



PIONEERING NEW PERSPECTIVES

OCTOBER 6-9, 2026 • ANNUAL MEETING

Mesquite, Nevada



PROGRAM FLOW

OCTOBER 6-9, 2026 | MESQUITE, NEVADA

TUES. 10/6

**PRE CONFERENCE
EVENTS**

Workshops
Dinner/Evening Activity

WED. 10/7

**WELCOME &
OPENING**

NMA Board President

**KEYNOTE
ADDRESS**

Geraldine White Zarate
Historian

SESSIONS

EVENING OUTING

Lost City Museum

THURS. 10/8

SESSIONS

EVENING OUTING

Mesquite Works STEAM Center

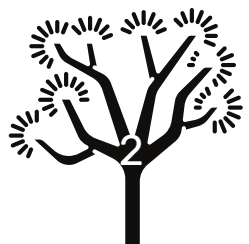
FRI. 10/9

BOARD MEETING

NMA Members

**RAFFLE & CLOSING
ACTIVITIES**

NMA Members



EVENT ACTIVITIES

WORKSHOP - Preregistration Required

Tuesday, October 6 | 12:00 PM @ 15 West Mesquite Blvd, 1 B, Mesquite, NV 89027

On Edge? PAINT!

Workshop with Jeanette McGregor of Nevada State Museum Carson City

PIZZA IN THE PARK - Preregistration Required

Tuesday, October 6 | 5:00 PM @ 501 Hillside Dr, Mesquite, NV 89027

Celebrating Nevada with a trivia hour and dinner in the Veterans Park.

WELCOME RECEPTION DINNER - Preregistration Required

Wednesday, October 7 | 5:45 PM @ 721 S Moapa Valley Blvd, Overton, NV 89040

Join us for an evening of networking and refreshments at the Lost City Museum in Overton, NV.

MESQUITE WORKS STEAM CENTER MIX & MINGLE - Preregistration Required

Thursday, October 8 | 3:00 PM @ 312 W Mesquite Blvd Suite 116, Mesquite, NV 89027

Connect, collaborate, and exchange ideas over light refreshments, while exploring the center's hands-on programs.

KARAOKE!

Thursday, October 8 | 7:00 PM

Sing your heart out at Mad Mike's Bar & Grill @ 551 W Mesquite Blvd, Mesquite, NV 89027

ANNUAL WRAP-UP ACTIVITIES

Friday, October 9 | 10:00 AM

What is the craziest &#@% you have ever seen?

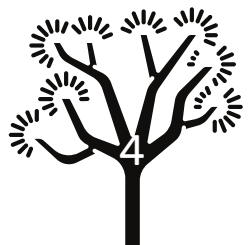
Share updates

Raffle



POINTS OF INTEREST

- Virgin Valley Heritage Museum
 - Tues. - Sat. 10 AM to 4 PM
 - 35 W Mesquite Blvd, Mesquite, NV 89027
- Donkey History Museum
 - Tues. - Thurs. 10 AM to 4 PM, Fri. - Sun. 9 AM to 5 PM
 - 355 W Mesquite Blvd F10, Mesquite, NV 89027
- Pete Karns' Sand Sculptures
 - Lower Flat Top Drive, Mesquite, NV
- Mesquite Fine Arts Center & Gallery
 - Mon. - Sat. 10 AM to 4 PM
 - 15 W Mesquite Blvd, Mesquite, NV 89027
- Women's History And Culture Center
 - 225 N Willow St, Mesquite, NV 89027
- Virgin Valley Heritage Park
 - 50 N Yucca St, Mesquite, NV 89027



WELCOME

Nevada Museums Association Annual Meeting 2026

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

On behalf of the Nevada Museums Association Board of Directors, it is our pleasure to welcome you to the 2026 Annual Meeting in Mesquite, Nevada.

This year's theme, "Pioneering New Perspectives," reflects our commitment to innovation, collaboration, and the evolving role museums play in our communities. Over the next three days, we will explore new approaches to preservation, education, and public engagement.

We are grateful for your dedication to Nevada's cultural heritage and look forward to an inspiring and productive conference.

