



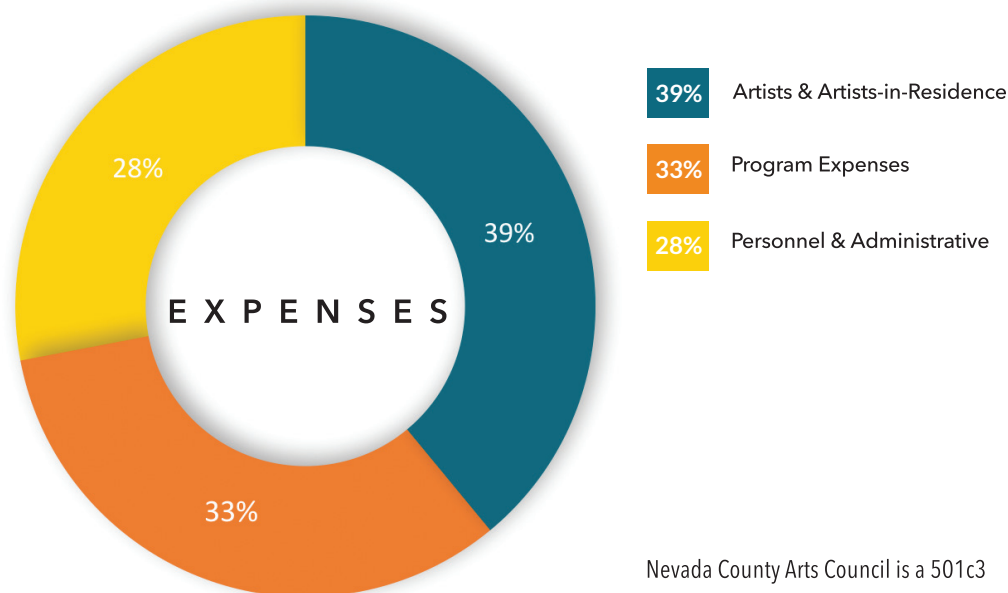
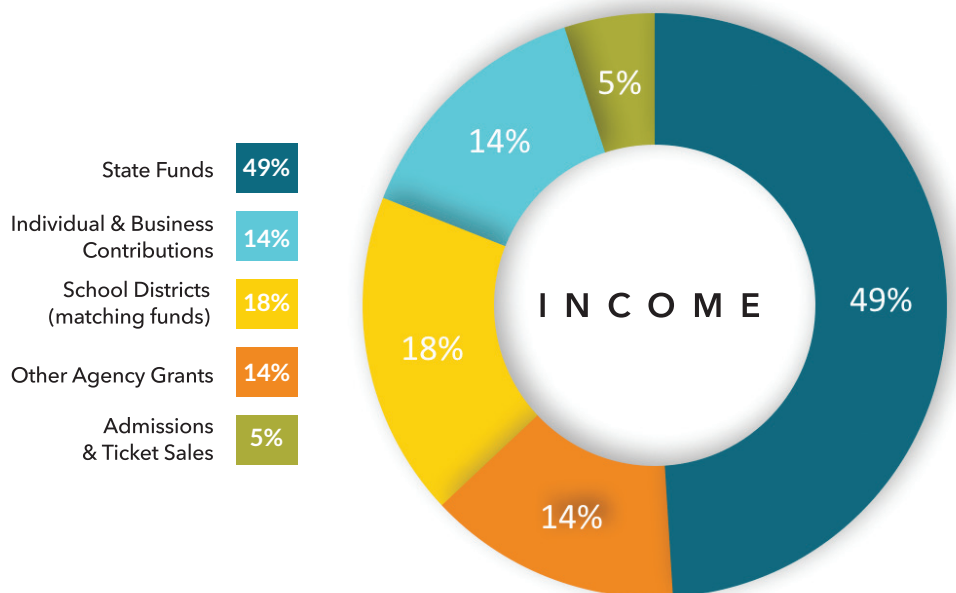
NEVADA COUNTY ARTS COUNCIL

2019 ANNUAL REPORT



WHO WE ARE

Nevada County Arts Council, by resolution of Nevada County Board of Supervisors, is State-Local Partner with California Arts Council. We facilitate collaborative efforts that promote and sustain the visual, literary, and performing arts of Nevada County in order to advance the cultural, social, and economic life of our community.



