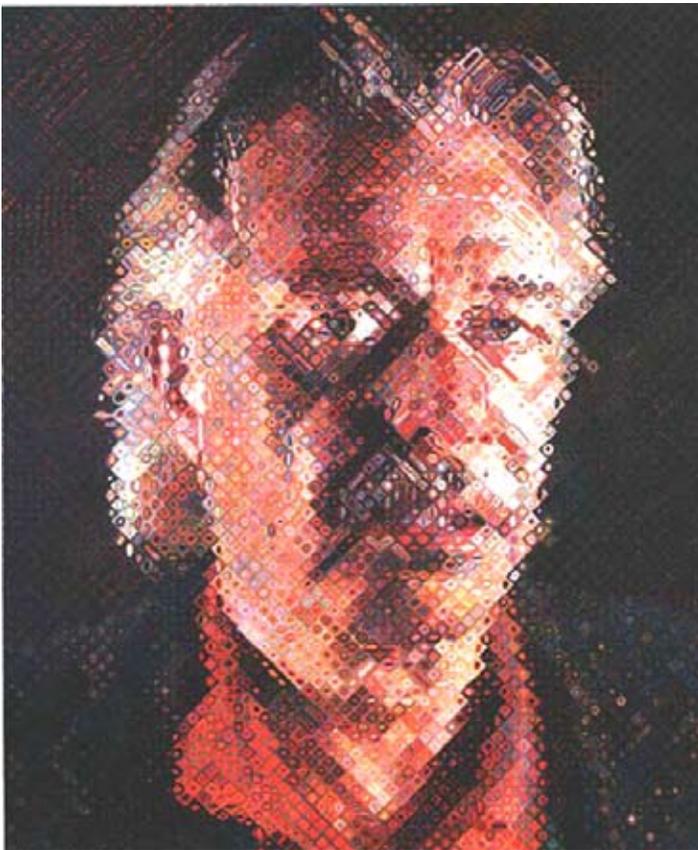


# Volunteers In Art Newsletter

## Up Close and Very Personal

Docent Kathleen Durham looks forward to the upcoming portrait exhibit featuring Chuck Close



Chuck Close, *John*, 1998, Color silkscreen, 64 ½ x 54 ½ inches. Collection of Doris and Donald Fisher.

**I'm writing this in April. It's hard to think about a summer exhibit when we're in the midst of a wonderful show upstairs. *Looking Forward, Looking Back: The Collection in Context* asks us to consider the world around us through the work of several dozen artists – from William Bancroft's lovely traditional 19<sup>th</sup> Century landscape to Pipo Nguyen-Duy's beautiful/terrible *Lazy Boy*. It's all a delight to see and a treat for the mind.**

When *Faces: Chuck Close and Contemporary Portraiture* opens in late June we'll be looking at the *idea* of

the portrait. Generally a portrait is thought of as a likeness of a person. Simple enough – until you see the work of these eleven artists!

It's true that Chuck Close only does portraits, but in this show we'll see the endless innovative approaches he takes. He begins with a photograph (generally a Polaroid or a daguerreotype!). The larger image is created by placing a grid over the photo and transferring the image, square by square, to the canvas. In his first large scale portraits Close worked with an airbrush in black and white to show minute details – pores, hairs, freckles. In the 1980s he began to use color and to allow the grid to remain



Cindy Sherman, *Untitled #193*, 1989, Color photograph, 48 7/8 x 42 inches. Collection of Doris and Donald Fisher.

visible. In 1988 he suffered what he calls The Event, when a weak blood vessel in his spinal column ruptured. He is confined to a wheelchair but has never stopped working, usually with a brush strapped to his hand. His colors became more vibrant from then on.

First he transfers the grid, which can be horizontal or diagonal, to the canvas, and then applies a continuous background color. Then each of the squares is filled in with what look like tiny abstract paintings in brilliant colors. When we step back our eyes mix the colors and a face appears. He spends months on each painting. In this show we will see all the other ways Close does portraits – always with a grid – with fingerprints, pastels, cast paper, and the amazing jacquard tapestries.

Close is joined in the show by Cindy Sherman

who produces, directs, and acts in her own self-portraits, ranging here from a Marie Antoinette-like figure from her History Series to a tired fashion model after a shoot. Sam Taylor-Wood also photographs herself, in impossible poses, with the help of photographic artifice. Andy Warhol returns to the Museum with a double portrait of Dolly Parton. There are enigmatic portraits by several Conceptual artists that have no people in them at all! And, unlike Close, who only paints himself, his family, and close friends, Joel Sternfeld travels the United States and the world to find and photograph strangers with a story to tell. This show will challenge our common perceptions of portraiture with each artist's distinct and very personal approach. Sounds like fun!

