



values & vision

Nevada Arts Council
Strategic Plan 2010–2015



“I cannot imagine
a world without art
or music...
unthinkable.”

INTRODUCTION | *Values & Vision 2010–2015*

This report summarizes a statewide journey that began soon after the Nevada Arts Council distributed the largest amount of grant dollars in its history, and concluded as the nation's 21st century recession surfaced. Throughout a two-year period, Arts Council staff and board members traveled more than 2,000 miles and engaged in conversations—formal and informal. These conversations occurred at conferences, workshops, focus groups and community town hall meetings. In public settings, people responded individually and as a group; in private, through interviews, surveys and evaluations. Participants included residents, visitors, elected officials, educators, artists, arts administrators, patrons and trustees.

Values & Vision 2010–2015 updates the Nevada Arts Council's existing plan, with a focus on both continuity and transformation. It addresses issues that affect the state as a whole, and challenges Nevada's arts industry to develop creative solutions to the state's economic, educational and social challenges together. The goals and strategies are meant to guide the Nevada Arts Council in its leadership role. As noted throughout the planning process, Nevada Arts Council cannot, nor should not, shoulder sole responsibility to address these issues. However, the Nevada Arts Council can initiate and sustain an inclusive conversation to ensure that solutions are based on serving all of Nevada.

A five-year "roadmap" intended to take us through times unimaginable at this point, *Values & Vision 2010–2015* reflects the Nevada Arts Council's resolution to challenge itself to better serve the people and communities of Nevada. Together we can keep this conversation alive and vibrant.

Thank You

We are deeply indebted to the support and guidance of an active coalition of individuals, organizations and businesses during this extensive planning process. Nevada should be proud of its many citizens who commit time and resources to improve the state's quality of life, increase access to the arts and strengthen our educational system for future generations.

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Conversation about Art

—Ginny Cardenas, February 2009

Written after the Douglas County Community Conversation

We sat in a back-room at the library—
twenty some people, drawn there to converse.
local citizens – artists, and advocates of the arts
come to talk about something we loved.

First we were given the facts and numbers—
grants being cut by as much as eighty percent.
but we were not there for the facts,
we were there for something we loved.

Then something amazing began to happen –
we were guided to turn toward our vision and values.
and people began to share – they spoke openly and with passion
of their hopes and dreams for the town.

Words like “prosperity” and “possibility” flew from lips
and we inhaled them like oxygen – breathing our a new community,
creating something that had never been – a work of art.

I like thinking of life as art. And I like thinking that we are all artists
creating with our thoughts and words in every moment.
these are not facts, mind you, just a conversation between you and me;
a conversation about life and arts – a conversation that might make a difference.

THE PROCESS | How We Listened

Between the fall of 2008 and the spring of 2010, the Nevada Arts Council (NAC) examined the condition of Nevada's arts industry, the needs of its workforce and NAC's responsiveness to those needs; and the connectivity between the arts industry and our state's communities. Through public forums, surveys, focus groups and one-on-one discussions with community and state leaders, NAC listened as residents, arts practitioners, organizations, educators and advocates spoke to the cultural vibrancy of the state, even with what was to become the most difficult economic climate in memory playing out in full force.

■ Community Conversations

Well-attended public forums held in Carson City, Douglas County, Elko, Las Vegas, Mesquite, Reno, Sandy Valley and Winnemucca encouraged participants to: (a) identify critical arts issues for their community, (b) articulate an individual and collective vision of what a culturally rich community would look like, and (c) describe how the NAC could help. Each locale presented a unique situation, yet it was evident that everyone was striving for the same outcome—a **Nevada rich in art**. Participants reached a similar conclusion: moving forward was dependent on working together, and differently, as a statewide arts community. NAC was asked to provide the leadership, technology and resources to make this possible.

