

Central Rim Neighborhood Small-Scope Historic Survey

Collectively, students in class will research Boise's Central Rim neighborhood, document their findings in interpretive text and multimedia, and craft a website on which these media are shared.

Project themes

Irrigation/Water: What has it made possible?

Community: How has it developed, and why? Who has been included, and who has been excluded?

Architecture/Landscape: What aesthetic choices have developers and neighbors made, and why are these significant? What do these choices reveal about the residents' (shifting?) habits, beliefs, and values?

Project phases

Phase I (through October 15): Preliminary research

Undergraduate students will work in three groups focused on collecting information in different media:

Textual/legal research: duties include understanding how the neighborhood came to develop by finding documents housed in such places as the state archives, county courthouse, public library, and Albertsons library databases or special collections. Sources might include, but are not limited to, deeds, various applications for development or ownership, newspapers, magazines, phone directories, and more.

Visuals/maps: duties include understanding how the neighborhood came to develop by finding visuals that tell the story of the neighborhood's changes. These include, but are not limited to, historic maps, aerial photos, print advertisements that feature the neighborhood, and personal photos of neighborhood residents.

Oral histories/interviews with residents: duties include, but are not limited to, understanding how the neighborhood came to develop by interviewing residents about the

neighborhood. In selecting whom to interview in depth, students should prioritize long-term but lucid residents of the neighborhood.

Graduate students will serve as project managers, with dedicated liaisons to each group.

All groups should work in consultation with the others and organize their findings, including evidence, in ways that are comprehensible to other students.

Phase II: Content creation (October 16 – November 1)

This phase has three parts. Individual students' workloads and roles will be determined in consultation with the project management group.

Authoring text: Students will collaborate on three essays, between 1,500 and 2,000 words each, with each essay addressing primarily one project theme: Irrigation/Water, Community, and Architecture/Landscape.

Identifying images/galleries to illustrate the text: Students will determine which images should accompany the essays and will write captions for the essays, annotating them in other ways as necessary. Students will ensure—and document—that we have permission to use the images.

Multimedia: Students will create short videos of interviews with Central Rim residents. Ideally, this will include 5-6 interviews, edited down to less than 10 minutes each; the videos should be simply edited, with smooth transitions between stories, as well as the resident's name included in each video. Students will also create alpha versions of any animations, such as map overlays or sliders.

Phase III: Revision (November 2 – November 13)

By November 13, groups will submit final versions of all texts and still images, and beta versions of multimedia. **The grading gods will smile on those who submit highly polished work before the deadline.**

Phase IV: Finesse and beta launch (November 14 – December 1)

Graduate student project management team takes control of the project, does a soft launch (password-protected). Grad students conduct user testing and make changes to the website's architecture/organization as necessary.

Internal launch before December 8; public launch to neighborhood residents during the final exam period on December 15 (2:30 – 4:30 p.m.).

Deadlines:

October 15: Groups must have their research findings in a format they can share with others.

November 1: First draft of text, images, and multimedia due.

November 13: Final versions of all content due. Individual time logs and group member evaluations due. *Undergraduates will be graded on this version of the work.*

December 1: Grad students report (informally) to LMB about user testing.

December 8: Internal launch. *Grad students will be graded on all work up to this point.*

December 15: Public launch/presentation to Central Rim neighbors during final exam period. (2:30 – 4:30 p.m.)