

Mint Edition

Newsletter of the Nevada State Museum, Carson City
Nevada Department of Tourism & Cultural Affairs

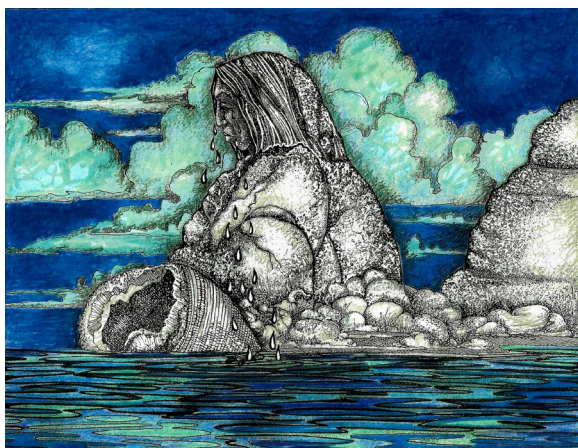
Summer 2025
Vol. LIV, No. 1

Great Basin Native Artists Exhibition Arriving this Fall

by Brett Fisher

Original artwork of Melissa Melero-Moose and other indigenous artists will be on display in the South Gallery of the Nevada State Museum beginning this fall.

An acclaimed Northern Paiute artist and founder of the Great Basin Native Artists collective, Melero-Moose has curated original artwork from more than 30 indigenous artists in Nevada, California, Oregon, Idaho, and Utah for the upcoming show at the Nevada State Museum. Art mediums on display will include painting and drawing, mixed media sculpture, basketry and beadwork, as well as original artwork from the permanent *Under One Sky* exhibition series that Melissa co-curated in 2002.



“This will be a good example of Indigenous artists who are creating and have been creating for a long time in this area,” she said. “The work, like all artwork, is a glimpse into time, an important part of our Nevada history and regional art history.”

The year-long exhibition will also feature some of Melissa’s original pieces, too. Her artwork, in fact, can already be found among permanent collections at the Nevada State Museum and institutions throughout the United States, including the Smithsonian’s National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, D.C., the Autry Museum of the American West in Los Angeles, and the IAIA Museum of Contemporary Native Arts in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Fine art has been part of her life since she was a child. “Most of my family members were artists and crafters, so I grew up surrounded by art,” Melero-Moose said. “I didn’t know what I was going to do as a career in the arts, but it seems I was always on that path.” After high school, she studied at the Institute of American Indian Arts (IAIA) in Santa Fe where she blossomed and came into her own as a fine artist. “I tried many mediums in high school and art school,” she said. “I always ended up gravitating toward painting and abstraction.”

IN THIS ISSUE:

- 1 Great Basin Native Artists Exhibition
- 3 Carson City Mint Coin Show Returns
- 4 Frances Humphrey Lecture Series
- 5 Calendar of Events
- 6 Staff Spotlight: Facilities Supervisor
Albert Depew
- 7 Museum Seeks Volunteers
Welcome New Members
- 8 Contact the Museum



Progress is being made on a new abandoned mine exhibit in the museum basement.

top masthead detail: Melissa Melero-Moose, *Worlds Interwoven* (detail), 2025, mixed media