■ Arts Surveys

NAC distributed its *Value of the Arts* online survey to gather additional data and opinions. The survey attracted more than 325 contributors from 31 Nevada cities and towns and seven states—adding an in-depth and insightful perspective to the planning process. Again, there was remarkable consistency in responses and issues, and suggestions on how NAC could help. This survey also revealed missing or underrepresented voices—newcomers, young people and those from diverse backgrounds. Additionally, the NAC provided a second survey specific to artists, the results of which also guided the structure for discipline-based focus group meetings at the OASIS 2010 conference.

■ Focus Groups

Arts@TheHeart (2009 & 2010) and the OASIS Statewide Arts Conference (2010) brought together the state's arts community to collectively discuss the critical issues identified in NAC's last strategic plan, and to suggest new directions. Arts@TheHeart assembled community teams to deepen the dialogue and assessment of local arts activity. OASIS devoted two sessions to assess the state of Nevada's artists and the field of arts education. The *Nevada Arts and Learning Convening*, moderated by David O'Fallon, CEO, MacPhail Center for Music, Minneapolis, MN, gathered leaders in the arts and education fields. An afternoon was devoted to discipline-based focus groups to give voice to the specific needs of those working in dance, literary arts, museums, music, theater and visual arts. And a breakout group for local arts agencies convened as well. This last set of meetings involved more than 200 participants from urban centers and rural communities, providing an engaging and personalized conclusion to the information gathering of the past two years.

INSIGHTS | What We Heard

Nevada Arts Council board and staff members spoke with hundreds of Nevadans, and visitors from out-of-state, at dozens of local gatherings, focus groups, workshops, meetings such as the Reno Arts Consortium and Nevada Presenters Network, and in more intimate settings with leaders in the arts and other industries, elected officials and community members. We heard from a resilient and generous arts community, and an engaged public. We heard support for those working in the arts. We heard frustration with the lack of funding, political will and arts learning opportunities for children and elders. We heard that grant application snafus were annoying and that certain services of the Nevada Arts Council were meaningful to some constituents, and less important to others. We heard pride voiced by community members about local projects and programs, excitement when groups shaped a vision of what a culturally rich community could be and resolve as individuals committed to personal action to help move his or her community towards that vision.

■ Reflections

- A maturation of cultural drivers in large and small communities
- A growth in professionalism of small and mid-sized organizations
- A willingness to share knowledge and resources, and learn from national models
- An understanding that both residents and visitors want arts experiences and unique cultural destinations in every corner of the state
- Creative industry businesses and entrepreneurs are essential to Nevada's economy
- NAC and its grantees provide frontline education programs during and after school
- Communities hunger for rich arts and cultural experiences to create a much-needed sense of place
- Discussing the value of the arts animated civic discourse, illuminated shared concerns and encouraged collective community action planning

■ We Can't Do It Alone

A significant thread throughout the process was the realization that success cannot be achieved in isolation. Some common themes emerged, such as:

- Nevada's artists and arts organizations must take risks and work together
- Arts and Arts Education need and deserve a higher profile across the state
- Share models and strategies that can be used on a local level
- Craft and maintain one voice for the arts—advocacy remains fragmented
- Expand the state's cultural/heritage tourism efforts
- Regular leadership and professional development is needed
- Expand the Arts4Nevada.org calendar to include artists, communication and services
- Continue convenings and networks by utilizing partnerships
- Think and act differently to achieve the outcomes we say we want

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

■ Arts in Nevada Landscape: Visibility + Advocacy

The Western States Arts Federation noted in a 2000 study, “In Nevada, the arts are not some sort of ‘black hole.’ On the contrary the nonprofit arts industry is a powerful economic engine that is helping many Nevada communities get back on track.” That sentiment was strongly expressed and illuminated throughout the planning process.

We heard time and time again that the arts impact the state’s social, education and business infrastructures. Cultural activity in our urban areas attracts business investment, reverses decay and revitalizes struggling neighborhoods. A rural arts organization may be the catalyst that unites a community, while drawing overnight tourists. Attendance at cultural events generates related commerce. Nevada remains unique in the nation, having the opportunity to combine the prominence and special attractions of gaming with programs of cultural substance produced by our arts industry.

