

# COUNTY OF NEVADA

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

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March 28, 2017

California Arts Council  
1300 I Street, Suite 930  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
Phone (916) 322-6555  
Fax (916) 322-6575

**RE: Letters of Support for Nevada City, Grass Valley, Greater Grass Valley Chamber of Commerce, Nevada City Chamber of Commerce and the Nevada County Arts Council Partnership to submit an application of Letter of Intent to be designated as California Cultural Districts by the California Arts Council for the purposes of participating in the Pilot Cultural District Program.**

To Whom It May Concern,

The Nevada County Board of Supervisors submits this Letter of Support for the application of Letter of Intent that the City of Nevada City, City of Grass Valley, Greater Grass Valley Chamber of Commerce, Nevada City Chamber of Commerce and the Nevada County Arts Council have partnered together to submit to be designated as a California Cultural District by the California Arts Council State (CAC) for the purposes of participating in the California Cultural District Pilot Program.

Nevada County contains two incorporated cities in its western region, the City of Grass Valley and the City of Nevada City and one incorporated town in its eastern region, The Town of Truckee. County residents are concentrated in these regions geographically separated by the Donor Summit in the Sierra Nevada Mountain range. These regions have naturally occurring cultural districts with different trajectories of growth, development, historical heritage, culture and art. As such, the City of Nevada City, City of Grass Valley, Greater Grass Valley Chamber of Commerce, Nevada City Chamber of Commerce and the Nevada County Arts Council have partnered together (Grass Valley/Nevada City Partnership) to submit an application reflective of the unique culture in the western region of Nevada County.

The cities of Grass Valley and Nevada City have long been recognized as important sources of historic heritage for the State of California during the Gold Rush Era with many state historical landmarks being designated in the region, including the covered Bridgeport Bridge and the infamous Empire Mine. Cultural heritage also included indigenous and immigrant populations. In fact, the region was once home to the largest density of Nisenan tribespeople and to various immigrant populations.

950 Maidu Avenue, Suite 200, Nevada City CA 95959-8617  
phone: 530.265.1480 | fax: 530.265.9836 | toll free: 888.785.1480 | email: [bdofsupervisors@co.nevada.ca.us](mailto:bdofsupervisors@co.nevada.ca.us)  
website: <http://www.mynevadacounty.com/nc/bos>

The designation of Grass Valley and Nevada City as a singular State Cultural District would establish an important partnership between these two cities that would properly reflect the cultural identity of Western Nevada County. Capitalizing on cultural assets and sharing resources would enable these communities to leverage advantageous opportunities to promote and advance culture and art through regional community development. This combined with its currently growing information and technology industry and its active creative arts sector provides a strong cultural portfolio as a Cultural District.

By participating in the California Arts Council's pilot program, the Grass Valley/Nevada City Partnership will pursue program goals to support both existing and underutilized cultural assets, advance local sustainability goals through creative means, and strengthen cultural and social networks between the two cities that would support local activities and community goals.

We respectfully submit this Letter of Support for CAC to consider and designate the Grass Valley/Nevada City Partnership as a California Cultural District as they submit their application of Letter of Intent for the California Cultural District Pilot Program.

Sincerely,



Hank Weston

Nevada County Board of Supervisors, Chair