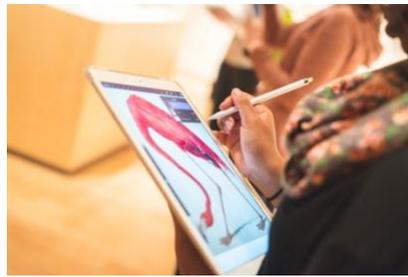


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BEYOND THE CLASSROOM: EXPLORE ENVIRONMENTS OF INSPIRATION AT THE 2023 NV STEAM CONFERENCE

Science, technology, engineering, art and mathematics come alive for educators across the Silver State in this innovative conference that explores “Environments of Inspiration.”

Reno, NV (January 24, 2023) - Calling all Nevada Pre K-12 educators: you are invited to think outside the box and into *Environments of Inspiration* in the upcoming [2023 NV STEAM Conference](#), hosted by the Nevada Museum of Art in partnership with the Desert Research Institute (DRI). The conference aims to inspire innovation in teaching strategies through hands-on workshops, presentations by nationally recognized speakers and an eclectic array of program offerings. More than 600 educators from across the Silver State attend the annual conference. The conference is hosted virtually, enabling educators from every district to attend and to earn professional development hours approved by the Nevada Department of Education. Moreover, the admission price for educators is free thanks to the generosity of program sponsors.

This year’s conference begins with a keynote presentation on Wednesday, March 1, 2023, from 4 – 5:30 pm in which Nevada Museum of Art Charles N. Mathewson Senior Director of Education Claire Muñoz, DRI STEM Education Program Manager Emily McDonald-Williams, and Harvard Graduate School of Education’s Project Zero Principal Investigator Edward P. Clapp, Ed.D. explore “Maker Centered Learning: Empowering Young People to Shape their Worlds.” Maker-Centered Learning is a research-based framework that empowers students to look closely, explore complexity, and discovery opportunities while developing a sensitivity to design.

On Saturday, March 4, the conference begins at 8:30 am with an exploration of “Designing a Better Tomorrow.” Land Art Generator Initiative (LAGI) Co-Founders Robert Ferry and Elizabeth Monoian will lead the Saturday morning keynote address with an inspiring story of the beauty and greatness of a world that has moved beyond fossil fuels—a world that could be our tomorrow if we can enact design and determination to evolving *Environments of Inspiration*.

“STEAM education is a dynamic and constantly evolving topic. Through design, creativity, and innovation, we seek to challenge and inspire educators and students to be active problem-solvers. The NV STEAM Conference is designed to share information and resources with teachers across the State and unite them in shared conversations about STEAM and Design Thinking. By bringing our teachers together with inspiring keynotes and workshops, we can leverage STEAM programming to create a more vibrant and sustainable future together,” said Charles N. Mathewson Senior Director of Education, Claire Muñoz.

The NV STEAM Conference is Nevada’s largest event dedicated to the exploration of ideas and strategies to implement Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math into classroom practices. Nevada Museum of Art has partnered with DRI since the conference’s inception in 2015. This partnership highlights the commitment of both institutions to advancing STEAM education for Nevada’s youth.

“DRI is committed to equipping educators to teach STEAM confidently,” said DRI STEM Education Program Manager Emily McDonald-Williams. “This conference is an opportunity for educators to gain the tools they need to inspire their student in STEAM. DRI is excited to partner with the Nevada Museum of Art to bring STEAM education to teachers across the entire state of Nevada.”

In addition to the keynote presentations, participants will experience workshops including Explore Microplastics in the Classroom, Teaching like a Futurist, Experiencing the Intersections of Art and Science through Biosculptures, Designing with Energy, an Introduction to Visual Thinking Strategies, Design-Based Learning, Extraordinary Inventions and much more. Additional workshops will be facilitated by the DISCOVERY Children’s Museum, Hasso Plattner Institute of Design at Stanford and the Kennedy Center.