Investigations such as these often reveal numerous paradoxes. For example, throughout the planning process participants expressed a deep frustration with the lack of public awareness of the breadth and quality of the arts in Nevada. Yet, respondents to the survey most often rated “advocacy” as a low priority while rating “developing a broad base of support for the arts” as a high priority. Of course, these efforts go hand in hand; you can’t develop broad-based support without an ongoing unified advocacy agenda. This continuing challenge compels NAC to take a leadership role in advocacy efforts, with a focus on skills-training and coordination during the next biennium to nurture the arts in Nevada’s landscape. This in turn, we believe, will lead to a higher profile for the arts industry in Nevada and outside the state.

■ Arts Learning + Arts Experiences = Whole Community

Expanding the role of arts education in public schools received the second highest rating of any issue in the *Value of the Arts* survey and was a major topic of discussion at all *Community Conversations*. Increasing arts learning experiences along the lifelong-learning continuum was also considered a valuable strategy for building audiences, developing our workforce and increasing support for the arts. As well, the arts were seen as the pathway to engage citizens who are more likely to engage in building and sustaining vibrant communities.

■ Artists + Excellence = Competitive Advantage

Attracting and keeping a healthy, vibrant and talented base of artists in our state is critical to sustainable arts organizations, quality arts education, artistic exploration and achievement, programs of distinction, vital communities and lifelong learning for all Nevadans. Providing support for artists’ creative process, increasing artists’ ability to deliver community and school-based programming and publicly celebrating their achievements will increase residents’ valuing of the role of the artist in society.

■ Accessibility + Inclusivity = Participation

Arts programs are successful when people feel directly involved and connected at the community level. A high level of support was voiced for NAC’s mission of ensuring accessibility to cultural programs and facilities, a mission that speaks to all communities—geographically isolated rural towns and reservations, special populations and economically challenged neighborhoods. NAC can lead by continuing to engage residents at the local level through continued support of folk and traditional arts, accessibility for all and locally produced activities.

■ **Communications + Networks = Whole State**

Conversations revealed an urgency to work more closely together to build a shared vision and set of values, and achieve shared goals. A number of participants voiced an appetite to be informed, but admitted feeling “perplexed” about how best to connect with their local arts community and leaders, the NAC or the statewide arts sector. Through this feedback, NAC identified a clear mandate to act as clearinghouse for statewide arts information in partnership with our network of cultural service providers. Participants suggested that expanding Arts4Nevada.org could provide a statewide online social network for Nevada’s arts community to facilitate relationship building and collaboration across the state.

■ **Relevancy + Funding = Sustainability**

Anecdotal and collective data document a strong relationship between the arts industry and the economic health of Nevada communities. Without taking into consideration the intangible effects of the arts on the quality of life in Nevada, it is clear that the arts contribute to the state’s economic well-being. For a relatively small investment, Nevada’s arts industry continues to engage audiences, attract tourists and serve communities while adding to the local economy—in some cases quite significantly. However, funding for the nonprofit arts industry and artists in Nevada has not kept pace with the population growth. Except for a few public art programs, NAC and the City of Reno remain the sole government funding sources for Nevada’s arts industry. A focus on statewide partnerships, leadership and advocacy will maximize existing funding, leverage new state and local dollars, and strengthen private/public partnerships. NAC can lead by encouraging Nevada’s involvement in national-level efforts at the federal and private foundation level.

