

Carson City Cultural Commission

Meeting Schedule 2013

5:30 p.m.

**Community Center - Sierra Room
851 E. William Street
Carson City, Nevada 89701**

March 19

June 18

September 17

December 17

FYI

Notoriety behind bars



The prison yard at the Nevada State Prison in Carson City as seen from the roof of the building. In the background is the quarry from which the sandstone blocks were hewn for construction of the prison buildings. MARILYN NEWTON/RGJ

Nevada's State Prison has history of escape attempts, execution firsts and even a presidential nomination

By Marilyn Newton
mnewton@rgj.com

9-30-12

After 150 years, the Nevada State Prison now is a ghost town.

Once one of the oldest operating prisons, the Nevada State Prison closed its doors on Jan. 9, 2012, as a result of budget issues. During those 150 years, the prison gained notoriety for a variety of escape attempts, as the first state to allow the use of poisonous gas as a method of execution and for having one of its convicts nominated for U.S. president.

By the time Nevada became a territory in 1861, the need for a place to house those who broke the law was glaringly apparent, and it fell to the first territorial Legislature to establish a state prison.

Abraham Curry, father of Carson City, owned and operated the Warm Springs Hotel on land located east of the capital city and readi-

ON RGJ.COM: For more photos from the historic Nevada State Prison in Carson City, find two photo galleries with this story on RGJ.com.

ly provided a meeting place for the new governing body.

With a potential profit to be made, Curry was eager to lease his land to the new territory for a prison. There was a sandstone quarry on the property where convicts could work. The sandstone from this quarry was used to build the state Capitol and the prison. The Legislature quickly approved the idea, and the prison was built next to the hotel. Curry was its first warden.

The land was leased for two years, after which the Legislature authorized the issuance of bonds to Curry in the amount of \$80,000 at

See PRISON, Page 4D



Condemned convicts were strapped to this table for execution at the Nevada State Prison. MARILYN NEWTON/RGJ



Abraham Curry was the first warden of the Nevada State Prison. PHOTO COURTESY NEVADA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Prison

Continued from Page 1D

the rate of 10 percent annually for the purchase of the buildings and 20 acres of land.

Riots, escapes and more

Like any prison, the Nevada State Prison saw its share of excitement over the years.

One of the early wardens was Robert Howland, a strict disciplinarian. On his first day on the job, a prisoner refused to fall in with the other convicts for breakfast. Howland proceeded to the blacksmith shop and procured a 12-foot piece of steel that had been heated red hot on one end. He returned to the cell and ordered the inmate to fall in; again the inmate refused. Howland then stuck the rod, which had cooled some, through the bars. With both hands, the convict grabbed the steel bar, only to release it quickly, shrieking in agony. A few more prods forced him into submission.

That winter, the inmate escaped, only to be returned. The story has no happy ending. After serving his sentence, the convict made his way to Virginia City. Refusing a request to leave, he was later found hanging from some hoisting works.

On May 1, 1867, a guard spotted a fire in a pile of stove wood near the kitchen, but it already was too late. As the fire spread, prisoners were taken from their cells and marched at gunpoint to the Ormsby County Jail some distance away.

Firefighters rushed to the prison in time to save the northwest part of the sandstone structure, but the rest, including all records, was lost to the blaze. Luckily, no one died in the arson fire.

The most serious incident at the prison occurred on Sept. 17, 1871, when a guard and a civilian were killed and Lt. Gov. Frank Denver and four guards wounded as 29 prisoners fought their way out.

Denver was having a party at the warden's house when the ceiling literally fell down around them, with two prisoners. Quick on the draw, Denver shot one of the inmates in the chest. At the same time, escapees poured into the yard and opened fire on guards with weapons seized from the armory, including two Henry repeating rifles, four double-barreled shotguns, five six-shooters and about 3,000 rounds of ammunition. In the melee, Denver was shot in the hip and crippled for life.

Although outnumbered, the murderers, train robbers and horse thieves killed two and were able to gain their freedom and scatter in different directions.

Among those who escaped were four members of the notorious Verdi Train robbery gang. Most were found about

FYI



The letters of the prison are carved into one of the hand-hewn sandstone blocks. PHOTOS BY MARILYN NEWTON/VRGJ

six days later camped around a high Sierra lake. One last gun battle ensued and a pursuer named Morrison was killed. All the convicts were captured. The lake where they were found is now named Convict Lake.

There were other breakouts, but none as deadly.

Inmate for president

The Nevada State Prison gained much notoriety over the years, but it was a first when one of their inmates, serving time for murder, was nominated for president of the United States.

Martin Preston was just 25 when he arrived in Goldfield and joined the "Wobblies," the Industrial Workers of the World. The union's aim to include every trade in town was not shared by all, and it came to a head one night when Preston and a friend were outside a nonunion restaurant trying to persuade potential customers not to enter.

The owner of the restaurant, John P. "Tony" Silva, responded by raising a revolver to a firing position, only to be fatally shot by Preston. A lynch mob was quickly formed, but the two men escaped. They were captured two days later, and Preston was sentenced to 20 years in prison for the shooting.

When the IWW party met in New York in July 1908, Preston's name came up. From prison, he was unanimously approved for the presidential nomination on the Socialist ticket. He couldn't campaign, but that didn't stop him from granting interviews from his prison cell.

His party received more votes than either the Populist or Independent party tickets in some states, but the labor party was on the ballots in only 15 states — Nevada not among them — and Preston ended up on the bottom during the count.

Preston walked out of the prison on April 28, 1914, and



Many convicts have left something of themselves in the form of artwork in Nevada State Prison cells.

faded into obscurity.

Nevada executions

In the early years, even after Nevada gained statehood, the counties in which crimes occurred carried out executions, and hanging was the only method used. Records are incomplete, but at least 20 executions were carried out in the various county seats. One man was hanged in 1860 when Nevada was still part of Utah Territory.

When the prison took over the process in 1905, it followed that same traditions — until 1911 when the Legislature decided the condemned should be allowed to choose whether to die on the gallows or by firing squad. The new law was tested only four months after it took effect.

Andrija Mircovitch, a laborer from Tonopah, was sentenced to death for stabbing John Gregovich in full view of more than 20 witnesses, including the local sheriff, in a dispute over Mircovitch's cousin's estate, which Gregovich was the administrator.