Kathleen Durham

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## Docent's Choice

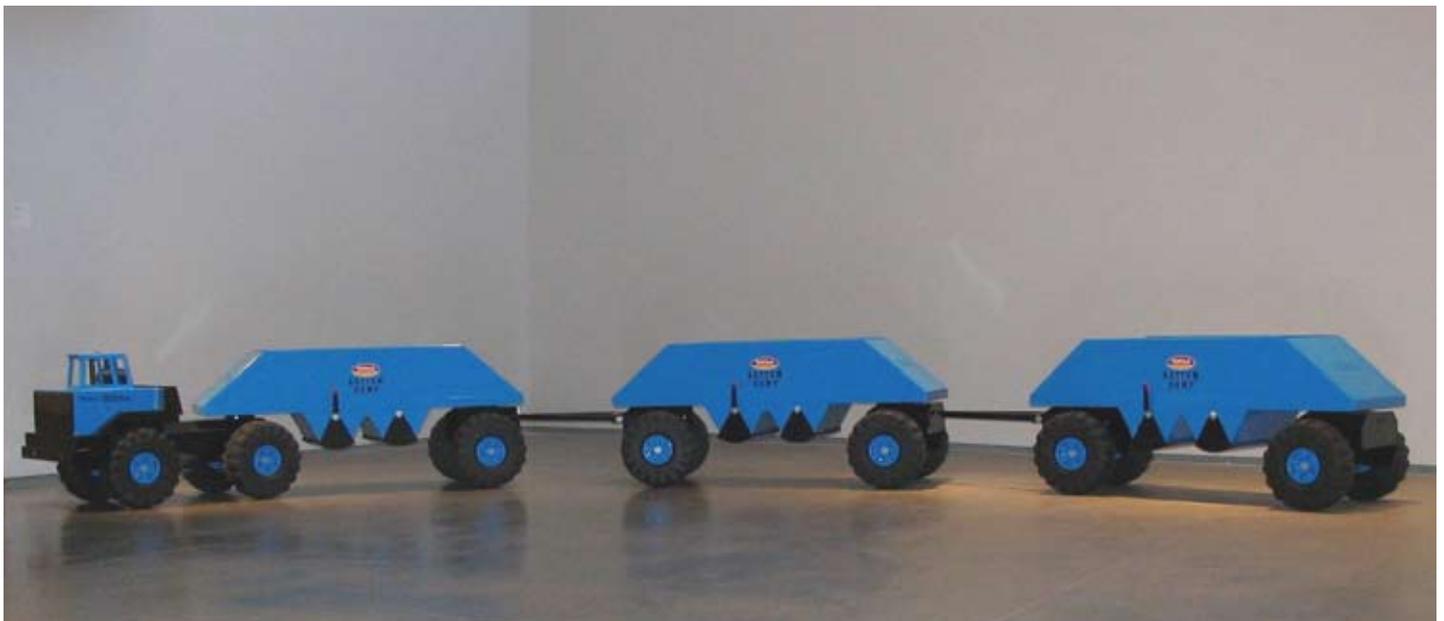
### Revisiting her childhood, docent Joan Elder would love to take her dolls (and herself) for a ride around the gallery in the *Nevadan*.

Last week over coffee, we were talking about the Nevada Museum of Art's permanent collection and an upcoming visit to see our *Looking Forward; Looking Back* exhibit. "What's with the truck?" my friend who knows everything about everything asked me. "I don't get it. What's it doing in an art museum anyhow?" she continued.

Like any good docent, I took a deep breath and calmly explained the concepts -- Nevadiana, sculpture, craftsmanship, mining, altered landscape, Nevada artist and so on. Then, realizing that talking was going nowhere, I suggested she withhold further criticism until she had

seen the exhibit. It certainly explains better than any words why the bigger-than-life Tonka toy is right at home in our permanent collection. The entire show illustrates the reasoning at play in selecting all additions made to our collection since our founding in 1931.

