

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### MEDIA CONTACT:

Rebecca Eckland, Director of Communications and Marketing, 775.398.7263, [rebecca.eckland@nevadaart.org](mailto:rebecca.eckland@nevadaart.org)

## NEVADA MUSEUM OF ART ANNOUNCES FREE STUDENT ADMISSION FOR UNR AND TMCC STUDENTS IN PERPETUITY

*Nevada Museum of Art Trustee and Reno Philanthropist Wayne L. Prim gifts endowment to provide free student admission to the Nevada Museum of Art for all UNR and TMCC students in perpetuity.*

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**Reno, NV (September 12, 2022)** - This Fall, two long-term loans of sculptural art will symbolize a brighter future for students in Northern Nevada. The *Guardian of Eden* and *Shadow of the Sun*—two large pieces of artwork from the permanent collection of the Nevada Museum of Art—will find new homes on the campuses of Truckee Meadows Community College (TMCC) and University of Nevada, Reno (UNR), and set the stage for an innovative partnership between the three institutions.

Thanks to the generosity of Nevada Museum of Art Trustee and philanthropist Wayne L. Prim, however, this partnership is more than symbolic, and will offer tangible benefits for current and future students in higher education. Moving forward, students at UNR and TMCC will have free access to the Museum in perpetuity due to Prim's \$2 million *Free Student Admission Endowment*, which was inspired by Prim's dedication to education and the arts in the state of Nevada.

"I am so proud of the Nevada Museum of Art and its outstanding commitment to education," said Prim. "This forward-looking partnership between the Museum, UNR and TMCC will dramatically increase exposure to the arts and positively impact the lives of thousands of students in Northern Nevada. This will be a real game-changer."

The long-term loan of the sculptural artworks and Prim's endowment form the latest chapter in the Museum's nearly century-long commitment to education in the arts. Providing rich cultural programming for the community and region has been a central focus of the Museum's mission since its founding. The partnership will enable students to encounter sculpture in their daily lives on these respective campuses, while also offering the opportunity to deepen their knowledge of the visual arts through free access to the Museum.

"The Museum has long been invested in programs which, at their core, are focused on education. We've offered free admission to the Museum to high school students for more than 10 years, and with this significant gift, we will extend our unique offering to UNR and TMCC students," said Museum CEO David B. Walker. "It is critical for students to understand that arts and culture play a fundamental role in our lives. We are extremely pleased to announce this level of access."

Under the new program, TMCC and UNR students will have access to the Museum galleries and all current exhibitions. Additionally, with the presentation of their Student ID, students can also attend First Thursday and the Friday series "Art Bite" in which students will encounter art, artists and ideas free of charge.

As the only accredited art museum in the state, the Nevada Museum of Art has a unique responsibility to the public, especially in the domain of arts education. The Museum integrates research, education, public programming, and unique exhibitions to build a diverse community of creative thinkers. By cultivating experiences that inspire exploration and the use of science, technology, engineering and mathematics, the Museum encourages audiences to engage more deeply in the meaning of the visual arts.

### About the Artwork

Students at TMCC's Dandini Campus will welcome a plasma-cut rolled steel and mixed media sculpture *Guardian of Eden*. Created by New York-based artist Kate Raudenbush, the piece is inspired by a cross-pollination of Hindi and Egyptian creation myth, Buddhist symbolism and the ancient Flower of Life. The sculpture debuted on the Black Rock Playa during the 2007 Burning Man gathering.

“As a meditation on our own era of time, this steel lotus flower blooms before us as a physical reflection of the fierceness and beauty of our planet under threat...[and] it is up to us to define what this new era of time will be,” said Raudenbush.

With several initiatives focused on the local economy and the environment, TMCC welcomes the new addition to the Dandini Campus. “This is an exciting opportunity for our students and our community,” said Dr. Hilgersom. “As we move forward, fostering students toward new futures and new possibilities, sculptural art like this — and the ability to access such a wonderful resource in our community — will invite them to consider the challenges ahead, and how we, as a community, can go about solving them together.”

“The Nevada Museum of Art is truly a gem in our community,” said UNR President Sandoval, whose campus will host *Shadow of the Sun* by artist Ivan Averbuch. “Having open access to the Museum through free admission and by having such a remarkable work of art from its collection on our campus will inspire students as they pursue their degrees and careers with the knowledge that the university and community are here to support them.”

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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](http://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.