All of this took its toll on warden George W. Cowing, who resigned before the execution was carried out.

On May 14, 1913, Mircovitch shook hands with the new warden, Denver Dickerson, then calmly walked past the 20 witnesses to a chair to which he was strapped. A paper heart was pinned to his shirt. Refusing a blindfold, he said, "I die like a soldier." It was the only time the shooting gallery, as it became known, was used. Mircovitch, like others executed, is buried in one of the two small cemeteries at the prison.

The prison again gained fame in 1921, when Nevada passed a law to allow the use of poisonous gas as the only method of execution. Although three years passed before the next execution, Nevada was the first state in the union to use a gas chamber.

A number of issues had to be resolved before the first execution could be carried out. First, convicts refused to work on building the gas chamber, and six tried to incite a mass protest against the death house construction. A couple of days in the prison "dungeon" ended the protests.

The first life lost was on Feb. 7, 1924, when a cat, used to test the facility, died of the lethal gas. The next day, Gee Jon, convicted of killing a rival tong gang member, was the first person in the country to be executed by poisonous gas.

The last man to die in Nevada's gas chamber was Jesse Bishop in 1979. The method of execution was changed to lethal injection.

Sources: Nevada State Journal — Oct. 15, 1972, June 3, 1973, Aug. 17, 1975, Oct. 26, 1975, March 5, 1977, March 13, 1977 and May 8, 1978; Nevada Department of Museum; Thompson and West report of the prison from 1923-1964; special thanks to Warden Greg Smith and the staff of the Warm Springs Correctional Center; Nevada Department of Corrections Director Greg Cox and to Gov. Brian Sandoval.

FYI

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NEWS



MARIANO GONZALEZ PERFORMS IN WASHINGTON D.C.

In celebration of National Hispanic Heritage Month, the 2012 Homegrown Concert Series in Washington, D.C. featured Las Vegas resident Mariano Gonzales, master of the Paraguayan folk harp, accompanied by guitarist Dani Cortaza, singer Javier Di Francesco and dancer Illiana Belen Guato.

A NAC Folklife Apprenticeship Grant recipient, Gonzales' career as a professional harpist, composer, and harp maker has taken him around the world and into multiple musical genres, but he remains committed to the unique and exquisite Guaraní folk music of his homeland. Born and raised in Buena Vista, Paraguay, he began playing the harp at the age of five, under the tutelage of his father and grandfather. Gonzales settled down in Las Vegas ten years ago as a featured performer with Tony Orlando; he continues to tour internationally.

Rebecca Snetselaar, Folklife Program Associate, facilitated the presentation and introduced the group in two concerts—September 25 at the Millennium Stage at the Kennedy Center; and September 26 at the American Folklife Center. "The NAC is delighted to have Mariano Gonzalez represent the diversity of Las Vegas on a national stage," said Folklife Program coordinator Pat Atkinson.

■ READY TO RECITE?

2013 nevada



It's time for 2013 Poetry Out Loud National Recitation Contest (POL), a dynamic and interactive way to teach poetry and meet English/Lan-

guage Arts requirements for high school students. Now in its eighth year, POL welcomes participation by all high-school-aged students in Nevada. Through studying and memorizing classic and contemporary poetry, students become immersed in the power of expression and provocative ideas. Reciting the poems in front of peers and judges gives them valuable experience in public speaking and self-confidence. Just ask any of our finalists!

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

INTRODUCING The 2013 Artist Fellows

The NAC Artist Fellowship Program was created in 1988 to encourage the pursuit of artistic excellence and raise the profile of Nevada's meritorious artists. Each year, these highly competitive awards provide artists working in the visual, literary and performing arts funding to develop their work over the year-long fellowship period. The fellows provide free public events, such as readings, exhibitions, performances and master classes relevant to their disciplines.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

THE 2013 ARTIST FELLOWS



NAC NEWS

AGENCY COMINGS & GOINGS

The Nevada Arts Council is a division of the Nevada Department of Tourism and Cultural Affairs.

Brian Sandoval, *Governor*, State of Nevada
Claudia Vecchio, *Director*, Department of Tourism and Cultural Affairs

CARSON CITY OFFICE

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Ann Libby, *Coordinator*

*Positions supported with a National Endowment for the Arts grant.

Our Account Tech **Kendra Furlough** has returned to Taxation, her former agency. We wish her the best as she continues working on her bachelor's degree in Human Services Management. Taking over the duties of this position is **Kathy Davis**, who joins us from the administration of offices of the Division of Museums and History. Kathy has been with the State of Nevada since 1998 and has worked for agencies in the Department of Cultural Affairs since 2000. She brings a wealth of skills and even more enthusiasm to her new position.

OXS SPOTLIGHT: Prints by Eunkang Koh



The Nevada Arts Council's OXS gallery features the work of Reno printmaker **Eunkang Koh** in *A Study of Human* through November 16. Koh uses intaglio printmaking to depict creatures that are part human and part animal—living and interacting in a world absent of the pretense that human behavior is different from animal behavior. A recipient of a 2013 Artist Fellowship Honorable Mention Grant, Koh is currently an Associate Professor in Printmaking at the University of Nevada, Reno.

Down to Earth
Eunkang Koh
Intaglio
7" x 10"
2010

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Radiant Trajectory, a series of mixed media paintings and drawings by 2013 Artist Fellowship recipient **Orlando Javier Montenegro Cruz** of Las Vegas, will be featured in the OXS Gallery from November 26, 2012, through January 18, 2013.

Explore the Great Basin: In Print and Online

Travel the back roads of Nevada, Utah, California and beyond to examine this region's landscape, its people and the effects of change and abandonment through the *Great Basin Exteriors: A Photographic Survey* catalogue. The publication features the richly evocative images of photographers Daniel Cheek, Adam Jahiel and Nolan Preece that comprised an exhibit of the same name that recently ended a two-and-a-half-year tour of the region. The 60 page full-color catalogue includes an essay by noted critic Kirk Robertson, and is available for \$15 on our website at nac.nevadaculture.org. Check out the *Great Basin Exteriors* interactive website at great-basinxteriors.com, created by David Branby Advertising and supported by the Western States Arts Federation.