The mighty truck sculpture itself, proudly named the *Nevadan*, is the work of Robert Wysocki, Assistant Professor of 3-D and Conceptual Arts at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Our truck is a replica of a three-trailer-long gravel transport that you might see on any of our state's roads in our mining districts. Meeting one coming toward you on a narrow gravel byway is one of



Robert Wysocki, *Nevadan*, 2002, Mixed media, 27 x 24 x 264 inches. Collection of Nevada Museum of Art, Purchased with Funds from Volunteers in Art.

the things that makes traveling Nevada's back country a real adventure. It was purchased for the museum after the Nevada Triennial Exhibit in 2005 with funds provided by the Volunteers in Art.

Wysocki was inspired to build replicas of Tonka toys in memory of his childhood. It's a given that little boys love trucks and earth-moving equipment. Wysocki has simply carried his youthful enthusiasm over to making adult art. Tonka miniaturized real working vehicles, perfectly in scale, with clean lines, careful craftsmanship and vivid colors. Wysocki reverses the process, making his steel, aluminum, silicone, vinyl and polyester resin miniatures to a more human size that almost beg to be played with and driven about. Ask any docent about touring with children when the *Nevadan* is on display. We actually have to position ourselves between our young audience and our truck and be prepared to lunge at any determined little boy who's had enough talk and is ready for some action. I'll even admit to wanting to play with this big toy-as-sculpture myself --fantasizing my Shirley Temple doll in the first trailer, Raggedy Ann in the second and poor Teddy-with one-ear in the back.

In the current exhibit, the *Nevadan* is in a section titled *Excavation* surrounded by paintings and photos of big holes in the ground, big steel and, tacitly, the big money that continues to be dug from our severely altered landscape. I know my smarty-pants friend has seen the exhibit by now. Seeing our truck in context, I'm sure she finally "gets it."

Joan Elder

## Planned Giving Securing the Museum's Future

**O**n March 12<sup>th</sup>, a reception was held in the Museum Founder's Room, hosted by Edie Hofmeister, Senior Associate Director of Museum Advancement. Guest Speakers included David Walker, Executive Director and CEO and Ron Zideck of the Whittier Trust

Company of Nevada.



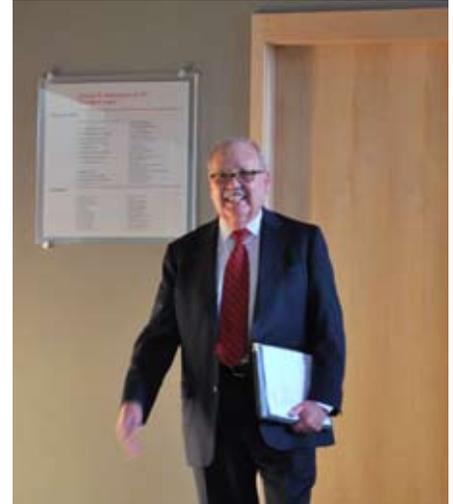
Andrea Angelo, Museum Volunteer and Trustee

After a warm welcome to Charter Members, veterans and volunteers, David spoke of the Museum's plans to insure its vitality and value in the current economy by putting energy into its curators and investors. This would include establishing relationships with other institutions to

position the Museum on a national level, re-evaluating the Museum's collection and revitalizing the planned giving program.

Ron, Treasurer of the Museum's Board of Trustees, explained that planned giving is a fundraising program which sets up donations in the form of a direct gift to serve the interests of a registered charity and benefits the personal, financial and tax situation of an individual donor. Examples of planned giving include bequests, annuities, stocks, life insurance policies, works of art, land or other residual interests.

According to Edie, 85% of planned gifts are bequests and wills, with the other 15% equaling \$500 per year or less. These gifts are donated by a variety of Museum members including volunteers and trustees such as Andrea Angelo.



Ron Zideck, Treasurer of Museum's Board of Trustees

Andrea, who is involved with the museum on several levels, believes in creating a culture of giving. This, she says, involves planning ahead. She and her husband met with an attorney and had a bequest to the Museum added to their will. As a result, Andrea and Jack are now members of the Museum's prestigious Legacy Circle. Members of the Legacy Circle are published in the Donald W. Reynold's Grand Hall located on the main floor of the Museum.

If you are interested in making a planned gift of your own or would like more information, please contact Edie Hofmeister [ediehofmeister@nevadaart.org](mailto:ediehofmeister@nevadaart.org) or Ron Zideck [rzideck@whittiertrust.com](mailto:rzideck@whittiertrust.com).

