The Nevada Arts Council is thrilled to convene and support Nevada’s creative leaders during the 2017 Arts at the Heart conference. Connecting local and national experts in the field to exchange best practices, network and strengthen arts and culture statewide is a critical focus of this annual conference.

During this year’s conference you will investigate the role that arts and culture play in shaping vibrant and healthy communities. It’s ideal timing to hold Arts at the Heart in Las Vegas as we celebrate the 30th Anniversary of the Las Vegas Arts Commission, recognize the Nevada Arts Council’s 50th Anniversary year, and explore some of the innovative work that is cultivating a sense of place here and around our state.

Enjoy your time together as we connect to foster a robust creative community.
Thursday, November 2

PRECONFERENCE TOURS & ACTIVITIES

1:30 - 3:30 PM  Interpreting the Urban Landscape: A Cultural Walking Tour of Downtown Las Vegas
Join cultural urbanist, Richard Hooker, for a spirited walking tour that celebrates Downtown Las Vegas as an outdoor museum of American popular culture. This 10 block excursion along Fremont St. is an exercise in interpreting the urban landscape as a cultural construct. The tour is based in storytelling and informed by architecture, neon, entrepreneurship, arts, tourism, gambling, politics, nature, myth, and more. Participants can build upon this experience in a follow-up workshop on Nov. 3 to design original cultural tours. Sponsored by Las Vegas Urban Adventures.

1:30 - 4:00 PM  Seven Magic Mountains Tour
In 2016, the Nevada Museum of Art and Art Production Fund produced Seven Magic Mountains, a monumental artwork by renowned artist Ugo Rondinone. The journey from conception to completion, however, began many years before that. Learn about the work done behind the scenes to pave the way for this now iconic public artwork, and gain insight into related art history, in a private tour led by Nevada Museum of Art Director of Communications Amanda Horn.

3:00 - 4:00 PM  Neon Museum Boneyard Tour
The Neon Boneyard is an outdoor exhibition space containing iconic Las Vegas signs, and is only available by guided tour. The Neon Museum collection chronicles changes and trends in sign design and technology through pieces ranging from the 1930s to the present day. Visitors will receive a special hour long tour with an emphasis on the Neon Museum's history, growth, and recent conservation and restoration efforts. Sponsored by the Neon Museum.

4:45 - 6:45 PM  Taco Tour
Join FavyFav and Babelito of Latinos Who Lunch podcast for a special taco tour! From "Tijuana style" to "Fusion", Las Vegas has some of the best tacos Nevada has to offer. The Latinos Who Lunch duo will take you to their favorite taco joints in the downtown/North Las Vegas area while giving you the history of the taco and of this amazing city that they call home! Sponsored by the City of North Las Vegas.

5:00 - 6:30 PM  Nevada Municipal Arts Leaders Preconference Session
Sponsored by Carson City Culture & Tourism Authority.

Kick-off Keynote & Reception
Zappos Chamber Council, 400 Stewart Ave, Las Vegas, NV 89101
Sponsored by Zappos.com

6:00 PM  Registration

7:00 PM  Creativity, Place and Inclusion: How the Arts and Design Work to Build Communities
Jason Schupbach, Director of the Design School at Arizona State University, will discuss how artists and designers are working across the country to build more just, beautiful and economically successful communities. His talk will cover the last 8 years of effort to support arts-based community development from the Federal Government and foundations, and talk about how partnerships between the arts and design and other fields are working together in unique ways to improve American society.

8:00 - 9:00 PM  Opening Reception
Friday, November 3

8:00 - 9:00 AM  Registration & Breakfast
Auditortium

9:00 - 10:15 AM  Public Narrative for Leadership: Stories of Self, Us & Now
Sarah ElRaheb • Auditorium

Questions of what I am called to do, what is my community called to do, and what we are called to do now are at least as old as the three questions posed by the first century Jerusalem sage, Rabbi Hillel:

• If I am not for myself, who will be for me?
• When I am for myself alone, what am I?
• If not now, when?

Public narrative is a leadership practice developed by Marshall Ganz of Harvard Kennedy School. In this session, participants will be introduced to the craft of public narrative as a leadership practice and as a tool to build community and motivate action. To lead is to accept responsibility for enabling others to achieve shared purpose in the face of uncertainty. Through narrative we can learn to access the moral – or emotional - resources to respond to the challenges of an uncertain world – as individuals, as communities and as nations. Responding to urgent challenges mindfully – with agency - requires courage rooted in our ability to draw on hope over fear; empathy over alienation; and self-worth over self-doubt. Public narrative is the art of translating values into the emotional resources for action. It is a discursive process through which individuals, communities, and nations learn to make choices, construct identity, and inspire action.

