



NATIONAL TRUST
for HISTORIC PRESERVATION®

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TO: AASLH Award Committee

As the Idaho Advisor to the National Trust for Historic Preservation, I am pleased to support the nomination of the Boise Architecture Project (BAP) of Timberline High School (AP U.S. History) for an AASLH award. The project is a terrific example of the role students can play in documenting community history through its built environment. I am particularly encouraged by this project because, as a preservation advocate, former history teacher, and supporter of heritage education initiatives, the BAP is significant in what it offers the community now and in the future. Now, because as a student-initiated project, the work provides an immediate, tangible product in which students can be proud. Future, because it offers future residents valuable documentary resource.

The BAP has expanded its work by including another local high school. The result is that buildings in other areas of the city will be photographed and more students will become engaged in the process. This will ensure that architecturally and historically significant schools (that will soon be demolished) are photographed and documented. I am also impressed by the archival process the students undertake. For example, they backup the digital photos and print the best images, and provide a hardcopy of their research reports, which they make available to anyone. Also, to engage the community, the students added a "contribution form" on the project website for residents to share information about other buildings. The form allows for the description of a building style and history, and up to ten photographs. This is great student-driven community involvement.

The National Trust is committed to heritage education. Learning about historic preservation enables students to recognize, analyze, evaluate and solve problems, develop and strengthen critical and creative skills, and – as with work done in the Boise Architecture Project – encourages teamwork. The perspectives the students have gained about local history will give them the language to communicate to others the importance of protecting our resources. This in turn creates citizens who learn to incorporate the preservation ethic into their lives.

The work of the BAP provides place-based inquiry for students and citizens. Their leadership in documenting and communicating local history is worthy of an AASLH award.

Sincerely,

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Idaho Advisor

Protecting the Irreplaceable

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