Nevada County Arts Council is a 501c3 not-for-profit organization and your contributions are tax-deductible by law. For your records, our Employment Identification Number (EIN) is 27-0314493.

ON THE COVER

I Belong Here by Ruth Chase
Photo by Lori Lachman
Pictured: Happy Om

KEY PEOPLE

2019 Board Members

- Jon Blinder, President
- Brian Buckley, Vice-President
- John Bush, Treasurer
- Jonathan Collier, Secretary
- Michelle Amador
- Catharine Bramkamp
- Shelly Covert
- Jesse Locks
- JoAnn Marie
- Liz McAteer
- Cassandra Robertson

Executive Director

Eliza Tudor

Special Projects

Eve Diamond

Design

Beth Ford, Glib Communications

Artists in the Schools

- Kimberly Ewing, Coordinator
- Eileen Blodgett
- Cheri Guerrette
- Tiffany McGuckin
- Lissa Newton
- Nancy Schaefer
- Denise Wey

Belonging

Ruth Chase

Image Nation

Michael Llewellyn

Picture This

Michael Llewellyn

Yuba Lit

Rachel Howard

Nevada County Poet Laureate

Chris Olander

Poetry Out Loud

- Steve Hansen
- Chris Olander
- Julie Valin

Dream A Difference

- Conrad Cecil
- Kirsten Casey

Truckee Arts Alliance

- Cassie Hebel
- Lauren O'Brien
- Sara Smith
- Jennifer Standteiner

GRASS VALLEY - NEVADA CITY CULTURAL DISTRICT

Nevada County Arts Council
City of Grass Valley
City of Nevada City
Greater Grass Valley Chamber of Commerce
Nevada City Chamber of Commerce

With support from
The County of Nevada
Nevada County Economic Resource Council
Grass Valley Downtown Association



EXECUTIVE LETTER

TRUCKEE CULTURAL DISTRICT

Truckee Public Art Commission
Town of Truckee
Truckee Chamber of Commerce

With support from
Nevada County Arts Council
Truckee Arts Alliance
The County of Nevada
Nevada County Economic Resource Council

TWO YEARS ON

Learn all about our progress and plans two years into the California Cultural Districts Program - what we've achieved and where we are going. nevadacountyarts.org/cultural-districts-two-years-in.

GET INVOLVED

CALL US (530) 278-5155
EMAIL info@nevadacountyarts.org
ONLINE nevadacountyarts.org
LINKS facebook.com/nevadacountyarts
instagram.com/nevadacountyarts
twitter.com/nevadacountyarts
linkedin.com/company/nevada-county-arts-council
VISIT US 128 East Main St.
Grass Valley, CA 95945
MAILING PO Box 1833
Nevada City, CA 95959

BECOME A MEMBER

Members are the backbone of the Nevada County Arts Council. Please join us.
ANNUAL MEMBERSHIPS: Individual \$40, Family \$60, Business \$100.

VOLUNTEER

Our volunteer positions are as varied as our volunteers. Anyone of any age can become a volunteer at Nevada County Arts Council. We personalize our volunteer work based on your skills and your interests.

Welcome to our 2019 Annual Report—and what a year we had! With hindsight, the year's tone was set by deep foundational work that blossomed thanks only to the wholehearted support of our community, and much midnight oil. If you are reading this report, you were likely part of the picture it paints.

Last year we published our seminal study of cultural assets for their economic impact, as well as a key survey of arts education in our schools. We also launched a digital cultural asset map to help encourage visitors. But it's not just about tourism, it's about knowing who we are and where we've come from—our places, our people and our stories—and where we are going. This is our work, and it's about you.

Last year also saw us bring an unprecedented amount of state funding into our county to support a wide variety of initiatives addressing some of our community's most sensitive issues. With seed-funding we embarked on a unique two year journey with UC Berkeley's Sagehen Creek Field Station and Truckee Donner Recreation and Park District to launch FOREST=FIRE, an initiative that provides economically sustainable solutions to the threat of catastrophic fire in the Northern Central Sierra. It does this by placing the artist at the center of an interdisciplinary coalition of cultural leaders, social anthropologists, scientists, economists, next-generation corporate leaders and land managers, innovators and philanthropists—all with a shared vision for forest and watershed health.

Climate crisis mitigation aside, 2019 saw the launch of the final phase of our much-loved three year program, Belonging, in which we pledged a deep conversation with you, our community, around cultural responsiveness and the idea of HOME—including homelessness. This followed I AM HERE, in which we worked with thirteen women on their sense of belonging in our changing rural landscape, resulting in films unique to each of them and a downtown interactive installation.