Cami Welsh-Griffith

## Museum News Dates & Updates

- VIA Standing Rules and By-Laws are now available for your convenience on-line, through the VIA website. <http://nmavolunteersinart.org>
- The next VIA Council meeting is scheduled for May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2009. Meetings take place from 9:30 - 11AM in the pod of the administration offices, located on the second floor. All volunteers are welcome to attend.
- The new defibrillator, purchased by the VIA Council has arrived.
- School tours are at capacity until June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009.

# Outreach Program

## Getting in touch with Northern Nevada's Youth

**A**s a new staff member of the Nevada Museum of Art, Claire Munoz has been very busy building a bridge between our museum and the youth of our community.

In March, Claire organized the first Teen Art Night, an event co-sponsored by the Holland Project on Teens. This fun-filled evening featured live music, food and workshops attended by over 300 students in Northern Nevada. Check out the "Nevada Art Teens" Facebook page for photos of this event and additional information on the Museum's teen activities.

In addition to the teenagers, Claire is also reaching out to the children and teachers in our area. Over the past few months, she has attended several fairs including the Gifted and Talented Fair, Tune in to Kids Fair and the Social Studies Fair along with Boys & Girls Clubs and Scout Troops. Through these events, she has had the occasion to speak with thousands of community members promoting



Collaborative Artwork created during Teen Art Night at the Nevada Museum of Art

school programs and teacher training classes provided by the Museum.

To follow up on these contacts, Claire has launched a monthly newsletter, delivered via e-mail to over 3,000 local teachers explaining educational opportunities, tour and bus information and other relevant education materials.

Thanks to Claire and the Outreach Program, we can look forward to future generations passionate about art. What better way to secure the future of the Museum than through the hearts of our youth.

Cami Welsh-Griffith

## Museum Hours

### New Administrative Office Hours



**MUSEUM GALLERY & STORE**  
 Wednesday – Sunday 10AM to 5PM  
 Thursdays 10AM to 8PM  
 Galleries and Store are closed Monday & Tuesday and National Holidays

**LIBRARY**  
 Wednesday – Sunday 11AM to 2PM  
 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday 5 to 7PM

**CAFÉ MUSÉE**  
 Wednesday – Sunday 11AM – 2:30PM  
 Closed Monday & Tuesday

**ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES**  
 Tuesday – Friday 9AM to 5PM

## New VIA Officers

You say, *“Goodbye”*, But I say, *“Hello”*

**W**elcome to the 2009 VIA Council president and vice president.

Dawn Lawrence will now serve as VIA Council President with Lynda Buhlig as Vice President. In addition, Gosia Clark and Cami Welsh-Griffith are the newest additions to the Newsletter Staff with Lucy Walker taking over the Arts & Flowers raffle and silent auction.

We would like to say goodbye to Meg Watson, Carrie Young and Joan Elder. Thank you both for all your many years of tireless and valued service. You will most certainly be missed.



Dawn Lawrence (right), VIA Council President & Lynda Buhlig VIA Council Vice President

# 4th Annual Volunteer Appreciation Day Food, Film & Fantastic Art

**T**he fourth annual Volunteer Appreciation Day held Thursday, April 30<sup>th</sup> at the Museum was a tremendous success. Each of the more than 60 attending volunteers received a pin featuring the Museum's *Cairn* as a thank you for their service for the past year.

The day began with a no-host lunch on California Avenue, after which, volunteers returned to the Museum for a private viewing of the documentary, *Andy Goldworthy Rivers & Tides: Working with Time*. Andy, a Scottish environmentalist and land artist, produces sculpture and land art in natural and urban settings. This film richly portrayed Andy's methods and works.

Following the film, David Walker and Ann Wolfe discussed the strategies and upcoming exhibits planned for the future of the Museum. As the afternoon settled in, volunteers were invited to stretch their legs and imaginations upstairs in the classroom creating decorative marble magnets. Smiles and giggles filled the third floor as the decoupaged masterpieces emerged.

Hands washed, volunteers carpoled to the LaGatta residence to enjoy wine and appetizers with a docent led tour of the striking illustrations of John LaGatta, Sr. It has been said, "John LaGatta and his tasteful style of illustration are to art, what Duke Ellington and the American Songbook are to music." A sincere Thank You to the John LaGatta for sharing their collection and to Dawn Lawrence and Lynda Buhig for all the hard work and preparation put forth to produce such an eventful day enjoyed by all.

Cami Welsh-Griffith



At the John LaGatta party, David Walker honors 18 years of Helga Miller's service to the Museum Store.

