

# Nevada County Arts Council

2022 ANNUAL REPORT



# KEY PEOPLE

## 2022-23 BOARD MEMBERS

Michelle Amador  
 Jon Blinder  
 Catharine Bramkamp  
 Shelly Covert  
 Erik Christensen  
 Donn Harris  
 Abdul LeBlanc  
 Jesse Locks  
 JoAnn Marie  
 Matt Osypowski  
 Cassandra Robertson  
 Jeannie Wood

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Eliza Tudor

## PROGRAM COORDINATOR

Diana Arbex

## SOCIAL MEDIA & COMMUNICATIONS

Michaelyn Logue

## DESIGN

Beth Ford, Glib Communications & Design

## ACCOUNTING

Andrea Pearce

## ARTISTS IN THE SCHOOLS

Kimberly Ewing, Coordinator  
 Cheri Guerrette  
 Lani Hermosillo  
 Brooke Mathews  
 Nancy Schaefer

## ACTING UP AND CATALYST

Daniela Fernández

## NEVADA COUNTY POET LAUREATE

Kirsten Casey

## POETRY OUT LOUD

Rooja Mohassessey

## TRUCKEE ARTS ALLIANCE

Patricia Eagan

## GRASS VALLEY-NEVADA CITY CULTURAL DISTRICT

Nevada County Arts Council  
 City of Grass Valley  
 City of Nevada City  
 Grass Valley Downtown Association  
 Grass Valley Chamber of Commerce  
 Nevada City Chamber of Commerce

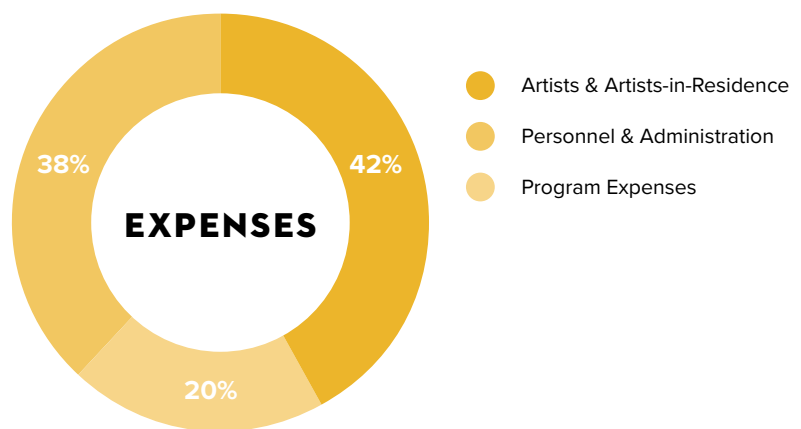
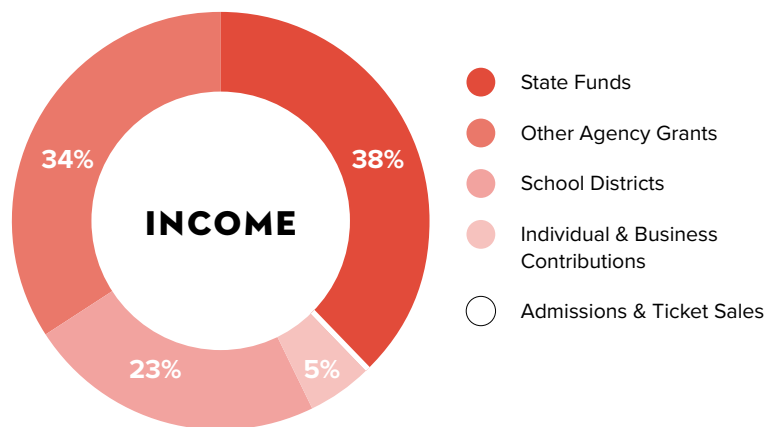
## TRUCKEE CULTURAL DISTRICT

Nevada County Arts Council  
 Town of Truckee  
 Truckee Arts Alliance  
 Truckee Chamber of Commerce  
 Truckee Downtown Merchants Association

# 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 all community members.

Nevada County Arts Council acknowledges that the original inhabitants of the lands now called Nevada County continue to be home to indigenous communities. Generations of Nisenan and Washoe tribal communities developed deep understandings of this land and continue long standing relationships with it, as well as water, air, plant and animal beings through ceremony, culture, and stewardship. These communities are not only an important part of our history as contemporary Californians but are also important voices in our understanding of this place.



Arts Collaborative of Nevada County (DBA 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

Photography by Janeen Singer

# EXECUTIVE LETTER

We kicked off 2022 with a sense of both circumspection and hope. What would we find were the impacts of the pandemic on community? Lives had been lost, a generation had suffered, and divisions had been drawn. But while divisions remained prevalent, our community had also rallied and grown closer.

In drafting a fresh three-year Strategic Plan, we acknowledged this and called for boldness in striding forward, leaving the pandemic years behind while accepting the unknown forces of climate change, and political instability on a global and local scale. Thus, key strategic themes looking ahead are Bridges and Belonging, Governing for Equity, Engagement and Service to the Field, and building on Organizational Infrastructure.

