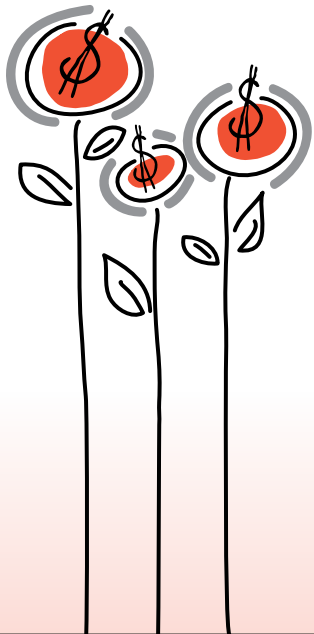


# nevadaarts

news

A publication of the Nevada Arts Council  
A division of the Nevada Department of Tourism and Cultural Affairs

## APRIL SHOWERS BRING MAY GRANT PANELS



NAC staff is busily processing more than 230 applications submitted for FY17 annual grant categories. When reading these applications, it is quite evident that Nevada’s creative industry continues to produce vibrant arts programming for communities across the state. All eligible applications will be reviewed in a series of public panel meetings scheduled for May and June. (Dates, times and locations of all grant panels on back page calendar.)

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NAC brings together primarily out-of-state professional artists, arts educators and administrators for its grants review process. These specialists provide a perspective in the evaluation of Nevada artists and arts organization with a depth of expertise that assists the NAC Board in making informed decisions in its grant-making role.

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## Congratulations Mikayla!

During the first day of the 2016 National Poetry Out Loud Finals in Washington, D.C., Mikayla Bates placed fourth in the western regional semi-finals, receiving an Honorable Mention and \$1,000; her school was awarded \$500. We think that is a remarkable achievement, considering 317,000 students from across the country competed this year.



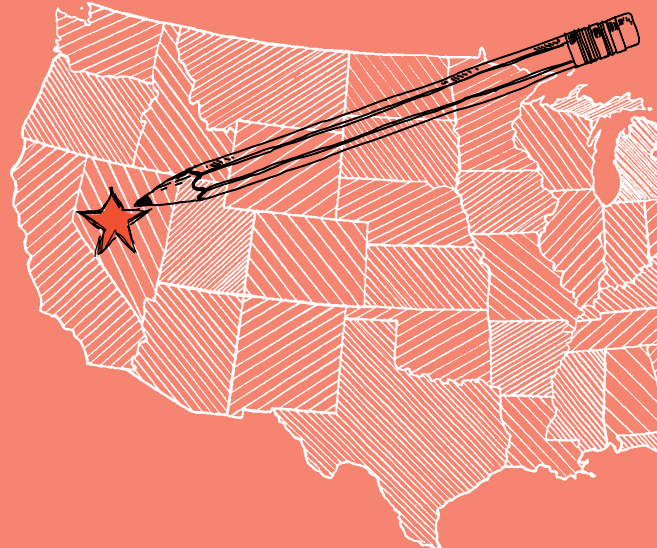
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## Studying the **Economic Impact** of Nevada’s Creative Industry

Nevada is one of 15 states participating in the national research study, *Arts & Economic Prosperity 5*. This fifth study conducted by Americans for the Arts in the past 20 years will quantify the economic impact of Nevada’s arts and cultural industry. The Nevada Arts Council, City of Reno and 35 local partners across the state are collecting data and surveys from nonprofit organizations, public institutions and audiences throughout 2016.

Results, presented in summer 2017, will include total dollars spent by nonprofit arts and culture organizations, and by audience members; the number of full-time equivalent jobs supported by arts spending; and local and state tax revenues generated by arts spending.

The most recent *Arts & Economic Prosperity Study* revealed that the nonprofit arts industry generated \$135.2 billion in economic activity and supported 4.1 million full-time equivalent jobs during 2010, resulting in \$22.3 billion in federal, state and local government revenues.



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

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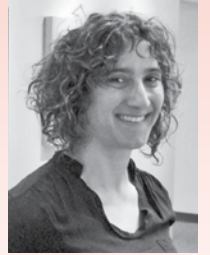
Ann Black, *Coordinator*  
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*\*Positions supported with a National Endowment for the Arts grant.*

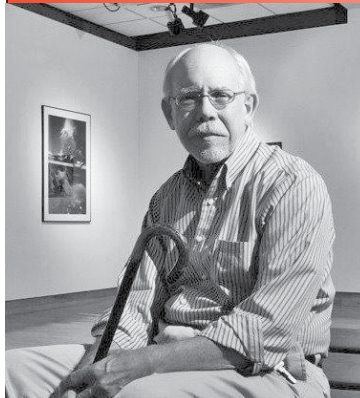


## Welcome.....

Meet Shoshana (Shosh) Zeldner, NAC's new Community Arts Development Program Associate. With ten years of experience in nonprofit program development, coordination, evaluation and fundraising, Zeldner is passionate about employing art as a tool to inspire community building, social change, and active citizenship. She most recently worked with the Crocker Art Museum's arts engagement initiative, *Block by Block*, overseeing a grant program for participatory arts programs in Sacramento as well as a workshop series for artists focused on social practice art. Additionally, she designed and coordinated a teen public art program with the Pence Gallery in Davis, CA. Zeldner is excited to become a Nevadan, learn about arts in the Silver State, and support the work of Nevada arts organizations, agencies, artists and communities statewide.