Performances by Clark County Poet Laureate, Vogue Robinson and Mykola Suk.

10:30 - 11:20 AM  Concurrent Sessions

Cut Through the Noise: Communicating Your Brand Stories with Passion and Persistence
Amanda Horn • Auditorium

In this 50-minute presentation, Amanda Horn, Director of Communications with the Nevada Museum of Art, will provide communications and marketing success strategies for arts organizations, applicable to any size budget and staff. Using real-world examples, Amanda will review best practices for leveraging earned, owned, and paid media.

Boards That Soar!
Kendall Hardin • Gallery

How to create a high performance board is the focus of this session. Knowing how to build a "board of choice" - one that exerts real power and impact in the community you serve - is just the first step in advancing your organization. Dysfunctional boards can destroy organizations and make life miserable for everyone. So learn how to recruit, structure and galvanize a board that makes your organization a winner and laughs all the way to the bank.

10:30 AM - 12:25 PM  Telling a Story of Place: Designing a Walking Tour in Your Hometown
Richard Hooker, Suzanne Hackett-Morgan • Nevada School of the Arts Recital Room

During this hands on workshop, we will collaboratively create original and spirited walking tours in several Nevada communities. Working in a small group format, we’ll design a number of prototype cultural tours oriented to both visitors and locals, learning how the arts, culture, history and tourism can be a part of the life and the economy of a city or town. Each group will work with suggested guidelines, templates and parameters to create a tour proposal to be presented for constructive feedback, comments and insights from all participants. This session runs until 12:25 PM.

11:35 - 12:25 PM  Concurrent Sessions

Artist Residencies: How Artists and Communities Are Impacted by an Immersive Experience
Cynthia Behr Warso, Matthew Couper, China Hudson, Sarah Lillegard • Gallery

Discover what supported artist residencies are, how they can positively impact an artist’s practice, the varied residency formats and why they can contribute to your community’s creative and cultural development. Matthew Couper, Sarah Lillegard and China Hudson will discuss their experiences with domestic and international artist residencies. Cynthia Behr Warso, Director of Education and Engagement for The Neon Museum, will facilitate and share her experiences offering a supported artist residency.
Listing Your Arts Destination on TravelNevada.com
Devon Blunden • Conference Room
How and why to get on TravelNevada’s “Partner Portal”? TravelNevada’s Partner Portal is an easy-to-use online framework that gives you the keys to create and manage your own page on the Nevada Division of Tourism’s consumer website, so your tourism-related business, event, or destination can be integrated into TravelNevada content and, ultimately, a prospective visitor’s Nevada experience.

CONTINUED: Telling a Story of Place
Richard Hooker, Suzanne Hackett-Morgan • Nevada School of the Arts Recital Room

12:30 – 2:00 PM Lunch Plenary: The Arts and... How the Arts Benefit Society and Grow Our Economy
Jay Dick • Auditorium
We may all be familiar with how the arts can change perspectives and present new possibilities. But, few people, especially those outside of the creative economy, realize the full value, impact and potential of the arts to society. Learn about the latest Arts and Economic Prosperity Study and how the non-profit arts and culture industry help drive our economy. Further, gain an understanding of the growing role the arts play in healthcare and how the arts can help regions recover from disasters (natural or caused by humans).

2:10 – 3:00 PM Concurrent Sessions

Creative Youth Development in Public Art
Maryjane Dorofachuk, Joseph House, Arnold Palacios • Gallery
Engaging youth in the public art process provides an opportunity for hands on art making and skill building in a positive environment, enabling youth to connect to, and become valuable members, of their communities. This session will focus on two programs: Winchester Cultural Center’s summer youth employment program and Las Artes, a community art and GED program in South Tucson, Arizona. Maryjane Dorofachuk, Arts Learning Director at the Nevada Arts Council will facilitate an inspiring conversation between Joseph House and Arnold Palacios.