Warm regards,

NMA Board



VENUE INFORMATION



CONFERENCE VENUE

Holiday Inn Resort

333 N Sandhill Blvd, Mesquite, NV 89027

702-346-5678

ROOM BLOCK

A discounted room block is available for NMA attendees.

Rate: \$120/night (single/double occupancy)

Room block ends 9/18/2026.

GETTING THERE

Mesquite is located 80 miles northeast of Las Vegas on I-15.

- From Las Vegas: ~1 hour 15 minutes
- From St. George, UT: ~35 minutes
- Nearest airport: Harry Reid International (LAS)

PARKING

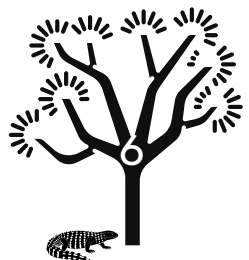
Complimentary self-parking is available at the resort.

DINING

The resort offers an onsite restaurant called The Purple Sage. Additional restaurants are within walking distance.

ACCESSIBILITY

All conference rooms at the Holiday Inn are ADA accessible. Please contact us in advance if you require accommodations.



BOARD MEMBERS

President

Dustin M. Wax, Burlesque Hall of Fame, Las Vegas; Chair of the Strategic Planning Committee

Vice President

Tracey Sprague, Lost City Museum, Overton; Chair of the Communications and Conference Planning Committees

Secretary

D'ette Mawson, Northeastern Nevada Museum, Elko

Treasurer

Lisa Windom, Las Vegas Springs Preserve, Las Vegas

Members-at-Large

Jordan Canal, Nevada State Museum, Las Vegas; Chair of the Nominations Committee

Laura Christian, DISCOVERY Children's Museum, Las Vegas

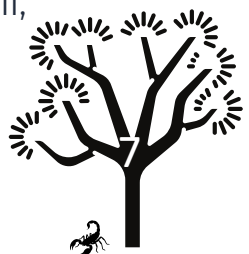
Mitchell Cohen, Nevada Preservation Foundation, Las Vegas, Chair of the History Community Advisory Committee

Sheryl L. Hayes-Zorn, Nevada Historical Society, Reno

Jeff Martin, Tonopah Historic Mining Park, Tonopah

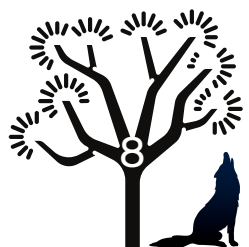
Adam Michalski, Nevada State Railroad Museum, Carson City

Steven Saylor, Comstock Foundation for History and Culture, Gold Hill, Chair of the Membership Committee



MEMBER MUSEUMS

- Atomic Museum
- Black Mountain Institute, UNLV
- Burlesque Hall of Fame
- Carson City Historical Society
- Churchill County Museum Association
- Clark County Museum, Howard W. Cannon Aviation Museum, & Searchlight History Museum
- Dangberg Home Ranch Historic Park
- Discovery Children's Museum
- State of Nevada Division of Museums & History
- Douglas County Historical Society
- Hawthorne Ordnance Museum
- Historic Fourth Ward School Museum
- Historical Society of Dayton Valley
- Humboldt Museum/North Central Nevada Historical Society
- John and Geraldine Lilley Museum of Art - University of Nevada, Reno
- Mark Twain Museum
- Neon Museum
- Nevada Museums and History
- Nevada Northern Railway Museum
- Northeastern Nevada Museum
- Pyramid Lake Museum/Visitors Center
- Rita Deanin Abbey Art Museum
- Springs Preserve
- St. Mary in the Mountains Catholic Church Museum
- Stewart Indian School Cultural Center & Museum
- Sunnyside Historical Society
- The Mob Museum
- The Walker African American Museum and Research Center
- Thunderbird Lodge Lake Tahoe
- Tonopah Historic Mining Park
- Virgin Valley Heritage Museum
- W. M. Keck Earth Science and Mineral Engineering Museum
- White Pine Public Museum



KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Geraldine White Zarate was born in Boulder City and raised in Mesquite, where her love for Nevada grew from her great-grandparents' stories of settling in the region. She served as Mesquite's Public Librarian for 27 years, curating a rich collection of local histories and memoirs. In 2010, Arcadia Publishing invited her to write a book for their "Images of America" series, a project she completed over the course of a year.