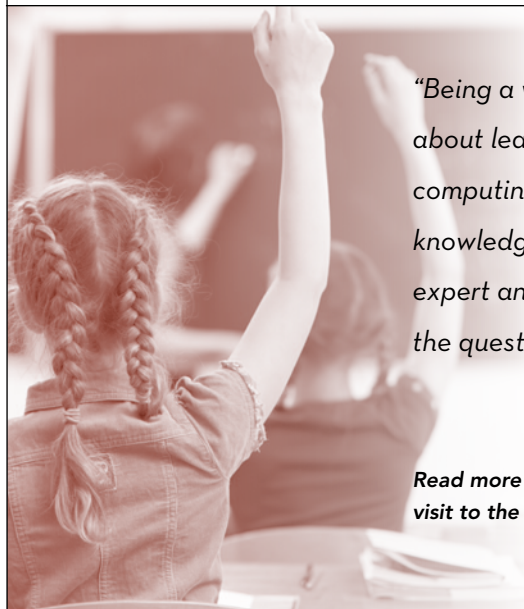


## Meet the NAC Board: Jerry Schefcik



Jerry Schefcik has been a Las Vegas since 1961 when his father relocated the family from Nebraska. After receiving a BA in Arts and Design at Brigham Young University and a MA in Art History and Museum Training from the University of Denver, Schefcik served as curator at Sangre de Cristo Arts Center in Pueblo, CO and then at the Amarillo Art Center, Amarillo, TX. Upon his return to Las Vegas, he became curator of the Donna Beam Fine Art Gallery at the University of Nevada Las Vegas in 1989. He was promoted to its director in 1991. In his current position of Director of Galleries, Schefcik oversees UNLV's five satellite galleries and the Marjorie Barrick Museum; teaches the Gallery Practices series and supervises the gallery internship program.

A leader in the Las Vegas cultural landscape for decades, Schefcik serves as advisor, juror and mentor to numerous arts organizations in Las Vegas, and throughout the western region. Presently a commissioner for the City of Las Vegas Arts Commission. Schefcik was Exhibitions Curator for Nevada Institute for Contemporary Art for more than a decade, and curator for the McCarran International Airport Arts Advisory Sub-Committee for five years.

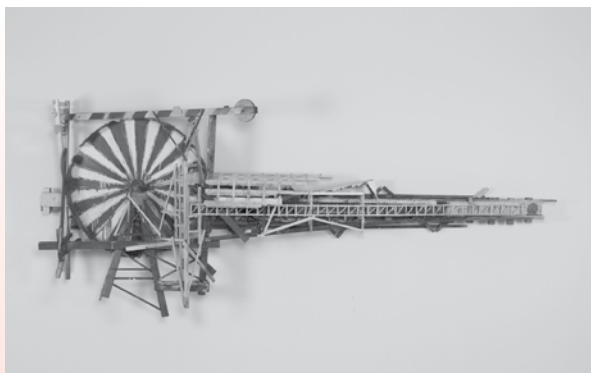


*"Being a well-educated person and passionate about learning isn't just about reading and computing well. It's about being skilled and knowledgeable about a wide range of subjects, expert and passionate about a few, and confident in the quest for more knowledge."*

—U.S. EDUCATION SECRETARY JOHN KING, JR.

**Read more about U.S. Education Secretary John King, Jr.'s visit to the Las Vegas Academy of the Arts on page 9.**

## OXS SPOTLIGHT: David Rowe | May 23–July 29, 2016



*Untitled, 2014, Wood, paint, stain, glue and nails*

*Vantage Point of Distance* features the sculptural work of Las Vegas artist David Rowe from May 23 through July 29, 2016 in the OXS Gallery.

Rowe's work is informed by an aesthetic developed building miniatures and models during his childhood in the Midwest. Rowe explains, "I... address the collective history of America... by creating large-scale sculptures that evoke our collective industrial past. My ultimate goal is to ask the viewer to assess their own place and history, enriching their understanding of their position within cultural and historical milieu."

Rowe is a FY16 artist fellow and 2011 Efroymsen Family Fund Fellowship recipient. His work is exhibited nationally, and is included in Arizona State University's traveling exhibition, *Crafting a Continuum*. An assistant professor in Sculptural Practices at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, Rowe holds a BFA from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and an MFA from Indiana University, Bloomington.

The current OXS exhibit, *A Brushwork Roundup: Western Paintings and Drawings by Craig Sheppard* runs through May 13, 2016. The exhibition includes 26 drawings, paintings, and prints that exemplify Sheppard's abiding fascination with horses.

## NEW TRAVELING EXHIBITS HIT THE ROAD IN JULY

Two newly curated exhibits will be traveling Nevada through the NAC's Nevada Touring Initiative (NTI). Each NTI exhibit includes installation, insurance, publicity and education materials and the cost is only \$150. Interested in bringing an NTI exhibit to your community? Visit the NAC website at [nac.nevadaculture.org](http://nac.nevadaculture.org) or call 775.687.6680.

### Basin & Range

Curated by Checko Salgado, *Basin & Range* tells a story of the geographical province that engulfs the entire state of Nevada and is framed by Oregon's Crater Lake at one end and Guadalajara, Mexico, at the other. Internationally revered artist Michael Heizer has drawn attention to the Basin and Range region with his massive land



*Untitled, 2015*  
by Javier Sanchez  
Neon light, steel and enamel paint

art. His *City*, a mile-long sculpture made of earth and concrete about 50 miles from Area 51, and *Double Negative*, a monumental earthwork slitting the mesa near Overton, both magnify the innate grandeur that lies within the Basin and Range.

Eighteen artists living and working in the Las Vegas valley have created the 22 pieces in *Basin & Range*. The work asks important questions related to the environment, urban development, ancestral lands, natural resources, tourism, conservation, and even Heizer himself. The exhibition showcases a variety of media including mixed-media, video installations, paintings and photography.

### Mountain Picassos: Basque Arborglyphs of the Great Basin



For more than half a century, Jean and Phillip Earl of Reno have used clues from old maps, letters, and books to hunt for and document "Mountain Picassos," distinctive figures carved into aspen trees found in the high country meadows of the Great

Basin. Basque shepherders carved these figures, along with names, dates, and sayings, in the early to mid-20th century. The Earls evolved a unique method of preserving the carvings using canvas and artists' wax to create rubbings, two-dimensional representations of the carvings that are works of art themselves. In partnership with the Nevada Historical Society, the NAC Folklife Program curated *The Mountain Picassos: Basque Arborglyphs of the Great Basin*, which features 26 of these unique canvases— along with text panels, contextual photographs and streaming video.

