one of Utah's leading contemporary artists. Her work is held in major museum and public collections, including the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York.



Anna Campbell Bliss, *Untitled*, 1986, Oil on stretched canvas

## Zoo, Arts & Parks

The mission of the Zoo, Arts & Parks (ZAP) program is to enhance Salt Lake County resident and visitor experiences through art, cultural, historical, and recreational offerings. The program fulfills its purpose through:

- **Grantmaking:** Provides fair and equitable access to ZAP funding and education resources by making grants to qualified nonprofit organizations and municipalities.
- **Promotion:** Increase public awareness of the value of ZAP through grantee activities promotion.
- **Capacity Building:** Provide adequate predictable support for larger organizations and enhanced support for the smaller local organizations.

**\$26 million**

distributed to 243 non-profit arts, culture, botanical and zoological organizations across Salt Lake County.

**41,090 events,**  
nearly half were free  
to the public

**35,000 volunteers**  
contributed countless  
hours and talents

**12,000 employees**  
and contractors supported  
in part as a result  
of ZAP Funding

## Capacity Building: Impact Program

The Impact Program continues to strengthen Salt Lake County's arts and culture nonprofit organizations. From skill-building workshops to leadership networking, we've helped participants deepen their capacity and take meaningful steps toward long-term sustainability. We can't wait to see what this momentum brings in the coming year.

- Hosted and engaged 257 arts & culture professionals
- 211 grantee organizations
- 4 Collaborative Program cohorts
- 5 workshops

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*"My biggest takeaway from the Impact Program is knowing that we have resources and a support system throughout our community. The program encouraged relationship building with other leaders and I feel by new friends and colleagues. I also left with an abundance of resources I can call upon when I need to implement new processes for reporting and tracking data."*

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## Rebranding

ZAP launched its new logo and visual identity to better tell its story and strengthen its connection with the community. It represents the connection between Salt Lake County's rich offerings in artistic, botanical, cultural, and zoological community-centered experiences.



## ZAP Grantee Testimonials



### **Salt Lake Acting Company, Tier I Grantee**

Thanks to ZAP, community members in Salt Lake County can see high-quality, professional theatre in their own backyard. Tickets are often free, and if not, very affordable thanks to ZAP funding. Our audience continually demonstrates how valuable SLAC is in their lives.



### **Sema Hadithi Foundation, Tier II Grantee**

ZAP funding has been vital to the growth of Sema Hadithi African American Heritage and Culture. Because of ZAP, more families, schools, and community members are discovering stories that have long been untold, ensuring that our heritage is preserved and celebrated now and in the future.

# Salt Lake County Arts & Culture provides spaces and places for our community to engage with the arts.



**Maurice Abravanel Hall**  
An artistic and architectural icon in the heart of Salt Lake City.



**Janet Quinney Lawson Capitol Theatre**  
A historic beauty with over 100 years of live performances.



**George S. & Dolores Doré Eccles Theater**  
Salt Lake City's premier performance destination for the Intermountain West.



**Mid-Valley Performing Arts Center**  
Thoughtfully designed performance, rehearsal, and event spaces supporting both community and professional organizations.



**Larry H. & Gail Miller Arts Center**  
Dedicated visual arts exhibition and classrooms spaces, and traditional performance and rehearsal spaces. Scheduled to open in mid-2028.  
*Conceptual drawing*



**Rose Wagner Performing Arts Center**  
A vibrant, active hub for emerging and established artists and arts organizations.



**The Utah Museum of Contemporary Art**  
Utah's only museum devoted solely to contemporary arts and culture. Arts & Culture manages the UMOCA physical facility.



**SL** SALT LAKE  
COUNTY  
ARTS & CULTURE

2025 Visual Art Collection Acquisition  
Amanda Smith, *Dark Money*, 2014, ceramic and oil paint

LEARN MORE about Arts & Culture venue rentals, upcoming events, and community programs on our website or follow us on social media:

[www.SaltLakeCountyArts.org](http://www.SaltLakeCountyArts.org)

  @slcoartsculture

LEARN MORE about the Zoo, Arts & Parks program on our website or follow us on social media:

[www.slco.org/ZAP](http://www.slco.org/ZAP)

  @slcozap