INSIGHTS | What Worked

This planning process enabled NAC to hear about its programs that resonated with the public. In the past three years, with support from the Nevada State Legislature, National Endowment for the Arts, Western States Arts Federation and other funding sources, NAC reached out to all 17 counties and significantly increased investments in each of its core programs. Most noted:

- Reviving the OASIS statewide annual arts convening (Reno/Las Vegas)
- Maintaining the Poetry Out Loud Recitation Competition as a statewide program
- Increasing grant dollars
- Launching the Arts4Nevada.org statewide calendar and online advocacy center
- Establishing the Arts@theHeart locals gathering
- Developing the Nevada Circuit Riders Consultants Program
- Focusing on artists through increased funding and grant opportunities
- Expanding the Folklife Education Initiative
- Providing high-quality exhibits and literary residencies through the Nevada Touring Initiative
- Streamlining grants process
- Recognition programs such as Artist Fellowships, Governor’s Arts Awards and Nevada Heritage Award
- Maintaining the Las Vegas office
- Expanding Professional Development Grants
- Providing ARRA funding through SNAP Grants
- Access to NAC staff



Values & Vision 2010–2015

Values & Vision 2010–2015 addresses issues that affect the state as a whole, and that require engagement of the statewide arts industry. The goals and strategies are meant to guide the Nevada Arts Council (NAC) in its leadership role. As noted throughout the planning process, NAC can not, nor should shoulder completely the responsibility to address these issues. However, NAC can initiate an inclusive conversation to ensure that solutions are based on serving all of Nevada. Acting in concert with artists, organizations, community leaders and citizens, we believe that the goals of the plan can and will be achieved—in the short-term, and for the future.

Our Vision

A Nevada in which the arts enrich the lives of all residents, enhance the livability of communities, and contribute to the state’s economic revitalization.

Our Values

- We believe in active arts engagement for all Nevadans, making sure that residents of all ages and abilities have access to diversity arts and cultural experiences.
- We are committed to the pursuit of excellence and in the caliber of arts experiences available to all Nevadans.
- We believe in integrating the arts into the learning continuum of Nevadans of all ages.
- We appreciate, respect, and are committed to supporting Nevada’s creative workforce of artists, arts organizations and advocates.
- We strive to cultivate long-term sustainability in our creative workforce and cultural institutions.
- We believe in partnership and collaboration in all aspects of our work, and we encourage collaboration between the creative workforce in Nevada and beyond.

Our Outcome

A culturally vibrant state, from the most isolated and small rural communities to the urban centers of Reno/Sparks and Las Vegas.

Mission

To enrich the cultural life of the state through leadership that preserves, supports, strengthens and makes excellence in the arts accessible to all Nevadans.

*“Art defines who we are. It provides opportunities for discussion, to think, to see a different perspective.”**

CRITICAL ISSUE 1 | Public Awareness and Participation

The arts give voice to the human experience; they are the guardians of our varied cultures. In addition to teaching us about history and cross-cultural achievements, engagement with any art form stimulates the mind and imagination in ways that are essential to human progress. Art, with its direct and powerful language, can communicate an individual’s view of the world to others. And art can be the strongest of connectors that bring a diversity of people together to share commonalities and differences. This seeing, hearing and understanding can ignite vision and action. Individuals, and communities of individuals, view themselves and others differently; doors open, lives change and communities are transformed.

■ Goals

- Nevadans broaden and diversify participation in arts and cultural activities in their own and other communities
- Nevadans deepen their understanding of the intrinsic and public value of the arts
- Arts organizations, artists and the broader community recognize and support diversity and accessibility in arts and cultural activities

■ Strategies

- Promote statewide initiatives that increase public awareness of, accessibility to, and support for Nevada’s rich cultural diversity
- Reduce barriers to public participation in the arts, such as those linked to poverty, geographic isolation, disability, age or ethnicity
- Use the arts as a catalyst for understanding among cultures
- Nurture relationships with tourism, economic development, parks and health and human services to expand the reach of the arts
- Gather information and statistics for “better stories” about the arts industry in Nevada
- Use Arts4Nevada.org to expand cultural literacy and to raise public awareness of the work of Nevada’s creative industry
- Continue to build statewide outreach programs for culturally underserved communities, such as the Nevada Touring Initiative and Tumblewords
- Celebrate and promote the success of Nevada’s artists, arts programs and arts organizations
- Form working relationships with the commercial arts industry to achieve more exposure and support for the arts
- Increase media coverage locally and statewide
- Promote the state’s diversity and breadth of arts and cultural organizations regionally and nationally through new initiatives and partnerships
- Provide incentives to increase programming that focuses on Nevada’s multiplicities of cultures

