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Contact the Library at (775) 684-6827 or library@lcb.state.nv.us.

**Remarks to the Senate Finance Committee
Judith Winzeler, Executive Director
Nevada Humanities Committee
March 27, 2003**

Thank you for your current support of our Las Vegas office. The \$180,000 in state funds appropriated last session generated three times that amount in in-kind and cash contributions for community-based humanities programs and events.

The state funds were an investment in Nevada. Many of the programs we support have a significant multiplier effect. For example, grants to the Tonopah Mining Park and the Fourth Ward School help with tourism in central Nevada and Virginia City, teacher institutes improve the quality of education and can benefit students for years to come, and programs for young people, such as Nevada History Day and Young Chautauqua can have a profound personal impact.

During the past ten years, our federal funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities has been more or less level. State funds, grants for specific projects, and earned income have helped us continue to expand our revenue base and increase the number of humanities programs and activities we offer Nevadans.

The funding from foundation grants and corporate donations has been project specific. We have done well with earned income but most of this is already dedicated to programs: ticket sales at Chautauqua, vendor fees at book festivals, and user fees for Humanities on the Road speakers bureau help offset costs. In other words, these revenues cannot be redirected to the administrative costs of the Las Vegas office. Nor does the NEH grant offer much latitude. It covers basic salary and operating costs and the grants budget.

The \$125,000 grant budget supports over 1000 separate activities a year, reaching hundreds of thousands of Nevadans. Unfortunately, if state funding is lost, the only option for covering the cost of the Las Vegas office is to rob the grant budget. If the grant budget is cut, the number of events and activities supported by the Humanities Committee will take a dramatic dive.

Approval of SB 357 would cover the salary for the program coordinator in southern Nevada and a half time assistant for the next two years. Office space is donated by UNLV, and consequently operating expenses are minimal.

All members of our board and staff are acutely aware of the revenue crisis, and that raising taxes is a contentious and difficult issue. We also know that the humanities are important and can be part of the solution to the problem.

The tax base requires economic well being, and one factor important for economic growth is quality of place. Dynamic businesses are attracted to places that not only

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have a receptive economic environment and available work force, but one that is people friendly. That is, one that offers a lively and engaging cultural environment.

The Nevada Humanities Committee is part of a network of cultural organizations that make our cities and towns desirable places to live. The programs and activities that we develop and support provide a creative and stimulating environment for people, whether long-time residents, newcomers or visitors.

The first Vegas Valley Book Festival held last fall is a good example. Renowned writers like Tom Robbins and John Irving attracted large crowds; practical workshops on getting published were extremely popular; and school visits by children's writers targeted less advantaged youth. The southern Nevada office was the lead organization in this collaborative effort in which libraries, literacy groups, the media, the Institute of Modern Letters, local writers and poets, faculty at UNLV and CCSN, bookstores, publishers, the school district, the City of Henderson, and local businesses all joined forces. The event gave voice to the many creative writers now living in Las Vegas, offered continuing education credit for teachers, addressed issues of significance, and attracted tourists.

Losing state funding would profoundly affect our program statewide. Although our primary concern is the \$200,000 for our southern Nevada office, SB 357 also includes \$100,000 for the Nevada Online Encyclopedia, which is the Humanities Committee's latest and most ambitious project.

Why is this project so exciting? The Nevada Online Encyclopedia is going to be:

- Designed from the beginning to be fully digital, and evolving with the Internet
- The only comprehensive reference work on Nevada
- A multimedia tool for students researching our state's past and present
- A guide for tourists to research places to visit in Nevada
- A portal for businesses and families thinking of moving to the state
- A powerful resource for economic development and for the future of Nevada.

The Nevada project would be modeled on the New Georgia Encyclopedia. The NGE staff has prepared a six-minute demonstration video which give a feeling for the approach and scope of the Nevada project.

The state funding would provide critical help in allowing work to proceed in the next year while other sources of funds are pursued.