*Woman in Profile*  
Wax-on muslin rubbing by Jean Earl  
Collected near Treasure Mountain, 1992

## GRANTS CORNER



## Grants Get You to Where You Need to Go!

Professional Development Grants (PDG) promote the continuing education of Nevada's nonprofit arts industry through attendance at conferences, workshops, seminars, and other career enhancement activities.

Forty-two PDGs were awarded during the second and third quarters of FY16, supporting the attendance of artists, educators and arts administrators at conferences such as National Art Educators Association National Convention, IL; Americans for the Arts Annual Arts Advocacy Day, Washington, DC; the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators Conference, TX; and The American Mosaic Summit, CA.

PDGs are non-competitive awards available on a first-come, first-served basis. Grants provide up to \$650 for regional or national events, up to \$500 for in-state activities, and up to \$350 for NAC-sponsored activities.

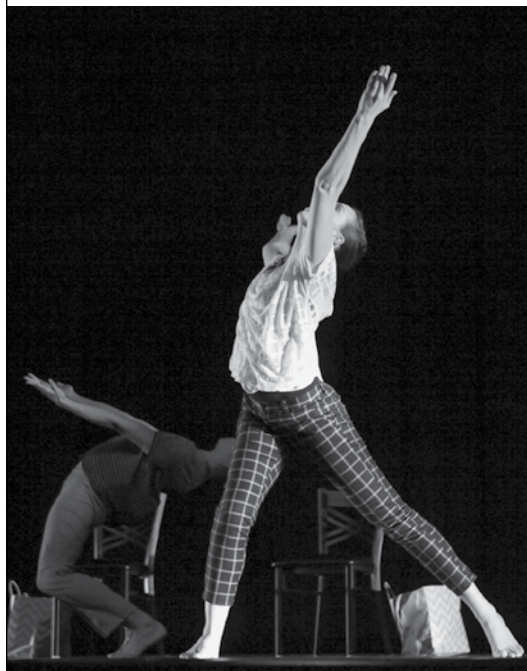
## Jackpot Grants Awarded

Eighteen Nevada artists, six arts organizations, two public institutions and one school received a total of \$23,256 from third and fourth quarter Jackpot Grant awards. Jackpot Grants provide up to \$1,000 in support for new and exemplary arts projects initiated by artists, schools, nonprofit organizations and public institutions. The application deadline for FY17 First Quarter Jackpot Grants is May 13, 2016 for projects scheduled July 1 through August 31, 2016.

### Third Quarter Jackpot Recipients:

- **Linda Alterwitz**, Las Vegas, \$890 – to write a series of articles for the online blog and magazine *Lenscratch*.
- **Timothy Chatwood**, Reno, \$690 – to support the creation of a new railroad inspired musical composition for the Sparks High School Band.

- **Gwendolyn Clancy**, Reno, \$804 – to support work on a new film, "Finding Home in a Distant Land."
- **DeAunn Davis**, Sparks, \$810 – to support the production of an original work created through a collaboration of dancers and musicians, that explores gender identity and love.
- **UNLV Edutainment Robotics Cybernetics Laboratory**, Las Vegas, \$738 – to support an origami project connecting art, design and engineering for K-12 students and educators.
- **Joe Heguy**, Elko, \$1,000 – to support an apprenticeship in decorative leather carving in saddle-making with master artist Eddie Brooks.



"28 More or Less," with Eve Allen and Katie Jean Dahlias at the 2015 Your Move Dance Festival in Jersey City. Choreographed by Jackpot Grant recipient Rosie Trump.

- **Jeffrey Knutson**, Reno, \$820 – to support the production of an original play, *Malvolio... Or What You Will. A Transgender Story*, written by local artists.
- **Maxim Lardent**, Henderson, \$868 – to support the first annual Downtown Las Vegas Improv Festival.

- **Mile High Jazz Band**, Carson City, \$1,000 – to support the Jazz Combo Demonstration and Workshop for community middle and high school instrumental music students.
- **Somerset Academy Sky Pointe**, Las Vegas, \$750 – to purchase ukulele kits for the Men's Choir.
- **L. Martina Young**, Reno, \$1,000 – to support printing 200 copies of the grantee's work *SWAN: a poetical inquiry in dance, text & memoir*.

### Fourth Quarter Jackpot Recipients:

- **Myranda Bair**, Las Vegas, \$917 – to create new works for an exhibition at the Clark County Government Rotunda Gallery.
- **Xian Na Carlson**, Gardnerville, \$880 – to hire a designer and artist to redesign a previously self-published book on Chinese folk dance traditions.
- **Carson City Visitor's Bureau**, Carson City, \$933 – to support the development of public art municipal codes and ordinances as part of the newly created Carson City Arts and Culture Master Plan.
- **Matthew Couper**, Las Vegas, \$1,000 – to attend an artist residency at Arquetopia in Puebla, Mexico, where the grantee will research and create ex-voto narrative paintings.
- **Martin Kreloff**, Las Vegas, \$797 – to produce works for an exhibition, *Martin Kreloff: A Retrospective*, at The Studio at Sahara West in Las Vegas.
- **Las Vegas Tap Fest**, Las Vegas, \$1,000 – to produce the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Las Vegas Tap Festival held at UNLV and the Las Vegas Academy.
- **Orlando Montenegro Cruz**, North Las Vegas, \$917 – to frame charcoal drawings for an exhibition at The Corner Gallery at the Arts Factory in Las Vegas.
- **Elizabeth Nelson**, Las Vegas, \$917 – to produce *Small Space Fest*, an immersive art festival at Emergency Arts in downtown Las Vegas.



## Grants Corner CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

- **Diane Olson-Baskin**, Las Vegas, \$1,000 – to produce a public engagement performance, *Inflated Dreams/Broken Promises*, during First Friday in downtown Las Vegas.
- **Opera Las Vegas**, Las Vegas, \$367 – to present the performance, *Stars of David*, celebrating great Jewish-American opera stars at Temple Sinai in Las Vegas.



