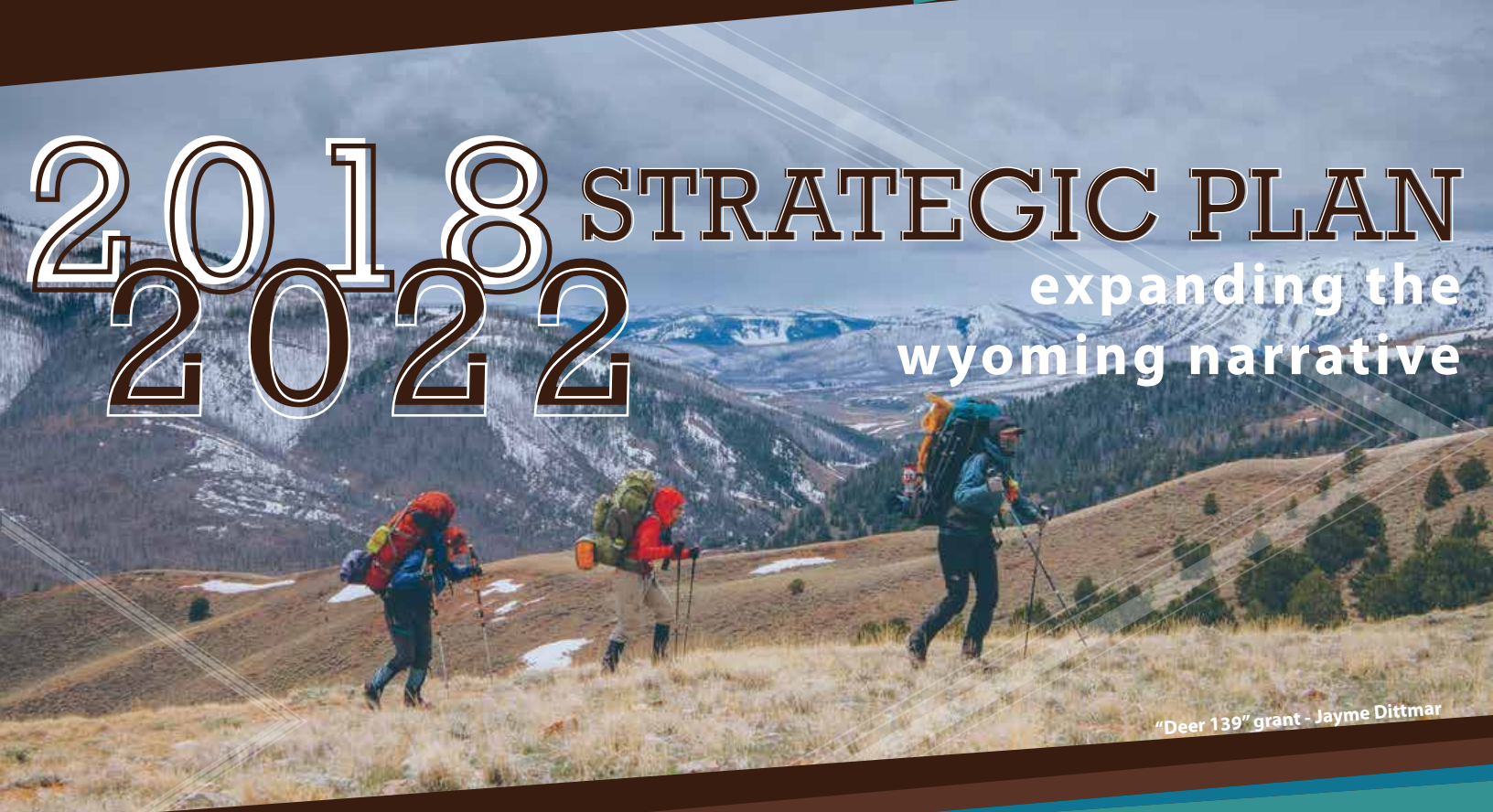


2018 STRATEGIC PLAN 2022

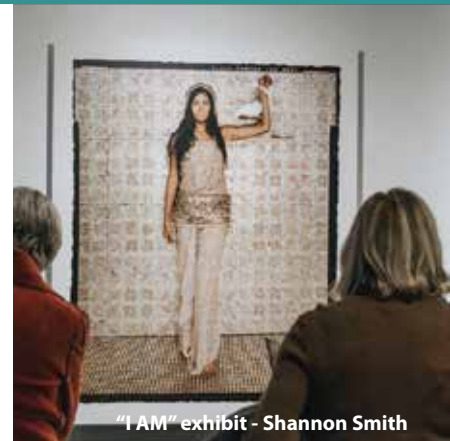
expanding the
wyoming narrative



"Deer 139" grant - Jayme Dittmar



"Wyoming Women's Suffrage Highway Sign" - Shannon Smith



"I AM" exhibit - Shannon Smith



Circle of Dance, Hoop Dancer" - James Trosper



Fort Laramie Treaty Commemoration" - Mike Vanata/Square State Films



NOTE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As we approach our 50th anniversary in 2020, I can't help but reflect on the ups and downs of public support for culture and arts, and the changes this organization has gone through as a result. Wyoming played an integral role in the national conversation about how to provide public programs in the humanities in the early 1970s, and all 55 state and jurisdictional councils today are based upon the model tested by Wyoming in 1970—we are literally the oldest state humanities council in the United States!

Five decades later, Wyoming is at a crossroads. For years, we've sought solutions to the boom-and-bust economic cycles and youth out-migration that have shaped the Wyoming narrative. Proposed ideas either didn't come to fruition or were tabled when the economy rebounded. When our current downturn hit, many Wyomingites thought it felt different. Therefore, in 2016 Governor Mead created the Economically Needed Diversification Options for Wyoming (ENDOW) initiative to propose economic action spanning 20 years. ENDOW's official report, submitted in August 2018, makes clear that the cultural arts and creative economy are vital to our future—both in terms of creating a quality of life that will attract and keep new residents, and in pure economic development and diversification opportunities.

But how does Wyoming execute ENDOW's recommendation to provide stimulus to the creative and cultural sector? Our five-year plan seeks to address this issue with a strategy to grow the creative sector from 5% of Wyoming's economy to 10%. Our plan includes continued investing in Wyoming's cultural infrastructure while simultaneously advocating for a time-limited stimulus package that will diversify our economy by growing us into a viable major economic sector. This plan also builds financial stability for our organization by diversifying our own revenue sources.

Our state's leadership is ready to make changes to attract generations back home to Wyoming and build a welcoming and modern image that takes to task some of the myths about the static, western, "cowboy culture" that has been perpetuated over the last century. There is a hunger to create new and expanded "Wyoming narratives" that usher in fresh ways of thinking about our state. Wyoming Humanities is in a unique position to help the state highlight, share, and expand its cultural narrative. Won't you join us in this exciting and worthwhile endeavor? Let me know at shannon@thinkwy.org.