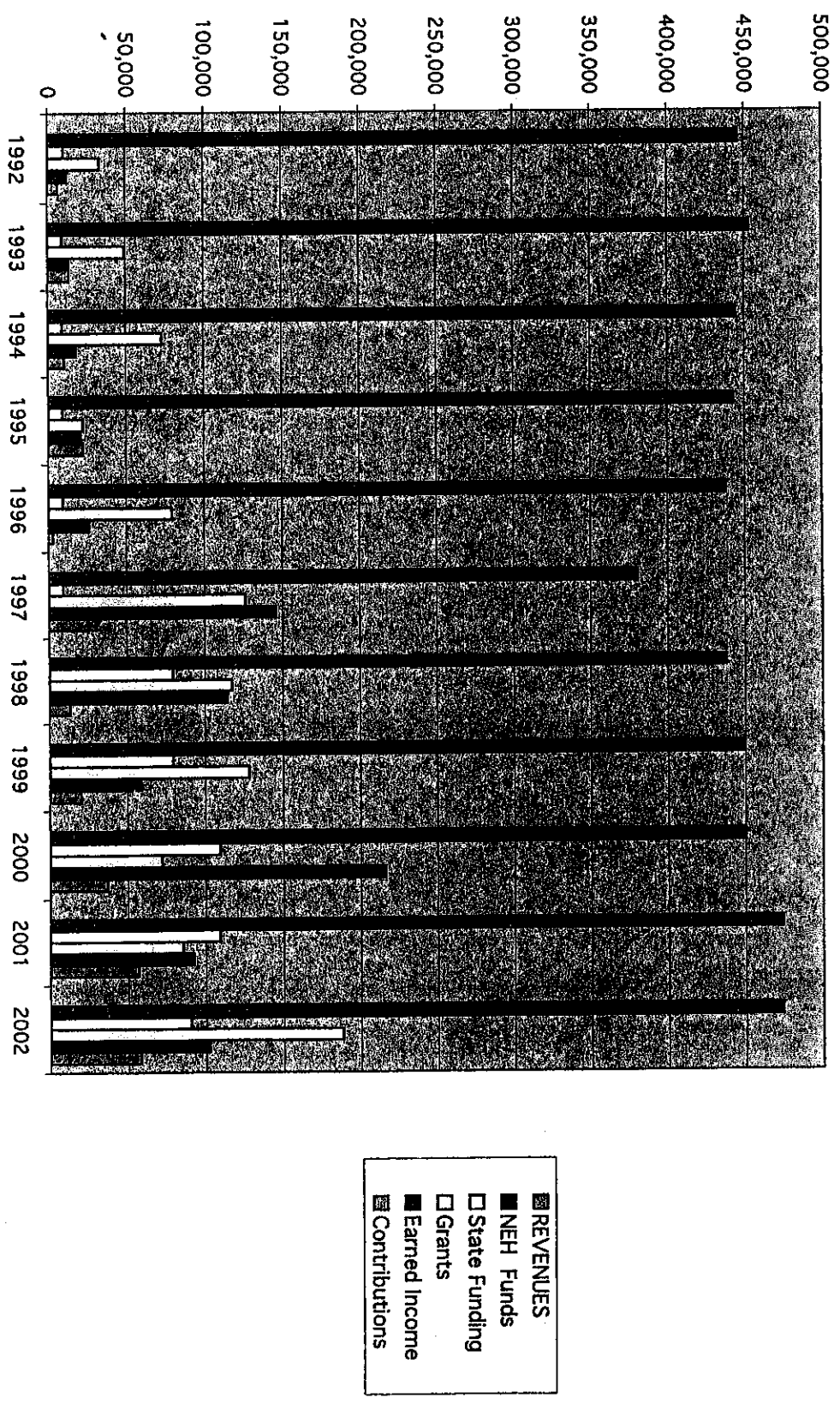
Appended Materials

1. Nevada Humanities Committee Revenues
2. Number of Events—Five Year Review
3. Expenditures by revenue categories
4. Budget for Southern Nevada Office
5. Vegas Valley Book Festival flyer
6. The Nevada Online Encyclopedia
7. NOE Table of Contents
8. Schedule for traveling barn exhibit
9. Legislative History