Jackpot Grant recipient, A Public Fit, performs "A Summons from the Tinker to Assemble the Membership in Secret at the Usual Place" in downtown Las Vegas.

- **Proscenium Players Inc.**, Carson City, \$883 – to produce six performances of *Harvey* at the Brewery Arts Center in Carson City.
- **Colin Ross**, Reno, \$1,000 – to write and compose a new musical, *The Boy Spoke with Animals*.
- **The Shakespeare Institute of Nevada**, Las Vegas, \$422 – to produce a one-day Shakespeare Festival at The Container Park in downtown Las Vegas in celebration of the 400<sup>th</sup> birthday of William Shakespeare.
- **Robin Stark**, Henderson, \$1,000 – to create three ceramic vessels as part of a portfolio of ceremonial vessels.
- **Theatre in the Valley**, Henderson, \$853 – to fund royalties for two productions, *2 Across* and *Weekend Comedy*.
- **Mark Wherry**, Las Vegas, \$1,000 – to professionally record original songs at the College of Southern Nevada.

## Artists as Animators

Forty-seven Artist Residency Express Grants (AREx) totaling \$55,267 were awarded during the first three quarters of FY16 to support short-term artist residencies at six high schools, 14 elementary schools, three middle schools, and a number of community-based artist residencies. Artist and community sponsor-designed workshops and other activities offer rich and engaging experiences at the local level.

AREx grants are available to eligible applicants throughout the year while funding is available. Unfortunately, all FY16 funding has been awarded. Applications will re-open in May 2016 for FY17. AREx grants awarded this year include:

- **Communities in School of Nevada, Las Vegas**, \$1,500 – for a residency with Suzanne Morgan Williams with writing workshops for students and teachers at three local elementary schools.
- **Moapa Valley Performing Arts Council**, Overton, \$1500 – For a residency with the Missoula Children's Theatre that featured musical theater workshops for students at the elementary, middle and high schools.
- **Brüka Theatre of the Sierra**, Reno, \$1,200 – For a residency with visual artists Michelle Lassaline and Lyndsey Langsdale to conduct mask building and costume making workshops.



Missoula Children's Theater provided workshops for K-12 students in Moapa Valley, through an AREx Grant to Moapa Valley Performing Arts Council.



## Arts @ the Heart 2016: Brave New Communities

Thursday, June 9 & Friday, June 10, 2016  
Siena Hotel, Reno

The Arts @ the Heart 2016 convening is a time for local arts leaders to engage in conversation, networking and collective community action planning through the arts. Designed specifically for local arts agencies/councils and their "non-arts" community partners, this year's conference will focus on creating vibrant, equitable, creative and healthy communities throughout Nevada.

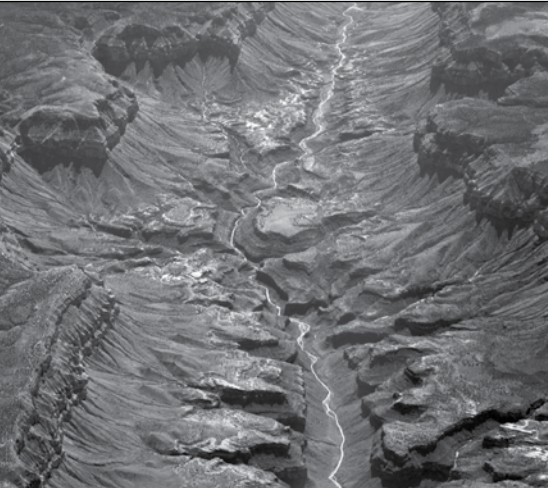
Maria Sykes from *Epicenter* in Green River, Utah is this year's featured speaker. *Epicenter* is a nonprofit community design center serving a rural town of approximately 1,000 by providing housing and business resources while integrating and promoting the arts.

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Please note that Arts @ the Heart 2016 registration is limited to local arts agencies and community teams. To register or for more information, please contact the Community Arts Development Program at 775.687.7119. Nevada Arts Council Professional Development Grants (PDGs) of up to \$350 are available for those traveling more than 100 miles round-trip to attend Arts @ the Heart.

*"Imagination will often carry us to worlds that never were. But without it we go nowhere."*

— CARL SAGAN, WRITER



## Cultural Traditions of the West's Waterways

The NAC Folklife Program is participating in *Rivers and Headwaters*, a regional initiative of five western states, designed to explore the folk arts and cultural traditions along the waterways of the West. Folklife staff is visiting communities along the Colorado River watershed in Nevada to identify and document art forms such as storytelling, material culture and performance traditions.

*Rivers & Headwaters* expands NAC outreach and services into rural areas of Clark County, establishes critical partnerships in the region, and provides material for public programs that celebrate Nevada's diversity of cultures and traditions. The National Endowment for the Arts and Western States Arts Federation are supporting the regional initiative.

APRIL SHOWERS BRING MAY GRANT PANELS CONTINUED FROM FRONT COVER

### NAC Grant Panels

Open to the public, NAC grant panels provide an ideal opportunity for current and prospective applicants to observe the panel review process and learn about competitive grant applications.

- Resumes of grant panelists and copies of Grant Application Books will be available at panel meetings.
- All grant recipients will be listed in the summer issue of *Nevada Arts News* and posted on our website.

**Project and Partners in Excellence (Tier I) Grant Panel:** Karen Bryan, director, School of Music, University of South Florida, Tampa, FL; Dan Cavanagh, associate director, Jazz Studies, University of Texas, Arlington, TX; Dr. Francesca McCrossan, folklorist and cultural consultant, Oakland, CA; Mark Masuoka, CEO/executive director, Akron Art Museum, Akron, OH; Gary Sanders, Community Arts and Exhibits Administrator, City of St. George, UT; and Ray Tatar, producing artistic director, California Stage Company, Sacramento, CA.