Nevada Arts Council Grants: Informational Session
Nevada Arts Council Staff • Nevada School of the Arts Recital Room
Curious about how to pursue a Nevada Arts Council grant? Want to find out if your project or organization is eligible? Or what makes a competitive application? During this informal drop-in session, you’ll be able to speak one-on-one with Nevada Arts Council staff and learn more about funding opportunities. Attend the next drop in session at 4:10 PM to learn more about the new GO Smart Online system or Arts Education related funding.

Fundraising: What I Know Now That I Didn’t Know Then
Suzanne Hackett-Morgan • Conference Room
Your donors, by and large, are individuals. How do you move them up the development ladder from first gift, to special gift, to a lifetime gift? Learn the techniques and mindset to begin to cultivate and steward long term donors.

3:10 – 4:00 PM Concurrent Sessions

The Role of Temporary Public Art in Creating Communities and (Re)Defining Place
Jenny Strayer • Gallery
This session will explore the virtues of temporary public art projects. It will focus on the ways in which temporary projects can help cross social divides, create conversations about timely issues and strengthen support for the arts in general. Projects using humor and dealing with tragedy will be foregrounded. Audience members are encouraged to bring particular issues in their own areas to discuss with the group.
Friday, November 3 cont.

**Rural-Urban Exchange**
*Pat Atkinson, Shoshana Zeldner • Conference Room*

How can rural-urban collaboration strengthen the arts in your community and your organization’s mission? Join us for this “speed-dating” style session to meet other communities (large and small), consider how we can bridge Nevada’s rural-urban divide, and lay the foundation for possible rural-urban partnerships and creative exchange.

**3:10 – 5:00 PM**

**Articulating your Calling: Story of Self**
*Sarah ElRaheb • Auditorium*

“Stories of self” are constructed – and reconstructed – growing out of choices we make to deal with challenges that confront us, what we learn from these moments, and how we remember them. Working with the question, “If I am not for myself, who will be for me?”, participants will have the opportunity to craft and be coached on their stories of self. Beginning with a deep dive into what makes an effective story of self, moving into a model of an effective narrative, and then concluding with practice and debrief, this practice-based session will allow participants the chance to put theory into practice and hone the craft of storytelling. This session runs until 5:00 PM.

**4:00 – 4:10 PM**

**Afternoon Coffee & Refreshments**
*Auditorium*

**4:10 – 5:00 PM**

**Concurrent Sessions**

**Contemporary Culture Bearers**
*Justin Favela, Jerry Misko, JK Russ, Claytee White • Gallery*

Artists have and continue to play an integral role in communicating and questioning cultural expressions, legacies, and conflicts. This panel discussion will explore the role in which Nevada’s contemporary artists respond to and incorporate cultural traditions – ranging from family heritage, Nevada’s culture of Neon, and gender. Claytee White, Director of UNLV’s Oral History Research Center, brings a background in cultural story collection to facilitate a conversation among artists Justin Favela, Jerry Misko, and JK Russ. The dialogue will offer an important exploration of Nevada’s contemporary art practices for arts administrators and artists alike.

**Nevada Arts Council Grants: GO Smart & Arts Education**
*Nevada Arts Council Staff • Conference Room*

During this informal drop-in session, you’ll be able to speak one-on-one with Nevada Arts Council staff and learn more about funding opportunities. Learn more about the new GO Smart system to better understand our online grant platform. Questions related to arts education programming can be fielded during this session with Arts Learning Coordinator, Maryjane Dorofachuk.

CONTINUED: **Articulating your Calling: Story of Self**
*Sarah ElRaheb • Auditorium*

**5:15 – 6:00 PM**

**Closing Session: A Look Ahead**
*Tony Manfredi, Beth Macmillan, Michele Quinn, Uri Vaknin • Auditorium*

The Nevada Arts Council’s Executive Director, Tony Manfredi, will moderate a conversation among leading representatives of Nevada’s arts and culture industry. Together, they will discuss how cross-sectoral collaboration places arts and culture at the forefront of community design and development. The conversation will explore some of the innovative ways that the private, public, and nonprofit sectors are responding to current challenges facing the field of arts and culture at large.

*Performance by Chari.*

**6:00 – 8:00 PM**

**LAS VEGAS ARTS COMMISSION’S 30th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION**
*Frank Wright Memorial Courtyard*
**Speaker Biographies**

**Patricia A. Atkinson** has served as the Nevada Arts Council’s Folklife Program Director for the past ten years. Trained at UCLA in Folklore and Mythology Studies, Atkinson has been a professional folklorist, arts administrator, cultural consultant, writer/editor, educator, and interpretive specialist for over four decades providing consulting and training programs to traditional artists, community groups, non-profit organizations, and folklore associations in more than a dozen states. Atkinson is a member of the Board of Trustees for the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress.