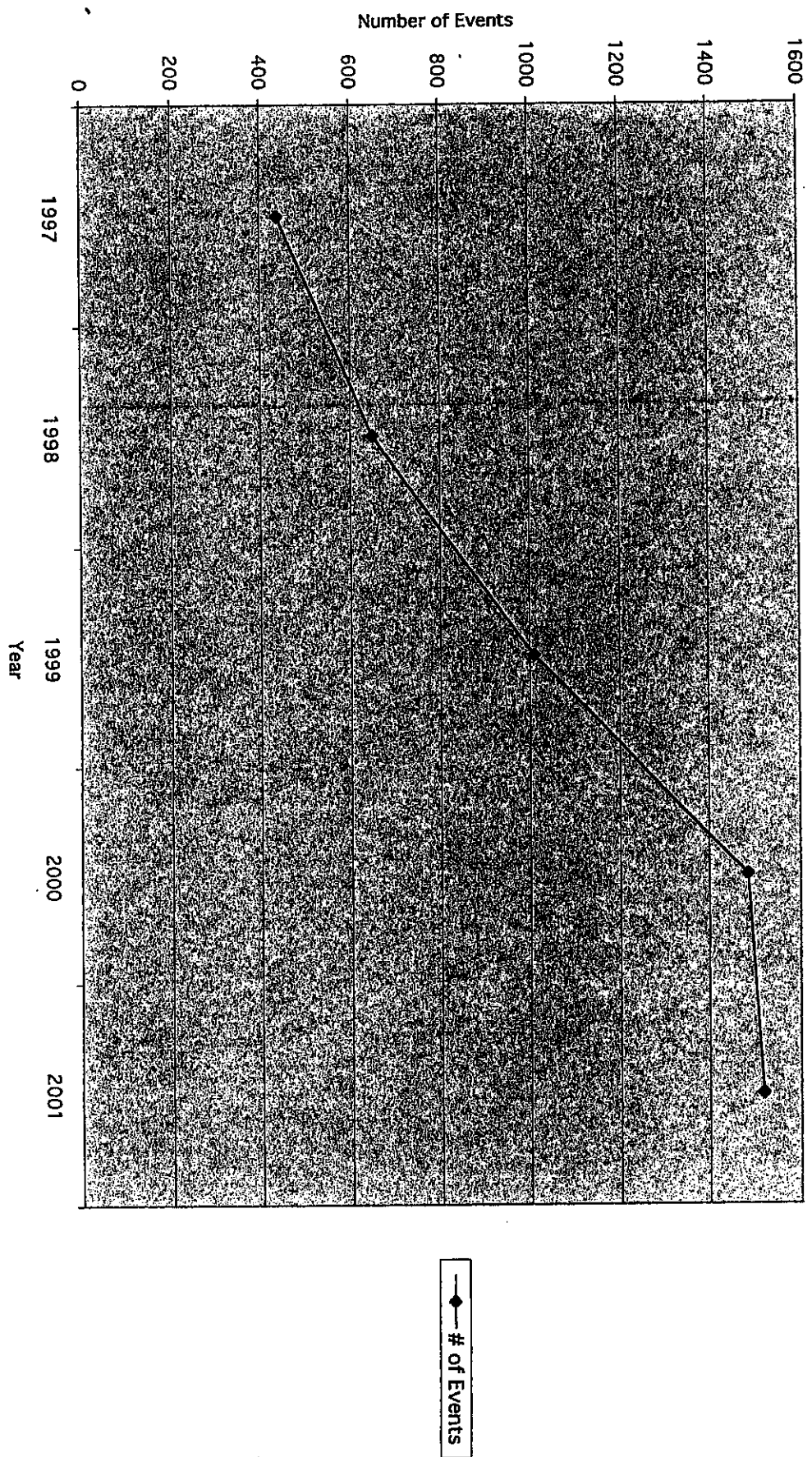
Other items that offer background on the activities of the Nevada Humanities Committee:

- The *Touchstone* newsletters describe a number of programs and lists grants awarded
- *A Report to the People of Nevada, Nevada Humanities Committee, 1997-2000*
- *Sagebrush Vernacular* is the free catalog for the exhibit that is traveling to seven Nevada communities in 2003
- *You Know You're a Nevadan If...* is an example of a publication that is yielding earned income.