## Spring into Color *Volunteers in Art Newsletter* NOW On-line

**A**fter many long hours of dedicated work, thanks to Gosia Clark, the *Volunteers in Art Newsletter* is now available on-line, <http://nmavolunteersinart.org>. This will not only benefit the museum financially and environmentally, but will provide instant access to volunteer information and schedules.



All volunteers who have an e-mail address registered with Rosalind Bedell will now receive the VIA Newsletter on-line. Simply click on the e-mail's enclosed link to open the colorful, new Spring Edition. If you'd like

to include your e-mail address in our files or update an old one, please contact Rosalind Bedell at [bedell@nevadaart.org](mailto:bedell@nevadaart.org).



Hands-On Workshop for volunteers with Jennifer Ishimatsu.

# VIA Annual Report

## May, 2009

### Volunteers for the Nevada Museum of Art gave 12,013 hours of service to the museum last year.

The museum currently has 205 volunteers working in the following areas, many in more than one area. The number of hours worked in these various areas can be broken down as follows:

Volunteer Category	Number of Hours
• Administration	585
• Docent activities	2,122
• Front desk	583
• Gift Store	2,548
• Hands On/Education	304
• Hospitality (1 <sup>st</sup> Thursday, openings, etc.)	395
• Installation	1,543
• Library	899
• Special Events	676
• Trustees	788
• VIA Board	625
• Other	<u>855</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>12,013</u></b>

All volunteers, who are also members of the Museum, are members of VIA – Volunteers in Art, the Museum’s volunteer organization. VIA is coordinated by a VIA Council composed of 4 elected officers and 14 committee chairs with the following responsibilities;

- Represent Museum volunteer community
- Work with staff to coordinate volunteer activities
- Organize annual volunteer recognition events
- Publish volunteer newsletter
- Coordinate volunteer support with Museum Volunteer Manager
- Organize annual VIA fund raising event, Arts & Flowers

The VIA Council meets the second Wednesday of each month at the Museum. All meetings are open to all Nevada Museum of Art volunteers.

Proceeds from the Arts & Flowers luncheon fund all

volunteer events and recognition and in addition are used to purchase art for the Museum’s permanent collection and to fund special staff requests. In 2008 \$3,750 was budgeted for volunteer support, \$19,909 for special staff requests and \$6,500 for art purchase. In 2008 VIA was able to contribute an additional \$6,500 toward the purchase price of *The Guardian of Eden* by Kate Raudenbush. The Arts & Flowers luncheon had another sold out attendance in 2008 with net revenue of almost \$31,000. The luncheon was coordinated by Barbara Marsh, Bob Anderson, Meg Watson, Lynda Buhlig and Dawn Lawrence.

The Education/Docent committee is chaired by Gayle Robinson. The docents conducted school tours and workshops for over 7,400 school children. In addition they conducted public and adult reserved tours for 1100 adults.

Volunteer Events was chaired by Carrie Young. Seventy-five volunteers participated in the 2008 Volunteer Recognition Day; highlights this year included an outstanding pin featuring the *The Guardian of Eden* breakfast at Newman’s Deli, a hands-on workshop and a tour of the Frank Lloyd Wright exhibit by a local architect.

Seventy volunteers attended the holiday party enjoying music by the Reno High Orchestra and great raffle items donated by California Avenue merchants.

The museum store, managed by Helga Miller and assisted by 12 volunteers, had revenue of \$250,000 and a net profit of \$115,000.

The volunteer newsletter, edited and produced by Joan Elder, successfully published and mailed four editions to each of the museum’s 204 volunteers. Important stories for the year included acquisition of *The Guardian of Eden*, a history of the Levy Mansion and overviews of the Chris Drury and Flag exhibits.

Administration/Mailings, chaired by Cheryl McLemore and assisted by 12 volunteers, mailed 1,000 membership renewal notices a month and also helped with several special mailings throughout the year.

The Volunteer Art Education committee, chaired by Carolyn Fricke, initiated a successful new program this year “Art Break”. “Art Break” is a volunteer only gallery tour and lunch discussion held quarterly. Fifteen to twenty volunteers have participated in each of the “Art Breaks” in 2008.

Bob Anderson



# Volunteer Art Break

## Saturday, April 11th

**D**ocents Bob Anderson and Joan Elder led over twenty volunteers through the *Looking Forward, Looking Back: The Collection in Context* exhibit during the April Art Break.

