

## THE STORY OF OUR NEIGHBORHOOD

### THE NEIGHBORHOOD THEN

This was always a neighborhood destined for growth.

Thousands of years ago, the waters of the Boise River served as a lifeline for the Shoshone tribes who lived in the harsh high desert. When homesteaders flocked to the area in the 1850s, they found gold here and built churches, stores, and homes by hand. Fifty years later, laborers built the Oregon Shortline Railroad right along where the River Street Neighborhood stands.

Immigrant families from Greece, Croatia and the Basque Country started their lives here, built their businesses here, and raised their families here. African Americans moved into homes along River Street to escape discrimination and find shelter from the pervasive racism at the time.

### THE NEIGHBORHOOD NOW

Today, some of Boise's most well-respected businesses and nonprofits stand among the homes of our neighborhood.

As Boise continues to expand, the neighborhood becomes more and more connected to the heart of the city. A nearby freeway exit provides access to commuters and the Greenbelt runs right along the edge of the neighborhood, bringing some of the best city parks and businesses within walking distance.

While the area is still evolving — as it always has — one thing remains the same: its legacy as a vibrant, diverse, and welcoming community.