*“The arts are the building blocks that provide the critical thinking skills necessary to compete in a global economy with a sense of humanity.”**

CRITICAL ISSUE 2 | Arts Learning

The arts are a critical component in any model of education and enhance the learning experience for all Nevadans. The goal to improve Nevada’s educational systems is shared by virtually everyone, as is the desire for Nevadans to be professionally, personally and socially productive citizens. The challenge is two-fold—to communicate the role of the arts in achieving both, and to expand the availability and quality of arts education and engagement experiences along the learning continuum.

■ Goals

- Build a network of educators, teaching artists and cultural organizations to create innovative and quality arts learning opportunities for all ages
- Strengthen the statewide advocacy movement to nurture political, educational, cultural and community leaders to advocate on behalf of arts education for all children living in Nevada
- Provide consistent and compelling documentation about the critical need for arts education to Nevada’s policy makers and its citizens

■ Strategies

- Partner in the expansion of arts education advocacy efforts
- Nurture new leadership among state, school, community and business sectors to invest in arts learning
- Document the value of arts learning for advocacy, funding and program development
- Broaden relationships with the Department of Education, school districts and the higher education system as content providers on arts education issues
- Provide support for formal and informal arts learning programs/projects by artists and arts organizations to reach new communities and new populations
- Deliver training in arts integration and pertinent issues for educators, teaching artists and parents in collaboration with Nevada Alliance for Arts Education and other professional organizations
- Encourage coalitions of school districts, cultural organizations and businesses to expand in- and after-school arts education opportunities
- Provide expanded support to model projects that illustrate the connection between arts integration and the Nevada Common Core Standards
- Deepen the learning experience by sponsoring residencies by artists of all disciplines and promoting the state’s rich cultural heritage
- Connect all NAC programs and initiatives with arts learning efforts
- Build on the success of the statewide Poetry Out Loud program to engage local arts agencies, community leaders and other service organizations, and to develop new statewide education initiatives
- Streamline NAC grants application and management processes to accommodate the needs of the educational workforce

*“Nevada is an amazing place sociologically, historically, and environmentally, and I want to expose that through the lens of contemporary art.”**

CRITICAL ISSUE 3 | Artists

Artists enrich every element of Nevada’s quality of life, and the vigor of Nevada’s arts industry relies on the quality of artists living and working in the state. Nevada artists seek opportunities to connect with a larger network in which enhanced visibility and career development enable them to cope with working and living conditions that include isolation, lack of public acknowledgement and insufficient financial support.

■ Goals

- A strong well-supported diverse community of artists that is recognized for exceptional and innovative work
- Enhanced services to individual artists in both business and career development through collaborations, partnerships and the development of new sources of funding
- Engagement of artists of all disciplines in planning and programming for educational, community and cultural initiatives

■ Strategies

- Promote artistic excellence and exploration across all disciplines
- Expand direct funding and professional development activities to Nevada’s artists of all disciplines
- Contribute to the providing of professional development activities appropriate to artists in all career stages
- Strengthen the community of and the communications between artists throughout the state
- Promote the state’s diversity and breadth of artists, in- and out-of-state, through new initiatives and collaborations
- Develop incentives to foster collaborations and partnerships among artists, arts organizations and the broader community
- Promote the artist as community animator through support of artist residencies beyond the classroom
- Broaden the opportunities for artist promotion through an expanded Arts4Nevada.org and other media systems
- Support artists with special needs
- Support traditional and folk artists for the preservation of Nevada’s cultural heritage and diversity
- Build on existing programs that present artists and their work to communities throughout the state
- Connect Nevada’s artists of excellence with regional, national and global initiatives, programs and funding
- Continue to simplify NAC grant applications and management processes

CRITICAL ISSUE 4 | Cultural Organizations

The stability of Nevada's arts and cultural institutions is not just desirable, it is necessary. Investment in the state's arts industry is not an luxury, nor has it ever been excessive. It is essential for the state's educational, economic and social well-being. From developing local wealth to enhancing Nevada's image, nationally and internationally, Nevada's nonprofit arts industry is a consequential business that benefits us all. And it is a reflection of our own unique cultural and history.