Her book, *Mesquite and the Virgin Valley*, explores the lower Virgin River basin near the Nevada-Arizona-Utah border. Early explorers described the area as harsh and unforgiving, yet in 1877 it became a refuge for Mormon families who settled Bunkerville on the south side of the river. Efforts to establish Mesquite on the north side began in 1880, with success finally coming in 1894 after repeated setbacks from flooding. Over time, residents persevered through difficult conditions, isolation, political challenges, and even atomic-testing fallout. What began as deep sand roads evolved into a bustling interstate, and the area grew into a popular golf and gaming destination. After incorporating in 1984, Mesquite became one of the fastest-growing cities of its size in the nation.

SPONSORS



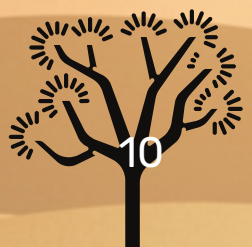
ART WOLF SCHOLARSHIP



To recognize Art Wolf, one of the founders of the Nevada Museums Association, we named our annual scholarship for emerging professionals in his honor after his passing in 2021. Art Wolf, founder of Wolf Consulting, was a life-long supporter of and advocate for museums. Through his firm, Wolf led museums and other cultural associations to define and achieve their missions. He was a critical voice to lure the Western Museums Association annual conference to Las Vegas in 2014 during a pivotal moment of rapid museum growth in Southern Nevada.

During his forty-year career, he served on the American Alliance of Museums Board of Directors, Association of Science Museum Directors, and the Board of ICOM-US, the United States affiliate of the International Council of Museums. In 2019, the American Alliance of Museums named him a Star Advocate. We recognize his legacy as an avid attendee, frequent presenter, and supporter of the Nevada Museums Association's annual conference.

Each year, we ask museum members and supporters to donate items for our annual raffle, with all proceeds going towards the scholarship fund to honor Art's legacy. Through the generous nature of our museum community, we can support emerging professionals through the conference and connect with colleagues across the state. Please consider purchasing raffle tickets and supporting our emerging professionals. I know many in our membership were touched by Art's thoughtful and open demeanor, always willing to listen and give advice when asked.



SCHEDULE - Tuesday, Oct. 6th, 2026

WORKSHOP: ON EDGE? PAINT! WITH JEANETTE MCGREGOR OF NEVADA STATE MUSEUM CARSON CITY | 12 PM TO 2 PM
MESQUITE FINE ARTS CENTER
15 WEST MESQUITE BLVD, CLASSROOM 1, BLDG B

Pre-registration required

Give your mind a moment of peace and joy, while elevating the look of your mounted photos. Photos properly mounted on Gatorfoam is a clean and efficient way of exhibiting them on a wall or in a case. When you paint the sides/edges of the foam to match the photo, it gives the illusion of an image wrap—an even more polished and professional presentation. Bonus: it's really fun.

Long-time Nevada State Museum, Carson City Exhibits Preparator, Jeanette McGregor, will teach the art of edge painting in a two-hour workshop limited to 20 participants. Pre-registration prior to September 14, 2026, not only guarantees your spot, but allows you to choose the image you will be working on.

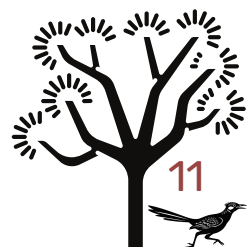
EXPLORE MESQUITE'S HERITAGE

Not partaking in the preconference workshop? Want to see what Mesquite has to offer? Check out page 4 for some points of interest!

PIZZA IN THE PARK | 5 PM TO 7 PM

Pre-registration required

Join fellow conference attendees for an evening of casual networking and relaxed fun at Pizza in the Park. Enjoy an outdoor dining experience at Veterans Park with a selection of fresh pizzas, followed by a friendly round of Nevada-themed trivia. \$15 per attendee.



