



## **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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**Happy New Year!**

**Wishing you a 2020 full of health, happiness, and an  
abundance of rich and unique cultural experiences!**

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## NEVADA COUNTY POET LAUREATE **Chris Olander**

A poet laureate is someone chosen—originally by kings, now by governments and civic groups—to represent a region by composing poems for special occasions, reading in public, and helping to focus attention on poetry as an art form.

Our Nevada County Poet Laureate Program was inaugurated at [Sierra Poetry Festival](#) in 2017 and involves writing poems to commemorate county events, reading (at the Sierra Poetry Festival and our [Yuba Lit Reading Series](#), etc.), and developing one or more projects to boost community involvement in poetry.

On April 27th, 2019, we welcomed [Chris Olander](#) as our Nevada County Poet Laureate. A poet and bio-educator, he has taught with [California Poets in the Schools](#) since 1984. He

blends performance techniques with spoken word to create what he calls an ‘Action Art Poetry - musical images phrasing to dramatize relative experiences – a poetry arising from oral and bardic traditions.’ Chris Olander’s debut book of poems is "[River Light](#)".

On **January 1st from 5-6pm**, 2020's first [Poetry Hour with Chris Olander](#) will take place at [Wild Eye Pub](#), at 535 Mill Street in Grass Valley. This event is an opportunity to discuss poetry, ask questions, read a poem, and explore the many ways that poetry as an art form can impact and transcend our daily lives. Come early or stay later to enjoy a beverage and some food. [Poetry Hour with Chris Olander](#) will also be held at the Wild Eye Pub on **January 15th from 5-6pm**.

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## **Second Annual Nevada County Community Seed Swap**

On **Saturday, January 4th, from 10am to 12pm**, the [Madelyn Helling Library](#) will host the 2nd Annual Nevada County Community Seed Swap in the Gene Albaugh Community Room.

Everyone from experienced seed savers to new gardeners is welcome. Attendees should

bring their extra seeds from last growing season, and everyone who brings seeds to donate will have priority in selecting seeds from the swap. All leftover seeds will be added to the Seed Library. The Seed Library is free and there are no limits on how many seeds you can take, but participants are asked to take only what they can use.

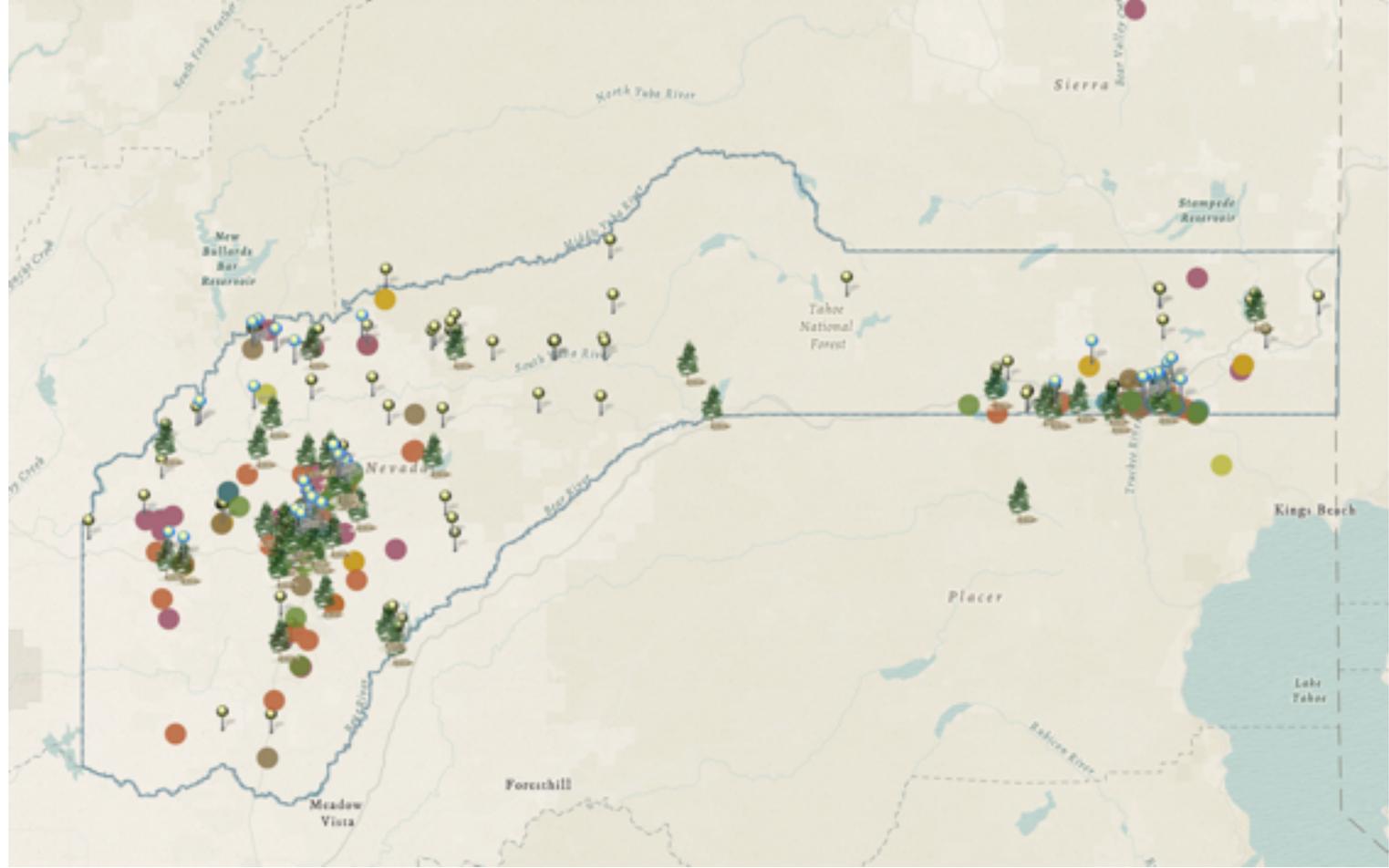
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## Sweet Pickins Outdoor Vintage Market

The monthly [Sweet Pickins Outdoor Vintage Market](#) will take place on **Sunday, January 5th, from 9am - 3pm** at Neal and South Auburn Streets in Grass Valley. This event features vintage finds and great music. The event will be cancelled in the event of rain or snow.