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NAC NEWS

INTRODUCING The 2013 Artist Fellows



Las Vegas native **Chris Bauder** lived in a small town in the Mojave Desert after high school for two years, the only time that he spent living outside of Nevada. Bauder received his AA degree

in 1981 from Cerro Coso Community College in California, then transferred to the University of Nevada, Reno. Inspired by his professors and the flourishing Reno arts scene, he received his BFA in 2002 with a focus on sculpture and ceramics. Bauder earned an MFA in sculpture from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas in 2008. The Brett Wesley Gallery in Las Vegas recently presented his work in a solo exhibition, and the College of Southern Nevada will host "Skull Show," the biennial group show Bauder curates.



Steve Gehrke's first book, *The Resurrection Machine*, received the 1999 John Ciardi Prize and was published by BkMk Press in 2000. His second book, *The Pyramids of Malpighi*,

was selected as the Philip Levine Prize for Poetry, and published by Anhinga Press in 2004. Most recently, his book *Michelangelo's Seizure*, was selected for the National Poetry Series and published by University of Illinois Press in 2007. That same year, Gehrke received a literature fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts. His other awards include *The Faulkner-Wisdom Poetry Prize* from Pirate's Alley, and a Pushcart Prize, among others. Poems from his fourth collection have appeared in *The Missouri Review*, *The Virginia Quarterly Review*, *Shenandoah* and other journals. He teaches poetry, literature and screenwriting at the University of Nevada, Reno.



Hailed as "a deft, smooth flute soloist" by the *New York Times*, **Jennifer Grim** has received numerous accolades, including first prize in several national chamber music competi-

tions. She is the flutist of the award-winning Zephyros Winds, as well as the solo flutist of the New York Chamber Soloists and the principal flutist of the Vermont Mozart Festival. Grim has performed across the nation with such groups as the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center and St. Luke's Chamber Ensemble. A passionate advocate of contemporary music, Grim is a founding member of Proteus, an award-winning ensemble. She also presents master classes at institutions across the country in both solo and chamber music. A native of Berkeley, California, Grim holds a BA from Stanford University, and MA and PhD of Musical Arts degrees from Yale University. She is currently Assistant Professor of Music at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.



Grace Hutchison was raised in the Black Hills of South Dakota in a musical household, and began playing piano and clarinet at an early age. She trained as a classical soprano in her

teens and sang in a folk band with her father, leading to nearly 200 shows and her first taste of the recording studio. At 19, she moved to Southern California, where she studied guitar, piano and vocal technique at the Musician's Institute. In 2003, she fell in love with the cultural and natural landscape of Reno, and immersed herself in its arts community, working in the administrative offices of Reno Philharmonic for six years. She established the art-rock band The Grace Gatsbies, and in 2008 was named one of Reno's top 101 most influential performing artists of the last 25 years. Her debut album, *Strange Attractors*, is set for release in the fall of 2012.



A fifth-generation Nevadan, **Tracy McQuay** graduated from the University of Nevada, Reno, with a degree in education and, more recently, with a MA in Integrating Arts into Education. A

teacher at Mark Twain Elementary in Carson City, the community in which she was raised, McQuay facilitates a multi-grade afterschool program where students read, write and dramatize poetry. A member of the of Ash Canyon Poets and the Society of Children's Writers and Illustrators, McQuay has published poetry in several national literary magazines and received a NAC Honorable Mention in literature in 2012. Her current work is a coming-of-age novel set in Nevada about a young girl named Truckee.



Orlando Javier Montenegro-Cruz is a visual artist who works in painting and drawing. Born in Managua, Nicaragua, in 1982, he immigrated to Las Vegas in 1989, earned a BFA

from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, in 2007, and then a MFA from the University of Arizona. Montenegro-Cruz's work has been featured in solo shows at the Left of Center Gallery, Winchester Cultural Center, and the College of Southern Nevada's Fine Arts Gallery and in group exhibition at the Arts Factory, various UNLV facilities and as part of First Friday's Get Back Alley. He currently teaches drawing as an adjunct professor at UNLV.

»Please note:

GO™ online submission time for Jackpot Grants has been changed from 11:59 p.m. to 5 p.m. starting immediately. This will allow staff to field any last minute calls from applicants.



Artists as Community Animators

To increase the number of artist residencies in Nevada schools and communities, NAC has created the Artist Residency Express Grant (AREx). Artist/sponsor designed workshops, lecture-demonstrations and other community-based activities offer rich and engaging experiences, and often lead to the implementation of dynamic local cultural programs. Designed for community and educational sponsors to easily host short-term artist residencies (three day limit), AREx grants are up to \$1,200 (\$400/day for one to three days) and are available throughout the year to eligible applicants. No cash match is required.

- **Battle Mountain Arts Presenters**, Battle Mountain, \$400 – residency with poet Gretchen Skivington at the Battle Mountain Museum, November 30, 2012.
- **Capital City Arts Initiative**, Carson City, \$800 – residencies with author Cindie Geddes on September 18, and author Dr. Eric Rasmussen on October 17. Both occurred at the Carson City Library.
- **Churchill Arts Council**, Fallon, \$1,600 – residencies with visual artist Rositza Todorova on January 25–26, author Laura Bell on March 9, and author Tupelo Hassman on May 4, 2013. Most residency activities are scheduled at the Oats Park Arts Center.
- **Clark County Parks & Recreation**, Las Vegas, \$1,200 – residency with dancer/choreographer Martha Smith at the Winchester Cultural Center, August 13–17.
- **Goldwell Open Air Museum**, Beatty, \$1,200 – residency with visual artist Anne Hoff at the Open Air Printers Studio in downtown Las Vegas, November 2–4.
- **Lost City Museum**, Overton, \$1,200 – residency with Native American Master Flute Artist Tim Blueflint at the Lost City Museum, July 26–28.

Grants Support Career Development

During the first quarter of FY13, NAC awarded 33 Professional Development Grants (PDG) to artists, arts administrators and arts educators to attend a variety of conferences and other gatherings for career enhancement for a total of \$21,150.

With PDG support, Nevada was represented at the Kennedy Center's National Seminar for Teaching Artists in Washington, D.C.; Arts Northwest Booking Conference in Boise, ID; Western Museum Association's Annual Meeting in Palm Springs, CA; and American Art Therapy Conference in Savannah, GA, as well as others.