SCHEDULE - Wednesday, Oct. 7th, 2026

8 AM to 3:30 PM

Holiday Inn Resort
Hallway

Registration Open

Find our table in the hallway.

9 AM to 9:50 AM

Conference Room A

Welcome Breakfast

Provided by NMA

10 AM to 10:50 AM

Conference Room A

Keynote

Presenter: Geraldine White Zarate

11 AM to 11:50 AM

Conference Room A

Fallout at the Fort: Using Pop Culture to Make History a Critical Hit

Presentation by Zach Jensen of The Mob Museum

The 2010 video game Fallout: New Vegas features the Old Las Vegas Mormon Fort as a key location in its post-apocalyptic Mojave Wasteland. By embracing fans of the game through partnerships and themed programming, the Fort has attracted new and atypical audiences while creating an engaging entry point into its history. This session explores how museums and historic sites can leverage pop culture into collaborative efforts to pioneer new engagement strategies.

11 AM to 11:50 AM

Conference Room B

Saving Museums from “Saving America’s Story”

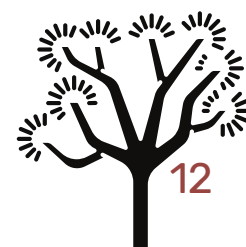
Roundtable with Dustin Wax of the Burlesque Hall of Fame

On July 4, 2026, the White House website posted a report by the White House Domestic Policy Council entitled “Saving America’s Story”. Directed primarily at the representation of US history in Smithsonian museums, the 162-page report has grave implications for museums in general, potentially criminalizing our work. This session will highlight sections of the report that pertain to museums beyond the Smithsonian, alongside relevant language from Executive Orders that put the report’s recommendations into action.

12 PM to 1:20 PM

Lunch

On your own



SCHEDULE - Wednesday, Oct. 7th, 2026

1:30 PM to 2:20 PM
Conference Room A

Pioneering Strategy: Turning Statewide Sentiment Data and Unconventional Workshop Exercises into Actionable Museum Goals

Workshop by Nathan Strong of the University of Nevada, Reno

How do small museums survive resource scarcity and personnel turnover? They pioneer a new perspective. This interactive case study demonstrates how one Nevada museum successfully used the 2025 Nevada Tourism, Hospitality, Arts, and Culture Resident Sentiment Survey to ground its institutional goals. Attendees will learn how to translate macro statewide metrics like shifting demographics, resident anxieties over community sprawl, and the demand for authentic local storytelling, into customized, time-framed strategic workflows for their own institutions.

1:30 PM to 2:20 PM
Conference Room B

Storytelling and Belonging: Preservation through Education Programming

Group Discussion with Kaylee O'Donnell, Johann Rucker, and Melisa McChesney of the Neon Museum

Discover how The Neon Museum is reimagining preservation through community-centered collecting that allows our interpretation and programming to be deeply grounded in memory recall and storytelling. Drawing on program findings, this session highlights a Creative Aging memoir-writing initiative and portable oral history model that support mental and physical wellbeing. Learn how your collection can spark memories and expand storytelling pathways to reduce barriers, elevate underrepresented voices, culminating in practical strategies to foster community knowledge and belonging, while building more inclusive collections.

2:30 PM to 3:20 PM
Conference Room A

"They Didn't Teach THIS in Museum Studies!" Preparing Museums for Human Emergencies

Workshop with Jim Sturgill of Sturgill Emergency Preparedness Consulting

Museum education highlights managing emergencies that impact our facilities and collections. Little focus is placed on how to manage an emergency related to the people who interact with our spaces. The community looks to our institutions as a safe place that they can explore their community's history and heritage. How do we prepare for these eventualities? Investing in these steps will help us best protect our most valuable assets—our people.

2:30 PM to 3:20 PM
Conference Room B

Ethical Inheritance: Let's Keep It Out of the Landfill!

Roundtable with Rayette Martin of Nevadans for Cultural Preservation

Many privately collected artifacts eventually outlast their collectors' interest. Some are discarded, while others are inherited by people hoping to donate them to museums, universities, or historical societies. These institutions often decline due to limited space, curation costs, or policy restrictions. When no suitable repository exists, the question becomes how to ensure responsible stewardship. This roundtable invites discussion on shared challenges, successful community-based solutions, and collaborative strategies for preserving artifacts removed from their original archaeological context.