**Arts Learning Project Grants and Arts Learning Component Panel:** Amiee Allen, arts educator, Las Vegas, NV; Tia Flores, visual arts educator/arts integration specialist, Reno, NV; and Janice Jarrett, jazz musician and educator, Tucson, AZ.

### ARTIST FELLOWSHIP PANELS

The Artist Fellowship Program recognizes Nevada's artists whose work reflects serious and exceptional investigation, and promotes public awareness and appreciation of the artist's contribution to our society. Each year, NAC awards Artists Fellowships of \$5,000 and honorable mention grants of \$500 to Nevada's professional artists working in a variety of artistic disciplines.

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This year's Artist Fellowship panels will review applications for FY17 Performing and Literary Arts Fellowships in public meetings on June 21 and 22 at Reno's Truckee Meadows Community College, Dandini Main Campus, 7000 Dandini Boulevard, Red Mountain Building, Room 14. The panel review begins at 9:00 a.m. each day and will run through completion. (Applications for fellowships in the visual arts will be accepted and reviewed in the spring of 2017.)



## NAC ARTIST FELLOWS

### Celebrated in Las Vegas and Reno

Former Artist Fellowship recipients in the performing and literary arts were featured in two public programs earlier this spring. In March, the Winchester Cultural Center in Las Vegas hosted performances by Natalia Cortes-Chaffin, fiction writer; Dayvid Figler, poet/storyteller, Jennifer Grim, flutist, Kelly Roth, dancer/choreographer, and Kim Russell, actor/playwright.

In early April, Reno's Sierra Arts Foundation presented an evening of readings and conversations by Cameron Crain, actor/director, Cindie Geddes, fiction writer; Steven Gehrke, poet; and Laura Wetherington, poet.

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NAC thanks Nevada Humanities, Clark County Parks and Recreation Cultural Arts Program and Sierra Arts Foundation for their support and co-sponsorship of these programs.

NAC Artist Fellows at Sierra Arts Gallery after an evening of performance and conversation (left to right): Laura Wetherington, George Perrault, Cameron Crain, Cindie Geddes, Steven Gehrke. Photo by Megan Kay.

## NevadaNotes



**Christine Fey**, the City of Reno's Arts and Culture Manager since 2000, is now overseeing resource development, fundraising and volunteer recruitment for Parks and Recreation as Resource

Development Manager. **Alexis Hill** assumed Fey's responsibilities as the Arts, Culture and Special events manager, a new position. Hill served as the city's Special Events Manager for four years (see Local Arts News below).

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The *Neon Museum Board of Trustees* has appointed **Rob McCoy** as the museum's new CEO. A native Las Vegas and former chairman of the Museum's Board, McCoy served as associate vice-president of CenturyLink's government affairs and community development for 18 years, he served on numerous community boards, including the City of Las Vegas Arts Commission and the Boys & Girls Clubs of Southern Nevada. **Danielle Kelly**, the museum's former director, moved to New Mexico in September with her family. Kelly's husband, artist and arts administrator David Sanchez Burr, was appointed Assistant Professor of Media Arts at New Mexico Highlands University in Las Vegas, NM.

The *Reno Chamber Orchestra* welcomed **Gerard Gibbs** as its new Executive Director on February 1, 2016. Prior to moving to Reno, Gibbs served as Director of Artistic Planning for the Akron Symphony Orchestra in Ohio and Executive Director of the Empress Theatre in Alberta, Canada. A trained oboist, Gibbs performed with the Duluth Superior Symphony and Baroque Orchestras of Los Angeles, Seattle and Portland. Gibbs follows **Scott Faulkner**, who served as the Chief Executive of RCO for 14 years.



Charles N. Mathewson Curator of Education at the Nevada Museum of Art since 2008, **Colin Robertson** now leads communication and business strategy efforts

for *The Don J. Clark Group*, an architect-led redevelopment company. Robertson will continue to be actively involved in efforts to integrate the arts into the lives of Nevada and Reno citizens, and will maintain his presence with initiatives associated with the Education Alliance of Washoe County, STEAM education, and the downtown ReTRAC plaza.

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**Mary Covington**, former NAC Community Arts Development coordinator, has joined the *Nevada State Museum* as Sales and Promotion Representative II. Also serving as membership coordinator, Covington will assist with the museum's newsletter, coin press, and marketing of the institution's programs.

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Nevada State Archivist **Jeff Kintop** will receive the lifetime achievement award from the Conference of Intermountain Archivists at its annual conference in May. The award recognizes careers of service and leadership and advanced scholarship in the archival profession. Kintop began working at Nevada's Archives Division in 1983.

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EAT  
MORE  
ART!  
VEGAS

Trying to locate performing arts companies amidst the "noise of neon" in Las Vegas? For up to the minute reviews and a comprehensive calendar

check out **EatMoreArtVegas.com**. Sarah O'Connell, Asylum Theatre's artistic director, created the website to promote events produced locally and independently at the college level or above.

## Arts Building Communities—Nevada Local Arts Agency News

**Carson City** — In March, the Carson City Board of Supervisors adopted a new Arts and Culture Master Plan developed by the *Carson City Arts and Culture Commission*. The Board also approved a City Transient Occupancy tax increase of 1% to fund a new Arts and Culture Coordinator position, which will be housed within the Carson City Visitors Bureau. The hiring process will begin this summer. Creation of the Arts and Culture Master Plan was supported in part by a NAC Nevada Circuit Rider Grant.

**Fernley** — The Fernley City Council unanimously voted to establish the *Fernley Arts & Culture Task Force* to be located in the City Manager's Office. As an advisory body, the Task Force will promote the inclusion of arts and culture in future City-related programs, initiatives and activities.

**Henderson** — The *City of Henderson Arts and Culture Division* has been restructured. Special Events and Pavilion Operations, which oversees arts culture programming, has moved to the Public Works, Parks and Recreation Department, while Convention Center and Tourism Operations are now part of the Economic Development Department. NAC is assisting staff to refocus on the arts in Henderson and provide opportunities for growth in arts and culture programming.