Created to support the continuing education of Nevada's cultural workforce, PDGs are non-competitive grants available on a first-come, first-served basis. Grants provide up to \$650 to attend regional or national events, up to \$500 for in-state activities and up to \$350 for NAC-sponsored activities. Don't delay in getting your request in queue. Apply online at GO™. Questions? Please contact us at 775.687.6680.

Quarterly Jackpots Awarded

Nine Nevada artists and one public institution shared a total of \$9,148 in FY13 Second Quarter Jackpot Grants to support the following for arts and arts learning projects occurring October 1–December 31, 2012:

- **Dean Burton**, Reno, \$853 – to support the printing of photographs for an exhibition at Viewpoint Photographic Arts Center in Sacramento, CA in November.
- **Christina Camarena**, Reno, \$1,000 – to support the creation of a literary journal featuring the writings from detainees at Jan Evans Detention Center.
- **Matt Dodge**, Incline Village, \$595 – to support the framing of new works for an exhibit at the University of Phoenix Gallery beginning November 19.

- **Joseph Galata**, Reno, \$700 – to present an original performance project and workshop at the NYC World International Conference in October.
- **University of Nevada, Reno – Art Department**, Reno, \$1,000 – to support publicity and visiting artist travel connected with *Prospectives '12 International Festival of Digital Art* in October.
- **Diane (Bush) Olson-Baskin**, Las Vegas, \$1,000 – to support the creation and publicizing of a new performance art project, "The Big Cover Up."
- **Southern Nevada Handweavers and Spinners Guild**, Las Vegas, \$1,000 – to support the residency of fiber artist Nadine Sanders who will present advanced techniques of inlay in weaving at the Blind Center in October.
- **Dr. Nolan Stolz**, Las Vegas, \$1,000 – to support a series of school residencies in which students in Nye and Clark counties will read and rehearse Dr. Stolz's musical compositions, as well as work directly with Dr. Stolz as a living composer.
- **Markus Tracy**, Las Vegas, \$1,000 – to support five site-specific projects, "site-on-site," within the Winchester community of Las Vegas in October.
- **Jevijoe Vitug**, Las Vegas, \$1,000 – to support the exhibition, "How To's," featuring his paintings documenting the immigrant experience in Las Vegas at the Winchester Cultural Center Gallery, November 13 through the end of the year.

Examples of eligible Jackpot projects for organizations include arts exhibitions, performances, readings and concerts, sponsoring of arts related workshops and conferences, or marketing and promotional activities. Examples for individuals include projects for preparing portfolios and work samples, or presentation of work in performances or publications. The deadline for FY2013 Third Quarter Jackpot Grant applications is November 15, 2012 at 5 p.m. for projects occurring between January 1 and March 31, 2013. First time applicants are strongly encouraged to speak to Ann Libby, Grants Program Coordinator, prior to applying online.

NAC NEWS



Tracks
Bobbie Ann Howell,
Las Vegas and
Galen Brown,
Carson City
Mezzotint, linocut
20" x 10"
2010

Affordable Arts Experiences

High-quality visual arts exhibits are delivered to your facility and community, brought to you by the Nevada Touring Initiative (NTI). Each NTI exhibit includes installation, insurance, publicity and education materials, and the cost is only \$150. Schedule an artist residency to coincide with the exhibit with an Artist Residency Express Grant. Visit our website at nac.nevadaculture.org and click on Rosters & Exhibits to check out the NTI exhibits, or call 775.687.6680.

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Geographical Divides: Finding Common Ground features the work of 16 Nevada print-makers—eight from Northern Nevada and eight from Southern Nevada. These artists worked together to create prints that visually explore the geographic, cultural and aesthetic differences and similarities of Nevada's two major regions. A print-making residency can be scheduled in conjunction with the exhibit by applying for an Artist Residency Express Grant.

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Words + Images: Broadides from the Black Rock Press will be available to book in spring 2012. With 26–30 illustrated and non-illustrated letterpress broadsides, this new NTI exhibit will feature poetry and prose by noted writers such as Allen Ginsberg, Hayden Carruth, Gretel Ehrlich, Robert Pinsky and Billy Collins. Curated by Bob Blesse, director of the Black Rock Press, the exhibit's *Gallery Notes*, will include an essay about the history of letterpress printing and the Black Rock Press, several simple educational projects to create letterpress and illustrations, and images from the exhibit.



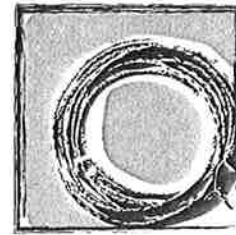
The Soft Time of the Year

At last, at last the night
Ties down beneath the hill
and the busy city in the sky
becomes visible. What
a bustling and confusion of
activity up there! I
can see the rape of Helen
and hear my own first cry
when I was born, for both
of which I feel profoundly
sorry. Somewhere nearby
meanwhile a paleolithic
reindeer whipsaw will
confide life commentary

Hayden Carruth

Hayden Carruth

2012 edition printed at the Black Rock Press
University of Nevada for the poetry series
Broadside Project. Artwork by Galen Brown



MEET NEVADA'S Traditional Master Artists

Meet the state's master folk and traditional artists in NAC's online video series, *Nevada Stories*. These artists are Nevada's tradition bearers—people who transmit what they believe, know, do, and create with others who share a common heritage, language, religion, occupation or region. Their expressions are deeply rooted in and reflective of a community's shared standards of beauty, values or life experiences. Featured are master artists Bill Maloy, saddle maker; Doug Groves, rawhide braider; and Mike Williams, Tule duck maker; as well as the traditional dances of Thailand and Mexico; traditional Balalaika music and Taiko drumming; traditions of the Washoe, Northern Paiute and Western Shoshone tribes; and many more. *Nevada Stories*, at nac.nevadaculture.org, is a project of the Folklife Program, and supported with funding from the National Endowment for the Arts.

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nac.culturegrants.org

go™
grants online
organization without limits

NevadaNotes

The **Southern Nevada Musical Arts Society** has much to celebrate this year—its 50th anniversary season, and the 45th anniversary of **Dr. Douglas Peterson's** service as the Society's music director.