SCHEDULE - Wednesday, Oct. 7th, 2026

3:30PM to 4:30 PM
Conference Room A

We Hosted a Teachers Institute and All We Got Was a Greater Connection to Our Local Educators

Presentation by Chenay Pointer of the Nevada State Museum Carson City

In June 2026, the Nevada State Museum and the Nevada State Railroad Museum, in Carson City, held a Teacher Institute, led by a local teacher, that focused on Project Based Learning (PBL). Twelve secondary social studies and science teachers applied for the Institute and learned what a PBL is and how to use artifacts and information from the two museums to inform their own PBLs for the upcoming school year. This collaboration fostered amazing discussion, ideas, and connection, and we want to share our experience with our Nevada museum community.

3:30PM to 4:30 PM
Conference Room B

Desert Peoples: Words from Ancestors

Presentation by Nathan Harper of the Southern Nevada Water Authority

Learn how the Nevada State Museum, Las Vegas, Springs Preserve, the Clark County Museum and the City of Las Vegas partnered to develop an exhibit in Las Vegas City Hall featuring a rare early 19th-century handwritten journal containing translations from the Southern Paiute language (Nuwu) into English. Accompanying the first-time display of the journal is a selection of Paiute and Mojave material culture, including objects referenced within the journal itself, offering a tangible connection between language and memory. Together, these works illuminate the enduring presence and cultural continuity of indigenous peoples across the desert Southwest. Hear how the ledger-book dictionary was identified in Nevada State Museum collections and the curation process including high-quality scanning. Learn about the dictionary and its relationship to the history of El Dorado Canyon.

5:45 PM to 7:45 PM
Lost City Museum

The State Welcomes You: An Evening at the Lost City Museum

Want to get to know the Nevada Museums and History team better? Join us at the Lost City Museum for an evening dedicated to exploring the Nevada State Museum System and learning more about the programs and resources we offer. Dinner and transportation will be provided; pre-registration is required.

This event is sponsored by Nevada Department of Tourism and Cultural Affairs.