Nevada Humanities Committee Revenues

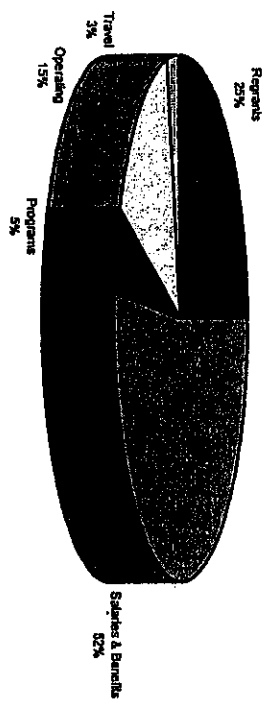


Number of Events--Five Year Review

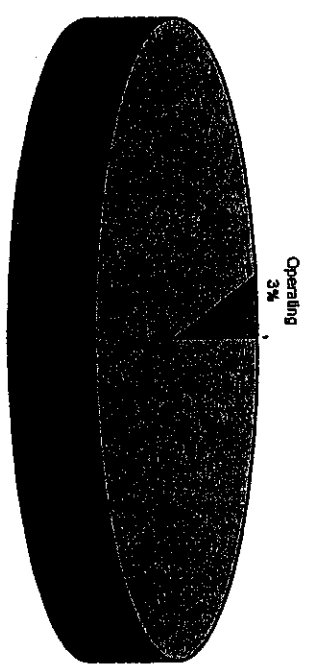


Expenditures by Revenue Category

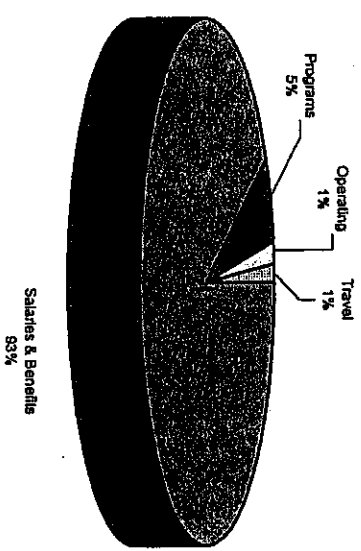
2002 EXPENDITURES
NEH FUNDS - \$474,850



2002 EXPENDITURES
PRIVATE FUNDS - \$209,502



2001-2003 STATE FUNDS
EXPENDITURES - \$181,992



NEVADA HUMANITIES COMMITTEE - SOUTHERN NEVADA OFFICE

	TOTAL EXPENDITURES 2001-2003	BUDGET 2003-05
PERSONNEL		
SALARIES	139,439.37	155,700.00
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	28,598.42	28,250.00
TOTAL PERSONNEL	<u>168,037.79</u>	<u>183,950.00</u>
 TRAVEL	 2,005.16	 3,000.00
 OPERATING	 3,530.08	 5,050.00
 PROGRAMS	 9,375.59	 8,000.00
 TOTAL EXPENSES	 <u>182,948.62</u>	 <u>200,000.00</u>

Vegas Valley Book Festival

March 2003

What is the Vegas Valley Book Festival?

- A three-day program of readings, lectures and panel discussions
- An outdoor book fair with family-oriented activities
- An opportunity to meet favorite authors – or discover new ones
- Keynote lectures by nationally-known writers
- Showcase for young and promising writers
- Diverse program offers something for every taste
- Book signings and film screenings
- Workshops for aspiring writers of all ages
- Over 40 booksellers and other vendors
- Outreach through school visits, in-store events and library programs

At the 2002 Vegas Valley Book Festival:

- Forty vendors reported brisk sales of books and artwork
- Sixty authors from Nevada and across the nation participated
- Eighty enthusiastic community volunteers gave of their time
- 8,500 people attended one or more festival events
- Many events filled to capacity

2003 Offerings Include:

- Full schedule of workshops for Writers and Teachers (for college course credit)
- Special Topics – Chicana/o Literature, Satire
- New partnerships with Lied Discovery Children's Museum and CCSD
- Children's writers and storytellers
- Short Story writers and poets
- Discussions about Las Vegas history

The Vegas Valley Book Festival is presented by the Nevada Humanities Committee, the Henderson District Public Libraries and the City of Henderson Department of Parks and Recreation.