At the same time, we unveiled a film-making initiative with Nevada City Film Festival to document the recovery of the Nisenan Tribe's all but lost language. Our collective partnership with the Nisenan is testament to one of our most significant assets in rebuilding a resilient, diverse community in Nevada County. In their film, the Nisenan look to their future. Twenty years from now, what will their homelands look like? What are our children being taught in schools? How will we—the broader community—experience Nisenan culture as a critical, valued part of our everyday story?

Our service to our community—North, South, East and West—grows with each year that passes. Through our education programs, promotional tools, service to artists and our work with each of our California Cultural Districts, we continue to share with the world how important the creative community is to the holistic health of Nevada County.

During 2019 we were ranked by the state as one of the top-ranking county arts councils in California. We didn't need this ranking to tell us that progress is being made, but we are grateful for it, as we are for you and your ongoing support, input and camaraderie in all we do. Please keep it coming!

Eliza Tudor
Executive Director

Jon Blinder
Board President



FOREST=FIRE

FOREST=FIRE and its companion public and educational engagement platforms, Fire Circle and Forest Home, is a new project engaging all of us living within the Tahoe National Forest. Our museum-class exhibition, opening in early 2021, conceived and curated by Michael and Heather Llewellyn, shares the 13,000 year history of forest ecology in our region, and offers solutions to catastrophic fire that could save the Northern Central Sierra Nevada. These solutions require the energy and focus of multiple agencies and community partners, and FOREST=FIRE positions the artist as a powerful vehicle of communication at the heart of this critical conversation.



BELONGING

During 2019 a diverse group of local women became key participants in I AM HERE, a project examining the way women find and maintain their sense of belonging in our changing rural landscape. Together, with lead artist, Ruth Chase, our participants arrived at a collective vision for an interactive public installation. First our community explored feelings of belonging, then learned about what a public art installation actually is, then—collectively—chose symbolism to direct the installation itself. Each key participant also created a one minute video. During 2020 we will explore ideas of home, combining deep community conversation with a convening exploring cultural equity.



SIERRA POETRY FESTIVAL

We presented our 3rd Annual Sierra Poetry Festival in capping National Poetry Month in the Sierra. Forrest Gander, having just accepted the 2019 Pulitzer Prize for Poetry, attended as our keynote speaker alongside local, national and international poets, performers and presenters, and youth voices. Sierra Poetry Festival will again present poets, critics and visionaries for readings, slams, workshops, discussion and youth voices on April 18, 2020 at Miners Foundry Cultural Center in Nevada City.

HIGHLIGHTS



NISENANIM NI

Thanks to a Local Impact grant from the California Arts Council, we launched a unique partnership with the Nisenan Tribe and Nevada City Film Festival to create a film documenting the recovery of the Nisenan's all but lost language. Tribal members are learning, through hands-on experience, important filmmaking and communication skills such as storytelling, cinematography, locations, self-financing, and documentary interview techniques, while controlling the film's voice and vision, and participating in all aspects of a unique filmmaking process. We look forward to sharing this film with you at our HOME Cultural Equity Convening in May 2020.



YUBA LIT

This important reading series continues to thrive under its founder and producer Rachel Howard. Yuba Lit fosters our literary community by drawing on the wealth of serious writers who live here and on new perspectives and influences from Sacramento, the San Francisco Bay Area and beyond. During 2019 Yuba Lit presented accomplished Nevada County authors and celebrated important authors from across California and beyond, prompting thought provoking questions and deep discussion. Yuba Lit maintains a strict code of access to ensure a No One Turned Away For Lack Of Funds Policy.



OF/BY/FOR ALL

In 2019 we joined OF/BY/FOR ALL's Change Network in order to deepen community impact, advance goals around diversity, equity, and inclusion, provide professional development, and develop new, community-centered ways of working. Joining OF/ BY/FOR ALL connects with our aims towards cultural planning, cultural responsiveness and thought leadership - and to our unique role as State- Local Partner with California Arts Council. In May 2020 we will host a Cultural Equity Convening called WELCOME HOME, at which we will engage our community in thoughtful conversations around what cultural responsiveness means for those living within Nevada County.



