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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**NEVADA MUSEUM OF ART AND UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA, RENO ANNOUNCE NEW PARTNERSHIP
FURTHERING MUSEUM'S EDUCATION FOCUS**

Signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Museum CEO David B. Walker and University President Brian Sandoval announces the Museum as a new location for University classes

RENO, NEV. (April 11, 2025) – The Nevada Museum of Art and the University of Nevada, Reno today announced a partnership to enrich educational opportunities for students and the community. In a formal ceremony, Nevada Museum of Art CEO David B. Walker and University of Nevada, Reno President Brian Sandoval, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) outlining a new partnership, including University classes taught at the Nevada Museum of Art, starting in the fall semester 2025. This innovative partnership builds on longstanding collaboration between the two institutions and aims to further connect education and research in art, science, and interdisciplinary environmental studies and foster an interdisciplinary learning environment at one of Nevada's premier cultural spaces.

Inaugural University courses launching this fall in *The Clarence and Martha Jones, Charlotte and Dick McConnell Art + Environment Education Lab* located on the second floor of the Museum's newly expanded Charles and Stacie Mathewson Education + Research Center include "Art 397 - Advanced Field Studies in Art and Place" and "Psychology 763b – Neuroaesthetics," a course exploring the brain's perception of visual art. Specifically, students will learn the neurological underpinnings of how humans perceive and engage with art, and gain a unique perspective at the intersection of science and the humanities. Taught by Dr. Lars Strother, the course will support students exploring brain health and its relationship to visual stimuli using the Museum's extensive collections and art archive.

"This partnership represents a significant step forward in redefining the role of museums as centers for education and interdisciplinary research," said Nevada Museum of Art CEO David B. Walker. "By partnering with the University of Nevada, Reno, we're creating opportunities for students to experience art in new and transformative ways."

The collaboration aligns with the mission of both institutions to foster lifelong learning and expand access to cultural and educational resources. The Nevada Museum of Art, accredited by the American Alliance of Museums, offers a unique environment for students to engage with art and design. Similarly, the University of Nevada, Reno is committed to innovation and excellence in higher education, making the partnership a natural fit.

"We are thrilled to partner with the Nevada Museum of Art to provide our students with a learning experience that extends beyond the traditional classroom," said University of Nevada President Brian Sandoval. "This collaboration underscores our dedication to interdisciplinary education and highlights the vital role of the arts in fostering critical thinking and creativity."

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Future classes hosted at the Museum will focus on art writing, American History, interdisciplinary environmental studies at Lake Tahoe, and photography. This partnership is poised to benefit not only students but also the broader Reno community by encouraging public engagement with both academic and artistic endeavors.

In 2023, the Museum established the *Wayne L. Prim Free UNR and TMCC Student Admission Endowment*, enabling nearly 30,000 students the opportunity to visit the Museum for free each year.

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About the Nevada Museum of Art

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.

About the University of Nevada, Reno

The University of Nevada, Reno, is a public research university that is committed to the promise of a future powered by knowledge. As a Nevada land-grant university founded in 1874, the University serves 21,000 students. The University is a comprehensive, doctoral university, classified as an R1 institution with very high research activity by the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education. Additionally, it has attained the prestigious "Carnegie Engaged" classification, reflecting its student and institutional impact on civic engagement and service, fostered by extensive community and statewide collaborations. More than \$800 million in advanced labs, residence halls and facilities has been invested on campus since 2009. It is home to the University of Nevada, Reno School of Medicine and Wolf Pack Athletics, maintains a statewide outreach mission and presence through programs such as the University of Nevada, Reno Extension, Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology, Small Business Development Center, Nevada Seismological Laboratory, and is part of the Nevada System of Higher Education. Through a commitment to world-improving research, student success and outreach benefiting the communities and businesses of Nevada, the University has impact across the state and around the world.

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 27 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.