For more information contact us at:

Vegas Valley Book Festival
c/o Nevada Humanities
4505 Maryland Parkway, Box 455080
Las Vegas, NV 89154-5080
Phone: 702/895-1878 Fax: 702/895-1877
www.vegasvalleybookfest.org

The Nevada Online Encyclopedia

A Project of the Nevada Humanities Committee

The Nevada Online Encyclopedia is the newest project of the Nevada Humanities Committee. In the planning stages for more than a year it will combine the breadth of a traditional printed encyclopedia with the hypertextuality of the Internet age.

What makes the Nevada Online Encyclopedia so exciting? It is going to be:

- Designed from the beginning to be fully digital, hypertextual, and evolving with the Internet
- The only comprehensive reference work on Nevada
- A multimedia tool for students researching our state's past and present
- A guide for tourists to research places to visit in Nevada
- A portal for businesses and families thinking of moving to the state
- A powerful resource for economic development and for the future of Nevada.

The Nevada encyclopedia will cover everything from ichthyosaurus to Bellagio, from prehistory to the nuclear era, and from Wovoka to Steve Wynn!

A project of this magnitude will take years to complete to online readiness, and involve many people and organizations.

- The 24-member editorial team comprised of some of the state's most distinguished and talented scholars will ensure its intellectual integrity
- An advisory committee of educators, politicians, business people and students will ensure that the encyclopedia meets community needs and has the resources required.
- The encyclopedia will both build on and provide linkages to other websites, such as digitized photo collections, virtual art exhibits, and curriculum guides.
- The University and Community College System of Nevada (UCCSN) will house and maintain the computer system.

The Nevada Humanities Committee has received a planning grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, an early and enthusiastic supporter of state online encyclopedias. Now we are asking the Nevada State Legislature for some initial funding. In the long term, as in other states, we expect that the majority of the funding for this project will come from private corporations, foundations, and individuals that share our enthusiasm for the positive ongoing contributions the Nevada Online Encyclopedia will make to our state.

Nevada Humanities Committee, P.O. Box 8029, Reno, NV 89507 • 775-784-6587

Nevada Online Encyclopedia Table of Contents

A sample table of contents illustrating organizational categories and navigational links

Paths of Access by Organizational Categories

People (Biography)	Trivia and Facts
Places	Teachers' Guide
Images	Timeline of Nevada History
Index	

Paths of Access by Subject Matter

Land and Water	Gaming and Tourism
Pathways	Business and Economy
Peoples of Nevada	Media and Communications
Society and Culture	Nuclear Nevada and the Federal Presence
Mining	Politics and Government

1. Land and Water

Cross references with other subject categories:

Business and Economy (effects of aridity on farming, federal lands and grazing rights, mineral deposits and mining, lack of natural resources and a service economy; importance of large scale funding, from government and private industry for mining, transportation infrastructure, conservation)

Politics and Government (Senator Newlands and national reclamation projects, Hoover Dam)

Nuclear Nevada and the Federal Presence (Bureau of Land Management and military bases)

Peoples of Nevada (Native American adaptation to an arid environment)

Issues or areas of controversy related to land and water: biodiversity; water conservation; use of federal lands; water rights; urbanization and growth; planned communities; endangered species

Sample Topics:

Geology	Water rights
Geography	Reclamation projects
Natural History	Pleistocene megafauna
Ranching and Mining	Ecosystems
Urban development	Flora and fauna

2. Pathways

Cross references with other subject categories:

Land and Water (early exploration of rugged and arid terrain)
Politics and Government (early exploration parties, independence of California from Mexico, federal road acts, interstate transportation)
Business and Economy (importance of railroads to 19th and early 20th century mining industry, significance of air travel and interstate highways to tourism)

Sample topics:	Stage companies and the Pony Express
Explorers: Jedediah Smith, Peter Skene	King and Wheeler survey reports
Ogden, John C. Fremont	Lincoln Highway
Emigrant trails	Aviation history (Western Airlines, TWA)
The Donner Party	