**Matthew Couper**, a New Zealand native and artist, has been based in Las Vegas since 2010. Couper uses established narrative traditions of art to discuss the space between environmental issues, religion and politics. He has been awarded the Royal Over-Seas League International Scholarship Residency to work in the UK, held his first public gallery solo exhibition at The Museum Of Inherent Vice at the Sargeant Gallery, Whanganui, and completed the nine-month residency at the Tylee Cottage Artist in Residence in 2007. Recently, Couper was awarded an Arquetopia Artist Residency in Mexico. His work was featured in the Nevada Museum of Art’s “Tilting the Basin” exhibition, and he completed residencies at Idem Paris and Manoir du Bon-here, Normandie, France. Couper's work is currently part of an exhibition at Crypte Musee, Saint Eugenie, Biarritz, France.

**Cynthia Behr Warso**, Director of Education & Engagement at the Neon Museum in Las Vegas, leads educational and arts partnerships and initiatives, in addition to overseeing the Museum’s collections and archives. Behr Warso has worked with museums, arts and cultural institutions including MCQ Fine Art Advisory, DuPage County Historical Museum, Frank Lloyd Wright Trust, and at the Oriental Institute Museum at the University of Chicago. A freelance writer and an adjunct professor of Art History at College of Southern Nevada and UNLV, she currently serves on the Board of the Nevada Museums Association. Behr Warso earned her B.A. in Anthropology and History, and M.A. in Art History from Northern Illinois University.

**Devon Blunden** is a Marketing Strategist with the Nevada Division of Tourism. This born-again Nevadan is thrilled to have merged the travel-fueled passion of his nomadic past life guiding adventure tours around North America with his chosen profession in branding and marketing. When not scheming ways to get Nevadanly-challenged individuals to fall in love with the Silver State, Blunden spends his time traversing it to camp, chase trout, hot spring, and eat—unless there’s a killer band playing in his first-ever forever hometown of Reno where he lives with Henry, a fellow ex-stray cat (but in a more literal sense).

**Jay Dick**, Senior Director of State and Local Government Affairs at Americans for the Arts, works to educate and inform elected officials about the value of the arts and culture. As a 20-year veteran of K Street, Capitol Hill, the private sector, and federal, state, and local campaigns, Dick possesses a tremendous body of knowledge in the field of arts policy, government, the legislative process, and advocacy. With the mandate to positively affect the policies that promote State and Local funding and expansion of the arts, Dick oversees Americans for the Arts’ Public Partnerships and works closely with the Americans for the Arts’ 50 State Arts Advocacy Captains, Local Arts Groups, and the State Arts Action Network and Council to accomplish this goal.

**Maryjane Dorofachuk** is the Arts Learning Director for the Nevada Arts Council, working in the field of arts and culture for over 17 years with experience in arts education, community arts development, cultural tourism, public art, exhibitions, grants and non-profit administration. A graduate of the University of Arizona, with a degree in Art History and Business Administration, Dorofachuk came to Las Vegas in 2006 and began her work with NAC as the Community Arts Development Associate. Prior to moving to Las Vegas, Dorofachuk worked as the Community Arts Development Manager for the Tucson Pima Arts Council in Tucson, AZ.

**Sarah ElRaheb** is a Canadian-Egyptian educator and coach, passionate about public narrative and community organizing. Currently she is the Head Teaching Fellow in Public Narrative at Harvard Kennedy School of Government. ElRaheb has worked alongside Harvard University’s Senior Public Policy expert, Dr. Marshall Ganz, as a teaching fellow and coach since 2015, and has co-facilitated Public Narrative and Organizing workshops with Dr. Ganz across the US, Canada, and Morocco. ElRaheb is a founding member of UforChange, a Toronto arts education nonprofit established in 2009. When not working, ElRaheb is a hobby writer and published essayist, writing and teaching about body positivity, racial justice, and love. She has a M.A. in Education from Harvard Graduate School of Education, with a focus on the arts.