■ Goals

- A strong well-supported diverse creative industry that is recognized for exceptional and innovative work
- Increased support of and funding for Nevada's cultural infrastructure, including nonprofit organizations, public institutions and entrepreneurial ventures
- Cultural service providers that provide rich experiences for residents and visitors that are diverse and inclusionary

■ Strategies

- Recognize the pursuit of excellence and innovation by Nevada's arts and cultural organizations
- Undertake a stabilization/capacity building initiative through the Nevada Cultural Trust to provide adequate investment in Nevada's arts institutions
- Encourage and support efforts to develop local funding opportunities and facility development
- Encourage collaboration and partnerships among artists, arts organizations and the broader community
- Expand professional development activities appropriate to emerging arts organizations as well as established cultural institutions
- Provide marketing opportunities through an expanded Arts4Nevada.org and other media systems
- Develop incentives to broaden the scope of programming that focuses on Nevada's multiplicities of cultures
- Develop incentives to include arts education programs as part of organizational planning
- Provide incentives to participate in statewide and regional networks and communication efforts
- Continue to simplify NAC grant applications and management processes, and encourage other funders in Nevada to utilize the CultureGrants Online™ system
- Support efforts to develop new revenue sources for Nevada museums and resources for all sectors of the arts industry

*“Arts & culture connect us with one another, our friends and family and our community.”**

CRITICAL ISSUE 5 | Community Building

Communities that flourish recognize their own identity, culture, traditional art forms and the value of working together at a local level. The arts are at the heart of the community development process and elevating the relevance and visibility of the arts in communities, large and small, leads to the overall sustainability of Nevada’s arts industries. As Robert Gard wrote in 1969, “One of the first principles of community arts councils should be the assumption that they are and should be an instrument of social change affecting change in both the arts and community life in general...they should be experimental... in order to develop a community of creative abundance.”

■ Goals

- Dynamic communities with a sense of place, a engaged citizenry and vibrant quality of life
- Increased locally based arts and cultural programming through statewide collaboration and communication
- Purposeful relationship between the creative industry and those sharing a common interest in community development

■ Strategies

- Expand Community Action Planning activities to local leadership engagement and training
- Encourage arts programming by non-arts community based organizations
- Expand partnerships for Arts@theHeart and other statewide convenings to engage a broader base of support
- Revive statewide network of local arts agencies to ‘anchor’ community-based programming and promote collaboration and communication
- Provide incentives for development of new local arts agencies
- Support arts enterprise partnerships
- Establish a professional development program that focuses on issues of accessibility, engagement and leadership training
- Promote and support collaborative arts projects between communities, and within communities that attract new funding
- Develop incentives to broaden the scope of programming that celebrates and engages Nevada’s multiplicities of cultures
- Coordinate promotion of community cultural activities with state and local tourism agencies, chambers of commerce and local service organizations
- Develop incentives to encourage neighborhood- and community-based programs and residencies by artists and arts organizations
- Engage in collaborations to advance the role of the arts in wellness and healing programs
- Support existing and new public art programs at the local and state levels
- Work with Nevada Humanities, Center for the Book and other organizations and agencies to create local dialogue and discourse

*"I love Nevada. It is rich in history, legends, diversity, natural beauty, and it is a one of a kind place."**

CRITICAL ISSUE 6 | Advocacy and Communication

Webster's Dictionary defines advocacy as "the act of speaking, writing or acting in support of something or someone." Advocacy is educating neighbors, co-workers, elected officials and the general public about an issue of importance. Every discussion with an individual or a group about the value of the arts or arts education is public advocacy. Every voice matters. Many voices speaking on an issue of mutual concern can and will make a difference. Communication systems and advocacy strategies go hand in hand. Sharing, understanding and using information is part of our daily lives, and is an absolute necessity to advocate clearly and successfully on behalf of the arts, public funding for the arts and arts education for all.

