



NEVADA  
COUNTY  
arts  
COUNCIL

Nevada County is in full swing this month - so no slow start to the year and no long introduction from us.

Two really great festivals open this week, overlapping in a way that only really cool, established events can.

**Wild & Scenic Film Festival** and **Nugget Theatre Fringe Festival** are as different as they are exciting, and with thousands flocking to attend, we have faith that audiences of each will benefit from the other.



*This week sees the opening of the 17th annual Wild & Scenic Film Festival, with whom we are proud to partner. Click on the image above to view this year's trailer. It reveals a festival of important, beautiful, terrifying, fun and adventure-packed films.*

Our two California Cultural Districts look thoughtfully towards the future. Truckee Cultural District is ready to enter a public consultation phase with its first draft **Public Art Master Plan**, while **Grass Valley-Nevada City Cultural District's** partners are offered acknowledgement and thanks for their continuing support - and we offer a couple of important "Save the Dates" for the months to come.

In our **Artists of Nevada County** section this month we highlight the inspired, gentle focus of Jennifer Ruggie and we remind you that Nevada County Poet Laureate, Molly Fisk, welcomes you to three further Poetry Hours as we live out these short winter days, and anticipate the passing of the laurels with mixed emotion in April. Don't forget to **make your nomination** !

We call out the extraordinary work of a small committee tasked with saving a **cultural gem**

- the longest single-span covered bridge in the world right here in Nevada County - and we welcome our new governor, **Gavin Newsom**, as he submits a proposal for a \$10 million permanent increase in state funding for the arts. With this, we congratulate Californians for the Arts and California Arts Advocates for their ongoing work behind the scenes.

Finally, we remind you of **resources available** to our arts community and of our popular **Call to Artists** page at [nevadacountyarts.org](http://nevadacountyarts.org) - and we highlight six very different, **very special events** for your calendar.

Enough said - enjoy these winter salad days!



Eliza Tudor  
Executive Director  
[Contact Eliza](#)



## Editors Choice

The Wild & Scenic Film Festival opens this week. It's the largest film festival of its kind showcasing the best and brightest in environmental and adventure films worldwide. And it's here.

Inspiring environmental activism, its art exhibition does the same in collaboration with Nevada County Arts Council. Visual artists submit pieces that address a broad thematic interpretation, and the work of selected artists is hung throughout Grass Valley and Nevada City.

*Our Wild & Scenic Art Exhibition presents an array of talented artists whose works address important environmental issues and celebrate the beauty of nature.*

Jorie Emory  
Wild & Scenic Film Festival  
Producer

Starting Wednesday this week, Nevada County Arts Council will be welcoming three special guests, two of them judges for Wild & Scenic's visual art component.

Kathleen Gallegos is Founding Executive and Artistic Director of Avenue 50 Studio in Los Angeles, while her own work has been featured at the Mexican Cultural Institute, the Museo de Arte in Mazatlan, Studio Channel Islands Art Center, the Wright Gallery at California Polytechnic Institute, and the Instituto Cultural Interamericano in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, among others.

Donn Harris is Executive Director for Creativity and the Arts at San Francisco Unified School District and leads on a \$300 million ArtsCenter construction project that will be, he says: "a monument to creativity and multigenerational interaction... a project that has been in the works for 30 years and may see the light in 2023."

Both Kathy and Donn are members of the California Arts Council selected by our California Governor, while Donn has also served as its



Chair. Donn will lead a Coffee Talk at Wild & Scenic called **Youth, Art & the Wild**, while Kathy will join local celebrated photographer, Steve Solinsky, as one of three judges, along with Bill Fox, Director, Center for Art + Environment at Nevada Museum of Art. We are honored to be hosting these formidable friends.