**El Raheb**, a Las Vegas native, works in the mediums of painting, sculpture, and performance whose work draws from art history, popular culture and his Guatemalan/Mexican heritage. Favela received his B.F.A. in Studio Arts from UNLV and his Guatemalan/Mexican heritage. Favela’s work engages the collective memory of the Santeros and the contemporary experience of having a Latina identity in the US. A founding member of UforChange, a Toronto arts education nonprofit established in 2009. When not working, ElRaheb is a hobby writer and published essayist, writing and teaching about body positivity, racial justice, and love. She has a M.A. in Education from Harvard Graduate School of Education, with a focus on the arts.
Speaker Biographies cont.

**Suzanne F. Hackett-Morgan** is an accomplished artist, arts consultant, a founding director of the Goldwell Open Air Museum and Artist Residency in Nevada, and its current Executive Director. Hackett-Morgan’s landscape paintings have been exhibited in Montana, Nevada, Wisconsin and California, and she has completed several public art commissions in Clark County. Her downtown mural, “Here it is,” was featured in The Killers’ CD, “Sam’s Town.” Hackett-Morgan holds a B.A. in Painting from California State University Northridge and a B.A. in Creative Writing from Western Washington University. She received recognition in 2007 from the Nevada Arts Council’s Artist Fellowship Program and currently offers technical assistance, strategic planning support, and executive coaching to emerging cultural organizations through the Nevada Arts Council’s Circuit Rider Program.

**Kendall Hardin** provided the driving force behind ArtServe, the world’s largest arts incubator. Under her leadership, ArtServe grew into an international model for growing cultural industry. She directed Atlanta’s Action Artsplan 2000, and served as a consultant for the National Endowment for the Arts Advancement Program. Hardin’s impacted major institutions across the country, including Seattle Opera, African-American Heritage Society, and Tampa’s Museum of Science and Technology, as well as dozens of museums, symphonies, theatres and cultural centers. She pioneered Florida’s cultural tourism “survival kit” and developed the Southern Circuits technology initiative for the Southern Arts Federation. Hardin offers technical assistance and executive coaching to emerging cultural organizations through the Nevada Arts Council’s Circuit Rider Program.

**Richard Hooker** is a Cultural Urbanist. He was formerly the Urban Arts Coordinator for the City of Las Vegas and worked directly on landmark projects including the Neon Museum, the 18b Arts District, the Cultural Corridor, and the Las Vegas Scenic Byway. Hooker has an enduring interest in Las Vegas as an iconic place but also as a real life metropolis still harboring its identity as a city of the American West. As an artist (he works in neon) Hooker believes Las Vegas is one of the most visually stimulating and creative cities in the world – and he loves to share that narrative with visitors. Hooker established Las Vegas Pop Culture Tours and Las Vegas Urban Adventures in 2015, alongside business partner Babs Daitch.

**Joseph House** has worked and resided in the Las Vegas Valley for 22 years. As a multimedia artist, House has been commissioned by The City of Las Vegas, Clark County and various private patrons. His work has been exhibited by the Las Vegas Library District, the Donna Beam Art Gallery, the West Las Vegas Art Center Gallery, the Art Factory and other local galleries and events. House has worked for Clark County Parks and Recreation for 19 years and is presently a Systems Supervisor. Previously, a Cultural Specialist at the Winchester Cultural Center, House developed, implemented, and administered various arts programs such as the SBI Youth Art Program. House received a B.F.A., with a focus in photography and sculpture, UNLV.

**China Hudson** is a Nevada Arts Council Artists In Schools + Community’s roster artist. As a writer, director, actress, spoken word artist, African dancer, and facilitator, Hudson forms an explosive package for creating change. Hudson is a Walt Disney Musical Theater Teaching Artist and a Southern Nevada Wolf Trap Teaching Artist in partnership with the Smith Center for the Performing Arts in Las Vegas. As an African dance instructor and a member of Olabisi African Dance & Drum Ensemble, she is committed to maintaining African culture and tradition through drumming and dancing. Hudson has established youth cultural and empowerment programs throughout Las Vegas and has written, directed, and performed in fourteen original productions showcasing social, racial and political issues.

**Sarah Lillegard** is an interdisciplinary artist living and working in Reno, Nevada. She received her B.A. from Walla Walla University and is currently an M.F.A. candidate at Sierra Nevada College. Lillegard has participated in artist residencies in Utah, Nevada and Michigan. In 2015, she received the Nevada Arts Council Artist Fellowship and was recently included in Tending the Basin at the Nevada Museum of Art. Her work is informed by the Great Basin and invested in how we perceive places.