left: Ben Aleck, *Pea Teepa (Stone Mother)*, not dated, pen and ink on paper

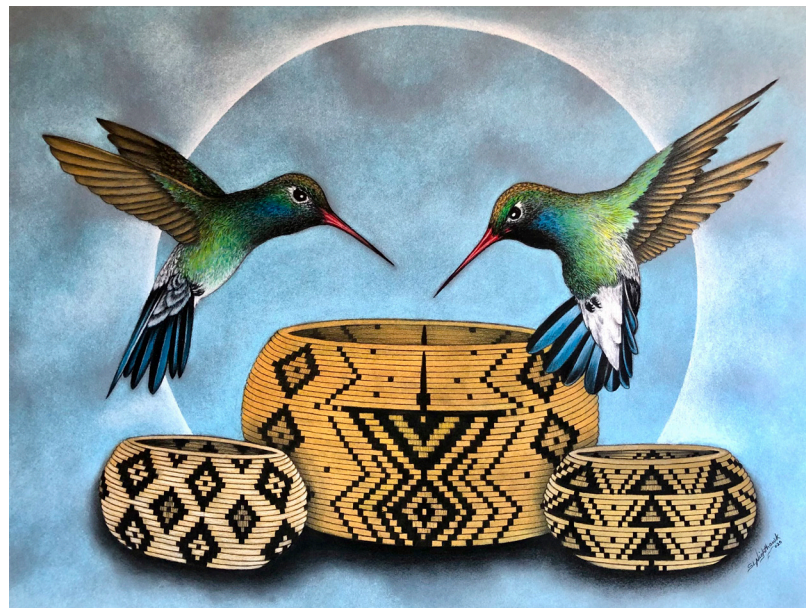


She's been a professional artist now for almost 30 years, her artistic expression being gleaned from life experiences that have helped to shape her. "My current work draws from my connection to my homelands to share with the viewer about my place, identity, and memory," she said. "The imagery integrates basketry shapes and textures with organic materials like willow and pine nuts and experimental mixtures of acrylic mediums layered intuitively to create a visual of indigenous life."

Melissa holds degrees in art and social sciences. She spent 15 years as a social worker, which helped her develop community-building skills that led to the creation of the Great Basin Native Artists collective in 2014. "I wanted to start helping other artists show their work and have exhibit opportunities," she explained.

These days, curating art exhibits through the collective has become a passion of hers. She's the curator of the Great Basin Native Artists gallery inside the Stewart Indian School Cultural Center & Museum in Carson City, and has served as a guest curator and art advisor at the Nevada Museum of Art in Reno.

Opening of the Great Basin Native Artists show at the Nevada State Museum is anticipated sometime in September or October. Preparation work in the South Gallery will begin in August. Please follow our Facebook page and website for updates.



upper left: Melissa Melero-Moose, *Woven Together*, 2024

above: Kim Avanna Lawson, *Mamie (Songoe'e) Hummingbird*, 2022

left: Steven Nighthawk, *Baskets and Hummingbirds*, 2020

Carson City Mint Coin Show Returns for Another Year

by Brett Fisher

After years on hiatus, the Carson City Mint Coin Show made a successful return in 2024. The Nevada State Museum is pleased to announce that the show is back again this year on Friday and Saturday, August 15–16, 2025.

Coin dealers will show off their numismatic collections in the Dema Guinn Concourse from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Friday and from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Saturday.

During both days of the show, Coin Press No. 1 will be minting the popular 1870 Liberty Seated commemorative medallion, a half-ounce .999 fine silver reproduction of the first half dollar produced by the U.S. Mint when Carson City operations began in February 1870. Come watch the venerable Coin Press No. 1 at work inside the old Carson City Mint building.

Visitors can also participate in a prize raffle to win a collectible coin. The Carson City Mint Coin Show isn't just for collectors and numismatists. Families are encouraged to join in the excitement. "This year's show will feature hands-on activities that are both fun and educational," said Nevada State Museum Business Manager Brett Fisher. Both days will feature Placer mining demonstrations in Loftin Park, where families can pan for mineral surprises from a real sluice box. There will be activity stations, too, for coin rubbings, puzzles, and coloring pages as well as our "Coins Around the World" display.

Admission is \$10 per adult and free for members and children 17 and under. Panning at the sluice costs just \$5 for a 30-minute Placer mining demonstration. The Nevada State Museum is located at 600 N. Carson Street in Carson City.