■ Goals

- Build political clout in support of arts and arts education at the local and state levels
- Unify and strengthen the statewide advocacy movement and nurture leadership to advocate on behalf of increased funding for the creative industry
- Position the Nevada Arts Council as the clearinghouse for information, communications and professional development

■ Strategies

- Identify and empower community and political leaders to carry our message
- Develop an advocacy toolkit and training manual to empower advocates
- Create an evergreen advocacy plan that is adaptable to local, state and national needs
- Continue to expand Arts4Nevada.org as the statewide online communications center
- Assemble a private sector arts advocacy group
- Connect with other nonprofit sectors and coalitions to find common ground in communication and advocacy efforts
- Provide incentives to participate in statewide and regional networks
- Provide advocacy training for staff and board members of arts organizations and for artists
- Establish a dialogue among public and private funders in the arts, with operational support and statewide initiatives as priorities
- Engage artists, established institutions, emerging organizations and other arts workers in the planning of broad based communication systems and the planning process
- Expand the influence of the Legislative Arts Caucus
- Increase research of trends, growth patterns and demographics to serve the arts industry
- Improve communications between constituents and various advocacy and service organizations
- Serve a resource for management methods, tools and innovation for organizational stability

COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS

During 207 and 2008, Nevada Arts Council board and staff members traveled across the state to attend a series of *Community Conversations*. Discussions at these meetings, plus information gathered at two Arts@theHeart convenings, eight breakout groups at the 2010 OASIS statewide arts conference, and from more than 400 surveys, assisted with the creation of *Values & Vision 2010–2015: Nevada Arts Council's Strategic Plan*. We extend our appreciation and gratitude to our many hosts and co-sponsors, and the dozens of individuals whose generosity of spirit and time made our work seem effortless. Thank you.

CARSON CITY | October 27, 2008

Carson City Community Center

Hosts: Office of Business Development, City of Carson; Carson City Cultural Commission; Carson City Arts & Culture Coalition

Thank You: Mayor Robert Crowell; Mitch Ames and staff, Carson City Community Center; Sara Jones and staff, Carson City Library; Joe McCarthy, Office of Business Development; Peter Barton, Carson City Arts & Cultural Commission; Denise Gillott, Arts & Culture Coalition; Carson City Board of Supervisors.

Facilitators: Patricia A. Atkinson and Rossi Todorova

MESQUITE | October 29, 2008

Mesquite Community Center

Hosts: Greater Mesquite Arts Foundation

Thank You: Mayor Susan Holecheck; Jim Wilson, Greater Mesquite Arts Foundation; Kathleen and Harlo Birkholz; Mesquite Arts Council; Virgin Valley Artists Association.

Facilitators: Robin A. Hodgkin and Rossi Todorova

RENO/SPARKS | October 29, 2008

California Building, Idewild Park

Hosts: City of Reno Arts, Culture and Events Division; Reno Arts Commission; Sierra Arts Foundation

Thank You: Mayor Bob Cashell, Reno; Mayor Gino Martini, Sparks; Christine Fey and staff, City of Reno Arts, Culture and Events Division; John Shelton, Reno Arts Commission; Jill Berryman and staff, Sierra Arts.

Facilitators: Tim Jones and Susan Boskoff

WINNEMUCCA | November 12, 2008

Winnemucca City Hall

Hosts: City of Winnemucca, Great Basin Arts and Entertainment

Thank You: Mayor DiAn Putnam; City Hall staff; Bill Sims and board, Great Basin Arts and Entertainment.

