



**NEVADA
COUNTY**
CALIFORNIA

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Heidi Hall

District 1 Supervisor
heidi.hall@nevadacountyca.gov
530.265.1480

NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
BOARD AGENDA MEMO

MEETING DATE: March 25, 2025

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Heidi Hall, District 1

SUBJECT: Resolution authorizing the County of Nevada and the City of Nevada City to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding to support the continued legacy of the Miners Foundry Cultural Center and, upon execution of said MOU, disclaiming the County's interest in all real and personal property granted under the Nevada County Cultural Trust dated June 22, 1989, and as amended February 14, 1990, and as further amended June 16, 1993, N.C.W.G., Inc., Trustor.

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt the attached Resolution

FUNDING: N/A

BACKGROUND: Since June 2024, the City of Nevada City ("City") has been in discussions with the Miners Foundry Cultural Center ("Foundry") to explore ways to preserve the Foundry as a vital community asset and expand public access to its programs and facilities in perpetuity. The Nevada County Cultural Preservation Trust ("Trust") currently holds ownership of the property.

The Trust was established on June 22, 1989, and was later amended on February 14, 1990, and again on June 16, 1993. It identifies the City and the County of Nevada ("County") as beneficiaries with the mission to foster and promote culture and the arts among the people of Nevada County, preserve the County's historical heritage as it relates to culture and the arts, and establish, fund, own, maintain, and operate facilities for the arts and for related cultural, historical, and artistic non-profit organizations in Nevada County.

Since its inception, the Foundry has been operated by a non-profit organization in furtherance of this mission. However, in recent years, the Foundry has faced financial instability and now carries significant liabilities.

In February 2025, the City entered into a lease agreement for the facility to sustain existing operations, expand public access, and enhance program offerings. Concurrently, the City has been pursuing the legal process required to transfer ownership of the Foundry from the Trust to the City.

On March 6, 2025, the Nevada City Council held a special meeting to tour the facility and gather input on its continued and future uses, with plans to continue soliciting community feedback. Subsequently, on March 12, 2025, the City Council amended its 2022-2027 Strategic Plan to include a new objective under the Vibrancy – Arts, Culture, and Creativity Initiative, stating:

“Integrate the Miners Foundry Cultural Center into City operations to preserve its cultural legacy while enhancing programming and activities that benefit the community and local businesses.”

To facilitate this transition, the City is requesting that the County relinquish its status as a beneficiary of the Trust, allowing the Trust’s assets to be transferred to the City for \$1. In doing so, the City will assume ownership of both the assets and liabilities of the non-profit organization.

County staff support this transfer and recommend that the Board adopt the attached Resolution, which authorizes the County to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the City to support the continued legacy of the Foundry. Upon execution of the MOU, the County will disclaim any interest in all real and personal property granted under the Nevada County Cultural Trust.

Sincerely,

Heidi Hall, Chair
Board of Supervisors