

# Exhibiting Women's Contributions to Nevada's History



*Prepared for the*

Nevada Commission for Women

*by*

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**stories** in place

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*Photograph: a millinery store in Virginia City from the mid-1880s, from the article  
"Gender in Nevada: A Comstock Case Study," [onlinenevada.org](http://onlinenevada.org).*

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Two displays per year installed in public buildings to draw attention to the contributions of Nevada women, in support of the Nevada Commission for Women's stated mandate:

"The Commission is charged with the duty to study the changing and developing roles of women in society, including the recognition of socioeconomic factors that influence the status of women, and recommend proposed legislation."

### Suggestions

- Use material objects, photos, and text to highlight historical Nevada women whose stories help to illuminate issues currently under discussion in Nevada in order to bridge past and present.
- Partner with contemporary organizations, communities, and individuals working on similar issues, in similar communities, or toward similar goals as the historical figure(s), and incorporate information about them into the exhibits in order to inspire future action and achievement.
- Incorporate a permanent digital component by creating and linking to a portal to aggregate material about Nevada women on the Nevada Humanities website Online Nevada ([onlinenevada.org](http://onlinenevada.org)) – see APPENDIX
- Hire a single curator to research, coordinate, and supervise installation of exhibits for consistency and professionalism (and, if desired, to compose and curate digital material).

### Existing historical resources (partial list—many other resources exist)

- Display cases from Division of Museums & History
- Articles about Nevada women on Online Nevada ([onlinenevada.org](http://onlinenevada.org)) – see APPENDIX.
- Oral histories of Nevada women from UNR and UNLV Oral History Archives (audio & print)  
UNR: <https://library.unr.edu/DigiColl/OralHistories>  
UNLV: <https://www.library.unlv.edu/speccol/ohrc/projects>
- Materials from Nevada Women's History Project, Vegas PBS *Makers: Women in Nevada History*, and Women of Diversity Productions.

### Possible lenders of historical artifacts and materials

- Nevada State Museum, Carson City (including Clothing & Textile Research Center)
- Nevada State Museum, Las Vegas
- Nevada Historical Society (Reno)

### Budget Considerations

*It is difficult to formulate a projected budget without further specifics about the project in order to estimate costs of research, writing, design, and installation.*

Some important questions include the following:

- How large is the exhibit space? (including wall space for 2-D displays plus floor space for cases)
- How many different exhibits will be installed and over what period of time (is two exhibits per year the total, and should the budget only be formulated for a single year)?
- How long will the exhibits be displayed (to determine the proper materials for text panels, etc.)?
- What installation methods are allowed in the space (i.e. wall mounting hardware)?
- Will the exhibit topics already be determined, or would the curator be responsible for selecting and researching specific topics?
- If community partners are to be involved, would the curator coordinate their involvement, and what would each party be expected to do with respect to the exhibits?
- Are digital components desired, and if so, utilizing what types of media?

### Possible sources of funds

- John Ben Snow Foundation
- Nell J. Redfield Foundation
- Nevada Arts Council
- Nevada Humanities
- E.L. Wiegand Foundation

APPENDIX: Online Nevada ([onlinenevada.org](http://onlinenevada.org)) articles focusing exclusively on women

*NOTE: Additional articles on the ONE also include some discussion of women*

Albina Redner  
Alice Key: A Renaissance Woman  
Alice Maud Hartley  
Ann Ronald  
Barbara Vucanovich  
Bernice Auchoberry: An Oral History  
Bertha Ronzone  
Carroll Dolve  
Charlotte Hunter Arley  
Claudine B. Williams  
Dancers  
Daughters of Charity  
Delphine Anderson Squires  
Elizabeth Brady  
Emilie Wanderer  
Felice Cohn  
Ffolliott (Fluff) LeCoque  
Flora Dungan  
Florence Lee Jones Cahlan  
Florence Shilling McClure  
Gender in Nevada: A Comstock Case Study  
Grace Melissa Dangberg  
Hattie Canty  
Helen Herr  
Helen Hortense Lee Deffebach  
Hildegard Herz  
Idah Meacham Strobridge  
Jeanne Janish  
JoAnn Smokey Martinez  
Joanne de Longchamps  
Julia Bulette  
Kaitty Holland Exhibit  
Katherine Lewers  
Las Vegas Showgirls  
Laura Ethel Mills  
Lilly Fong  
Lilly Sanchez

Linda Howe Hale  
Linda Husa  
Lorraine Hunt  
Lubertha Johnson  
Mabel Hoggard  
Margaret Kelly  
Mary Chadwell  
Mary Hunter Austin  
Mary McNair Mathews  
Maude Frazier  
Minerva Pierce  
Nevada Wilson  
Nevada Women in Movies  
nila northSun  
Phyllis J. Walsh  
Reno Divorce Colony Literature  
Reno Divorce: The Women  
Reno: Twentieth-Century Divorce Capital  
Ruth D. Achard and Margaret D. McDonald  
Ruthe Deskin  
Sandy and Eilley Orrum Bowers  
Sarah Winnemucca  
Sarah Winnemucca's Life Among the Piutes  
Sarann Knight Preddy, Entrepreneur  
Sue Coleman  
Susan Berman  
Sybil Rinehart Huntington  
Thalia Dondero  
Thelma Davis Calhoun  
Theresa Smokey Jackson  
Virginia McCuin  
Washoe Basket Weavers  
Winona James  
Yolande Jacobson Sheppard  
Zoray Andrus  
Zoria Zetaruk