Dealers and customers interact during the Carson City Mint Coin Show in 2024. Photo: George Baumgardner

Schedule of Events

Friday, August 15

8:30 am

Museum doors open; dealers arrive to set up

10:00 am

Coin Show opens in Dema Guinn Concourse

10:00 am

Panning/sluice demonstrations, coin rubbing, coloring activity, and "Coins Around the World" table in Loftin Park

3:30 pm

Last sluice vouchers sold for the day

4:30 pm

Museum and Coin Show closes

Saturday, August 16

8:30 am

Museum doors open; Coin Show begins in Dema Guinn Concourse

9:00 am

Panning/sluice demonstrations, coin rubbing, coloring activity, and "Coins Around the World" table in Loftin Park

3:30 pm

Last sluice vouchers sold for the day

4:30 pm

Museum and Coin Show closes

Nevada State Museum Welcomes New Director



by Nevada Division of Museums & History

The Nevada State Museum is very pleased to welcome Jen Roger (pronounced roh-jay) as its director following a national search. She began her duties in late June.

Roger is a museum historical preservation professional with extensive experience in collections, artifacts, operations, staff development, and strategic financial planning. Her background includes directing the Museum of History Benicia in California, the Hiller Aviation Museum in San Carlos, California, and Friends of "R" House, ensuring the historical preservation of the Rengstorff House in the San Francisco Bay Area.

"Jen is a proven leader with substantial experience with not only collections, but with staff," said Nevada Division of Museums & History Administrator Dan Thielen. "She has worked to make numerous substantial impacts in her work, and we're excited to see how she will level-up the already impressive work of the State Museum in Carson."

Frances Humphrey Lecture Series

Join us on the fourth Thursday of each month from 6:30–7:30 p.m. Doors open at 6 p.m. Cost is \$10 for adults and free for members and ages 17 and under. Reserve a seat in advance: www.carsonnmuseum.org/events



Courtesy Jessica Johnson

July 24, 2025

The History of Reno Little Theater: A Legacy of Community and the Arts

By Jessica Johnson

Founded in 1935, Reno Little Theater (RLT) is one of the oldest continually operating community theaters in the United States. This lecture explores the theater's evolution from its grassroots beginnings during the Great Depression to its role as a cornerstone of Reno's cultural scene. We will examine the key figures who shaped RLT's growth, its resilience through economic and social changes, and its commitment to fostering local talent and accessible theater. Through archival materials, production history, and community stories, this presentation will highlight RLT's enduring impact on Northern Nevada's performing arts landscape and its ongoing mission to entertain, educate, and engage audiences. Jessica Johnson, MA, is the development director at the Reno Little Theater.

Jessica Johnson, MA, is the development director at the Reno Little Theater.



Courtesy Travel Nevada

August 28, 2025

Nevada's Transcontinental Railroad Depots and Stations

By Jean-Guy Dubé

Nevada's transcontinental railroad heritage begins in 1868 when the Central Pacific Railroad's track laying crews reached the state, building east from Sacramento, California. As railroad construction progressed, existing and new communities were connected by ribbons of iron and steel. Towns like Reno, Winnemucca, Elko, Battle Mountain, Montello, Wells, Carlin, Palisade, Verdi, Wadsworth, Fernley, Lovelock, and Mill City were on the transcontinental route. The Central Pacific became the Southern Pacific and eventually the Union Pacific. We'll look at each community's depot development from their first to last over the last century-and-a-half, including the sole surviving early depot at Lovelock. Join us in the parlor car as we ride the rails of Nevada history.

Jean-Guy T. Dubé, CLG, works for the State Historic Preservation Office of Nevada as the National and State Register of Historic Places Coordinator.