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Carson City Library Director **Sara Jones** was named the 2012 Nevada Library Association's Librarian of the Year at its 67th annual conference. Former administrator of the Nevada State Library and Archives, Jones was commended for increasing community access to the library while reducing expenses, bringing new technology to the library system and creating a computer learning center.

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Kurt Mische, the President & CEO of KNPB Public Television in Reno, has been elected Secretary of *California Public Television*, the association of public television stations in California. Mische was also recently elected the Treasurer of The Pacific Mountain Network.

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The *Las Vegas Philharmonic* announced the departure of Music Director **David Itkin** prior to this year's opening concert. A series of guest conductors will lead the orchestra in the 2012–2013 season.

The Board of Trustees of *Sierra Arts Foundation* announced the appointment of **Stacey Spain** as the organization's executive director. Spain served as the interim executive director during the past year and has more than 17 years of experience working with Nevada arts and culture organizations.

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The board of the *Nevada Alliance of Arts Education* (NAAE) has named **Patricia Miller** as its Executive Director. An affiliate of the Kennedy Center Alliance for Arts Education Network, NAAE is currently reorganizing to ensure the health of its partnership programs, which include Arts4Nevada.org and Poetry Out Loud.

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Nevada Humanities now boasts two program coordinators in its Las Vegas office. **Bobbie Ann Howell**, artist and educator, was a former NAC Community Arts Development Associate and coordinator of a cultural center for the City of Las Vegas. Originally from England with a background in radio producing, **Rachel Hopkin** moved to the United States in 2010 and earned Masters in Folk Studies at Western Kentucky University while working as an independent folklorist/producer.

The federal Neighborhood Stabilization Program restores neighborhoods blighted or emptied by the foreclosure crisis. Using federal funds, counties purchase homes that are foreclosed or vacant, then rehabilitates them. The Las Vegas **Neighborhood Stabilization Program** has hired artists to participate in the landscaping designing, consulting and construction teams that are working on about a dozen houses. "Artists are problem-solvers. This is an opportunity to show a wider range of what they can do and at the same time raise the level of design in our valley," said Patrick Gaffey, who initially suggested involving artists in the project. The artists selected for this project include Brent Sommerhauser, David Sanchez Burr, Zak Ostrowski, Martin Kreloff and Adam Morey, all of who are experienced in large-scale installations, sculptural works and architectural designs, or are familiar with the architecture of the neighborhood. The budget for each home is estimated to be between \$50,000–\$90,000, with up to five percent directed to the work of the participating artists. Questions? Contact Patrick Gaffey at gaffeypj@ClarkCountyNV.gov.

IN MEMORY OF OUR FRIENDS....

Earlier this year, **Bruno Benna**, one of Northern Nevada's most tireless patrons of the arts, died after a hard-fought battle with cancer. Benna and his wife Edna received the 2002 Governor's Arts Award for Distinguished Service to the Arts for "their active participation, their joy in seeing the fruits of their largess, and their fellowship." Making Reno their home for better than 50 years, the Bennas' investments in local cultural organizations and educational institutions are legendary, and include UNR's Bruno and Edna Benna Endowment for Excellence in the Fine Arts.

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Norman Kaye, the last surviving member of the Mary Kay Trio, a pioneering lounge act in Las Vegas, songwriter and lyricist, and

longtime poet laureate of Nevada, died on September 17. He was 89. Appointed to the position of Nevada Poet Laureate in 1967 by Governor Grant Sawyer, Kaye was named Poet Laureate Emeritus by Governor Jim Gibbons in 2007.

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Pyramid Lake Tribal Chairman **Wayne Burke** died on October 28. Elected to the Tribal Council in 2010, Burke was elected Tribal Chairman in 2011. In October, Governor Brian Sandoval appointed Burke to the Nevada Commission on Tourism, the first Native American leader to serve in this role. In addition to advocating for Native American veteran issues and water rights for Pyramid Lake, Burke was an accomplished artist.



Grass Dancer
Wayne Burke (1974–2012)
Mixed media (canvas, acrylic, feathers)

NEVADA NEWS

Nevada Writers and Accolades

William A. Douglass, world-renowned scholar of Basque studies and founder of the Center for Basque Studies at the University of Nevada, Reno, was recently inducted into the Nevada Writers Hall of Fame at its 25th Anniversary ceremony. Silver Pen Awards, which recognize emerging and mid-career writers, were presented to **Elizabeth Raymond** and **Claire Vaye Watkins**. Raymond is a cultural historian, UNR professor of history and author of numerous publications, including *Changing Mines in America*, a collaborative work with photographer and UNR Art Professor Peter Goin. Watkins is an UNR alumnus whose collection of short stories, *Battleborn* is receiving critical acclaim from reviewers in national publications including the *New York Times* and *The Boston Globe*.

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The **Las Vegas Writes** project, sponsored by the Vegas Valley Book Festival provides a unique opportunity for the city's growing community of writers to exhibit their diverse array of styles and perspectives. Its fourth year anthology, *Wish You Were Here*, features short stories and essays written by a select group of authors who were inspired by iconic "Sin City" postcards. Read more at vegasvalleybookfestival.org.



THE ONE Resource

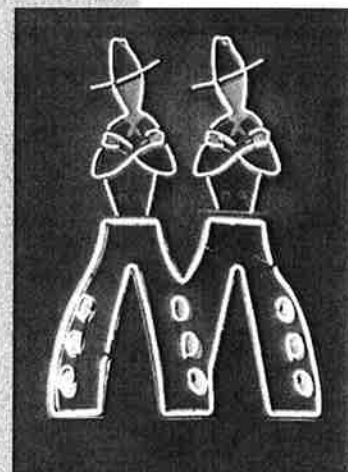
The Online Nevada Encyclopedia is a multimedia resource produced by Nevada Humanities that incorporates articles, images and interactive media to explore the landscape, people and events that have shaped the Silver State's politics, economy and culture. The ONE website is a work in progress, with new content, special features and technologies in development. Please check back often to see the evolution of the project at nevadahumanities.org.