Additionally, *Water by Design* is an exhibition organized by the Nevada Museum of Art supports the conference theme of inquiry and inspiration laced with environment. Comprised of a selection of works from the Museum’s permanent collection, *Water by Design* examines water through the lens of artists who have documented the use, exploitation, and preservation of this precious commodity. Artists include Edward Burtynsky, Pilar Cereceda, Robert Dawson, Helen Mayer Harrison and Newton Harrison, Ann Johnston, Maya Lin, Cannupa Hanska Luger, Richard Misrach, Mary Miss, Mark O’Connell, Cara Romero, Juane Quick-To-See-Smith, Oscar Tuazon, Takako Yamaguchi, and many others. Their diverse perspectives offer insight into how artists, designers, Indigenous knowledge keepers, engineers and scientists have worked across disciplines to power innovation, question existing systems, and seek visionary solutions to help navigate the future. *Water by Design* is on view at the Nevada Museum of Art through March 19, 2023. Nevada’s K12 educators can obtain a free membership to the Museum which covers admission.

ABOUT THE NV STEAM CONFERENCE

The Nevada Museum of Art, in partnership with the Desert Research Institute, hosts an annual statewide conference to push the boundaries of STEAM Education. Hosting more than 600 educators from across the Silver State, the NV STEAM Conference is the leading statewide event for exploring ideas and strategies that incorporate Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math into pioneering classroom practices that foster student creativity.

In collaboration with Nevada Department of Education; Nevada Governor’s Office of Science, Innovation, and Technology; the STEM Advisory Council; and the NV STEAM subcommittee comprised of leading arts, science, and educational organizations from across the state, the NV STEAM Conference inspires innovation through engaging, hands-on workshops and nationally recognized keynote speakers.

Educators can [register for the 2023 NV STEAM Conference online](https://www.nvsteam.org/register) at [nvsteam.org](https://www.nvsteam.org)

Nevada’s K12 educators may also obtain a free membership to the Nevada Museum of Art at <https://www.nevadaart.org/learn/educators/educator-memberships/>

QUESTIONS

For questions contact Claire Muñoz | Charles N. Mathewson Senior Director of Education and Engagement at claire.munoz@nevadaart.org

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Additional annual support of Museum STEAM Initiatives is generously provided by City National Bank.

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Land Art Generator Initiative
Nevada Museum of Art
The Smith Center for the Performing Arts
The Kennedy Center
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The Nevada Museum of Art is the only art museum in Nevada accredited by the American Alliance of Museums (AAM). A private, nonprofit organization founded in 1931, the statewide institution is supported by its membership as well as sponsorships, gifts and grants. Through its permanent collections, original exhibitions and programming, and E.L. Cord Museum School, the Nevada Museum of Art provides meaningful opportunities for people to engage with a range of art and education experiences. The Museum's **Center for Art + Environment** is an internationally-recognized research center dedicated to supporting the practice, study, and awareness of creative interactions between people and their environments. The Center houses unique archive materials from more than 1,000 artists working on all seven continents, including Cape Farewell, Michael Heizer, Walter de Maria, Lita Albuquerque, Burning Man, the Center for Land Use Interpretation, Great Basin Native Artists Archive, Ugo Rondinone's *Seven Magic Mountains*, and Trevor Paglen's *Orbital Reflector*. Learn more at nevadaart.org.

Land Acknowledgement

The Nevada Museum of Art acknowledges the traditional homelands of the *Wa She Shu* (Washoe), *Numu* (Northern Paiute), *Newe* (Western Shoshone), and *Nuwu* (Southern Paiute) people of the Great Basin. This includes the 28 tribal nations that exist as sovereign nations and continue as stewards of this land. We appreciate the opportunity to live and learn on these Indigenous homelands.

The Desert Research Institute (DRI) is a recognized world leader in basic and applied environmental research. Committed to scientific excellence and integrity, DRI faculty, students who work alongside them, and staff have developed scientific knowledge and innovative technologies in research projects around the globe. Since 1959, DRI's research has advanced scientific knowledge on topics ranging from humans' impact on the environment to the environment's impact on humans. DRI's impactful science and inspiring solutions support Nevada's diverse economy, provide science-based educational opportunities, and inform policymakers, business leaders, and community members. With campuses in Las Vegas and Reno, DRI serves as the non-profit research arm of the Nevada System of Higher Education. For more information, please visit www.dri.edu.

Image caption: Photos by Jamie Kingman and Jeff Dow.