Executive Director



“Fort Bridger Treaty Commemoration” – Shannon Smith

VISION

An expanded Wyoming narrative that promotes engaged communities, improves our quality of life, and enhances our economy.

GOALS

Leading Wyoming’s Cultural Infrastructure

- Be the primary point of contact for humanities and cultural projects
- Build capacity in other organizations through our humanities project expertise
- Become the recognized leader in advocating for a unified “Creative Economy” with greater stimulus investment from the State of Wyoming

MISSION

We strengthen Wyoming’s democracy through the humanities.

Sparking Synergy Within and Between Communities

- Create new connections within and between communities
- Increase interdisciplinary programming (2 disciplines interacting together directly)
- Increase statewide interest in humanities/cultural programs

PURPOSE

Our five-decade affiliation with the National Endowment for the Humanities enables us to improve the quality of life in Wyoming through public programs in the humanities.

Developing Organizational Sustainability

- Strengthen operational capacity
- Enhance WYH stature and funding with State of Wyoming
- Achieve Legacy Fund goal
- Create succession strategy for leadership



“Jackson Audience” – Lindsay Rust



“Deer 139” grant – Morgan Heim



“Circle of Dance, Fancy Dancer” – James Troser



OUR VALUES IN ACTION

All that we do can be clearly tied to a set of ideals that have guided our direction for five decades. They define our impact and are the building blocks of our organizational DNA. These are our core values in action.

1

FOSTER CRITICAL THINKING AND LIFELONG LEARNING
through the public humanities
(from our purpose)

2

PROMOTING CIVICS AND DEMOCRACY
to strengthen our democracy
(from our mission)

3

RAISING CULTURAL AWARENESS
to expand the Wyoming Narrative (from our vision)

4

ENGAGING COMMUNITIES
to improve our quality of life
(from our vision)

5

ENHANCING THE CREATIVE ECONOMY
to support economic growth
(from our vision)

Wyoming Humanities (WYH) is our state's affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and one of 55 state and jurisdictional humanities councils. We are an independent 501c3 nonprofit organization and have promoted the public humanities in Wyoming through grants and programs since 1970. Our funding comes from the NEH and the State of Wyoming, as well as private sources including foundation grants, corporate sponsorships, and individual donations. Learn more at thinkWY.org.

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