3. Peoples of Nevada

Cross references with other subject categories:
Land and Water (prehistoric peoples adaptation to environment)
Pathways (emigrant parties, pioneer ranching families)
Business and Economy (19th century Chinese railroad workers and Cornish miners, Basque shepherders, inventors)
Society and Culture (prominent people in the arts, education, religion, civic life)
Mining (19th century mining barons, labor strikes)
Gaming and Tourism (gaming industry entrepreneurs, entertainers, Teamsters Union, Mormon bankers)
Media and Communications (prominent newspapermen)
Politics and Government (distinguished political leaders at state, local, and national level)

Issues: debates about the first inhabitants; racism and discrimination, historically and today; prostitution, loss of Native American languages

Sample topics:	Artists, scholars, and educators
Religious groups	Early 20 th century socialist colonies
Suffrage movement and women's rights	Fraternal organizations
19 federally recognized tribes	Stewart Indian School
28 Indian reservations and colonies	Native American languages and culture
Ethnic diversity	Wovoka and Ghost Dance religion
Occupational groups	

4. Society and Culture

Cross references with other subject categories:
Peoples of Nevada (founders of museums, historical societies, philanthropic foundations; distinguished educators and scholars; religious leaders; Native American basketmakers; artists and cowboy poets)
Business and Economy (relationship between wealth and patronage and the arts and culture)
Gaming and Tourism (relationship between the casino entertainment industry and ballet, classical music and jazz)

Mining (opera houses in the 19th century mining camps)

Issues: images of Nevada, fact and myth; stigma of legalized gaming, divorce, prostitution; public funding for education and culture; urban versus rural and north-south divide politically and culturally

Sample topics:

Museums, historical societies
Archives and libraries
Philanthropic foundations
Civic clubs/organizations
Public schools
Higher education
Professional schools
Cowboy poetry
Folklore/folk life
Prostitution
Images of Nevada
19th century opera houses
Public broadcasting
Art museums, arts organizations

Piper's Opera House
Films set in Nevada
Nevada Cultural Commission
Architecture
Literature, poetry, creative non-fiction
Performing arts
Visual arts
Jazz
Opera, chamber music, symphonic music
Religion- Churches
Language
Social class
Historic preservation
Publishing

5. Mining

Cross references with other subject categories:

Land and Water, Business and Economy, Peoples of Nevada

Politics and government (taxation, lobbying, state and national laws, environmental impact)

Society and culture (financial support)

Media and communications (frontier newspapers, 19th century boosterism)

Pathways (importance of railroads and telegraph to 19th century mining)

Issues: environmental impact of contemporary mining; taxation of mining; environmental legacy of 19th century mining

Sample topics:

Prehistoric mining
Comstock Lode
Individual mining camps
Ghost towns
19th century mining technology
Industrial Revolution ties

Early 20th century mining boom
IWW, labor issues
Modern mining methods
Mineral exploration
Significance of mining on state's history

6. Gaming and Tourism

Cross references with other subject categories:

Business and Economics, Peoples of Nevada, Society and Culture, Politics and Government

Issues: the state's economic dependence on gaming revenues; skimming and organized crime; regulation; social costs of gaming; labor issues; spread of gaming to other states and nations; images of women

Sample topics:

Native American hand games
Nevada gaming law
History of legalized gambling
Major issues in Nevada gaming
Casinos
The games
Scholars of gaming
Gaming entrepreneurs and investors
National commissions
Hotel management

Characters and players
Internet gaming
Entertainment history
Influence of organized crime
Regulation and the Black Book
Divorce, Dude ranches
Recreation – golf, skiing, fly fishing
Sports - Professional and collegiate
Tourist attractions

7. Business and Economy

Cross references with other subject categories:

Gaming and Tourism, Mining, Pathways, Peoples of Nevada, Society and Culture, Politics and Government

Issues: diversifying the economy; tax rates

Sample topics:

Gambling industry, 19th century, present day
Mining – gold, silver, minerals
Entertainment
Construction
Hotel industry
Manufacturing
Taxes/taxation policy
Agriculture
Teamsters and Culinary Union

Recreation
Warehousing
Service industry
Banking
Legal community
Accounting
Real estate
Utilities

8. Media and Communications

Cross references with other subject categories:

