GRASS VALLEY-NEVADA CITY
CULTURAL
DISTRICT

Welcome to Culture Connection

Grass Valley-Nevada City Cultural District's newsletter, featuring the events, stories, and people of our community

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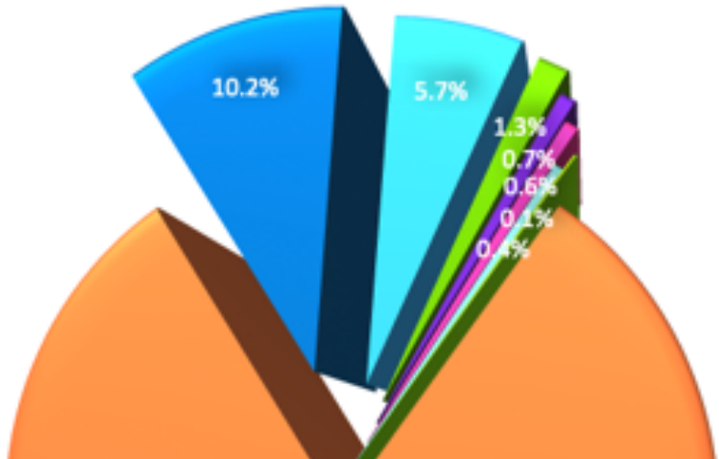
STAY SAFE. STAY STRONG. STAY CREATIVE.

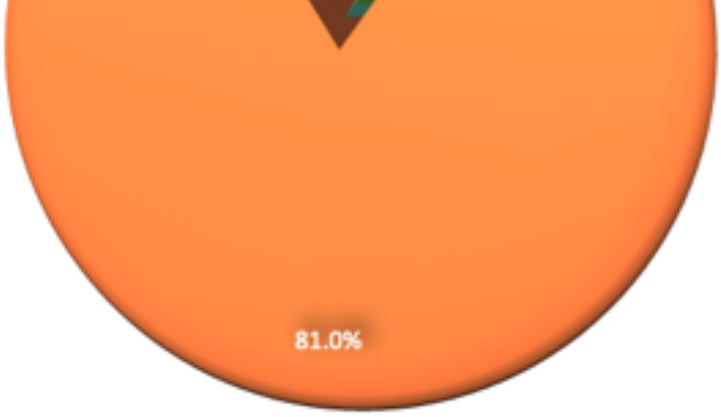
"Living Ancestors" (2019) by Nevada City artist Miles Toland

Greetings, dear Readers!

February marks Black History Month, Valentine's Day, as well as the start of The Chinese Lunar New Year. With these things in mind, it's the perfect time to put the spotlight on our less visible communities.

Nevada City and Grass Valley have grown in diversity over the years, but 2020 county census results show that our BIPOC communities still comprise less than 20% of Nevada County's make-up.





- White
- Hispanic or Latino
- From two or more races
- Asian
- "American Indian and Alaska Native"
- From other races alone
- Black or African American
- Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander

By connecting through art, we erase the racial barriers between us and find ourselves in a place we where we can share our human experiences.

The arts and culture space is a safe place for all, and that's what makes it sacred and worth preserving.

Learn More About Our Commitment To Racial Equity In The Arts

This month, take the time to immerse yourself in the unfamiliar. Let curiosity and connection override prejudice and judgement. Reach out and cultivate friendships with new people, and watch the magic unfold in your lives.

Let the ***Arts and Creativity*** *be our connecting force!*

In this newsletter, we will take a deeper dive into Nevada County's hidden Black History; discuss a life enriched by art with transportation design contest winner Denise Wey; and bring you up-to-date with the most exciting local events this month.

Read on!

"Beam" (2019) by Nevada City artist Miles Toland

"The child in each of us knows Paradise.
Paradise is home. Home as it was Or home as it should have been.
Paradise is one's own place, One's own people, One's own world,
Knowing and known, Perhaps even Loving and loved. "

Octavia Butler

Photo via KVMR.org

Black History Month:
AME Church Plaque Unveiling
Friday, February 18 @ 11:30 am

For a tangible experience with Nevada City's little-known Black history, be sure to attend the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church plaque unveiling in Grass Valley on Friday, February 18th. **The plaque will be installed at 324 S. Church Street, on the elevated sidewalk, opposite from the actual historic site.**

In addition to being an essential part of Black History here in Grass Valley, the church fund-raised for a number of critical civil rights causes, including abolishing slavery and racially integrating public facilities.

Read more about the AME Church's History

Denise Wey

An Established Artist helps give Nevada County Transit a Stunning Makeover

The artist Denise Wey (Photo by Annabelle Ziegenhagen)

Local artist Denise Wey is somewhat of a fixture in Nevada County's art scene.