Neon Glows in Nevada

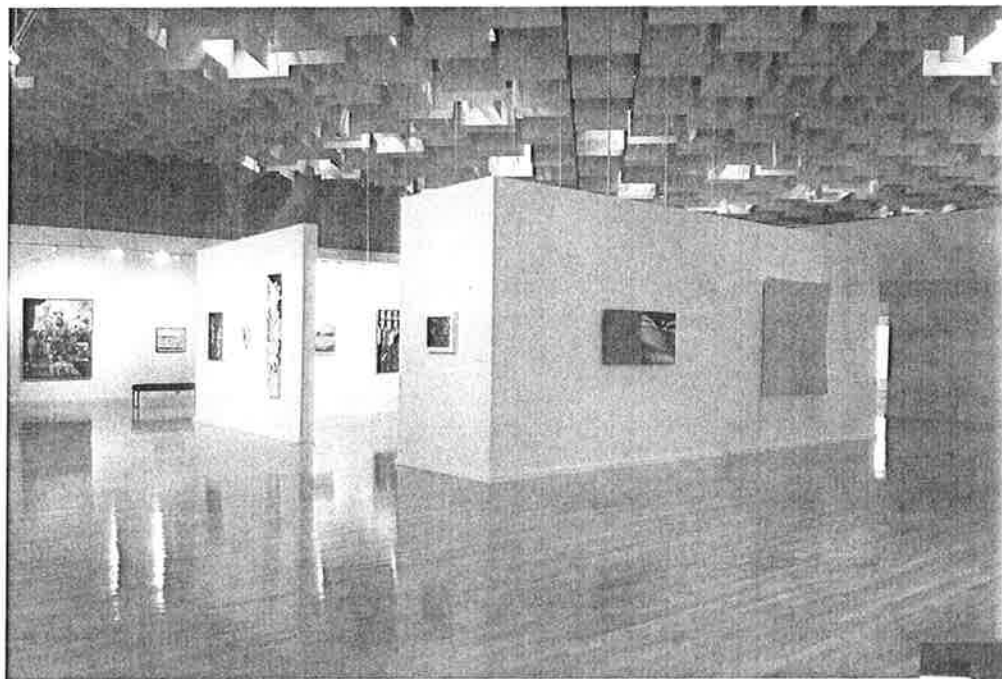


After more than 15 years of planning, the Neon Museum officially opened its doors to the public in late October. Founded in 1996, the Museum is dedicated to collecting, preserving, studying and exhibiting iconic Las Vegas signs for educational, historic and cultural enrichment. The Neon Boneyard, a two-acre outdoor exhibition space, features iconic signs from the city's most celebrated properties—including the Moulin Rouge, the Desert Inn, the Flamingo and the Stardust—as well as those from various other bygone restaurants, hotels and businesses. The museum's new Visitors Center is located on-site in the recently rehabilitated La Concha Motel lobby, the seashell-shaped, Mid-Century Modern architectural masterpiece designed and built by architect Paul Revere Williams. Originally constructed in 1961 on Las Vegas Boulevard South, the La Concha lobby was saved from demolition in 2005 and moved to its current location at 770 Las Vegas Blvd. North. Read more at NeonMuseum.org.

The *Light Circus: Art of Nevada Neon Signs* is on exhibit at the Nevada Museum of Art in Reno through February 10, 2013. From flashing incandescent bulbs to candy-colored neon tubes, the nostalgic pieces featured includes the iconic M-shaped cowboy chaps from the demolished Mapes Hotel Casino that hangs alongside the flickering bulbs of Reno's Harold's Club and Nevada Club signs and refurbished signs from Parker's Western Wear, the Holiday Hotel and the Deux Gros Nez coffee shop. Read more at nevadaart.org.



Mapes Hotel Casino, Reno
Collection of Will Durham
Photo by Jamie Kingham



Goldwell Museum Expands Programming

Open Air Printers, a program of the Goldwell Open Air Museum, has opened its Printmaking studio and artist workspace in the heart of the Las Vegas Downtown Arts District. Its printmaking capabilities include nontoxic lithography and intaglio, relief, letterpress, screen-printing and book arts. Studio memberships are offered for beginning to advanced printmakers, as well as fine art printmaking services for artists and organizations through the *Open Air Editions* program. Read more at: goldwellmuseum.org.

Marjorie Barrick Museum Welcomes Public

The newly renovated Marjorie Barrick Museum, located in the heart of the University of Nevada-Las Vegas campus, is scheduling exhibitions, lectures and programs to engage both UNLV and broader Las Vegas communities. Presently the temporary home of the Las Vegas Art Museum collection, the museum additionally maintains a collection of pre-Columbian and ethnographic art. In December 2011, the Barrick joined the UNLV College of Fine Arts and became the anchor of the Galleries at UNLV. The six galleries and one museum that make up the Galleries are each entities in their own right linked through a common mission and common administration. Barrickmuseum.unlv.edu.



McKeen Motor Car Honored

U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar recently listed the Virginia & Truckee Railway's McKeen Motor Car as a *National Historic Landmark*. The McKeen Motor Car in Carson City is the nation's only surviving railroad car that is able to move under its own power. Approximately 160 McKeen Motor Cars were built from 1905 to 1920. Once retired in 1945, the McKeen was converted into a restaurant and then retail space in Carson City. In 1995, it was donated to the Nevada State Railroad Museum in Carson City, where staff spent years restoring the vehicle.



NATIONAL NEWS

+ Report from Capitol Hill

Congress In Recess Until After Election

The U.S. Congress has recessed until after the November elections so that members can return to their home districts to campaign. They will come back after the election for a "lame duck" session, when they will try to tackle a backlog of unfinished business. Before leaving Washington, D.C., the Senate passed a continuing resolution that will avoid a shutdown and keep government agencies and programs operating until March 27, 2013.

Charitable Deduction in Jeopardy?

For nearly 100 years, the charitable deduction has been a significant source of revenue for arts and cultural organizations by incentivizing giving with a modest federal tax deduction for people of every income level who believe the public good is served by supporting charitable organizations.

Comprehensive tax reform has been one of the central issues Congress has said they want to resolve during the lame duck session after the election. While the result of the election will have an effect on the charitable deduction's policy direction, the lame duck session promises to be fast-paced with precious little time for constituents and advocates to express their opinions. Americans for the Arts and other national arts service organizations continue to work with a wide range of charitable organizations and the Independent Sector to encourage preservation of giving incentives. You can urge your members of Congress to preserve charitable incentives at capwiz.com.