Click on the links below for the best information on Wild & Scenic Film Festival:

**Tickets and Passes**  
**Program & Schedule**

**Festival Headquarters**  
**Films**  
**Youth & Families**  
**Art Exhibition**

Apart from the films, here are six events - among others - where you'll find Nevada County Arts Council during the week to come:

**January 17 at 4.30pm**

**Opening Reception for Wild & Scenic Art - [click here](#)**

**January 18, 19 & 20 at 5pm**

**Visibility Through Art | Invisible No More**

[Open House Gallery - click here](#)

January 19 at 8.30am

[Youth, Art & the Wild | A Wild & Scenic Coffee Talk - Click here](#)

January 19 at 9.30am

[Form Follows Funding: How to Amplify Your Film's Impact - Click here](#)

January 19 at 10.30am

[Forest⇌Fire | A Wild & Scenic Film Festival Workshop - Click here](#)

January 20 at 3.30pm

[I AM HERE | A Wild & Scenic Film Festival Fireside Chat - Click here](#)



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## The Nugget Fringe Theatre Festival is back!

The Nugget Theatre Fringe Festival, January 17-27 - Scott Ewing's unapologetically uncurated collection of eclectic theatre, dance, music, comedy and spoken word is back.

The Nugget opens on January 17 with a free kick-off party at The Holbrooke Hotel and January 27.

The festival will feature around eighty performances of thirty different shows from around here and around the world on six stages in downtown Grass Valley.

This year, bold audiences will experience comedy, drama, performance art, stand-up comedy, magic, burlesque and more in this near non-stop theatrical vaudeville, with twenty seven original works and several world premiere events. It is a "must-see" festival for local, regional, and even international indie theater where ticket prices are kept to \$10 or so and you're encouraged to "Binge the Fringe."



Figmentally will present five performances of their brand new sparkling off-beat circus comedy, Miss Fitts, on the Unitarian Universalist Main Stage in Grass Valley. Find our more about Figmentally [here](#).

We can't wait!

More information can be found [here](#).

Tickets can be purchased [here](#).

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## Save the Date!

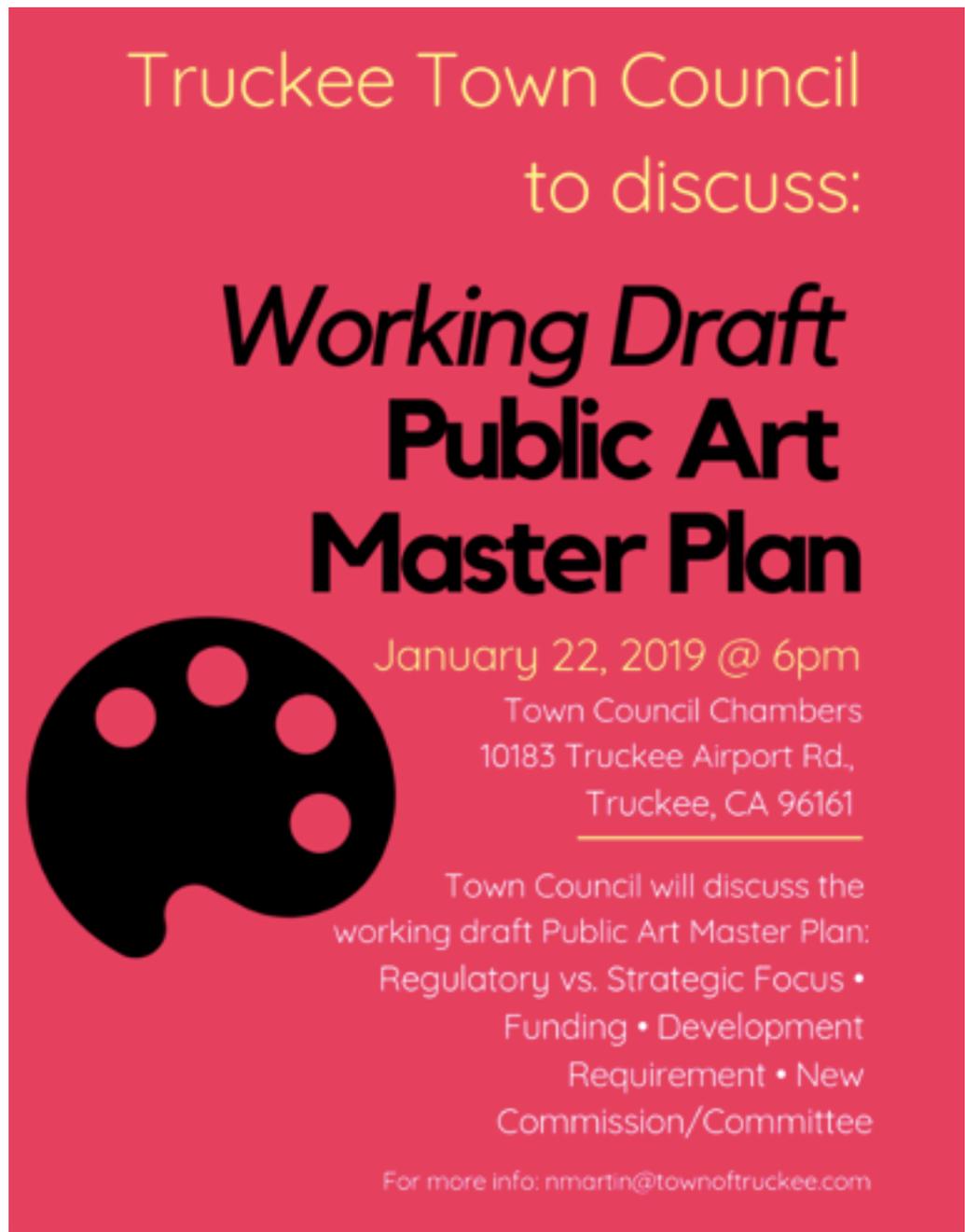
Public Art is a key part of Truckee Cultural District's planning and the Town of Truckee has been busy drafting a Public Art Master Plan (PAMP).