Facilitators: Robin A. Hodgkin and Carol Johnson

ELKO | November 13, 2008

Elko Convention Center

Hosts: Elko Convention and Visitors Authority; Great Basin College Intellectual & Cultural Enrichment Committee; City of Elko Arts and Culture Advisory Board; Arts, Culture Elko; Northeastern Nevada Museum

Thank You: Mayor Michael J. Franzoi; Don Newman and staff, Elko Convention and Visitors Authority; Lynne Owens, Jeannie Rosenthal and members, Great Basin College Intellectual & Cultural Enrichment Committee; Christina Barr and members, City of Elko Arts and Culture Advisory Board; Catherine Wines, Northeastern Nevada Museum.

Facilitators: Robin A. Hodgkin and Carol Johnson

LAS VEGAS | November 18, 2008

Historic Fifth Street School

Co-Sponsor: City of Las Vegas Office of Cultural Affairs

Host: Metro Arts Council of Southern Nevada

Thank You: Mayor Oscar Goodman; Nancy Deaner and staff, City of Las Vegas Office of Cultural Affairs; Joan Lolmaugh and members, Metro Arts Council of Southern Nevada.

Facilitators: Tim Jones and Susan Boskoff

MINDEN/GARDNERVILLE | February 23, 2009

Douglas County Public Library

Host: Carson Valley Arts Council

Thank You: Mayor Michael Buhre, Minden; Mayor Paul Lindsay, Gardnerville; Theresa Chipp and members, Carson Valley Arts Council; Linda Wilson; Douglas County Public Library.

Facilitators: Tim Jones and Robin A. Hodgkin

SANDY VALLEY | April 3, 2009

Keystone Center

Host: Sandy Valley Culturati

Thank You: Carole Benner, Beth Bacher, Cindy Blankmayer and members, Sandy Valley Culturati; Keystone Center.

Facilitators: Robin A. Hodgkin and Hal Weller

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Nevada Arts Council

The Nevada Arts Council, a division of the Department of Cultural Affairs, was created as a state agency in 1967. Charged with supporting Nevada's arts and cultural sectors and expanding access to and public participation in the arts, The Nevada Arts Council (NAC) receives funding from the Nevada State Legislature, the National Endowment for the Arts, and other private and public sources.

In partnership with schools, arts institutions and communities, NAC actively works to bring artists, a diversity of art forms and audiences together in Nevada's metropolitan centers and most isolated rural towns.

From folklife festivals to youth artwork projects, and concert series to visual arts exhibits, NAC's support of a breadth of public programs provides residents a rich quality of life—contributing to the health and diversity of Nevada's economy and workforce, increasing tourism, strengthening communities and fostering education through the arts.

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Relay Nevada is a service provided 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, for persons with speech and hearing disabilities and can be accessed at 1.800.326.6888 or <http://www.relaynevada.com>.

Governor, State of Nevada, Jim Gibbons
Director, Department of Cultural Affairs, Michael E. Fischer

Board *(As of Fall 2010)*

Tim Jones, Chair, Reno; Julia Arger, Reno; Stephen Caplan, Henderson; Stacy Endres, Reno; Firouzeh Forouzmand, Las Vegas; Barbara Good, Henderson; Carol Johnson, Reno; Joan Lolmaugh, Henderson; Bill Sims, Winnemucca

Staff *(As of Fall 2010)*

Susan Boskoff, Executive Director; Patricia A. Atkinson, Folklife Program Coordinator; Catherine Borg; Arts Education Assistant*, Las Vegas; Ann Cosens, Stimulus Grant Manager*; Maryjane Dorofachuk, Arts Education Program Coordinator, Las Vegas; Linda Ficklin, Administrative Services Officer; Robin A. Hodgkin, Community Arts Development Program Coordinator; Fran Morrow, Artist Services Program Coordinator; Joleen Murphy, Account Technician; Dominique Palladino, Nevada Touring Initiative Associate*; Rebecca Snetselaar, Folklife Associate, Las Vegas; Mary Vargas, Grants Program Coordinator; vacant, Administrative Assistant II; vacant, Community Arts Development Associate.

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“Thank you
for all you do
for the arts and artists.
Persistence will lead
to victory.”*



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