

What's at Stake? Nevada's past, present and future.

Nevada Department of Cultural Affairs Mission

The Nevada Department of Cultural Affairs exists to serve and enrich the individual lives of Nevada's citizens and visitors, recognizing the diversity of the state through leadership in cultural and information management, promotion of cultural resources and activities, and education.

This mission is carried out by four distinct divisions:

- **Division of Museum & History**
 - Nevada State Museum, Carson City
 - Nevada State Railroad Museum, Carson City
 - Nevada Historical Society, Reno
 - East Ely Railroad Depot Museum, Ely
 - Nevada State Museum, Las Vegas
 - Lost City Museum, Overton
 - Nevada State Railroad Museum, Boulder City

- **Nevada Arts Council**

- **State Historic Preservation Office**

- **Nevada State Library and Archives**

The Governor's Recommended budget for the Department of Cultural Affairs seeks a reduction in funding of nearly 40% eliminating 81 positions resulting in the layoff of 34 existing staff members.

The Director's Office

The Department of Cultural Affairs represents approximately 0.5% of State General Fund expenditures. The Governor's Recommended budget for the Department of Cultural Affairs seeks a reduction of \$12.5 million in funding, which represents nearly 40% of the agency's general funds and elimination of 66 positions resulting in the layoff of 35 existing staff members, and 52 staff members being reduced to 32 hours per week.

What's at Stake for the Director's Office?

- Eliminate the Holocaust Council pass through
- Eliminate Nevada Humanities pass through
- Eliminate the Exploring Nevada documentary series

The bottom line for the Director's Office

The Governor's Recommended budget for the Director's Office seeks a reduction in funding of over 30%, including the loss of one position.

Nevada Arts Council

The Nevada Arts Council serves to enrich the cultural life of the state through leadership that preserves, supports, strengthens and makes excellence in the arts accessible to all Nevadans. The Arts Council is the single largest funder of the arts in Nevada.

What's at Stake for the Arts Council?

- A significant reduction in funding available to award through the agency's broad range of grant Categories:
 - Suspension of Challenge Grants and potential suspension/elimination of other grant categories
 - Reduction in the amount of funds available through certain grant categories
 - Fewer grant dollars to supports arts in education
 - Fewer grant dollars to artists and arts organizations, a major source of economic activity
 - The loss of state funding to the arts which provides and influential stamp of approval that helps to catalyze investment from other public and private sources
- Reduction in outreach and programming
 - Loss of equitable access to resources, as the Arts Council ensures that funding and participation opportunities are available to all regions of the state – rural, urban and suburban – as well as to all populations, regardless of income, age, ethnicity or ability.
 - Often Arts Council programming or funded programming is the only arts programming available to rural communities
- Elimination of two full time existing staff members.
 - Resulting in a permanent loss of professionally trained and experienced staff members with unique skills not easily replaced
 - Loss of a Community Arts Development position which has greater impacts as city planners, property developers and economists are increasingly recognizing the arts as an effective anchor for development and revitalization.
- Reduction and/or suspension of cultural outreach programs, technical assistance and professional development activities.

The bottom line for the Arts Council

The Governor's Recommended budget for the Nevada Arts Council seeks a reduction in funding of over 51%, resulting in a 20% reduction of staff.

These cuts will greatly impact the Arts Council's ability to fulfill its mission which can result in the loss of the positive impact of arts which include:

- The arts contribute to economic competitiveness through the generation of jobs, tax revenue and consumer spending.
- Arts activities draw new dollars into the state economy through tourism and the export of unique cultural goods.
- Arts education contributes to overall student success in school, enhancing academic achievement and educational climate and student self esteem.
- The arts contribute to community resiliency and help communities to find creative solutions to complex problems and to heal from traumatic events

Division of Museums & History

The strengths of Nevada's seven state-run museums are researching, collecting, preserving and interpreting Nevada's rich and varied prehistory, social, cultural and natural history. The mission is innovative and exciting education - connecting you to Nevada's treasures.

What's at Stake for Museums?

- Elimination of 33 positions resulting in the lay offs of 16 existing staff members
 - Creates the inability to staff or open the new Nevada State Museum, Las Vegas at the Las Vegas Springs Preserve
 - Eliminates Curators of Education which program and oversee school and student visits and adult on-site and public outreach programs for state museums, a core piece of museum's education mission
- Reducing the remaining staff to part-time employment; 32 hours per week
 - Disabling the museums from operating seven days a week and reducing their operation to four days per week.
 - Creates the potential to damage one of the most skilled, professional workforces in state service, each individual a unique subject matter expert
- Reducing the operating days of all seven museum from seven days a week to four
 - Reducing the number of school days available for school tours to two days per week
 - Reducing the revenue collected from admissions
 - Limiting public access to the State's historical assets
- Closure of the East Ely Railroad Depot Museum
 - This museum is the only state-run cultural facility in rural Nevada
 - The state recently spent \$1.4 million on facilities improvement

The bottom line for Museums

The Governor's Recommended budget for Museums & History seeks a reduction in funding of over 40%.