Calendar of Events

Check www.carsonnmuseum.org/events for more detailed information

July 2025

Saturday, July 5

Historic Coin Press No. 1 history and demonstration, 11 am–3 pm

Saturday, July 12

Downtown Revival Car Show, 9 am–4 pm

Saturday, July 12

Historic Coin Press No. 1 history and demonstration, 11 am–3 pm

Saturday, July 19

Historic Coin Press No. 1 history and demonstration, 11 am–3 pm

Thursday, July 24

FRANCES HUMPHREY LECTURE SERIES,
The History of Reno Little Theater: A Legacy of Community and the Arts by Jessica Johnson,
Dema Guinn Concourse, 6:30–7:30 pm

Saturday, July 26

Historic Coin Press No. 1 history and demonstration, 11 am–3 pm

August 2025

Saturday, August 2

Historic Coin Press No. 1 history and demonstration, 11 am–3 pm

Saturday, August 9

Historic Coin Press No. 1 history and demonstration, 11 am–3 pm

Friday, August 15

2025 Carson City Mint Coin Show, South Gallery and Dema Guinn Concourse, 10 am–4:30 pm

Saturday, August 16

2025 Carson City Mint Coin Show, South Gallery and Dema Guinn Concourse, 8:30 am–4:30 pm

Saturday, August 16

Historic Coin Press No. 1 history and demonstration, 11 am–3 pm

Saturday, August 23

Historic Coin Press No. 1 history and demonstration, 11 am–3 pm

Thursday, August 28

FRANCES HUMPHREY LECTURE SERIES, *Nevada's Transcontinental Railroad Depots and Stations*, by Jean-Guy Dubé, Dema Guinn Concourse, 6:30–7:30 pm

Saturday, August 30

Historic Coin Press No. 1 history and demonstration, 11 am–3 pm

September 2025

Saturday, September 6

Historic Coin Press No. 1 history and demonstration, 11 am–3 pm

Saturday, September 13

Historic Coin Press No. 1 history and demonstration, 11 am–3 pm

Saturday, September 20

Historic Coin Press No. 1 history and demonstration, 11 am–3 pm

Thursday, September 25

FRANCES HUMPHREY LECTURE SERIES, TBD,
Dema Guinn Concourse, 6:30–7:30 pm

Saturday, September 27

Historic Coin Press No. 1 history and demonstration, 11 am–3 pm



Staff Spotlight: Facilities Supervisor Albert Depew



above: Albert Depew with one of his grills.

Photo: Alycia Depew

right: One of Albert's smokers. Photo: Albert Depew

by Brett Fisher

Members who have regularly visited the Nevada State Museum over the past decade no doubt recognize Facilities Supervisor Albert Depew, who is often seen at the admissions desk or heading from here to there with purpose. But if you think Albert is busy at work, then you should see him at play.

"Photography is my biggest hobby," said the 30-year retired volunteer firefighter and former armored car guard who was originally hired as a security officer at the Nevada State Museum in 2015. "I really enjoy landscapes. There's something about scouting a location, setting up your gear, no one around to bother you, and waiting for just the right moment to take the perfect shot."

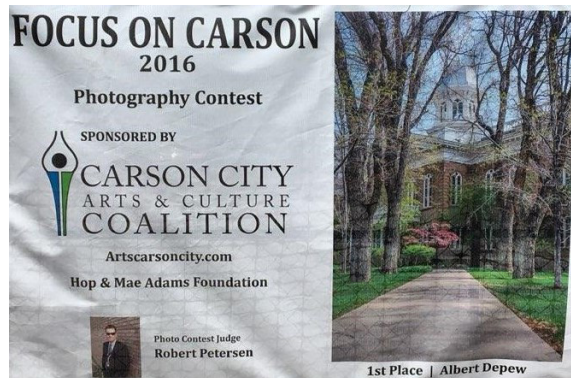
Albert is so passionate about photography that he even earned a professional certificate from the New York Institute of Photography. He's a member of the Carson City Photo Club and his work has won awards through local arts contests.

Albert also spends his free time perfecting barbecue, a hobby he picked up from his father. "Barbecue was something that just seemed to come natural to me," he said. "Just like photography, barbecue is an art. It takes time, patience, and a lot of failed attempts to master grilling or smoking."