Truckee Arts Alliance and Truckee Public Arts Commission now invite you to a special Town Council meeting on January 22, at 6pm to discuss a direction of travel.

This follows a Town-hosted community workshop in June last year in which valuable input was collected to help Town staff in crafting the contents of the PAMP.

An outline of the workshop and notes and five short videos documenting it, can be found [here](#).

For questions contact Nicholas Martin at [nmartin@townoftruckee.com](mailto:nmartin@townoftruckee.com) or 530-582-2910.



Truckee Town Council  
to discuss:

# Working Draft Public Art Master Plan

January 22, 2019 @ 6pm  
Town Council Chambers  
10183 Truckee Airport Rd.,  
Truckee, CA 96161

Town Council will discuss the  
working draft Public Art Master Plan:  
Regulatory vs. Strategic Focus •  
Funding • Development  
Requirement • New  
Commission/Committee

For more info: [nmartin@townoftruckee.com](mailto:nmartin@townoftruckee.com)



## Grass Valley-Nevada City Cultural District thanks its partners...

During the first week of January Nevada County Arts Council successfully proposed a second year of funding for Grass Valley-Nevada City Cultural District at a meeting of Grass Valley City Council.

We'd like to thank our visionary leaders for supporting our California Cultural District designation. Our financial partners include the Cities of Grass Valley and Nevada City, Nevada City Chamber of Commerce and the Greater Grass Valley Chamber of Commerce.

You're the best!

You can read more about progress and plans for Grass Valley-Nevada City Cultural District [here](#) and [here](#), but let us leave you with two key dates:

Thursday February 28 - Breakfast at the Miners Foundry in celebrating our **Arts Now - State of the Arts in Education Survey Launch**

Early April - **Nevada County Economic Impact Study Launch** at the Rood Center

**More to follow!**

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## Artists of Nevada County **Jennifer Ruggie**

We mostly see Jennifer in supportive roles, cheering on fellow artists, quietly shouting out a cause, always in service to her community.

Still waters run deep, though, and a glimpse into her working life as an artist shows a serious, driven commitment to her work, and a passion for color and technique.

We asked Jennifer a few questions.

**Tell us about your art form and medium, Jennifer.**

I use oils on 2D wood surfaces. I collect natural minerals, grinding and mixing them with oil and cold wax then paint onto the canvas covered with different papers and textures. Using pallet knives, brushes, and charcoal pencils I draw and paint.

**At what age did your love for your medium manifest, and how old were you when you realized you had a talent?**



I loved drawing and creating when I was a very young. I spent hours drawing and coloring the things I saw around me, from flowers, pets and trees to the ocean and its contents along the shores. When I was in first grade I was recognized for my talent as one of my paintings was hung in a prestigious museum of art. Along with this, my mother encouraged me to do more art creating a portrait of our cat and commissioning me to create a piece for our home. The recognition I received was a catalyst to pursue becoming an artist.