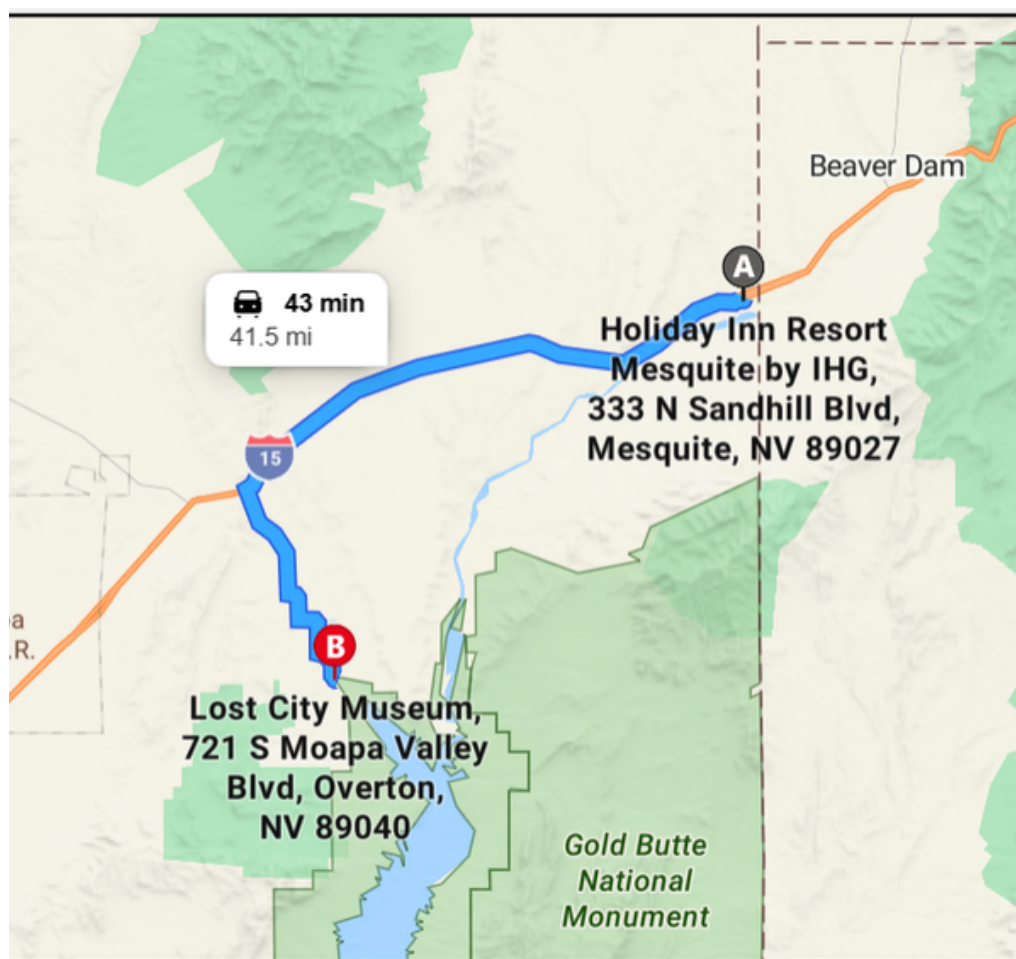


SCHEDULE - Wednesday, Oct. 7th, 2026

THE STATE WELCOMES YOU - AN EVENING AT THE LOST CITY MUSEUM | 5:45 PM TO 7:45 PM

Want to get to know the Nevada Museums and History team better? Join us at the Lost City Museum for an evening dedicated to exploring the Nevada State Museum System and learning more about the programs and resources we offer. Dinner and transportation will be provided. This event is sponsored by Nevada Department of Tourism and Cultural Affairs. **Pre-registration is required.**

Lost City Museum is about 45 minutes south of Mesquite, but worth the drive! As one of the seven state museums, Lost City, est. in 1935, houses material culture items of the Virgin Branch Pueblos. Meet in the hotel lobby at 4:50 PM to get on the bus, departure will be at 5 PM.



SCHEDULE - Thursday, Oct. 8th, 2026

8 AM to 12 PM

Hotel Hallway

Registration Open

Find our table in the hallway.

9 AM to 9:50 AM

Conference Room A

Breakfast

Provided by NMA

10 AM to 10:50 AM

Conference Room A

The Archive as Contractor: Monetizing Museum Research via GOED Main Street Grants

Presentation and Workshop by Nathan Strong of the University of Nevada, Reno

Local museums are the local archives, while local Main Street programs have access to state grant funding. Why not merge them? This session details how museums can act as paid, subject-matter-expert contractors for Nevada Main Street districts using state economic development funds. Learn to navigate the SHPO nomination pipeline, structure fee-for-service research contracts, and transform your archival repository into an active revenue generator for local historic preservation.

10 AM to 10:50 AM

Conference Room B

Opening Doors: Museums Partnering for Authentic Inclusion

Panel discussion with Amber Colbert of Clark County Museum, Chris Lucas of Discovery Children's Museum, and Tracey Sprague of Lost City Museum

Discover how southern Nevada museums are pioneering new perspectives by partnering with community groups and experts to create programs and exhibits that authentically reflect our state's diversity. Through three case studies, presenters will share strategies for building meaningful collaborations—showcasing African American, Native American, and Asian American/Pacific Islander initiatives—and offer actionable ideas to foster inclusive representation in your institution.

11 AM to 11:50 AM

Conference Room A

Build It, They Will Come: How to Bring in New Crowds

Round Table with D'ette Mawson of Northeastern Nevada Museum, Jordan Canal of Nevada State Museum Las Vegas, Claire White of The Mob Museum, and Aliza Robinson of the Springs Preserve. Moderated by Garrett Barmore of the Keck Museum

This program will be a combination of a panel talk and open round table discussion that will discuss ideas to reach new audiences, refresh current programs, and share the challenges we face as museum educators.