For all the gravity of these words, as our 2022 Annual Report reveals, we've been hard at work and having fun in so many areas, responding from the heart to unrest in the world, and to injustices closer to home. Whether through the support of our artists; the arts education we offer in schools, and to our most vulnerable youth; or through the launch of a new year-long survey of the arts sector to measure important economic and social impacts – we've been busy.

Perhaps one of our biggest achievements in 2022 was being selected by the state as an Administering Organization for Upstate California Creative Corps, a new program creating jobs within the creative sector, and placing artists in service to issues critical to society.

While this sees us serving nineteen counties across Northern California, it also sees us harnessing rural voices in establishing a regional approach to collective policies and programming as a transformational tool. This continues to inspire and validate our trajectory in better serving our own local communities.

As we look to the year to come, we see an untold opportunity to help people understand and engage with the world around them at a time of conflict and polarization. We'll keep reflecting, representing and serving our diverse communities, continuing to bring people together for shared experiences, and contributing to the social cohesion and wellbeing of our communities.

See you around!



Eliza Tudor  
*Executive Director*

## KEY CREATIVE SECTOR SERVICES

### **Our Community of Practice for Equity in the Arts**

Serving creative sector leadership through strategies for equity.

### **Professional Development & Technical Assistance**

Year-round consulting for arts organizations and artists—from grant writing to our annual BUSINESS OF ART symposium.

### **Arts Advocacy Training**

For our creative community, in order to better educate state and local elected officials on the value of the arts when considering public funding.

### **Monthly Living-Room Conversations and Meetups**

For our artists, creative workforce, and community.

### **Arts Incubator**

Supporting small and start-up collaboratives through fiscal-sponsorship.

### **Fire Season Preparedness and Disaster Response Resources & Strategy**

As the threat of catastrophic fire grows.

### **Community Arts Calendar & Artist-Calls**

Sharing local events and opportunities.

### **Online Artist Directory**

Promoting Nevada-County as a destination for art buyers and talent seekers.

### **Our Cultural Asset Map**

Sharing places and stories from our rich cultural landscape.

### **Arts Sector Communications**

Through newsletters and multiple social media platforms.

# PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



## NEVADA COUNTY POET LAUREATE

*Lending voice to our community.*  
 During 2022 Kirsten Casey was awarded a two-year grant from California Poets in the Schools, to implement three 10-week residencies in local schools, allowing for in-depth explorations of poetry. She partnered with California State Parks to reinvigorate Poetry in the Parks, and during National Poetry Month, she created Dial-a-Poem with the Madelyn Helling Library, where anyone could call and listen to a poem on demand. Poetry is not only alive and well in Nevada County, it is accessible and relevant!



## SIERRA POETRY FESTIVAL

*Bringing poetry in from the margins annually.*  
 National Poetry Month and California Arts, Culture & Creativity Month collided during 2022 for a sixth year at Sierra Poetry Festival, a month-long festival that culminated at the Miners Foundry in Nevada City. Here we welcomed Ukrainian-born, Russian-trained Cirque du Soleil artist, Mikhail Usov, along with many of our country's most celebrated poets, including Shangyang Fang, Forrest Gander, Amy Gerstler, Dana Gioia, Danusha Laméris and Jenny Qi—with Mark Tredinnick joining us from Australia, and Isadora Goudsblom from the Netherlands.



## OUR NEW ARTIST DIRECTORY

In 2022 we launched a brand-new artist directory open to all artists living or working in Nevada county, it recognizes that creativity extends to every corner of our mountain home. Our directory highlights Nevada county as the premier arts destination for art buyers in the Sierra Nevada foothills and Truckee Tahoe region, and home to some of the best talent in northern California. And it's gorgeous!



## THE BUSINESS OF ART

Over a hundred creatives enjoyed professional development and peer coaching, as we explored some of the top trends and challenges in our field. Following Keynote speaker Sherri Young, Founder and Executive Director at The African-American Shakespeare Company, were sessions led by thought leaders and influencers from the field, expert speakers, panelists, workshops leaders and facilitators, selected both

As part of a creative economy in California worth almost \$688 billion, how do we re-set and re-imagine our working lives post-pandemic? How do we strive, individually and collectively, to be our best selves? How do we bring self-awareness and confidence to our work, while recognizing both astonishing opportunities and the challenges of new contexts for succeeding as artists and cultural workers?

locally and from across California. Funds were provided through the County of Nevada's American Rescue Plan Act allocation for Community & Economic Resiliency. Our next symposium will be held in January, 2024.



## FOREST = FIRE

In late 2022 we said farewell to the largest creative placemaking initiative in Nevada County's history, FOREST = FIRE. A partnership between Nevada County Arts Council, UC Berkeley Sagehen Creek Field Station and Truckee-Donner Recreation and Park District, FOREST = FIRE culminated as a glorious exhibition of nineteen visual, literary, and digital artists, sharing the story of our forests and their 13,000-year history.

FOREST = FIRE was shown at the Truckee Community Recreation Center, and acknowledged Washoe lands and people through an immersive experience combining arts, science, industry, and education to reveal what roles each of us can play in helping to save our forests and protect them from further risk of catastrophic fire.



