

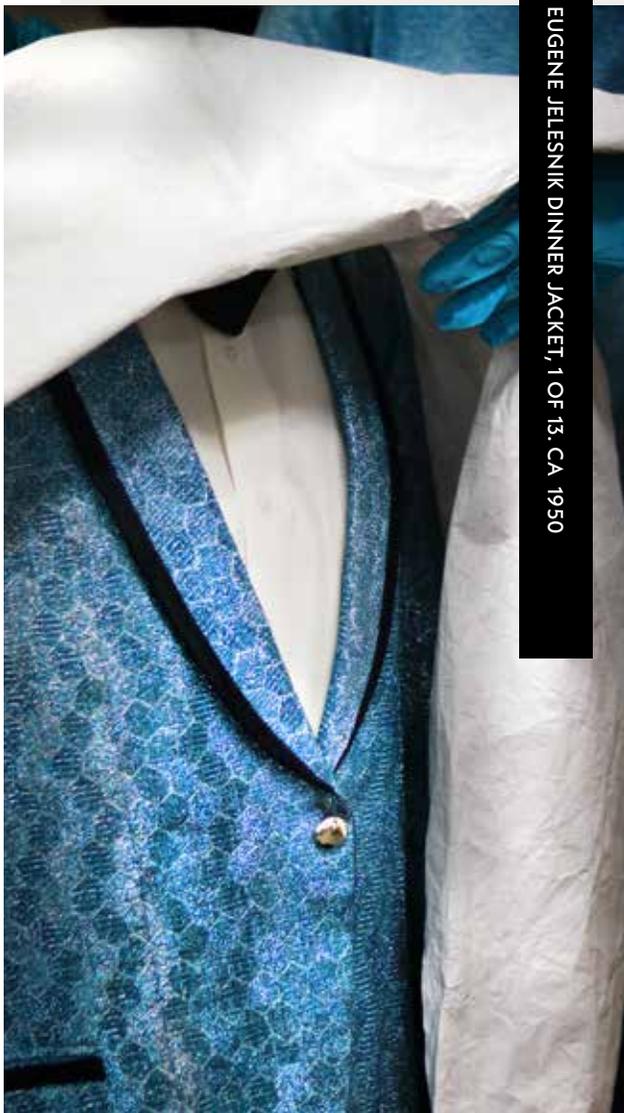


UTAH DEPARTMENT OF HERITAGE & ARTS

UTAH ARTIFACTS & ART

THE CASE FOR A STATE OF UTAH ARTIFACTS & ART CENTER

UTAH'S FIRST STATE FLAG, 1 OF A KIND. CA 1847



EUGENE JELESNIK DINNER JACKET, 1 OF 13. CA. 1950



PHILO FARNSWORTH MULTIFACTOR TUBE, 1 OF 110. CA. 1930



A FAMILY ALBUM FOR UTAH

UTAHNS CHERISH THEIR CULTURE

The second building in our state was a performance hall dedicated in 1853. Utah leads the country in participation in the performing arts. And we have the proud distinction of also being the first to institute an arts agency, with the formation of the Utah Arts Council in 1899. Equally auspicious, in 1897, even before the Utah Arts Council was formed, a group of public-spirited Utahns organized the Utah State Historical Society.

Together, Utah's history and art collections have approximately 1.8 million items, each offering insights into understanding and celebrating Utah's people, places, and cultures.

Yet, despite these riches, Utah is one of just two states that lack a comprehensive state history or heritage collections management facility in which to preserve, curate, and share our state treasures.

EVERY STATE HAS A RICH HISTORY, AND UTAH IS NO EXCEPTION

The collections held in trust by the Utah Department of Heritage & Arts are a treasure trove of manuscripts, rare books, historical artifacts, photographs, paintings, sculpture, and folk art.

For nearly four decades, the state's collections have been warehoused in the basement of the Rio Grande Depot and Art Haus with physical and environmental conditions that limit the ability of an entire generation of state employees to properly collect, preserve, and share the collections. Consequently, the public has not had the opportunity to benefit from them. Collections in both buildings face daily threats because of inadequate environmental controls, deteriorated building systems, and destructive natural processes.

In collaboration with state and community partners, Heritage & Arts has a solution that builds on the growing opportunities of the Rio Grande neighborhood in downtown Salt Lake City.

A VISION FOR A STATE OF UTAH ARTIFACTS & ART CENTER

The proposed facility is envisioned as a multiple-use public building with indoor and outdoor spaces. The new facility will provide:

- Vibrant, nimble spaces where Utahns can share the stories that bring our state's history to life through exhibitions and programs.
- High-density storage to allow the state's history and art collections to be housed safely under one roof.
- Multi-use space for teaching artifact care best practices to museum administrators throughout the state.
- The ability to host community functions for school children, teachers, artists and historians, nonprofit organizations, and others.
- Opportunities for visitors to view objects through glass walls as staff cares for the collections and stages traveling exhibitions.
- The only historical archaeological repository in the state, which creates a comprehensive historic record that is available to the public.

A PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP

In consultation with elected officials and community stakeholders, Heritage & Arts devised a plan that proposes funding the construction of the Artifact & Art Center by leveraging state appropriation with private giving.

Heritage & Arts proposes seeking private funding for the portion of the proposed facility dedicated to community engagement: 4,700 square feet allocated to exhibition and multi-use education space.

Private support for the facility will reduce the cost to taxpayers. Donors will have opportunities for naming rights to the community engagement spaces, where their gifts will be recognized in perpetuity.

THE URGENCY

If the Center is not funded, the State's collections of art and artifacts will remain inaccessible and in jeopardy. Collections in both storage facilities will continue to face immediate and long-term threats because of hostile environments. Protecting and preserving these collections is both a mandate for the State and a professional commitment for staff, who hope to be the generation that meets the preservation, collection, and sharing expectations of those who came before them.



PLEDGE

Please show your support
for the continued care of Utah's artifacts and
art by adding your name to our
"Pledge to Protect" at
utahartifactsandart.org/pledge