



Donald W. Reynolds Center for the Visual Arts
E. L. Wiegand Gallery

160 West Liberty Street, Reno NV 89501

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Nevada Museum of Art Announces \$2 Million Donation

Reno, Nev. (August 27, 2015) – On Friday, August 21, 2015, the Nevada Museum of Art, Donald W. Reynolds Center for the Visual Arts, E. L. Wiegand Gallery announced a \$2 million donation from Museum trustee and community arts advocate John H. O. La Gatta. The news broke during a gala dinner celebrating the opening of the season's museum-wide feature exhibition, *Tahoe: A Visual History*.

The \$2 million donation will contribute to the Nevada Museum of Art \$13 million endowment as well as assist in the growing the institution's educational programs.

"This donation provides a significant opportunity to cement John's legacy into the Museum's history," said Nevada Museum of Art executive director and CEO David Walker.

In recognition of this sizeable contribution, the Museum has named the third floor feature gallery the John Hawley Olds La Gatta Gallery. Further, La Gatta will become a Lifetime Trustee of the Nevada Museum of Art board.

"Growing adventurous museums, of which the Nevada Museum of Art is a good example, in order to disseminate art to their audiences, needs to have substantial endowments. Not only to purchase additional pieces for their collections, but also in order to amass collections for display," La Gatta said. "It took, for instance, five years to collect the wonderful Tahoe exhibition now on display. This opportunity to give came at a time when I was in a position to do so, and it's my pleasure to do so. The Museum has been a part of my life since I arrived in Reno. They showed my father's work relatively soon after I moved to Reno and it's been my pleasure to serve on its board."

La Gatta has served on the Nevada Museum of Art Board of Trustees for the better part of 18 years. His father John La Gatta, Sr., a renowned American illustrator who was a contemporary of Norman Rockwell, finished his career as a faculty member at the Art Center College of Design in Pasadena, California.

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The Nevada Museum of Art is a museum of ideas. The only accredited art museum in the state, it is a private, non-profit organization supported by the generosity of its membership as well as by sponsorships and grants. Through creative programming and scholarship, the Museum provides the opportunity for people to encounter, engage and enjoy a diversity of art experiences. The Museum is open Wednesday through Sunday, 10 am to 6 pm, late on Thursdays until 8 pm, and closed on Mondays, Tuesdays and national holidays. Admission is FREE for members, \$10 General Admission, \$8 Student / Senior, \$1 children 6 to 12 years and free for children 5 and under. Annual Museum Membership starts at just \$30.