Over time, Albert has developed into a skilled griller. In 2024, Museum management approached him about catering the annual Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon. He's done it now for the past two years, in fact, having

served his signature meats: Smoked beef brisket and barbecued beef tri-tip. "This was really the first time that I've done large scale smoking for a large group," he said. "To sit back and watch everyone enjoy some great barbecue has been very rewarding."



Albert's first place photo shown on a banner in downtown Carson City. Photo: Albert Depew



Albert in his firefighter uniform. Photo courtesy: Albert Depew

His greatest reward as Museum staff has been to serve as steward of the historic Carson City Mint building. "Knowing that I'm leaving my mark here and doing my part to preserve and maintain it is just awesome," he said.

Albert was named interim Facilities Supervisor in early 2020 and then promoted permanently to the position the following year after having helped guide the Museum through the COVID-19 pandemic. "I faced a lot of uphill battles that none of my predecessors had ever experienced," he said of the pandemic challenges. But the Nevada State Museum made it safely through and is stronger because of staff like Albert. We're proud to have him on our team!

Friends of the Nevada State Museum Seek Volunteers to Share Silver State History

by Dan Neverett

The Friends of the Nevada State Museum (FNSM) are inviting community members to share Nevada's rich history and natural wonders with a growing number of visitors from around the world.

Volunteers play a crucial role in the museum's mission related to the historic Carson City US Mint, conducting guided tours of exhibits like the famous underground mine and Dat So La Lee basket collections, and leading engaging educational programs for children on topics ranging from fossils to Nevada wildflowers. Opportunities also exist to lead tours of the historic Nevada State Capitol building.

As Carson City and the Museum experience increased visitation, the need for enthusiastic volunteers to support educational programs and tours has grown.

In return for their time, volunteers receive comprehensive training from experts on Nevada history, indigenous culture, and natural history, along with mentoring opportunities. They also work closely with the Museum's professional staff, gaining insider insights into exhibits and developments.

To learn more about these rewarding volunteer opportunities, please contact Friends vice chair Dave Pierson at FNSM.contact@gmail.com or 775-883-7647.



Dorothea Phelan hands out a scavenger hunt to Billingshurst students during a March field trip. Photo: Brett Fisher

Welcome to Our Newest Nevada State Museum Members!



New Members

Alban Alfaro
Mark Balch
Ken Beaton
Gerald Braden
Don Brockus
Lorana L. Brown
Sharla Bruce

Brian & Michele Burke
John & Melinda Cash
Suellen Cobb
Greg Cook
Deborah Cox
Daniel & Lynn Davies
Matthew & Ellen Dedes
Ramiro Elisalde
Ally Fabian
Gary Follette
Jon Fults
Russell Gray
Mary S. Greil Vhay
Myrna Hanses
Afron & Marvin Helsacker
& Mona & Ron Skinner
Rick & Denise Hernandez
Carolina Houser
Lisa K. Huffman
Michael J. Ilnicki
Wyatt Layland
Virginia Lee

Peter Leffler
Don & Joan Lodes
Chris Mazur
Dave & Mary Ann McNeill
Marie Mermin
Belinda Nemeth & Kyle Lai
Nissan of Carson City
James & Millis Nylander
David & Gwen Oren
Anthony Paige
Grant Peterson
Pamela Pratt
Dennis Primoli
Shishpal Rawat
Carole & Jim Rector
Jennifer Robinson
Margie & Jimmy Rossi
Ben, James & Jennie Sanders
John Sanders

Brooke Santina
Dorothy Screptock
Jose, Mattie, Emma & Lucien Serna
Patricia & Charles Slavin
Cicely BV. Smith
Larissa Solberg
David & Joanne Springer
Julia Teeter
Robert & Susan Thomasson
Gary Thomsen & Virginia Jed
Sally W. Tylawsky
Jane Wade
Liz Watson
Stephen Weil
Ann Weiss
Ingrid White
Sharla E. Wilson
Ming Zhu & Xiaohui Cai