ARTS & CULTURE INDUCTION

Each year Nevada County Arts Council co-chairs an Arts & Culture induction for new and emerging leaders across all sectors, as part of Nevada County Community Leadership Institute. We offer an overview of regional arts infrastructures, their programmatic diversity and our unique place in California. Up to thirty of our regional arts leaders participate in panels, presentations and Q&A. New leaders participate in site visits—and a bit of improv—while learning about the social and economic value of the arts and the impact it has on our local culture and lifestyle.



NEVADA COUNTY POET LAUREATE PROGRAM

In 2019 at a passing of the laurels ceremony alongside Molly Fisk, our inaugural Poet Laureate, at Sierra Poetry Festival - we welcomed Chris Olander as our new Nevada County Poet Laureate. Olander has taught with California Poets in the Schools since 1984. His poetry blends performance with the spoken word to create 'Action Art Poetry, which he describes as "more dynamic than listening to a recording or reading", and through which he becomes the poem. During 2019 Olander has facilitated free Poetry Hours and numerous public readings.



STRATEGIC PLANNING FOR ARTS EDUCATION

In 2019 we published our education survey at a launch event in partnership with California Alliance for Arts Education. With our survey in hand we were eligible to apply for strategic planning support via California County Superintendents Educational Services Association under the umbrella of Nevada County Superintendent of Schools. We began our planning process with stakeholders during the fall and look forward to publishing a plan in mid-2020 at a special event for educators and the public.



TRUCKEE ARTS ALLIANCE

Through its monthly public meetings and representation on Truckee Cultural District's Advisory team, Truckee Arts Alliance, a fiscally sponsored project of Nevada County Arts Council, provided advocacy and support for the establishment of key strategic areas of focus, among them the development of The Town of Truckee's brand new Public Art Master Plan. Truckee Arts Alliance continues to support much needed communications and infrastructure to support Truckee Cultural District and, during 2019, it showcased artists and their work at every Truckee Thursday, its steady presence ensuring public discourse, education and engagement for our Eastern Nevada County California Cultural District.



ARTS & ECONOMIC PROSPERITY

In 2019 Nevada County Arts Council published the results of the first comprehensive survey of entities engaged in cultural programming across the whole of Nevada County. In the year it took to survey the creative industries in Nevada County we relied upon many for their vision, good will and patience. We thank our arts leaders from east to west—from those within larger organizations serving diverse audiences, to those who run much needed programs serving important niche segments of our population, and those running small artisan or creative businesses that serve our population and attract both tourists and new residents.

So what did our survey tell us?

The nonprofit arts and culture sector is a \$46.9 million industry in Nevada County—one that supports 869 full-time equivalent jobs and generates \$5.1 million in local and state government revenue. Our cultural organizations are businesses in their own right. They spent \$25.7 million to employ locals, purchase goods and services from local establishments, and attract tourists. They also leveraged a remarkable \$21.2 million in additional spending by cultural audiences—spending that pumps vital revenue into restaurants, hotels, retail stores, and other local businesses.

This study puts to rest a misconception that communities support arts and culture at the expense of local economic development. In fact, communities that support the arts and culture are investing in an industry that supports jobs, generates government revenue, and is the cornerstone of tourism. Our study shows conclusively that the arts mean business in Nevada County!

We hope this valuable data will assist local leaders across all sectors in making decisions that will affect future generations, our quality of life, the livability of our region, and the likelihood of investment in it in years to come.

Alta Sierra School
Art Works Gallery
Bell Hill School
Blue Oaks Farm
BriarPatch Food Co-Op
California Arts Council
California Humanities
Charis Youth Center
Chicago Park School
Clear Creek School
Coldwell Banker
Grass Roots Realty
Cottage Hill School
Country Store
Deer Creek School
Dignity Health – Sierra
Nevada Memorial Hospital
Nevada County Economic
Resource Council
Fidelity Brokerage Services
Flour Garden Bakery
Forest Charter School
Gold Miners Inn
Grass Valley Courtyard Suites
Grass Valley School District
Grass Valley Downtown
Association
Grass Valley Male Voice Choir
Grass Valley Summer School
& After School Programs
Grizzly Hill School
House of Print & Copy
Jacobson Chiropractic
Java John's
Lyman Gilmore School
Magnolia School
Miners' Foundry
Morrison Hotel Gallery
Mother Truckers
Natural Selection
Nevada City Film Festival
Nevada City School
for the Arts
Nevada County Facilities
Management Division
Nevada County Libraries
Nevada Union High
School District
Peace Lutheran Church
Penn Valley School District
Queen of Hearts
Women's Fund
Ready Springs After
School Programs
Scotten School
Seven Hills School
Sierra Montessori Academy