**Reno** — The *City of Reno Arts and Culture Division* has been moved to the Office of the City Manager, with the intention to bring more focus to the arts. The position of Arts and Culture Manager, held by Christine Fey for nearly 16 years, was eliminated. Alexis Hill, has assumed the associated responsibilities as the new Arts, Culture and Special Events manager.



## Nevada Basque Dancers to Perform in D.C.

Dancers and musicians of Elko's Great Basin Basque Dancers will perform at the 2016 Smithsonian Folklife Festival on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. this summer. Accompanied by world-class musicians, the troupe will perform both traditional and contemporary dances. This year's festival explores the Basque Country, an autonomous region in Spain and France with a unique language and distinct cultural heritage. The Festival will feature musicians, cooks, language experts, and includes significant participation of people of Basque descent living throughout the United States.



## Receives Pulitzer Award

Nevada Humanities received a \$66,000 award from the Pulitzer Prize Board for *Campfire Gatherings: A Year of Pulitzer Prize Explorations in Nevada*. *Campfire Gatherings* is a series of public programs throughout the year, featuring Pulitzer Prize winning authors, journalists and poets. Christine Barr, Executive Director of Nevada Humanities explains, "Nevada Humanities participation in the national Pulitzer Prize centennial initiative is designed to spark ideas, engagement and connections in communities throughout our state." For more information about the *Campfire Gatherings* schedule visit [nevadahumanities.org](http://nevadahumanities.org) or call 775.382.5023 in Reno or 702.800.4670 in Las Vegas.

## Remembering Our Friends and Colleagues



**Dorothy Wright**, Las Vegas historian, preservationist and arts administrator, died on January 19, 2016. She served residents of Clark County's rural communities and urban neighborhoods for 22 years as program administrator for the Parks and Recreation Cultural Services Program. Wright wrote and/or consulted on projects and publications about the people, places and history of Clark County, and in 2009 produced a year-long series of events, exhibits and programs for Clark County's Centennial Celebration. She chaired the Las Vegas Historic Preservation Commission, and served on the boards of the Neon Museum, the Preservation Association of Clark County and Preserve Nevada. Wright's passion for Clark County and its cultural landscape fostered a sense of community, pride and cultural heritage for not just local residents, but for all who call the Silver State home.

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**Kris Shepherd**, a beloved figure in the Las Vegas theatre community, died on February 5, 2016. A theatre program specialist with the Rainbow Company Youth Theatre, Shepherd was instrumental in the founding of Asylum Theatre, and served as chair of the College Advisory Board at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Helga Watkins, Dean of the UNLV College of Fine Arts, said, "Kris was a driving force within the college, and his guidance and enthusiasm will be missed." Shepherd was also an inductee into the UNLV Nevada Entertainer/Artist Hall of Fame.

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**Senator Debbie Smith, National Council of State Legislators president, and Americans for the Arts' Jay H. Dick, present the 2014 Public Leadership in the Arts Award to Florida State Senator Don Gaetz.**

**Senator Debbie Smith**, a passionate voice for education, the environment and the well-being of all Nevadans, died on February 21, 2016.

Smith played a prominent role in developing a bipartisan effort to restore deep cuts to the NAC budget that occurred during the recession years. At the end of the 2011 legislative session, Smith fought to return \$25,000 to the NAC budget, combating the nearly 52 percent loss to the agency. In the 2013 session, with her gracious and knowledgeable leadership, the legislature supported an increase of \$400,000 to NAC's biennial budget.

Poised to return to the 2015 Legislature, Smith was diagnosed with brain cancer at the beginning of the session. As she endured surgeries and treatment, she remained active in the political realm. The NAC's budget was again boosted, this time by \$300,000.

Senator Smith's love of family, public service and all things Nevada, will live on through her legacy of leadership and her commitment to fairness and opportunity for all.

**"Logic will get you from A to B. Imagination will take you everywhere."**

—ALBERT EINSTEIN



## Cultural Facilities Funding

The Commission for Cultural Centers and Historic Preservation (CCHP), formerly the Commission of Cultural Affairs, awarded \$950,000 in grants to Nevada's historic buildings and cultural facilities in nine counties. Since its inception in 1993, the CCHP had distributed more than \$40 million to nearly 100 significant properties across the state.

Managed by the State Historic Preservation Office, the CCHP is composed of representatives from the boards of the Nevada Arts Council, Museums and History, Libraries and Literacy, Nevada Humanities, and a Governor appointed at-large member. Find additional CCHP information at: [nvshpo.org](http://nvshpo.org).

Carson & Colorado Railroad Depot, Lyon County Historical Society, Yerington	\$130,000
East Ely Yards, White Pine Historical Railroad Foundation, Inc.	\$48,000
Ely City Hall, City of Ely	\$45,000
Goldfield High School, Goldfield Historical Society	\$44,000
Keil Ranch, City of North Las Vegas	\$170,000
McGill Depot, White Pine Historical Railroad Foundation, Inc.	\$69,000
Mesquite High School Gymnasium, City of Mesquite	\$44,000
Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts, Reno	\$39,000
Pioneer Hotel, Western Folklife Center, Elko	\$64,000
Stewart Indian School, Building #1, Nevada Indian Commission, Carson City	\$147,000
Whittell Boathouse, Thunderbird Lodge Preservation Society, Incline Village	\$150,000



## U.S. Education Secretary Visits Nevada

U.S. Education Secretary John King, Jr. visited Las Vegas Academy of the Arts in mid April, and emphasized the value of a well-rounded education as defined in the new *Every Student Succeeds Act* (ESSA). During his remarks, King touched upon the essential role that the arts play in fostering well-educated citizens and future leaders.

King explained that a well-rounded education—one that emphasizes the arts, English, world languages and history in addition to math and science—will more effectively position students to succeed and lead after high school.