Denise is an art teacher and one of Nevada County Arts Council's longest serving Teaching Artists; and as Winner of the 2020 Nevada County Best Visual Artist award, and resident artist at ArtWorks Artist Co-Op in Grass Valley, a number of locals have had the opportunity to bask in her captivating large-format realist paintings of the Yuba River.

Now, her art will reach the far ends of the county!

Denise is the Winner of the Nevada County Transit Bus Art Contest, and this coming Summer eleven *Nevada County Connects* buses will be illuminated by her beautiful painting, ***Poppies***. "I usually don't compete in art contests," said Denise, "but my friends are fans of my art and encouraged me to enter!" And boy, are we glad they did!

Nevada County Arts Council thanks the many artists who submitted such beautiful work to the Nevada County Transit Bus Art team. This is just the beginning!

Congratulations, Denise Wey!

Nevada County connects | Nevada County Now

Congratulations, Denise! We're lucky to have your art as a visual representation of

Nevada County.

2022: The Year of The Tiger
Happy Chinese Lunar New Year!

Photo courtesy of The Community Asian Theatre of the Sierras

2022 marks The Year of The Tiger!

According to *ChineseNewYear.net*, people born in years of the Tiger are "vigorous and ambitious, daring and courageous, enthusiastic and generous, self-confident with a sense of justice and a commitment to help others for the greater good."
Over **1.5 billion people worldwide** will be celebrating this major Asian holiday, and looking forward to a fresh and hopeful new year!

Learn More about The Chinese Lunar New Year

Chinese New Year celebration photos courtesy of Local Readers & Community Members

ART EXHIBIT:
"*With Acorn Eyes*" by Maile Claire
at Nevada City Winery

"New Moon, Assemblage 2021" by Maile Claire

Local Artist Maile Claire has been busy.

In addition to providing the artwork for the 2022 Wild and Scenic Film Festival, the artist's beautifully arranged, stark exhibition "***With Acorn Eyes***" is currently running at **Nevada City Winery.** Using "fallen, found or gifted" materials, Maile constructs spellbinding pieces that transform the natural into something truly mysterious.

"***With Acorn Eyes***" runs until February 13th. Don't miss it!

Detail of the artist's work (Courtesy of Nevada City Winery)

SAVE THE DATE:
Chris Pierce

Thursday February 10th @ The Marisa Funk Theatre

Photo courtesy of The Center For The Arts

It's no wonder that Chris Pierce has achieved popularity in such a short amount of time; his raw Blues vocals and gracefully chosen lyrics will instantly make him a regular in your musical rotation.

He's written multiple songs for television, including NBC's "This Is Us". You won't want to miss his appearance at The Center For The Arts on February 10th!

Buy Chris Pierce Tickets

ART EXHIBIT:
"The Many Aspects of Divine Mother"
in Downtown Ananda Village

"Water Prayer" by artist Mira Clark

The Many Aspects of Divine Mother opens on February 14, sponsored by the Ananda College of Living Wisdom. **Hours on Valentine's Day are 1-4 pm, and 7-9 pm.**

Of the many artists showing, Mira Clark chooses to represent her love of nature in the form of the Divine Mother with a painting titled "Water Prayer". Of her installation Mira writes, "There is a correspondence between how our bodies connect us to the Earth, our organic forms passing through the same cycles that all nature goes through. My work considers women's connection to Nature as well as to the element of water."

The Many Aspects of Divine Mother will show at
The Lotus Building (near Master's Market & Deli) in downtown Ananda Village, 14618 Tyler Foote Road, Nevada City.

Are you an Arts Organization in Nevada County?

The 2022 California Arts Council Grant Season is now open!

Our very own Nevada County Arts Council will be hosting TWO Zoom workshops to educate and prepare those who wish to apply:

Tuesday, February 8 at 10-11:30am – Registration essential –

CAC Grants Workshop and Q&A for Nevada County Arts Organizations

To register, click here (link to https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUqcOysrj0jH9OVcNGr5vRhLUxUHU21CHcL), after which, check inbox for a confirmation email with a link to join.

Tuesday, February 8 at 12-noon-1:30pm – Registration essential –

CAC Grants Workshop and Q&A for Nevada County Artists.

To register, click here (link to https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAtd-6oqDwiE9RecCPs9OgFwU-UarSvJeeq), after which, check inbox for a confirmation email with a link to join.

Good luck!

NEVADA COUNTY arts COUNCIL

The Nevada County Arts Council is seeking an Executive Assistant!

Are you organized, motivated, and productive?

Do the Arts call to you?
Then we want to meet you!

Learn More & Apply

Special thanks to artist Miles Toland for permission to use his beautiful BIPOC paintings!

Share Tweet Forward

NEVADA COUNTY ARTS COUNCIL
PO Box 1833, Nevada City, CA 95959
(530) 278-5155

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