**What is your creative process?**

My creative process begins with inspiration. This comes from different things and in various ways. I step back, rather, I have learned to be quiet and listen from what comes from the heart. I love feeling conscious of just being. What then flows from this presence directs my approach and connection to my art.



*An artist, illustrator and writer at work*



**What is the art project or piece you are most proud of?**

The art piece that I am most proud of is whichever one I am working with in a given moment. There is always something new or intriguing about it that I enjoy experiencing and discovering.

**What do you love best about our arts community?**

Our artists. There is a wonderful feeling of support that is shared. Whether in a group of artists or one-on-one, we share stories, art, and encouragement to go further. We attend each other's exhibitions or performances as well as helping with projects or events.

**Name two Nevada County artists whose work you admire, and why.**

There are many artists here in Nevada County that I admire and feel fortunate to know and spend time. I would love to name them all. To focus on just two for now would be Ruth Chase Boudreaux and Jude Bischoff.

**Ruth** stands out to me as an authentic artist that wants to make a difference in her community. She genuinely cares about art, artists and the people who live here. Her art expresses the stories of the people she comes to know and how they as well as herself fit into community and interact. There is a seeking where she wants to know how she can contribute to her community better.

**Jude** is one of the first artists I met when I moved here. He introduced me to the art community. Whatever art venues I attended he always said "hello" and made me feel welcome. I took one of his famous art marketing bootcamps which gave me a lot of insight into an area I was totally unfamiliar with. Today, he remains a wonderful support.

**What is your current or next art venture?**

Currently I am part of this year's Wild & Scenic film festival Art Exhibition. It runs January 17-21. I am also involved with Nevada County Arts Council's **I AM HERE** project which is an extension to its



Belonging Program led by Ruth Chase Boudreaux. The culminating public art installation for this will be in June this summer. My Artwork also can be viewed at the Hat Ranch Gallery in Santa Fe, New Mexico. There are other art shows in the works and will be posted on my website [jenniferrugge.com](http://jenniferrugge.com).

Find our more about Jennifer [here](#)

Connect with Jennifer [here](#)



## A Nevada County Cultural Treasure and a BIG hand to a very small committee

In a month when Nevada County is attracting thousands of visitors to the Wild & Scenic Film Festival thanks to the South Yuba River Citizens League, it feels fitting to call out the incredible work of a small ad hoc group who in 2011 were given the task of saving a special bridge spanning the South Yuba River.

Bridgeport is the longest single-span covered bridge in the world and is a national and state historic landmark, but in 2011 it was closed both to traffic and pedestrians for its structural instability.

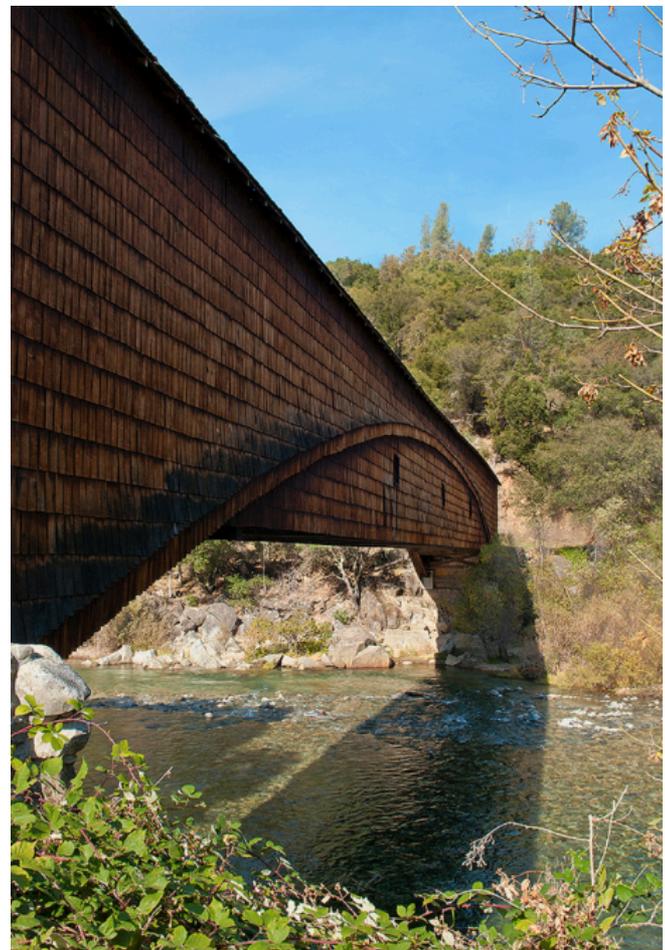
The Save Our Bridge Campaign Committee has spent the years since raising capital and awareness - and at the turn of the year finally got the green light to commence much needed repairs. The \$6.9 million construction project will begin in late spring or early summer, once water levels are safe and is expected to be completed by the end of 2019.