U.S. Senate Interior Subcommittee Releases Budget Recommendations

The Senate Interior Appropriations Subcommittee released their draft FY2013 funding legislation, which includes \$154,255 million each for the National Endowment for the Arts and National Endowment for the Humanities. This funding matches the level set in President Obama's budget request, and is higher than the \$132 million proposed by their counterparts on the U.S. House of Representatives Interior Appropriations Subcommittee.

Arts & Economic Prosperity

Arts & Economic Prosperity IV is Americans for the Arts' fourth study of the nonprofit arts and culture industry's impact on the economy. It features customized findings on 182 study regions representing all 50 states and the District of Columbia as well as estimates of economic impact nationally. Robert L. Lynch, Americans for the Arts' President and CEO, commented, "The findings from *Arts & Economic Prosperity IV* send a clear and welcome message: leaders who care about community and economic vitality can feel good about choosing to invest in the arts." Visit artsusa.org for more information and a summary report of the study.

QUICK FACTS

Nationally, the industry generated **\$135.2** billion of economic activity—**\$61.1** billion by the nation's nonprofit arts and culture organizations in addition to **\$74.1** billion in event-related expenditures by their audiences. This economic activity supports **4.13** million full-time jobs and generates **\$86.68** billion in resident household income. Our industry also generates **\$22.3** billion in revenue to local, state, and federal governments every year—a yield well beyond their collective **\$4** billion in arts allocations.



**Local Arts
Classroom**

A Program of Americans for the Arts

The *Local Arts Classroom* is back for 2013! This program of Americans for the Arts provides an opportunity for emerging local arts leaders to master foundational concepts and build skills through exposure to current practice in the core areas of local arts development. Applications will be accepted by arts professionals with less than 10 years of experience in the arts field, including current undergraduate or graduate students, and those who are transitioning into the field from another sector. For details, visit americansforthearts.org. Deadline: November 16, 2012.

"Our Town" Applications Available Now

The National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) has posted application materials for *Our Town* grants, its creative place-making program. In the past three years, *Our Town* has invested \$11.57 million in 131 community projects that seek to improve quality of life; encourage greater creative activity; foster a sense of place; and advance economic development. Projects may include arts engagement, cultural planning and design activities. Learn more during a NEA webinar on November 13, and online at arts.gov. Deadline: January 14, 2013.

**Arts
READY**

Be ArtsReady. Hurricane Sandy was a huge reminder that the "unexpected, won't-happen-to-me, I-don't-want-to-think-about-it" actually does happen. A national initiative of South Arts, ArtsReady is a web-based emergency preparedness platform designed to provide arts and cultural organizations with customized business continuity plans for post-crisis sustainability. Check it out at artsready.org.

NATIONAL NEWS

Arts Building Communities



So what is it that makes a community—large or small, rural, urban, or suburban or exurban—livable and vibrant? Most lists include quality educational experiences for all ages, public facilities such as libraries, cultural and sport centers, open space and good design, a diversified economy, and a responsive government. And for most of today's successful cities and towns, the arts are near the top of the list, for they give voice to the human experience, and engagement in the arts stimulates the mind and imagination in ways that are essential to human progress. Aside from their humanistic values, the arts have pragmatic attributes that are linked to prosperity, and the making of places where people want to live, work and visit. To quote Robert Lynch, CEO of Americans for the Arts, "Combining artistic vision with the public good is what the arts community does."

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Place-making is not a new concept. By 1900, the United States boasted a national network of 2,000 Village Improvement Associations, characterized by citizen activism and a concern for aesthetics. A number of "movements" emerged to promote city planning, and the inclusion of art, architecture, civic centers and open space to balance the effects of industrialization. Robert Gard and Ralph Burgard pioneered the community arts movement in the mid-20th century, clearly demonstrating that local history, culture and traditions could play a transformative role in both towns and larger urban centers. Jane

Jacobs and William H. Whyte wrote eloquently about cities that catered to people and interaction.

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We encourage you to visit these websites, learn about the history of place-making, and explore what's happening in cities and town across the country. And then plan to join the conversation at PLACE MATTERS!, the NAC's 2013 Arts @ the Heart Conference in Carson City on April 22 & 23.

- **The Atlantic Cities** explores the most innovative ideas and pressing issues facing today's global cities and neighborhoods. By bringing together news, analysis, data, and trends, the site is an engaging destination for an increasingly urbanized world. theatlanticcities.com



- **Project for Public Spaces (PPS)** is a non-profit planning, design and educational organization dedicated to helping people create and sustain public spaces that build stronger communities. Founded in 1975 to expand on the work of William Whyte, the author of *The Social Life of Small Urban Spaces*, PPS' place-making approach helps citizens transform their public spaces into vital places that highlight local assets, spur rejuvenation and serve common needs. pps.org

- **Better Cities & Towns Online (formerly New Urban Network)** provides news, analysis, and information on compact, mixed-use growth and development through blogs, articles and links to useful content from around the web, updated daily. bettercities.net

- **ArtPlace** is a collaboration of eleven leading national and regional foundations; eight federal agencies, including the National Endowment for the Arts; and six of the nation's largest banks to accelerate creative place-making across the U.S. ArtPlace is investing in art and culture at the heart of a portfolio of integrated strategies that can drive vibrancy and diversity so powerful that it transforms communities. To date, ArtPlace has awarded 80 grants to 76 organizations in 46 communities across the U.S. for a total of \$26.9 million. artplaceamerica.org

- **Main Street®** For the past 30 years, the Main Street movement has transformed the way communities think about the revitalization and management of their downtowns and neighborhood commercial districts. Main Street® (of the National Trust for Historic Preservation) focuses on strategies for revitalization, a powerful network of linked communities, and a national support program. mainstreet.org



CONTINUATIONS

POETRY POWERS UP NEVADA—CONTINUED FROM FRONT COVER

The Program

POL begins locally, similar to the national spelling bee, with school and district competitions. District finalists will compete in the Nevada State Finals on March 16 in Reno. Cash prizes totaling \$4,000 will be awarded to Nevada's first, second and third place winners and their respective schools. The Nevada State Champion travels to Washington, D.C., to compete against students from across the nation and its territories on April 29–30, 2013. A total of \$50,000 in scholarship and school prizes will be awarded, with the national winner receiving \$20,000.