- Museums are a prime destination for tourists and generate valuable income that helps spur the economy.
- Visitors to cultural and heritage destinations stay 53% longer and spend 36% more money than other kinds of tourists.
- Museums are the stewards of state heritage. They research, collect, conserve and interpret artifacts which define Nevada cultural heritage. There artifacts, once lost to the public trust, are often gone forever.
- Museums work with school districts to both train educators and help teach Nevada curriculum.
- Museums provide exciting learning opportunities for Americans of all ages.
- Americans view museums as one of the most important resources for educating our children and as one of the most trustworthy sources of objective information.
- Volunteers: in 2008 volunteers at Nevada's seven museums contributed 51,600 hours valued at \$927,600 (IndependentSector.org)

State Historic Preservation Office

The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) encourages the preservation, documentation, and use of cultural resources through state and federal programs. The agency works to educate the public about the importance of our cultural heritage so that Nevada's historic and archaeological properties are preserved, interpreted, and reused for their economic, educational, and intrinsic values and for future generations to appreciate.

What's at Stake for the SHPO?

- Elimination of the Site Stewardship program
 - Eliminates an existing staff member which removes the oversight of an otherwise all volunteer program, resulting in loss of free volunteer services
 - Dismantles a program which serves to study and preserve ancient Native American rock art and petroglyphs and other archaeological sites
 - Eliminates the ability to preserve prehistoric and historic archaeological resources for the purposes of conservation, scientific study and interpretation
 - Creates more opportunity for historic site vandalism and theft
- Closure of the Comstock History Center in Virginia city
 - Eliminates the ability for the public to view the historic V&T engine on display in the center
 - Nullifies the promise of the department to keep on permanent public display a V&T locomotive in Virginia City
 - Creates an impact to Northern Nevada tourism as the center serves as an attraction and hosts changing exhibits
 - Moves the Comstock Historic District Commission from being physically located in Virginia City, the territory it helps to manage, to an off site location
- Elimination of State Historic Preservation Office Grant Funding
 - Jeopardizes a program essential to the preservation of historic buildings and structures
 - These historic treasures, once gone, are lost to the public trust forever

The bottom line for the SHPO

The Governor's Recommended budget for the State Historic Preservation Office seeks a reduction in funding of over 59%, and staffing of 16%.

These cuts will greatly impact the SHPO's ability to fulfill its mission. The value of SHPO is evident in its programs.

- The division employs and makes available experts in the subjects pertaining to historic preservation technology, Nevada history, archaeology, historic preservation planning, and Native Americans.
- They increase public awareness of the significance and value of archaeological resources and the existing state and federal laws enacted for historical preservation.
- SHPO manages the State and National Register of Historic Places; the National Register of Historic Places is part of a program that coordinates and supports public and private efforts to identify, evaluate and protect our historic, cultural and archaeological resources.
- Budget cuts will reduce or in some cases eliminate the SHPO's ability to address the needs of those who seek to preserve Nevada's heritage, a non-renewable resource that is essential to educating Nevada's youth and to marketing the state to cultural tourists.

Nevada State Library and Archives

The Nevada State Library and Archives serves as the foundation of Nevada democracy by providing full access to a range of information services that enhance the quality of life for all and center on creating an educated and enlightened citizenry while supporting the best interests of the state of Nevada. In support of this mission, the agency serves government, libraries, business, media and citizens by providing a range of information services.

What's at Stake for the State Library and Archives?

- Elimination of two archives staff members
 - Reduce public access to archives to by appointment only
 - Reduces institutional memory of the state to the detriment of optimal government operations
 - Reduce access to government information because Archives staff will be unable to index, arrange and describe incoming records creating a backlog of records for future processing
 - Reduces the ability of staff to respond in a timely manner to historical information requests from government employees and the public
- Elimination of Records Center Staff and delay opening of Southern Nevada Records Center
 - Reduces access to state records by state agencies to three days per week
 - Reduces the ability of state agencies to maximize use of general funds to safely store records for their legal retention period
 - Eliminates records center services for southern Nevada agencies
 - Eliminates local government records management consultation program
- Elimination of 17 library positions and a restructure of all library programs
 - Reduce public access to four hours a day, five days a week
 - Reduces public access to a unique compilation of information resources including state publications, electronic databases and microfilm compilation of newspapers
 - Reduces the ability of staff to respond quickly to historical information requests from government employees and the public
- Elimination of two staff members and significant reduction in the Nevada Literacy Office
 - Reduces significantly programs that support the efforts of non-profit state, county and local literacy improvement programs for Nevadans, including libraries, Adult Basic Education, English as a Second Language, Summer Reading and Volunteer Tutor programs
 - Re-structures Development program to support select Literacy Office programs
- Reduction of State Collection Development Funding and State Library Collection funding
 - Reduces the ability of local libraries to effectively develop local collections to support the educational and lifelong learning needs of all Nevadans
 - Reduces the state Library's ability to maintain a relevant collection of information resources (electronic and paper resources) for use by government and the public.

The bottom line for the State Library and Archives

The Governor's Recommended budget for the State Library and Archives seeks a reduction in funding of over 35% and a reduction in staffing of 45%.

- State Archives and Records Management make Nevada government transparent to its citizens by documenting the history and identity of the state and serving as a record of state business through its government records collections.

- State Archives safeguard government information, protecting Nevada citizens' rights and ensuring government accountability.
- State Archives and Library are essential to the educational process because they support curricula, teach information literacy and foster critical thinking skills.
- Libraries are essential institutions in a democratic society because they play a non-partisan role in providing the information that allows citizens to make informed decisions.
- Libraries are essential partners in creating educated communities because they provide opportunities for self-education, life-long learning and self-improvement.