Land and Water (importance of modern communication in sparsely populated areas)
Pathways (newspapers in the early mining camps, boosterism and promotion in mining history; role of the telegraph in securing statehood in 1864)
Peoples of Nevada (prominent newspapermen and journalists)
Gaming and Tourism (importance of advertising and public relations, “Harold’s Club or Bust”)
Business and Economics (advertising and public relations are significant businesses in Nevada)

Issues: dependency of the media on advertising from the gaming industry

Sample Topics:

Promotion of Nevada
Telephone
Telegraph
Internet
Pony Express

Newspapers/journalism
Radio
Television
Advertising agencies/PR

9. Nuclear Nevada and the Federal Presence

Cross references with other subject categories:

Land and Water (military uses of arid lands, federal reclamation projects)
Politics and Government (WWII, international politics, national security)
Business and Economy (jobs in a resource poor land)

Issues: Downwinders and cancer rates, nuclear waste storage, military ammunition depots

Sample topics:

Nevada Test Site
Cold War
Waste storage
Downwinders
Popular culture in the 1950s
1950s nuclear monster films
Military bases

Nevada National Guard
Hawthorne ammunition depot
WWII industries
Federal grants and programs
Bureau of Mines
Bureau of Reclamation
19th century military forts

10. Politics and Government

Cross references with other subject categories:

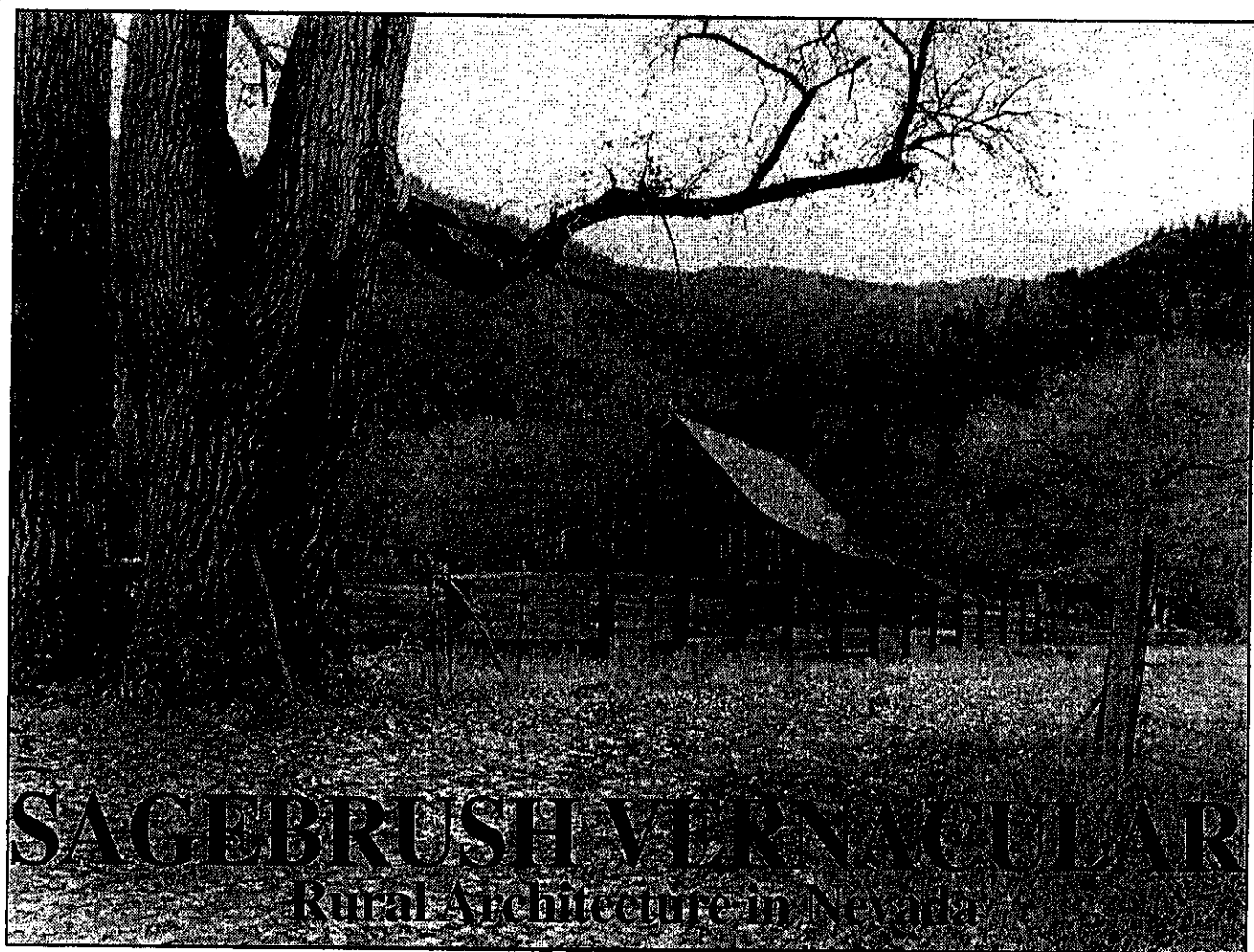
All of the above categories, 1 through 9