Curriculum-Based

Starting at the classroom level, teachers are provided with free multimedia curriculum materials—a poetry anthology, audio guide, teachers' guide, posters and comprehensive website at poetryoutloud.org—all aligned to national standards to augment their regular poetry curriculum with poetry recitation and a school-level competition.

What Happened Last Year?

Last year, more than 2,200 students, teachers and coaches from 14 of Nevada's 16 counties with high schools participated. Mandy Titolo of the College of Southern Nevada High School West represented Nevada at the national finals in Washington, D.C.

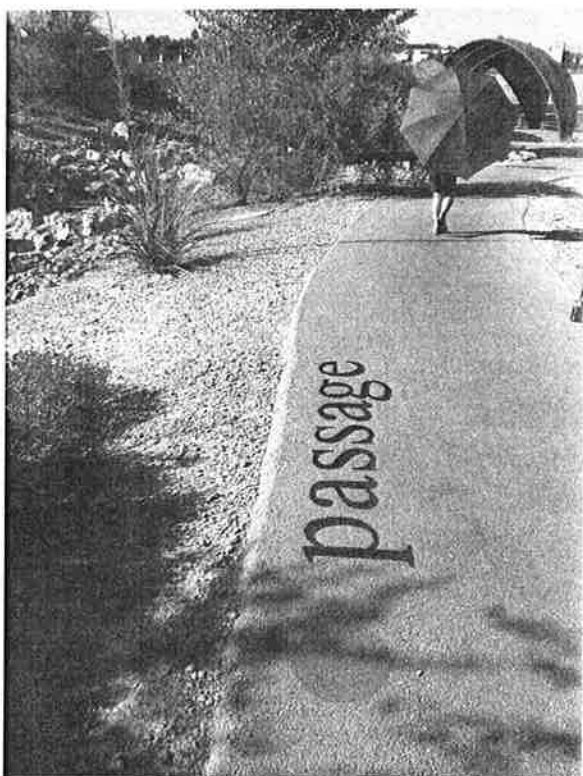
Powering Up Poetry: Poets in Residence

NV Energy has graciously donated \$10,000 for the second year in a row to maintain POL in rural communities. This critical funding also supports *Powering Up Poetry: Poets in Residence* – a series of writing and poetry interpretation workshops for students and teachers throughout the state. Ongoing partners of Nevada POL include the National Endowment for the Arts, the Poetry Foundation, Nevada Alliance for the Arts and the Nevada State Department of Education.



Ready to Recite?

Registration is open through December 1 for all Nevada public, private, charter, parochial and alternative schools, and home school associations. Questions? Contact Maryjane Dorofachuk at 702.486.3738 or mdorofachuk@nevadaculture.org.



Artist Markus Tracy received a Jackpot Grant to coordinate five site-specific public art projects utilizing the written word within the Winchester community of Las Vegas in October.

site
on
site

Bumper Art!

Dismayed with the cuts to arts education? You can do something about it! Funding for pre K-12 arts education programs across the state was sustained this year through the sales of "Rich in Art" license plates. Purchase one when you register your vehicle or exchange your present plate. Or think about buying one for a friend, a teacher or a family member for the holidays!

\$15 of the initial fee and \$10 of the renewal fee support important arts education programs of the Nevada Arts Council and VSA Nevada. Check it out at nac.nevadaculture.org.



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Please check the NAC website nac.nevadaculture.org for calendar updates.

November 15

Nevada Presenters Network Quarterly
Teleconference, 10:30 a.m.
Building NPN's Vitality and Value
775.687.6680

FY13 Third Quarter Jackpot Grants
GO™ Submission Deadline, 5 p.m.
(for projects: October 1 –December 31)

Through November 16

What Continues the Dream:
Contemporary Arts and Crafts from the
Powwow Tradition (NTI exhibit)
Pershing County Library, Lovelock
775.273.2216

November 16–January 23

Honest Horses: A Portrait of the
Mustangs in the Great Basin (NTI exhibit)
Beatty Museum and Historical Society
775.553.2303

Through November 27

Stop the Car, Dad! (NTI exhibit)
Eureka County Court House Gallery
Eureka, 775.237.6006

November 30

Tumblewords residency with Gretchen
Skivington, poet
Battle Mountain Museum, Battle Mountain
775.635.8548

October 24–January 4

Geographical Divides: Finding Common
Ground (NTI exhibit)
The Art Institute of Las Vegas
Las Vegas, 702.369.9944

January 14–March 8

Geographical Divides: Finding Common
Ground (NTI exhibit)
Humboldt County Library, Winnemucca
775.623.6388

February 15

FY13 Fourth Quarter Jackpot Grants
GO™ Submission Deadline, 5 p.m.
(for projects: April 1–June 30)

April 22 & 23

PLACE MATTERS! 2013 Arts @ the Heart
Convening
Plaza Hotel and Conference Center
Carson City

April 24

Arts Advocacy Day at the Legislature
Carson City
Hosted by Nevada Arts Advocates
702.362.8885

CALENDAR

Photos in this issue are courtesy of Mariano Gonzales, Nevada Museum of Art and Nevada Arts Council grantees.

Save the Date!

PLACE MATTERS! Arts @ the Heart Convening V
April 22 & 23, 2013 | Carson City

Arts @ the Heart Convenings bring together community teams to build relationships, share ideas and to learn how the arts can enhance their community's livability. More than 100 individuals from 25 Nevada rural and urban communities attended the *Fourth Annual Arts @ the Heart* convening at Lake Tahoe last April to discuss the intersection of the arts, community vitality, economic diversification and cultural tourism.



Nevada Arts News, a quarterly publication of the Nevada Arts Council, is available in print or online at nac.nevadaculture.org, and highlights the news of the arts industry from state, regional and national perspectives. Information about NAC programs, updates on Nevadans making news, and articles from and about the field provide a sense of connection to colleagues and events around town, throughout the state and across the nation. NAC programs and activities are supported by funding from the National Endowment for the Arts.