Volunteers as well as guests attended a lively lecture detailing the Museum's extensive art collection, followed by a dutch treat lunch in the Café Musée. Mark your calendars for the Artown Art Break scheduled for July 18<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 AM. Bring a friend to share in this interactive and informative event. Admission for volunteers is free, guests are \$10. Lunch is dutch treat.



Museum volunteers & guests enjoying lunch at Café Musée.

# Docent Spring Social

## Monday, May 18th

### 11 AM

Hosted by:  
*Edgar & Ella Kleiner*  
4055 Plateau Rd, Reno

- Tour the Kleiner's Beautiful Art Collection
- Enjoy Hamburgers & Hot Dogs on the Kleiner's Charming Garden Deck
- Tour the Kleiner's Fascinating Arboretum

RSVP [noosinow@charter.net](mailto:noosinow@charter.net)  
775-265-7994

# Thank You, Helga

## A letter from David Walker



Loretta Baughman & Helga Miller reviewing a children's book for the Museum Store

**E**ighteen years ago the Nevada Museum of Art's most illustrious volunteer, Helga Miller, launched the Museum Store as we know it. The Store has been a success thanks to Helga's careful management and retailer's eye for unique and creative merchandise. As a former trustee and longstanding volunteer, Helga's dedication and countless hours have contributed enormously to the Museum's bottom line.

As the Museum's vision for the future emerges, all programs, including the Store, are adjusting to a new sense of purpose and visual brand. Helga has agreed that now is a good time to hand the reins to a new store manager who might have the kind of success going forward that she has had in the past. I know for all of us it is hard to imagine someone other than Helga managing The Store.

In the meantime, in recognition of her many contributions to the Nevada Museum of Art, the Museum is giving Helga a lifetime membership to the Sierra Circle with all of its privileges. Please join me in thanking our very dear friend for a job done extremely well and know that she will remain an important part of the Museum family.

David Walker

# Volunteers Needed

**A**re you interested in serving on the volunteer board, the VIA Council? Have you always wanted to learn more about being a docent? We are currently looking for help in these areas as well as the Annual Arts and Flowers Luncheon, support for planning volunteer recognition events and administration work. For more information, please contact Rosalind Bedell [bedell@nevadaart.org](mailto:bedell@nevadaart.org).

# Nevada Museum of Art Staff

## David Walker, Executive Director and CEO, ext. 229

Anthony Alston, A/V Technician, ext. 113  
Rosalind Bedell, H.R. and Volunteer Director, ext. 252  
Alexia Bratiotis, Director of Marketing and Comm., ext. 228  
Linda Dierks, Vice President of Advancement, ext. 332  
Arlene Feola, Controller, ext. 231  
Erik Flipppo, Designer, ext. 263  
Daryn Glassbrook, Associate Director of Museum  
Advancement, Foundations and Gov't Relations, ext. 230  
Nancy Hansford, Sales Assistant, ext. 107  
Edie Hofmeister, Senior Associate Director of Museum  
Advancement, ext. 234  
Vic Hopner, Director of Operations, ext. 114  
Jen Ishimatsu, E.L. Cord Musuem School Dir., ext. 260  
Sara Kennedy, Mgr. Special Events/Rental Prg., ext. 225  
Chris Martin, Preparator, ext. 256  
Sara Frantz, Registrar, ext. 258

Claire Munoz, School Services and Outreach Mgr., ext. 253  
Amy Oppio, Deputy Director, ext. 251  
Colin Robertson, Associate Curator of Education, ext. 254  
Amanda Rookey, Associate Director of Museum  
Advancement, ext. 232  
Miriam Stanton, Curatorial Asst./Exhib. Coord., ext. 259  
Julie Tausch, Membership Coordinator, ext. 265  
Ann Wolfe, Curator of Exhibitions & Collections, ext. 255

Admissions Desk, ext. 100  
Café Musée, ext. 147  
Gift Shop, ext. 107  
Founders Room, ext. 317  
Library, ext. 204  
Security Office, ext. 113

**Nevada Museum of Art Phone Number 775-329-3333**

This newsletter is edited and produced by Gosia Clark, Joan Elder and Cami Welsh-Griffith. Your comments and suggestions are welcome.  
Please contact us at [contact@nmavolunteersinart.org](mailto:contact@nmavolunteersinart.org)

Volunteers in Art  
Nevada Museum of Art  
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Reno, NV 89501

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