Bridgeport was built on Nisenan land in 1862 during the California Gold Rush, as part of the Virginia Turnpike Company Toll Road that served the northern mines and traffic to and from Virginia City and the Comstock Lode in Nevada. It's an incredible piece of history.

Doug Moon, Chair of Save Our Bridge Campaign Committee, now looks ahead to celebrations for the re-opening of the Bridge. He says: "The plan is to expand efforts to include many other Committee members, local governments, community groups, the schools, [and] organizations... Please plan on joining one or more of the groups that will coordinate these very special celebrations to commemorate the restoration and re-opening of Our Bridge, for all Californians to experience and enjoy."

Everything you've ever wanted to know about Bridgeport and plans for its restoration can be found [here](#).

To lend a hand please reach out to Doug [here](#).



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**Governor Newsom  
Proposes \$10  
Million increase in  
State Arts Funding!**

Last week our new Governor Gavin Newsom submitted a 2019-20 "California for All" budget proposal to the Legislature that includes an ongoing \$10 million increased general fund allocation for the California Arts Council, California's state arts agency.



California Arts Council Chair Nashormeh Lindo and Executive Director Anne Bown-Crawford issued a joint statement in response to Governor Newsom's proposed budget:

*The California Arts Council is a leader in furthering key California values of innovation, creative expression, and community well-being. We are deeply grateful to Governor Newsom for immediately recognizing the critical role of the arts in creating opportunity, resilience, and a sense of belonging for all Californians, addressing the challenges facing Californians today.*

The Governor's Budget Summary lists a \$26,083,000 total proposed general fund allocation for the CAC in FY 2019-20. The full summary of the Governor's budget proposal can be found [here](#).

## **Meanwhile, at home in Nevada County**

Of the many individuals and organizations that advocate for arts funding across the state, none stand out like California Arts Advocates (CAA) and Californians for the Arts (CFTA). Last year our own Julie Baker was announced as the organization's first Executive Director, while Eliza Tudor sits on their respective boards of directors. Clearly Nevada County has a role to play in carrying the flag for funding to support equitable access to the arts!

*California is the 5th largest economy in the world with the creative economy totaling \$407.1 billion in 2017, but our state funding for the arts and arts education has fallen short in allowing for equitable access to the arts... Governor Newsom's \$10 million proposal for permanent funding represents an overall funding increase of \$1.2 million but as it is permanent it allows more stability for the State Arts Agency with ongoing grants and programs. We are grateful to Governor Newsom for his vision and support of the impact the arts sector makes in California.*

Julie Baker  
Executive Director  
California Arts Advocates and Californians for the Arts

**Nevada County Arts Council proudly supports CAA and CFTA as a member, and encourages our arts community to support the greater good!**

**You can become a member [here](#) and [here](#).**

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**Who will be  
our next Poet  
Laureate?**

The role of our Poet



# NEVADA COUNTY POET LAUREATE

Laureate is to share a love of literacy and learning.

They must provide public readings across the county and undertake a significant cultural project that extends through a two-year term. One of our goals for this program is to bring poetry to students who might otherwise have little opportunity for exposure.

Use our online nomination form and learn more [here](#).