"I've had the opportunity to see struggling schools make real change by infusing the arts into their school models, or launching new high-quality career and technical education programs, or taking a dual language approach," explains King.

King fielded questions and listened to comments and requests from local educators and leaders for more federal support and increased flexibility. Enthusiastic about the future of K-12 education, King stated, "The good news here is that, with the passage of ESSA, the welcome replacement for the *No Child Left Behind* law, the opportunity to widen how we understand educational excellence is suddenly ripe."



## MUSEUMS Transform Teens

The first study measuring the long-term impact of teen-focused programs at arts museums, has revealed profound results. More than 300 former participants of youth art programs (in place since the 1990's) at four major art museums across the county responded to questionnaires, participated in focus groups and profile sessions.

*Room to Rise: The Lasting Impact of Intensive Teen Programs in Art Museums* reports that seventy-five percent of respondents rated participation in these programs as the most positive influence on their lives—ranking the experience above their family, school, and neighborhoods. Two-thirds reflected that they were often in situations when their experience in museums affected their actions or thought, and approximately one-third of the alumni work professionally in the arts today.

The study was commissioned by the Walker Art Center in Minneapolis, Whitney Museum of American Art, Houston's Contemporary Arts Museum and the Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles.

CONGRATULATIONS MIKAYLA! CONTINUED FROM FRONT COVER

**2016 Poetry Out Loud Finalists.**

Bates, a senior at Elko High School, was named Nevada's 2016 Poetry Out Loud State Champion at the States Finals held in the studios of KNPB Channel 5 in mid-March. She was awarded \$1,000 and an all-expense-paid trip to the National Finals in Washington, D.C. Her school also received \$1,000 for poetry books and literary programs. At the National Finals she vied for the title of National Champion against extraordinary competitors from all 50 states, the District of Columbia, the U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico.

Gabrielle Hunt, a Yerington High School sophomore, and Vanessa Blackwell, a Douglas High School senior, placed second and third. They each received \$500 and a matching amount for their schools' literary programs. More than 2,750 high school students participated in this year's program, with 12 county finalists competing at the state finals. KNPB will air its prime time special on the Poetry Out Loud State Finals later this spring.

"With first, second, and third place going to students living in three rural counties, it's clear that poetry resonates throughout Nevada," said Susan Boskoff, NAC executive director, "We value the Poetry Out Loud family of parents, teachers, and principals who ensure our next generation of readers, writers, and thinkers."

Distinguished members of Nevada's literary community participated in the 2016 state finals. Reno's Poet Laureate Gailmarie Pahmeier served as the master of ceremonies. Guest judges included Bruce Isaacson, Clark County Poet Laureate; Vogue Robinson, Las Vegas poet and educator; Larry Ollivier, Reno poet and educator; NV Energy government strategy executive Linda Bissett; and Vicki Meissner, Humboldt County School District educator.

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NAC is grateful for the generosity and support of the Nevada Department of Tourism and Cultural Affairs, KNPB Channel 5, KUNR Reno Public Radio, Berkshire Hathaway, Sindex Printing, Carson City Square, Lucky Bat Books, Reno Sparks Convention and Visitors Bureau, University of Nevada, Reno, and all the hosts and sponsors of the 2016 school and district semi-finals.

**2016 NEVADA POETRY OUT LOUD FINALISTS**

**Christopher Alvarez**, senior  
Las Vegas Academy, Clark County

**Mikayla Bates**, senior  
Elko High School, Elko County

**Vanessa Blackwell**, senior  
Douglas County High School,  
Douglas County

**Gabrielle Hunt**, sophomore  
Yerington High School, Lyon County

**Erik Jett**, senior  
Nevada Virtual Academy, Nevada  
Statewide Virtual

**Natalie Rodriguez**, senior  
Wooster High School, Washoe County

**Shaylin Segura**, junior  
Carson High School, Carson City

**Summer Taylor**, freshman  
Beatty High School, Nye County

**Allyssa Wadsworth**, junior  
Lincoln County High School, Lincoln County

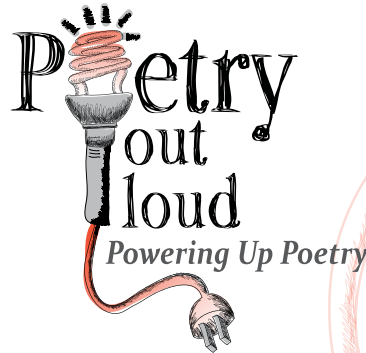
**Stephen Watts**, senior  
Eureka County High School, Eureka County

**Christopher Wilber**, sophomore  
Pershing County High School,  
Pershing County

**John "Dexter" Yago**, freshman  
Virginia City High School, Storey County

Poetry Out Loud is an arts education program of the Nevada Arts Council, presented in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts, Poetry Foundation, Nevada Department of Education, Cultural Alliance Nevada and NV Energy Foundation.

2016 nevada



## + Report from Washington, D.C.

### President Proposes Increase for NEA

The Obama Administration's proposed FY17 budget request includes a \$2 million increase for National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) funding to \$149.8 million. The proposed budget also designated funding to the Assistance for Arts Education Program, a component of the new *Every Student Succeeds Act*. Funding for the NEA was as high as \$167.5 million in 2010, has declined significantly since, and has been on a slow rise since 2013.

Americans for the Arts president and CEO Robert L. Lynch remarked, "Although still falling short, it helps turn the corner on some sharp cuts made in previous years, and comes on the heels of an important funding increase made by Congress last year—impacting state and local arts agencies in every community."

### Arts Resolutions Passed by both Counties and Lieutenant Governors Associations

The National Association of Counties (NACo) passed its first arts and culture resolution, which authorizes NACo staff to advocate and lobby on behalf of the arts and culture to Congress and the Executive Branch.

Every three years, the National Lieutenant Governors Association (NLGA) approves an arts and culture resolution, in partnership with Americans for the Arts (AFTA), that recognizes members for support of the arts during an annual award presentation.