11 AM to 11:50 AM

Conference Room B

Fundraising Solutions Roundtable

Roundtable with Lisa Windom, Springs Preserve

In this session we will dig into the real challenges and unexpected opportunities facing fundraising in the museum sector. Be ready to learn from and share with your peers and leave with fresh ideas you can actually use at your museum.



SCHEDULE - Thursday, Oct. 8th, 2026

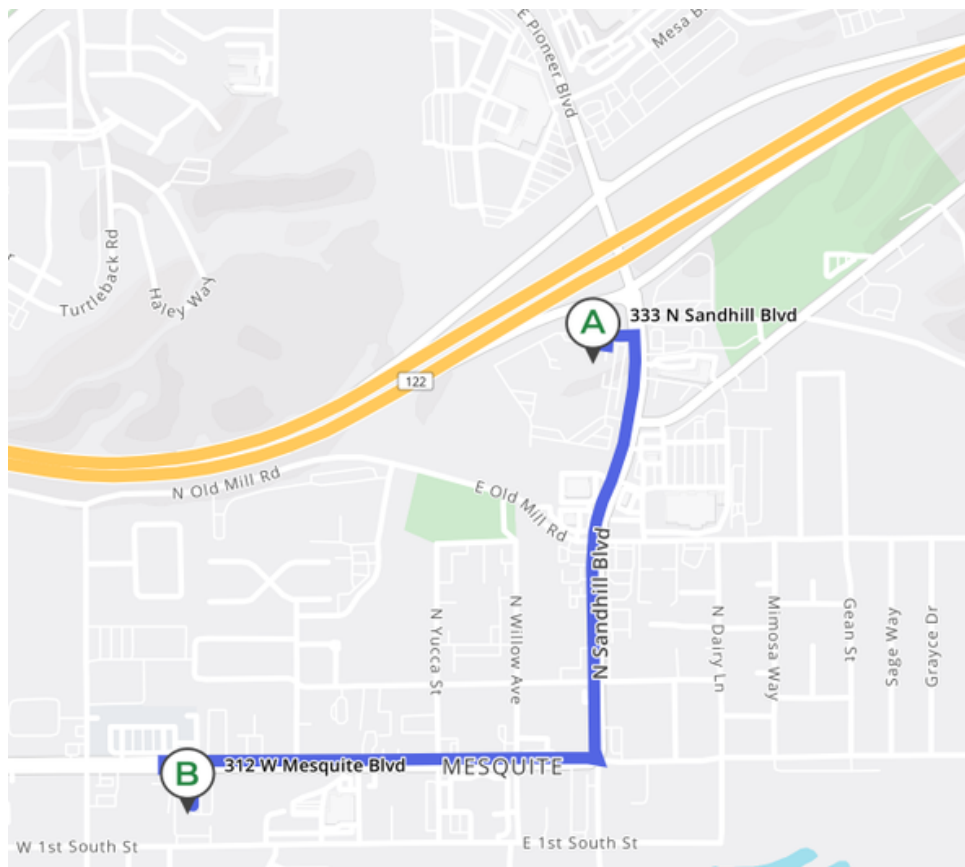
12:00 PM to 1:20 PM	Lunch	On Your Own
1:30 PM to 2:20 PM Conference Room A	Advocacy Today	<i>Presentation by D'ette Mawson of the Northeastern Nevada Museum</i> This session will discuss NMA's recent presence at AAM's Advocacy Day in Washington DC. It will include the asks that were taken to our state representatives and their responses. The session will then discuss various ways for attendees to become involved and advocate for their museums. There will be an opportunity for questions following the presentation.
1:30 PM to 2:20 PM Conference Room B	Beyond Accreditation: Using AAM Standards to Build Stronger Museums	<i>Presentation by Zach Jensen of The Mob Museum</i> Accreditation through the American Alliance of Museums can be a daunting process and may not be the right goal for every institution. However, AAM standards can help museums of any size strengthen strategic planning, collections management, ethics, governance, and other essential areas of operation. This session will show how museums can use AAM standards as a practical framework for organizational improvement, even without pursuing accreditation.
2:30 PM to 3:20 PM Conference Room A	Poster Session	Explore fresh ideas shaping museum work. Presenters will highlight projects in collections, interpretation, visitor engagement, and community collaboration. Connect, ask questions, and discover new approaches with colleagues across the field.
2:30 PM to 3:20 PM	Field Trips!	If you haven't yet, take this time to explore Mesquite's great institutions, like the Mesquite Women's History Center and the Virgin Valley Heritage Park & Museum. They are within walking distance of the hotel.
3 PM to 5 PM Mesquite Works STEAM Center	Mesquite Works STEAM Center Mix & Mingle	The Mesquite Works STEAM Center Mix & Mingle where museum professionals from across Nevada will connect, collaborate, and exchange ideas over light refreshments, while exploring the center's hands-on programs. Mesquite STEAM Works prepares residents—especially youth—for meaningful futures through Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Agriculture, and Math. Join us as we mix, mingle, and pioneer new perspectives! Pre-registration required for this event.
5 PM to 7 PM	Dinner	On your own
7 PM to 10 PM Mad Mike's	Karaoke!!!	Sing your heart out at Mad Mike's Bar and Grill! We will have the front room, so show up to sing, or watch as the rest of us do renditions of all your favorites!

