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Nevada Arts Council administrator announces retirement

The Nevada Department of Tourism and Cultural Affairs announced today the resignation of Nevada Arts Council administrator, Susan Boskoff. Boskoff will retire on March 31, 2017, after 24 years of service to the State of Nevada. The Department will conduct a nationwide search for her replacement.

During her tenure with the agency, Boskoff increased the agency's capacity to attract artists, increase the diversity of arts forms created by statewide artists, and strengthen communities through advancing lifelong learning, promoting public/private partnerships, and growing economic diversification at the local level.

"It has been an honor and privilege to be part of the Nevada Arts Council's (NAC) extraordinary journey for nearly half of its existence, said Susan Boskoff. "I've been fortunate to work on behalf of all Nevadans with dedicated staff and board members, and in collaboration with so many undeniably creative and resilient artists, arts organizations and communities across the state. With ongoing support from both the Executive and Legislative leadership, and our department directors, we have an abundance of accomplishments to celebrate as the agency turns 50 in 2017."

Under Boskoff's leadership, a majority of the Arts Council's core programs were launched, including Poetry Out Loud, Nevada Touring Initiative, Nevada Circuit Riders, Office Exhibition Series, Nevada Heritage Award, and an annual conference, presently called *Arts @ the Heart*. Boskoff established the Las Vegas office, guided the redesign of the grants program to better serve constituents, and initiated biannual Arts Town Meetings to explore the state of the arts in Nevada's metropolitan centers and rural towns. She represented Nevada as a trustee on regional and national boards, including the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies, Western Arts Alliance, Western States Arts Federation; and on panels and at conferences for the National Endowment for the Arts, Americans for the Arts and other arts and cultural agencies. She is currently working with the Nevada Department of Veterans Services and the Sub-Committee on Veterans Memorial

Affairs on the Battleborn Memorial to Nevada's Fallen Warriors Project for the state capitol grounds, and the NAC's 50th Anniversary Awards Reception and Ceremony to recognize the three public entities that established Nevada's state arts agency in 1967.

"Words cannot express our gratitude to Susan for her dedication to the Arts Council, our constituents and to the state of Nevada," Julia Arger, chair of the Nevada Arts Council board, said. "Guiding the agency with wisdom, passion, and an understanding of the ever-changing needs of our field, for many her name is synonymous with the Nevada Arts Council."

The Nevada Arts Council, a division of the Nevada Department of Tourism and Cultural Affairs, is charged with ensuring that state and national funds support cultural activity and encourage public participation in the arts throughout Nevada. In addition to providing hundreds of grants to arts and community-based organizations, schools, artists and local municipalities throughout the state, the Arts Council coordinates a variety of statewide programs and activities such as the annual Poetry Out Loud recitation competition for high-school aged students, traveling exhibits, artist residencies, workshops and cultural assessments. For more information, visit the department's website at www.nac.nevadaculture.org

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