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## Nevada County's Cultural Assets

The [California Arts Council](#) has selected 14 districts to serve as California's inaugural state-designated [Cultural Districts](#). Nevada County was bestowed the great honor of being home to 2 of the 14 districts - Grass Valley-Nevada City and Truckee.

Between them, Grass Valley and Nevada City are home to over 100 arts-related organizations producing upwards of a thousand events a year, scores of annual festivals, street fairs, art walks and studio tours, and a generous base of artists and makers. They are home to numerous galleries, wineries, workshops, museums, events, trails, hospitality and historic landmarks, each a highlight of our cultural heritage.

We hope you enjoy this interactive map of our cultural assets. **The Cultural Assets Map submission form is [here](#).**

[VISIT THE CULTURAL ASSETS MAP](#)



## Local Creatives Happy Hour

[Nevada County Arts Council](#) and [Nevada City Film Festival](#) hosts a monthly happy hour for creatives, artists, filmmakers, photographers, writers, designers, entrepreneurs, small business owners and those who are working in the local creative economy. This month's event will be held on **Wednesday, January 8th, from 5:30pm - 7:30 pm** at 110 Union Alley in Nevada City.

Learn about projects people are working on, pool resources, develop partnerships, find mentors, and help build a vibrant, creative culture in Western Nevada County. Drinks, noshes, and nibbles available.

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## Nevada County Economic Survey

The [Nevada County Board of Supervisors](#) sets its annual Priority Objectives each year in January. The County's 2019 Priority Objectives include supporting job-enhancing economic development with an emphasis on infrastructure that expands or preserves commerce and provides leadership and coordination opportunities to bring funding sources and community partnerships together.

The arts are an important cultural sector in Nevada County and generate \$46.9 million in total economic activity. This annual spending supports 869 full-time equivalent jobs, generates \$20.9 million in household income to local residents, and delivers \$5.1 million in local and state government revenue.

Within the survey one question asks: "What do you consider most important for successful economic development for Nevada County? What services would be most beneficial?" If the arts are important to you, **please be sure to check "Promoting Arts & Culture"**, among other priorities.

Please take 3-5 minutes to complete this short survey and share with those who are invested in the success of Nevada County!



## 18th Annual Wild & Scenic Film Festival

The [South Yuba River Citizens League](#) (SYRCL) hosts the 18th annual [Wild & Scenic Film Festival](#) on **January 16th - 20th, 2020**. This flagship festival draws top filmmakers, environmental activists, social innovators, and world adventurers to the historic downtowns of Nevada City and Grass Valley.

Considered one of the nation's premier environmental and adventure film festivals, this year's films will combine stellar filmmaking, beautiful cinematography and first-rate storytelling to inform, inspire and ignite solutions and possibilities to restore the earth and human communities while creating a positive future for the next generation. Festival-goers can expect to see award winning films about nature, community activism, adventure, conservation, water, energy and climate change, wildlife, environmental justice, agriculture and more. The five-day festival features more than 100 films, activist workshops and panels, family friendly programs, art exhibitions, and celebrations.

Download the complete schedule of films, events and workshops, [here](#).

View the official WSFF film trailer [here](#).

[PURCHASE TICKETS](#)



## Fifth Annual Sierra Writers Conference

Start your year writing! [Sierra College](#), [Sierra Writers](#), and [Sierra College Press](#) presents the [2020 Sierra Writers Conference](#).

This two-day event will take place on **January 31<sup>st</sup>** and **February 1<sup>st</sup>** at the Sierra College campuses in Rocklin and Grass Valley and will feature keynote speakers [Grant Faulkner](#), Executive Director of [NaNoWriMo](#), and [Pam Houston](#), Professor of English at UC Davis and co-founder and creative director of the literary nonprofit [Writing By Writers](#).

Conference Workshops and Critique Sessions offer learning, writing craft advancement, and professional networking opportunities. The Friday schedule of events in Rocklin is [here](#); and the Saturday schedule of events in Grass Valley is [here](#).

[PURCHASE TICKETS](#)



## **[#GVNCCulturalDistrict on Instagram](#)**

Grass Valley-Nevada City is one of 14 districts selected by The California Arts Council to serve as California's inaugural state-designated Cultural Districts. Each one of us is an ambassador of our community, so please help us celebrate our heritage and the people, places, traditions and events that contribute to the quality of life here by sharing your photos on Instagram with #GVNCCulturalDistrict.

Follow these local artists and businesses who are already sharing their images and video: (Click on the name to view their Instagram page; click on the image to view that specific photo on their page.)

# SUPPORT LOCAL ART



[#nevadacountyarts](https://www.instagram.com/nevadacountyarts)



[#colorsofnature\\_naturalfibers](#)

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

**WWW.NEVADACOUNTYARTS.ORG**  
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GRASS VALLEY-NEVADA CITY  
**CULTURAL  
DISTRICT**

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