This artist-led initiative, conceived and curated by Michael and Heather Llewellyn of Llewellyn Studio, was accompanied by curriculum-bound education and deep engagement with local schools, including field trips and enduring public art inspired by student voices. Altogether, 41 exhibition tours for 350 civic and community leaders were provided.



Photography by Michael Llewellyn, Llewellyn Studio



## UPSTATE CALIFORNIA CREATIVE CORPS

During 2022 Nevada County Arts Council was selected to regrant \$3.38 million in state funds across Northern California. The launch of our Upstate California Creative Corps pilot is the result of a recommendation from the Governor's economic and jobs recovery task force, and is the first of its kind in the nation. Grantees will ultimately create awareness for issues such as public health, water and energy conservation, climate mitigation, and emergency preparedness, relief and recovery.

In October we set forth on a listening tour of our 19-county service region. Listening to those we intend to serve will be fundamental to our work and inform the development of our grant guidelines, due out in February 2023.



## CATALYST

*A new multiethnic LGBTQIA theatre ensemble inspiring transformation, change and healing.*

With support from California Arts Council, we launched Queer Latinx applied theatre facilitator Daniela Fernández launch a new multiethnic LGBTQIA ensemble in our rural, majority white community, inspiring transformation, change and healing as an antidote to invisibility and isolation as we emerged from the pandemic.

## ARTS AND CULTURE LEADERSHIP INDUCTION

We had a great day at Nevada Theatre for our annual Arts and Culture induction for new and emerging leaders across all sectors. Thirty of our regional arts leaders participated in panels, presentations and Q&A, site visits and even improv!



# PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

## OUR CALIFORNIA CULTURAL DISTRICTS

Kicking off a statewide legislative tour of California Cultural Districts, our Grass Valley-Nevada City Cultural District partners were beyond honored to host Senator Ben Allen, Chair, Joint Committee on the Arts and Assembly Member Tasha Boerner, Chair, California Assembly Arts, Entertainment, Sports, Tourism and Internet Media Committee.

Rural cultural districts are few and far between, and often suffer from a lack of resources, yet we drive local economies and offer unparalleled opportunities for growth and innovation, supporting our least visible communities. This important visit reminded us of why we love this place, and drew attention to the promise of our districts.

## ARTS EDUCATION



### ARTISTS-IN-SCHOOLS

*Serving 1,500 low-income elementary students weekly, year-round.* Artists in Schools expanded its service from 1,500 to 2,000 TK-8th grade students per week year-round during 2022. This year we introduced a socially relevant collage and creative journal art elective for our middle-schoolers, and won some local awards for their socially and emotionally relevant art, collages regarding social justice, racial equity, teen mental health issues, and personal rites of passage through puberty years.

### ACTING UP!

*Serving at-promise youth* During 2021 we offered transformative theatre curricula for at-promise youth across three different classrooms at Charis Youth Center. After three years of partnership, the Center was sadly forced to close due to COVID related issues. In order to continue our service to Nevada County's most vulnerable youth, we are now offering this hugely impactful program through a partnership with Earle Jamieson Education Options and Bright Futures for Youth.

### POETRY OUT LOUD

Once again, our high school students mastered public speaking skills and self-confidence, and learned about literary history and contemporary life as we prepared them for our county championships. Finalists were welcomed at Sierra Poetry Festival in April, where they shared the stage with some of California's most celebrated poets and presenters.

**STATE & NATIONAL PARTNERS**

Create CA  
California Arts Council  
California Cultural Districts  
California Humanities  
California Lawyers for the Arts  
Californians for the Arts

**COMMUNITY PARTNERS**

City of Nevada City  
City of Grass Valley  
Community Asian Theatre of the Sierra  
Grass Valley School District  
Greater Grass Valley Chamber of Commerce  
KNCO Community Radio  
Nevada City Chamber of Commerce  
Nevada City Film Festival  
Nevada County Board of Supervisors  
Nevada County Economic Resource Council  
Nevada County Superintendent of Schools

Penn Valley Union Elementary School District  
Sagehen Creek Field Station  
Sierra Watershed Education Projects  
Tahoe Truckee Community Foundation  
Tahoe Truckee Excellence in Education Foundation  
Town of Truckee  
Truckee Arts Alliance  
Truckee Chamber of Commerce  
Truckee Public Art Commission  
Truckee Tahoe Airport  
Welcome Home Vets  
Wild & Scenic Film Festival

**OUR SPECIAL THANKS**

Coldwell Banker Grass Roots Realty Commercial Division  
Caseywood Corporation  
The Entrekin Foundation  
The Magic Carpet  
Grass Valley Courtyard Suites  
Sierra Gold Parks Foundation

Nevada City Winery  
Nevada County Libraries  
Northridge of Nevada City  
Robertson Family Foundation

*Great thanks to all our members, donors, supporters, and volunteers. You help us move mountains!*

**BECOME A MEMBER**

Members are the backbone of the Nevada County Arts Council. Join us! 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.

**PHOTO CREDITS**

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