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**NEVADA MUSEUM OF ART GOES GREEN:
SUSTAINABILITY BECOMES A STRATEGIC INITIATIVE**

Reno, NV (March 31, 2023) – The Nevada Museum of Art looks a lot greener these days, thanks to a sustainability initiative underway since January 2022, when the Museum started participating in the Ki Futures program—a comprehensive, international coaching and training program that is designed specifically for the cultural sector by the non-profit organization Ki Culture. As part of the program, the Museum has developed their sustainability statement and action plan, which outlines its commitment to reducing detrimental environmental impacts and helping to foster greater ecological resilience. Later that year, the initiative was bolstered after receiving a Scoping Grant from the Frankenthaler Climate Initiative (FCI) developed by the Helen Frankenthaler Foundation. The grant supported the first steps in initiating targeted strategies to improve operations that foster more ecologically mindful operations.

“We are assessing the role we play culturally and the impact we have on our own micro-climate, in hopes of inspiring our regional community to take further action as well,” said Apsara DiQuinzio, Senior Curator of Contemporary Art at the Nevada Museum of Art and leader of the Museum’s Green Team. Through its sustainability action plan, the Museum hopes to make strides in environmental stewardship through creative and research-based initiatives that are both operational and programmatic.

The sustainability action plan outlines a series of achievements and goals the museum is working toward for 2025. Significantly, it aligns with the Paris Climate Agreement, which recognizes the vital importance of reducing the world’s carbon emissions by 50% and substantially reducing waste by 2030.

“Sustainability is a necessary focus across all industries, including arts and culture. Through the development of these best practices and measurable benchmarks, the Nevada Museum of Art is making sustainability a significant aspect of our strategic initiatives moving forward,” said David B. Walker, CEO of the Nevada Museum of Art. “We are in the process of implementing and thank the Helen Frankenthaler Foundation’s Climate Initiatives program for the important funding they are providing to support our important work.”

A SUSTAINABILITY ACTION PLAN

Among its first accomplishments, the Museum established a baseline measurement of the institution’s carbon emissions calculated for the year 2019, which is made transparent and available on its website. The sustainability action plan establishes a set of goals for building operations, human resource standards, and exhibition planning. Based on the Ki Futures program, the institution has successfully implemented several green practices across all levels of operations, including a complete transition to digital membership cards and using environmentally friendly cleaning products, to cite a couple of examples.

An inclusive Green Team comprised of Museum Staff oversees the effort of implementing and shaping these initiatives while receiving feedback from other staff and stakeholders. Since 2022, some of the Museum’s other achievements include tracking the emissions of staff travel, implementing remote working days, adopting a hybrid work environment to reduce emissions caused by daily commuting, and extending the duration of exhibitions to reduce the carbon footprint of shipping artwork. Notably, it has also planted twenty-one fruit-bearing trees on Museum grounds as part of a living art project titled *Monument to Sharing* by the Fallen Fruit Collective.

The goals of the sustainability action plan are aspirational and a work in progress. The Museum is working toward reducing building emissions by 50%, installing solar panels as a part of a renewable energy plan, eliminating single-use plastics, implementing waste sorters and a compost station, as well as initiating staff training on sustainability initiatives.

A LEGACY—AND A FUTURE— OF ART + ENVIRONMENT

The relationship between art and the environment is a central principle that drives exhibition programming, collections and research at the Museum. After all, co-founder James Edward Church Jr., a humanities professor and climate scientist, was known for his innovative techniques to measure the amount of water in the snowpack for supply forecasting at nearby Mount Rose Summit (elevation 10,776 ft.). He bequeathed a legacy of deep attention to the natural world that is embedded in the Museum's graphic identity, through the institution's logo based on geothermal formations beneath the Museum, or the thermostat reading embedded onto the Museum website. Additionally, the Museum's premier research center, The Center for Art + Environment, houses several archives of artists interested in the intersection of art, society, and the natural world, and since 2008 has hosted a triennial Conference that explores these topics.

So too, the exhibitions and artists presented at the institution reflect this focus on the environment and sustainability: Adaline Kent (1900-1957), whose work is currently on view in *Adaline Kent: A Click of Authenticity*, comes from a family of legendary environmentalists from the Bay Area who bought and later donated the land that became Muir Woods, the Golden Gate Recreational Area, and Mt. Tamalpais State Park. Her abstract drawings and sculpture, inspired in large part by her experience in the High Sierra, provoke appreciation and respect for the environment.

The Museum recently named artists David Allen Burns and Austin Young of the Fallen Fruit Collective as the Peter E. Poole Research Fellows of The Center for Art + Environment for 2023-2024. Last fall, Burns and Young planted a community garden and living installation *Monument to Sharing* in the Wilbur D. May Sculpture Plaza. This installation offers opportunities for the community to become involved in making the Museum—and Northern Nevada—a greener high desert locale while adding more fruit bearing trees to the corner of Liberty and Hill streets. The fruit produced by the trees is intended to be shared with the community. "The fact that we have created a *Monument to Sharing* is the success of our long-term vision.... Instead of a 'monument' being a subject, a representational figure or abstraction, what if it is a gesture?" Burns and Young asked. The living installation will invite guests to harvest herbs and fruits, while entering important discussions around sharing, community, and sustainability.

Similarly, future exhibitions will speak to this interest in the environment, sustainability, and caring for the future. The exhibition, *Cannupa Hanska Luger: Speechless* will present the work of the artist from the Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara Nation, who centers the environment as a critical aspect of his work. His ongoing project Future Ancestral Technologies highlights the relationship his ancestors had with the land, the nomadic technologies they developed, and the sacred places they revered. Cumulatively, Luger's work encourages us to think about the earth, not as a possession that humans dominate, but rather as something we need to reconnect with and regenerate. "Sustaining ourselves means belonging to the environment," he said.

RESOURCES

As an organization dedicated to sustainability practices and environmental stewardship, the Museum recommends the following resources:

- [Ki Culture books on energy, materials, and social responsibility](#)
- [CIMAM Environmental Took Kit](#)
- [Gallery Climate Coalition \(GCC\) Calculator](#)
- [AAM Environment and Climate Network](#)
- [Climate Heritage Network](#)
- [Julie's Bicycle](#)
- [Barder](#)

More information on the Museum's Sustainability Statement and Sustainability Action Plan can be found [on the website](#).

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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.