SCHEDULE - Thursday, Oct. 8th, 2026

MESQUITE WORKS STEAM CENTER MIX & MINGLE | 3:00 PM TO 5:00 PM

The Mesquite Works STEAM Center Mix & Mingle where museum professionals from across Nevada will connect, collaborate, and exchange ideas over light refreshments, while exploring the center's hands-on programs. Mesquite STEAM Works prepares residents—especially youth—for meaningful futures through Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Agriculture, and Math. Join us as we mix, mingle, and pioneer new perspectives! **Pre-registration is required for this event.**

The Mesquite Works STEAM Center is a 7,000-square-foot educational facility in Mesquite, Nevada, designed to inspire children from Pre-K through 12th grade in science, technology, engineering, arts, and math. They offer interactive learning—offering hands—on activities including robotics, 3D printing, and virtual reality experiences.



SCHEDULE - Friday, Oct. 9th, 2026

9 AM to 10 AM
Conference Room A

Breakfast & NMA Annual Meeting

Join the Nevada Museums Association Board for our annual all-member meeting. We'll review current membership numbers, share a financial update, elect the next slate of officers and board members, and invite public comments. This meeting is your opportunity to speak directly with the board and offer ideas that support dialogue and the growth of museum professionals across Nevada.

10 AM to 11 AM
Conference Room A

Roundtable: What is the craziest &#@% you have ever seen?

Every museum professional has at least one unforgettable story — the kind that makes you laugh, gasp, or wonder how such a thing ever happened in the first place. This roundtable invites attendees to share their wildest, most surprising, and most memorable museum moments. From bizarre visitor encounters to unexpected collection discoveries, join us for a fun, candid conversation that celebrates the unpredictable side of museum work. Come ready to swap stories, learn from others, and enjoy a lighthearted look at the quirks of our profession.

11 AM to 11:30 AM
Conference Room A

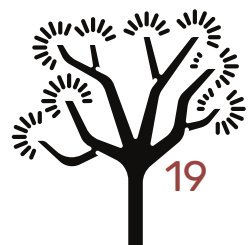
Roundtable: Share Updates

Now's the moment to celebrate your achievements! What has your museum accomplished over the past year? Nevada museums are doing outstanding work that deserves recognition and applause. This is the perfect chance to highlight new programs, exhibitions, or simply share appreciation for your organization.

11:30 AM to 12 PM
Conference Room A

Raffle

All raffle proceeds support the Art Wolf Scholarship for Emerging Museum Professionals. Your ticket purchases help the next generation attend the state conference—thank you for your generosity! *Winners must be present, or you may arrange for someone attending to collect your prize.*





THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING

We appreciate your participation in the
2026 Nevada Museums Association Annual Meeting.

GET IN TOUCH



www.nevadamuseums.org



Nevada Museums Association
PO Box 571737
Las Vegas, NV 89157