**Amanda Horn** has served as the Director of Communications with the Nevada Museum of Art since 2013. Previously, Horn was the Account Director for The Abby Agency and the Communications Manager for McLean International, the leader of guerrilla marketing and brand campaigns in the San Francisco Bay Area. In 2016, Horn spearheaded the media relations and marketing strategy for Ugo Rondinone’s now iconic desert installation, Seven Magic Mountains, garnering more than $7 million in earned media publicity value in the first few months. A recent Kickstarter campaign led by Amanda, Trevor Paglen, Orbital Reflector, raised more than $76,000 and earned global media attention, reaching over 860 million online news visitors. Horn is an award-winning writer and holds the position of Immediate Past-President for the Public Relations Society of America Sierra Nevada Chapter.

**Beth Macmillan** is Executive Director of Reno’s Artown. Macmillan, formerly a professional dancer and actress, expanded into arts administration through various roles such as production company manager, public relations manager and business owner. She has produced Artown events, created “out of the box” approaches and strategic partnerships for current and future Artown commissions. Currently, Macmillan has expanded her commitment to the arts with a recent two year appointment as President of the Western Arts Alliance (WAA), a membership association of performing arts professionals throughout the western states and provinces. Macmillan was awarded Woman of Distinction and Woman of Achievement in 2009. In 2016, Macmillan was presented an award from The Economic Development Authority of Western Nevada (EDAWN) for exceptional leadership.
**Tony Manfredi** Previously, Manfredi spent 11 years with KNPB Channel 5, northern Nevada’s PBS Member Station. He began his service leading the stations fundraising team and objectives and most recently serving as senior vice president of content and marketing. In this role he directed the station’s national, regional and local programming and production strategy, content for its website, and its marketing and communications activities.

**Jerry Misko** is a Las Vegas-born artist. He attended the University of Southern California. Misko’s portfolio includes paintings and murals commissioned by the City of Las Vegas, the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority, MTV, and Cosmopolitan of Las Vegas. His work is featured in the corporate collections of Saks Fifth Avenue, the Howard Hughes Corporation, Golden Nugget Hotel and Casino, Cirque du Soleil, The Molasky Group of Companies, Maccioni Restaurant Group, and The Cosmopolitan of Las Vegas. Misko has been recognized repeatedly by local press earning the honor of “Best Local Artist” by both Las Vegas City life and Las Vegas Weekly magazine. Misko has donated countless works to philanthropic causes in Southern Nevada including the Nevada Cancer Institute, Neon Museum, Discovery Children’s Museum, and St. Jude’s Children Hospital.

**Louie Navarro’s** life trajectory was altered when caught smoking at the age of 13 by a Salesian Boy’s Club counselor in Los Angeles. In that moment, he made a choice to help empower his community as a positive leader. After receiving an honorable discharge from the Air Force as Staff Sergeant, he returned to East Los Angeles to become the Salesian Boy’s Club’s Program Director. One of Navarro’s most successful programs was with the Los Angeles Police Department’s Gang Unit, which combined counseling and dance. He was able to redirect many inner-city gang kids away from gangs, drugs and help them refocus their energy and talent. Navarro, a Las Vegas resident for over 24 years, holds an M.A. in Family and Child Therapy and is an active member of the American Dance Therapist Association. Navarro continues to work with community organizations and teaches Latin Dance.

**Emmanuel Ortega** is a curator and Adjunct Instructor at the Department of Art and Art History at the UNLV. Since 2007, he has investigated images of violence in the Novohispanic context. He has presented his work in the Annual Colloquium of Art History organized by the Universidad Autónoma de México, the College of Art Association, the American Studies Association, and the Denver Art Museum. Springing from his research interests, Ortega has curated exhibitions in Mexico and the US. In 2015, Ortega partnered with the Museo de Arte Religioso Ex-Convento de Santa Mónica in Puebla México to curate two art exhibitions based on recently restored paintings from their collection, one of which is now part of their permanent exhibits. Emmanuel holds a Ph.D. in Ibero-American colonial art history from the University of New Mexico.