Enhanced Memberships Benefactor

Nancy Cerceau

Sustaining

Tom & Marilyn Barrella
J. M. "Brew" Brewster
Patty Cafferata
Dale & Connie Capurro
Thomas & Phyllis Cates
Paul Esswein & Kathleen Plante
Edward & Rita Fincel
Michael & Cheryl Gillen
Rusty & Marie Goe
Ted & Francine Gray
Mickey Hawke
Martha & Tom Keating
James and Debra Keck
Cecilia & Timothy Kness
Theresa Kuracina

Eula Loftin
Howard & Joan Lowe
Debbie Mailey
Bobbie McKee
Irvin & Janet Miller
Jeffrey & Marietta Paul
Jan & Jay Peace
Richard & Lisa Perry
Kenneth Pulvino & Teri Graf-Pulvino
Charles & Margaret Robertson
George & Corinne Sakelarios
Lillian Tallman & John Kohr
John Ternau
Carole Terry
Deborah & Daryl Yee Litt

775/687-4810
Fax 775/687-4168
carsonnmuseum.org

Jen Roger
Museum Director, 775/687-0655
jroger@nevadaculture.org

George Baumgardner
Curator of Natural History, 775/687-0661
gbaumgardner@nevadaculture.org

Anna Camp
Curator of Anthropology
775/687-0664
acamp@nevadaculture.org

Jan Loverin
Curator of Clothing and Textiles,
775/687-6173
jloverin@nevadaculture.org

Kelly Brant
Membership Coordinator, 775/687-0657
membership@nevadaculture.org

Brett Fisher
Business Office Manager, 775/687-0656
bfisher@nevadaculture.org

Education Department, 775/687-0653
NSMEducation@nevadaculture.org

Mary Covington
Registrar, 775/687-0659
mcovington@nevadaculture.org

Laurel Rogers
Exhibits Manager, 775/687-0666
lweil@nevadaculture.org

Albert Depew
Facilities Supervisor, 775/687-0654
adepew@nevadaculture.org

Cayce Weislow
Museum Store Manager, 775/687-0662
c.weislow@nevadaculture.org

Indian Hills Curatorial Center
775/687-3002

Marjorie Russell Clothing and Textile
Research Center
775/687-6173

Anthropology Resource Center
775/687-0665

Bretzlaff History Resource Center
775/687-0696 or 775/687-0697

Natural History Resource Center
775/687-0661

The Nevada State Museum in Carson City is an agency of the Division of Museums and History within the Nevada Department of Tourism & Cultural Affairs. The museum engages diverse audiences in understanding and celebrating Nevada's natural and cultural heritage.

State of Nevada
Joe Lombardo, Governor

Nevada Department of Tourism & Cultural Affairs
Brenda Scolari, Director

Division of Museums and History
Dan Thielen
Division Administrator

The Friends of the Nevada State Museum, a 501(c)(3) private nonprofit organization, supports the museum through volunteer assistance, fundraising, and advocacy. For more information contact Cora Johnson, Chair at cora28_99@yahoo.com

The Nevada State Museum publishes the *Mint Edition* newsletter for the purpose of highlighting museum exhibits, education programs, special events, and collection activities.

Museum members receive the *Mint Edition* as a benefit of membership if they provide an email address.

Newsletter staff:
Brett Fisher, Editor
Sandy Bell, Graphic Designer

Please address all newsletter communications to:
Nevada State Museum
600 North Carson Street
Carson City, Nevada
89701-4004
775/687-4810
Fax 775/687-4168



Members
Children (17 & under)
Adults

Free
Free
\$10

Memberships:

\$45 individual
\$75 family

\$125 sustaining
\$20 senior/veteran discount on
any membership level

Open 8:30 am to 4:30 pm Tuesday through Sunday
Closed Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day

BA 2940
600 North Carson Street
Carson City, Nevada 89701-4004