Issues: biennial legislature, selection of judges, local control, Native American land claims

Sample topics:

Tribal governments
Native American treaties
Territorial government
Political eras
Lists of state and federal officeholders
State and federal offices and powers
County governments
Municipal governments
Unincorporated townships

Judiciary—all levels
Legislation affecting Nevada
Lobbying and interest groups
Nevada Constitution
County courthouses
Federal buildings
Services—police, fire, etc.
State government services—welfare, etc.
Regulatory bodies



Ikue Yada. Trimmer Barn, Genoa

Sagebrush Vernacular: Rural Architecture in Nevada documents Nevada's ranching heritage. The Nevada Humanities Committee worked with the Nevada State Historic Preservation Office and Peter Goin and his advanced photography class at University of Nevada, Reno, to develop *Sagebrush Vernacular*, a traveling exhibit and book (forthcoming in April). Goin's students traveled throughout the state, taking thousands of photographs. Structures they documented include the stone horse barn in Owyhee, timber-frame barns in Carson Valley, willow corrals in Elko, and an adobe ranch house in Logandale.

Sagebrush Vernacular complements the Smithsonian Institution's traveling exhibit *Barn Again! Celebrating an American Icon*.

Nevada Humanities Committee received a generous grant from the E.L. Wiegand Foundation to bring *Barn Again!* and *Sagebrush Vernacular* to seven Nevada communities in 2003.

TOUR SCHEDULE 2003

Jan. 30—Feb. 6, Carson City

Nevada State Library and Archives, (775) 684-3447

February 19—March 31, Logandale

Old Logandale School Historic and Cultural Center,
(702) 398-7272

April 8—May 15, Las Vegas

Las Vegas Springs Preserve, (702) 258-7148

May 27—June 30, Fallon

Churchill County Museum, (775) 423-3677

July 4—August 11, Reno

Bartley Ranch Regional Park, (775) 828-6612

August 19—September 29, Gardnerville

Carson Valley Museum, (775) 782-2555

October 7—November 18, Elko

Western Folklife Center, (775) 738-7508

The E. L. Wiegand Foundation provided generous funding to bring these exhibits to the people of Nevada.

Nevada Humanities Committee, 1034 North Sierra Street, P. O. Box 8029, Reno, Nevada 89507, (775) 784-6587, (800) 382-5023, www.nevadahumanities.org

Legislative History

The Nevada Humanities Committee is a federally funded non-profit organization that has received state support since 1989.

In 1988 a Legislative Counsel Commission chaired by Senator Nick Horn approved the following recommendation: "Appropriate from the state general fund to the Nevada Humanities Committee the sum of \$50,000 annually to facilitate the maintenance of its staff and offices in Las Vegas and Reno." Bulletin # 89-5, page 22

The Nevada Humanities Committee subsequently become a line-items in the budget of the Nevada Arts Council with an annual appropriation of \$9,000-10,000.

In 1997 and 1999, Senator Dina Titus sponsored bills seeking funding for a Las Vegas office. In 2001, the Governor's office recommended continued support.

In 2001, a \$200,000 appropriation was approved, but the line item in the Arts Council budget was eliminated.