Sierra Nevada Conservancy
Sierra Theaters
SPD Markets
Students of Washington and
Grizzly Hill Schools
Tahoe Truckee Community
Foundation
The Book Seller
The Stonehouse
Three Forks Bakery
& Brewery
Tri-Counties Bank
Union Hill School
Volz Bros Automotive
Washington School
Williams Ranch School
Womens' Writing Salon
Yuba River Charter School

—
Michelle Amador
Julia Amaral
Art Works Gallery
Kara Asilanis
Don Augstein
James Bair
Julie Baker
Lisa Barker
Marika Beck
Jennifer Bernardo
Melissa Berry
Valerie Birkoff
Jude Bischoff
Susan Brandt
Peter Blachley
Jon Blinder
Eileen Blodgett
Carolyn Bloom
Gretchen Bond
Lucy & Michael Bottrell
Ruth Chase Boudreaux
Julie Bramkamp
Catharine Bramkamp
Robert Branstrom
Deborah Bridges
LeeAnn Brook
Kimberlee Brown
Jeff Brown
Misha Brown
Brian & Ruthanne Buckley
Roseanne Burke
John & Valerie Bush
Sheila Cameron
Margaret Campbell
Matt Carney
Carlos Caruncho

Kelly Casey
Mark, Kristen
& Hannah Casey
Colleen Chapman
Randolph Chilton
Jonathan Collier
Liz Collins
Amy Compton
Andrea Conte
Erin Coppin
Teena Corker
Shelley Covert
Virginia Covert
Judy & Gene Crowe
Dr. Mike & Alexa Curtis
Colleen Dalton
Steve Danner
Susan Davis
Charles Dayton
John Deaderick
Lisa Deniz
Charlotte Dewar
Eve Diamond
Justin Drinkwater
Jody Druze-Faker
Daniel Elkin
Shanti Emerson
Charles & Gail Entrekin
Jill Erickson
Kimberly Ewing
Charlie Faber
Flo Fahrenheit
Faerthen Felix
Rod Fivelstad
Sherry Flanagan
Beth Ford
Sherry Fortner
Deb Foxen
Eric & Lorrie Frederickson
Ann Keeling Friedman
Karyn Sarganis Fritz
William Gainer
Desmond Gallagher
Sylviane Gaumer
Celeste Generaux
Ruth Ghio
Chantelle Goldthwaite
Cheri Guerrette
Jenny Hale
Sands Hall
Brett Hall Jones
Donn Harris
Christine Hayman
Danielle Herreid
Sally Herring
Constance Hills
Suzanne Himmler
Andrew Hutchins

Jacobson Chiropractic
Kial James
Erica Johnson
Louise Johnson
Lou Johnson
Martha Jones
Lin Jovanovic
Maxima Kahn
Jeff Kane, M.D.
Pamela Kinzie
Lisa Kirshbaum
Robert Kittle
Trina Kleist
Alicia LaCoste
Azriel LaMarca
Trisha Lambert
Jennifer Langdon
Scott Lay
Cynthia Levesque
Margaret Lindsey
SK Lindsey
Gail Lipson
Susan Lobb-Porter
Jesse Locks
Nancy Tieken Lopez
Samantha Mabie-Tuinstra
Jill Mahanna
Dalrymple MacAlpin
Chris Maher
JoAnne Marie
Marni Marshall
Janet Mason
Robin Mayoff
Liz & Terry McAteer
Tiffany McGuckin
Roberta McClellan
Karen McCluskey
Eve McEaney
Carolyn McGrath
Jenni McGuire
Diane McIntire
Margaret McKaig
Luanne McKinnon
Reenie McMains
Cynthia Meilicke
Ken Meyers
Susan Michalski
Stan & Sharon Miller
Margie Miller
Krisha Montmorency
Elizabeth Moore
Joan Naszady
Nancy Nelson
Eva Nichols
Sharon O'Hara
J.A. Padgett
Elisa Parker
Shirley Phelan

