



IDAHO MUSEUM of INTERNATIONAL DIASPORA

Experience the world in Idaho.

WHAT: The Idaho Museum of International Diaspora (IMID) is an innovative museum that will showcase the lives of diaspora groups from within Idaho – Native Americans – *and* from around the world who have resettled in Idaho as refugees and immigrants (non-refugees).

WHY: Preserving the history of people affected by diaspora in the IMID is a critical step to further promote the rich history of Idaho giving back to its people of all cultures, all races. The museum will serve as a platform for education at all levels, healthy discourses on related topics, and community events aimed to increase cultural diversity awareness and foster a culture of inclusiveness.

HOW: The IMID will showcase the human experiences of the Idaho diaspora groups through stories and various exhibitions. Three IMID objectives will help to portray the trials and tribulations of Idaho diaspora groups in the context of their past (preserving the raw realities of their journeys to Idaho), current acculturation experiences in a new cultural environment, and their faith in a promising future.

“History cannot be changed but its purpose is to help us learn and grow if we open our hearts to share the world as a beautiful gift to all people.”

~Louangketh, 2018

CONTACT

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Hundreds of thousands of people around the world wish to leave their homelands for multiple well-founded reasons. Their hope and struggles for a new life often parallel the motivations that influenced the European pilgrims to leave their own homelands.

For people like the refugees, freedom, seeking safety for their children, escaping persecution and war become a matter of life and death – “nobody wants to be a refugee” (Paye, 2018). The tragic journeys of people who were forcibly removed from their homelands are no longer an occurrence of the past as evident in some parts around the world today.

DONATIONS: The IMID is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. Please visit the following link for options: <https://www.idahomid.org/support>.

Change with the times informed by the rapid pace of a global-oriented world signals the need for a new approach towards more openness, pragmatism, and shared involvement. Addressing the issues that impact people, communities, countries, and future generations of the world require today's generation to think and act with open minds and hearts.

Idaho has welcomed refugees since the enactment of the 1975 Indochinese Refugee Assistance Program in response to the need for all states to participate in the resettlement of Southeast Asian refugees after the end of the conflict in Vietnam. The experiences of today's refugee cohorts from all over the world are not very different from their predecessors.

Collectively, the transition from their traumatic past into a new way of living – a new life in Idaho free from persecution – instills hope towards the future.

The history of Idaho paints incredible stories of Native Americans, earlier immigrants into Idaho – i.e., Basque, Chinese, Mexicans, Europeans, Japanese, etc. – and the refugees as new Idahoans have evolved from suffering to having *hope* for a quality life, and *faith* in the support from their Idaho communities. With more than 100 countries into Idaho over time including distinct peoples, Idaho captures the hearts of the world.

Founded in June 2018, the Idaho Museum of International Diaspora became a non-profit corporation in February 2019. Join us in this incredible journey to preserve and highlight Idaho's rich history of cultural diversity in the Idaho Museum of International Diaspora as an international model for communities *uniting* and *flourishing*.

Our mission.

Influence positive community transformation.

Our vision.

Inspire an international movement of diaspora museums.

We exercise our core values with **HEART**:

- H** *History, Honor, & Human.* Preserve the integrity of **history** and **honor** the **human** journey.
- E** *Empower, Educate, Explore, & Engage.* **Empower** individuals through **education** and **explore** creative ways to deepen community **engagement**.
- A** *Acceptance, Awareness, & Accountability.* Through **acceptance** of diversity can **awareness** be gained and **accountability** be upheld.
- R** *Responsibility & Relationships.* Taking **responsibility** to foster a community of **relationships**.
- T** *Tolerance & Truth.* Exercise mutual respect and **tolerance** for others while maintaining strong commitment to the integrity of **truth**.