**Arnold Palacios** is the Program Manager/Administrator for the Las Artes Arts and Education Center. He has dedicated his career to the education, training, and employment of at-risk youth in Pima County. Palacios has 11 years of experience as an alternative education school administrator. He served as the Executive Director of Tucson Youth Development, a non-profit focused on youth employment and work experience programming, overseeing a network of over 50 agency partners and vendors serving over 2,800 young adults. Within these roles, Palacios collaborated and developed industry-specific training programs in health care and the machine trades. He has helped hundreds of youth to complete their high school diploma or high school equivalency. Palacios earned his BA in English Literature and MA in Education from the University of Arizona.

**Michele C. Quinn** has built a career as a gallerist and private art consultant, specializing in post-war and contemporary art. Quinn, owner of MCQ Fine Art Advisory, has served as curatorial advisor for some of the largest public/corporate contemporary art collections in the US. She has an M.A in Arts Administration from New York University and an M.B.A in Finance and Marketing from Fordham University. Quinn proposed and developed the $40 million art program for CityCenter-Las Vegas, one of the largest public/corporate fine art collections in the US. She co-curated “Tilting the Basin: Contemporary Art of Nevada”, an exhibition at the Nevada Museum of Art. Quinn serves on the Board of Directors for the Art Museum at Symphony Park. For more information: www.mcqfineart.com.

**Vogue Robinson** recently became Clark County’s second poet laureate and she will forever hold an appreciation for humans who put truth and heart into words. Since graduating with a B.A. in English from SDSU, she dedicated herself to expression. Robinson’s work has been published in Catching Calliope: Vol. 2, Red Rock Review, Legs of Tumbleweeds, Wings of Lace: An Anthology of Literature by Nevada Women and Clark. Poetry from Clark County, Nevada. Her first poetry collection titled, Vogue 3:16, was released in 2014. Robinson serves as organizer and co-host to Words in Motion Open Mic and Battle Born Poetry Slam. She has also represented Las Vegas four times at the National Poetry Slam. Robinson spends her spare time with family or organizing as the Executive Director of Poetry Promise Social Media: @VogueR316.

**JK Russ**, a New Zealand native, relocated to Las Vegas in 2010. A graduate of Auckland’s MIT Faculty of Creative Arts, she works with found materials, mixed media, photography, and moving image, often collaborating with local performers. Recently, Russ has extended her practice to create large-scale audience-participation collage installations, as seen at the Life is Beautiful festival and P3Studio at the Cosmopolitan of Las Vegas. She is also an arts and culture contributor to Huffington Post and an independent curator. Las Vegas Weekly explains, “JK Russ unites erotic imagery, desert terrain and pop culture, creating otherworldly environments where the vulgar and frightening merge with the luscious and the beautiful.”
Speaker Biographies cont.

- **Jason Schupbach** is the Director of the Design School at Arizona State University. Previously, he was Director of Design and Creative Placemaking Programs for the National Endowment for the Arts, where he oversaw all design and creative placemaking, grantmaking and partnerships, including Our Town and Design Art Works grants, the Mayor’s Institute on City Design, the Citizens’ Institute on Rural Design, and the NEA’s Federal agency collaboratives as the Creative Economy Director, tasked with growing creative and tech businesses in the state. He formerly was the Director of ArtistLink, a Ford Foundation funded initiative to stabilize and revitalize communities through the creation of affordable space and innovative environments for creatives. Schupbach has written extensively on the role of arts and design in making better communities.

- **Chari (Chariell Smith)**, a Nevada native and Nevada Arts Council Artist Fellowship Award recipient, is an award-winning songwriter and singer. Chari has created her own sonic universe, uncategorized by current music standards. It is a place where all are welcome, and both differences and commonalities are celebrated equally. Knowledge Lives Forever; their six-piece hip hop ensemble, has opened for Allen Stone, The Flobots, Sage Francis, DJ Quik, The Skatalites, and Nappy Roots. Their mix of poise and recklessness, has garnered high praise and recognition, including Made in Reno 2011 Competition Grand Prize Winner, 2012 RAW Artist of the Year, Best Local Rapper/In Reno 2011 Competition Grand Prize Winner, 2012 RAW Artist of the Year, Best Local Rapper/In Reno 2011 Competition Grand Prize Winner, 2012 RAW Artist of the Year, Best Local Album/Paho Gazette-Journal 2011, 2012 and 2013. When they are not on stage or in the studio, Chari spends time working for non-profit community organizations and volunteering for BlackPast.Org and the MOB Museum.