**Free Poetry  
Hours  
hosted by  
Molly Fisk**

**January 16 at 5.30pm**

Nevada City Winery, 321 Spring Street, Nevada City  
(Happy Hour is 3-6pm for \$1 off a glass of wine, so come early!)

**February 14 at 10.30am**

Flour Garden, 999 Sutton Way, Grass Valley

**March 8 at 12pm**

Philosophy, 10412 Donner Pass Road, Truckee

**Learn more about the Nevada County Poet Laureate Program [here](#)**



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**Monthly Reminder for our  
Arts Community!**

A reminder to all our member artists and

arts organizations of these great resources:

- Become a member of Nevada County Arts Council [here!](#)
- Then create an artist profile [here](#)
- Post your events at our Community Arts Calendar [here](#)
- **Send** us your Call to Artists info and we'll put it [here](#)
- For our visual arts community, make sure you take advantage of our Annual Nevada County Visual Artist & Gallery **Guide** [here](#)
- Interested in co-hosting an Artist Gathering with us? Email us [here](#)
- Get involved with Grass Valley-Nevada City Cultural District and Truckee Cultural District - let us know you are interested [here!](#)



Find musician Dani Joy [here](#).

## Calling Artists

A reminder to Nevada County artists of all disciplines to regularly check in to our new Call to Artists page at [nevadacountyarts.org](http://nevadacountyarts.org).

Don't forget to check this page for new opportunities across all disciplines, and remember to keep us in the know about any call you wish the community to know about!

Here are just a few current calls - near and far - for artists living in Nevada County:

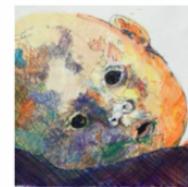
- California Clay Competition
- Reflectivity - Artists On Climate Change
- Teacher & Student Call for Poetry Out Loud
- ARTlandish Studios Open for Artists
- Ellu Gallery invites Artist Members
- KVMR & NCArts Tin Art in the Garden
- Good Food Art Gallery at BriarPatch
- 9th Annual Beyond Baroque Poetry Contest
- The Center for the Arts Mural Documentation
- Grass Valley Courtyard Suites Gallery



**California Clay Competition 2019**  
 Deadline - February 16, 2019  
[Read More](#) →



**Reflectivity - Artists on Climate**  
 Deadline - January 20, 2019  
[Read More](#) →



**Aspiring Artist Debut 2019**  
 Deadline - January 19 [Read More](#) →



**ARTlandish Studios Open for Artists**  
 Studios for rent from \$150 - \$350/month  
 Deadline - Rolling... [Read More](#) →



**Ellu Gallery invites Artist Members**  
 Deadline - Rolling... [Read More](#) →



**Poetry Out Loud - Calling Nevada County High School Teachers & Students**  
 Deadline - January 30, 2019  
[Read More](#) →



**KVMR & NCArts - Tin Art in the Garden**  
 Deadline - January 31, 2019  
[Read More](#) →



**Calling Students... Celebrate the West**  
 Deadline - April 28, 2019  
[Read More](#) →



Click [here](#) to visit our Call to Artists page

## Five amazing events to plan for...

**Friday, January 18 from 6.30pm**

Arts for the Schools presents Singer-songwriter and multi-instrumentalist **Okaidja Afroso**. Learn more [here](#) .

**Sunday, January 20 at 2pm**

InConcert Sierra presents world renowned pianist, **Marc-André Hamelin**. Click [here](#) for tickets.

**Monday, January 21 at 11am**

Communities Beyond Violence presents its **2019 Love Walk** - a multi-cultural festival celebrating diversity in Nevada County through music, dance, poetry, art and film. Click [here](#) for more information.

**Saturday, January 26 from 9am**

Sierra Writers and Sierra College present **Sierra Writers Conference**. Listen and learn about the conference [here](#), and purchase your tickets [here](#).

**Saturday, January 26th from 4pm**

The Gold Country Celtic Society presents its **28th Annual Robert Burns Celebration**. Call Carolyn Hatling at (530) 346-2565 for tickets.



*Arts for the Schools presents Okaidja Afroso*

Visit our Nevada County [Community Arts Calendar](#)  
for a more complete lists of events.

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