Deb Plass
Keith & Shirley Porter
Louise Preston
Judie Rae
Judy & Michael Rath
Sherry Reafsnyder
Thomas Reckert
Lisa Redfern
Daniel Reeves
Peggy Rivers
Allison Rivers Samson
Mary Roberts
Cassandra Robertson
Diane Robertson
Robt, Baird & Co.
Sandra Rockman
Kerstin Ronsick
Janice Rosner
Jennifer Rugge
Kimberly Culbertson
Sagebiel
Gabriel Sakakeeny
Debi Savoy
Nancy Schaefer
Linda & Allen Schafer
Michelle Sexton
George Siffri
Jennifer Singer
Lew Sitzer
Karl Snyder
Steve Solinsky
Dr. Danita Sorenson
Paul Steege
Orlo & Catharine Steele
O.K. Steele
Richard Stevens
Gary Swenor
The Curious Forge
Elizabeth Titus
Saxon Thomas
Hock Tjoa
Robert Trent
Aruna Venkatraman
Julie Valin
John Volz
Judith Vrooman
Martha Watson
Kristin Welch
Denise Wey
Juliette Morris Williams
Pamela & Tom Wolfe
Kathleen Wolff
David Wong
Alisa Wood
Peggy Wright
Kathryn Wronski
Janet Zeerÿp

ARTS EDUCATION IN CLASSROOM SETTINGS

During 2019 we worked with our teaching artists and coaches to partner with these schools and learning centers, thanks in part to matching funds from the California Arts Council:

Bear River High School
Bell Hill Academy
Bitney College Prep
Charis Youth Center
Earl Jamieson Educational Options
Forest Charter School
Ghidotti Early College High School
Grizzly Hill School
Margaret G Scotten Elementary
School NEO Youth Center
Nevada Union High School
Ready Springs School
Sierra Academy of Expeditionary Learning
Washington School
Williams Ranch Elementary School

1

Our Artists in Schools Program saw us create new **model arts lessons** for 5th graders and served approximately 1000 low-income 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th grade students weekly through seriously fun, creative lessons combining Visual Arts Standards and academic curriculum in science, math, English and social studies.

2

We provided **professional development** to classroom teachers on integrating arts into their classrooms.

3

We developed our **Dream A Difference Program**, coaching middle school students in poetry and connecting them with students in war torn Damascus in Syria. From among the smallest school districts in the US our students now form part of an emerging global community of young people who are gaining awareness and learning empathy for the way others live and, in the spirit of sharing the poetry they write in the form of song and recitation, will share their own experience of life in rural California.

4

We collaborated with **NEO Youth Center** to provide afterschool classes for middle and high school students in music, photography, painting and film making.

5

Through **Picture This**, we worked with Charis Youth Center to implement an inspiring 15-week curriculum for young people whose lives have been affected by the juvenile justice system.

6

We partnered with six high schools on **Poetry Out Loud**, a national recitation contest that, for us, begins right here in Nevada County classrooms. Through *Poetry Out Loud* we helped high school students master public speaking skills, build self-confidence, and learn about literary history and contemporary life.

STATE & NATIONAL PARTNERS

Americans for the Arts
 California Alliance for Arts Education
 California Arts Advocates
 California Arts Council
 California Cultural Districts
 California Lawyers for the Arts
 California Poets in the Schools
 Californians for the Arts
 Poetry Out Loud

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

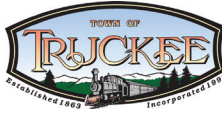
City of Nevada City
 City of Grass Valley
 Grass Valley School District
 Greater Grass Valley Chamber of Commerce
 KNCO Community Radio
 KVMR Community Radio
 Nevada City Chamber of Commerce
 Nevada City Film Festival
 Nevada County Board of Supervisors
 Nevada County Community Leadership Institute
 Nevada County Economic Resource Council
 Nevada County Superintendent of Schools
 Penn Valley Union Elementary School District
 Town of Truckee
 Truckee Arts Alliance
 Truckee Chamber of Commerce
 Truckee Public Art Commission
 Welcome Home Vets
 Wild & Scenic Film Festival

OUR SPECIAL THANKS

BriarPatch Food Co-op
 Coldwell Banker Grass Roots Realty Commercial Division
 Caseywood Corporation
 Dignity Health
 The Entrekin Foundation
 Larry & Brenda Hoyle
 Sierra College
 Sierra FoodWineArt
 Sierra Nevada Memorial Hospital

PHOTO CREDITS

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 Image Nation - Lori Lachman
 Strategic Planning for Arts Education - Kial James
 Picture This - Michael Llewellyn



NEVADA COUNTY ARTS COUNCIL

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