- **Jenny Strayer** has over 25 years of experience as a museum director, curator, educator, and arts professional. Her career includes positions as Director/Curator at SE Missouri State, Carnegie Mellon and Rice Universities, Public Art Manager with Metro St. Louis and Director of the Elmhurst Art Museum in Chicago. She has commissioned new work from artists including Mel Bochner, Maywa Denki, Olafur Eliasson, Kurt Perschke, and James Turrell, among others. Notable catalogues include Groundworks: Environmental Collaboration in Contemporary Art and Animal Nature.

- **Mykola Suk**, a Ukrainian-American pianist, gained international recognition as the winner of the First Prize and Gold Medal at the 1971 International Liszt-Bartok Competition. His career has spanned four continents, performing in the most prestigious venues from the Great Hall of Moscow Conservatory to Carnegie Hall in New York. Suk has appeared as soloist with numerous leading orchestras, from the Russian National Symphony to the Beethoven Orchestra Bonn. He completed his Doctor of Musical Arts Degree in Piano Performance at the Moscow State Conservatory, and holds a combined B.A./M.A. of Music in Piano Performance, Pedagogy and Chamber Music from the Moscow State Conservatory. He served as professor of Piano at Kiev State Conservatory, Moscow State Conservatory and currently manages keyboard studies at the School of Music of the UNLV (since 2001).

- **Uri Vaknin** is a partner in KRE Capital LLC, a private equity firm in Beverly Hills, CA. In that role, he oversees the firm’s largest investment – five condominium properties comprising 1,300 residences in Las Vegas. Prior to entering real estate, Vaknin co-founded Vaknin Schwartz, an internationally acclaimed fine art gallery in Atlanta, GA. He worked on the successful capital campaign of The Atlanta Contemporary Arts Center and was a contributing writer on art, culture and architecture for Uptown Magazine. Vaknin currently serves as Treasurer on the Board of Directors for the Art Museum at Symphony Park, Las Vegas. He established an Artist in Residence program at Juhl, one of his company’s condominium communities in downtown Las Vegas. Vaknin’s goal is to nurture up- and-coming artists, provide connectivity to the 18b Arts District, and brand his community as a place where creativity is welcomed and encouraged.

- **Claytee D. White** is the inaugural director of the Oral History Research Center at UNLV Libraries. In this position, she collects the history of Las Vegas and the surrounding area by gathering memories of events and experiences from long-time residents. White has written several book chapters, journal articles, and presented oral history papers at national conferences. She received her B.A. in social work from California State University Los Angeles, M.A. in history from the UNLV, and engaged in additional graduate work at the College of William and Mary. A native of Akoskie, NC, White is a former board member of the national Oral History Association, past president of the Southwest Oral History Association, serves on the Las Vegas Historic Preservation Commission, VP of Women of Diversity, and Advisory Boards for BlackPast.Org and the MOB Museum.

- **Shoshana Zeldner** joined the Nevada Arts Council’s Community Arts Development Program in early 2016. She is an artist passionate about how art can be used as a tool to inspire community building, social change, and active citizenship. Prior to her move to Nevada, Zeldner managed a participatory arts grantmaking initiative and developed a social practice art program with Sacramento’s Crocker Art Museum. In addition, she designed and coordinated a teen program focused on public art in Davis, CA. Zeldner holds an M.A. in Coexistence and Conflict from Brandies University where her fieldwork and thesis focused on how evaluation and impact assessment can increase the efficacy of arts-based social change initiatives. She has over 10 years’ experience in the nonprofit field which includes program development, management, evaluation, and fundraising.
The Nevada Arts Council, a division of the Nevada Department of Tourism and Cultural Affairs, was established as a state agency in 1967. Charged with investing in Nevada’s diverse creative industry, and expanding access to and participation in the arts across the state, the Nevada Arts Council (NAC) is funded by the State of Nevada, the National Endowment for the Arts and other private sources. In addition to providing hundreds of grants to arts and community-based organizations, schools, artists and local municipalities throughout the state, NAC designs and coordinates a breadth of statewide programs and activities such as traveling exhibits, artist residencies, workshops and cultural assessments.

The Nevada Arts Council’s Arts at the Heart conference is designed to bring together community leaders from Nevada’s rural communities and urban neighborhoods to build relationships and explore community action planning through the arts—whether learning about the role of artists as civic animators, the impact of the arts on local economic diversification and redevelopment efforts, or successful cross-sector civic engagement initiatives.

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Thank you arts at the heart sponsors

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