For more information on these organizations and their interaction with the work of the creative industry, please contact Jay Dick, AFTA Senior Director of State and Local Government Affairs, at [jay@artsusa.org](mailto:jay@artsusa.org).

### House Committee Addresses Transformative Power of the Arts

The House Judiciary Committee has recognized the restorative power of the arts in its Recidivism and Risk Reduction Act. Congressman Ted Lieu (D-CA), explained, "Arts education in prisons has a history of proven results in improved behavior among inmates, fewer disciplinary actions, cost savings, and reduced recidivism... The Actors' Gang, run by Oscar winning actor Tim Robbins, has had huge success in reviving the California's Arts-in-Corrections program, which brings visual, performing, literary, media, and fine craft disciplines to California correctional institutions. . . I am hopeful with the inclusion of arts language in H.R. 759, more arts programs similar to the Actors' Gang's Prison Project will be implemented on the federal level."

### Artist and Charitable Tax Reforms Inch Along

During Capitol Hill's recent "tax week," Reps. John Lewis (D-GA) and Vern Buchanan (R-FL) reintroduced the long-standing Artist-Museum Partnership Act (H.R. 4948). If passed, the law would provide tax benefits to artists for donations of works of art (including literary, musical, artistic or scholarly compositions) given to and retained by a nonprofit collecting institution.

In the U.S. Senate, new, bipartisan legislation expressing the importance of not diminishing the "full scope and value" of the charitable deduction during upcoming tax reform efforts was also introduced—cleverly named the Charities Helping Americans Regularly Throughout the Year (CHARITY) Act.

For information about tax policy, artists and arts organizations, contact Kate McClanahan, AFTA Director of Federal Affairs, at [kmclanahan@artsusa.org](mailto:kmclanahan@artsusa.org).



Judy Harris and Wendy Kveck with Congressman Dean Heller at 2016 National Arts Advocacy Day

### Nevadans on Capitol Hill

Two members of Cultural Alliance Nevada—Judy Harris, president and Wendy Kveck, board member—joined the collective voice of more than 500 advocates in Washington, D.C. for 2016 National Arts Advocacy Day activities.

Representatives from America's cultural and civic organizations, students, and grassroots advocates from 48 states heard from NEA Chair Jane Chu and a host of arts leaders. Congressional Arts Caucus Co-Chair Rep. Leonard Land (R-NJ) said, "Every federal dollar leverages nine non-federal dollars. The multiplier effect is undeniable." Then it was down to business as the advocates followed a rigorous schedule of meetings with members of Congress and a final briefing at the White House.

The Nevada delegation discussed the value of public funding for the arts for Nevada with Senators Dean Heller and Congressmen Mark Amodei, and met with staff for Senator Harry Reid and Rep. Joe Heck. Topics also included arts education, programs for veterans and the National Endowment for the Arts budget.

*"Every federal dollar leverages nine non-federal dollars. The multiplier effect is undeniable."*

— REP. LEONARD LAND (R-NJ), CONGRESSIONAL ARTS CAUCUS CO-CHAIR

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# CALENDAR

Please check the NAC website [nac.nevadaculture.org](http://nac.nevadaculture.org) for calendar updates.

### Through May 27

*Wally's World: The Loneliest Art Collection in Nevada*  
St. Mary's Art + Retreat Center, Virginia City, 775.847.7774

### April 25-June 17

*Panorama: Selections from the Nevada Arts Council Artist Fellowship Program*  
Ely Art Bank, Ely, 775.235.7417

### May 17

FY17 Project Grant Panel and Partners in Excellence (Tier I: 1), 9 a.m.-5 p.m.  
Nevada State Legislature, Room 2134  
401 S. Carson St. Carson City  
web broadcast: [leg.state.nv.us/App/Calendar/A/](http://leg.state.nv.us/App/Calendar/A/)

### May 18

FY17 Partners in Excellence (Tier I: 2 & 3)  
Grants Time/location same as above)

### May 19

FY17 Arts Learning Grants Panel  
(Time/location same as above)

### May 20

Nevada Arts Council Spring Board Meeting  
Location same as above; time TBA

### May 23-July 29

*Vantage Point of Distance*, David Rowe  
OXS Gallery, NAC Carson City Office

### May 23-July 15

*A Brushwork Roundup: Western Paintings and Drawings by Craig Sheppard*  
Nevada Historical Society, Reno  
775.688.1190

### June 8-9

Arts @ the Heart Convening  
Locations and time TBA

### June 20-August 12

*Geographical Divides: Finding Common Ground*  
Sparks Museum and Cultural Center,  
Sparks, 775.355.1144

### June 21

FY17 Performing Arts Fellowship Panel  
9:00 a.m. through completion  
Truckee Meadows Community College  
Dandini Main Campus  
7000 Dandini Boulevard Red MT #14,  
Reno

### June 22

FY17 Literary Arts Fellowship Panel  
location and time same as above

### June 27-August 19

*Panorama: Selections from the Nevada Arts Council's Artist Fellowship Program*  
Comstock History Center, Virginia City  
775.847.0419

### July 1-29

*Honest Horses: A Portrait of the Mustang in the Great Basin*  
Bartley Ranch Regional Park, Reno  
775.828.6615

## CAN WE BORROW YOUR BUMPER?

Help generate dollars for arts education programs for all young Nevadans! Purchase the Nevada Arts License plate when you register OR exchange your present plate for the colorful "Rich in Art" design. Each Arts License plate cost \$51 for a standard plate and \$20 to renew. \$15 of the initiative fee and \$10 of the renewal fee supports arts education programs of NAC and Arts for All Nevada. Check it out at [nac.nevadaculture.org](http://nac.nevadaculture.org).



**NEVADA** A WORLD WITHIN.  
A STATE APART.

*Nevada Arts News*, a quarterly publication of the Nevada Arts Council, is available in print or online at [nac.nevadaculture.org](http://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.