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LAS VEGAS CULTURE & ARTS HISTORY TIMELINE

PREHISTORIC ERA

15000 BP to 10000 BP
(Before Present years)

Paleoindian / Late Sponga Period
(Earliest known human habitation in the Las Vegas Valley)

10000 BP to 7000 BP
(years)

Lake Mojave Period
(second oldest human habitation)

7000 BP to 1500 BP

Pinto Gypsum Period
(most widespread human habitation)

2000 BP to 850 BP

Ancestral Puebloan Peoples
(formerly Virgin Anasazi)

850 BP to Present

Paiute and Southern Paiute People
(Numic language period)

THE PIONEER ERA

1829
Rafael Rivera becomes first known Euro-American (Mexican) to enter the Las Vegas Valley (part of the Antonio Armijo Expedition following the Old Spanish Trail).

1844
John C. Fremont expedition arrives in the Las Vegas Valley. Fremont Stream is named after him.

1855 to 1858
Mormons arrive in the Las Vegas Valley and establish first non-Native American settlement which they name Pilot Gypsum Period. Fort Stockton (Old Mormon Fort) is a Nevada State Park and historical site.

1870-1872
John Hewitt becomes first African American to acquire land in Southern Nevada and establish the 120 acre Spring Ranch. Today it is home to the Springs Preserve.

1885
Octaveia Decatur Gass homesteads the abandoned Mormon Fort

1872
Octaveia Decatur Gass marries Mary Virginia Stimpson, niece of Wynema S. Grant. They build a dairy farm at the Las Vegas Ranch. Their oldest daughter was named after the area "Lelah Vegas Gass".

1876
Artist and photographer Frederick S. Dellenbaugh paints the first known oil painting of Las Vegas that includes Mount Wilson (Frenchman) and the Las Vegas Ranchs. The painting is on permanent exhibition at the Nevada State Museum inside the Springs Preserve.

1878
Octaveia Decatur Gass purchases Spring Ranch from John Howell and other homesteaders. Gass establishes its land and names it the Las Vegas Ranch. John Howell moves to Beatty Nevada and establishes the Oasis Ranch.

1881
Octaveia Decatur Gass and his family leave the Las Vegas Ranch for Southern California after they defended the land against a land claim from Archibald Stewart.

1892
Archibald Stewart and his wife Helen Stewart arrive at the Las Vegas Ranch from Southern Squires. Today it remains one of the oldest continuously operating western service clubs in Nevada. The club helped plant hundreds of trees across the new town and helped establish the first library.

Las Vegas is incorporated as a city by an act of the Nevada State Legislature and signed into law by Governor Tasker Oddie. Peter Buol is elected first mayor.

The Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce is founded. First marketing materials created to promote Las Vegas as "The City of Destiny".

EARLY LAS VEGAS

1905
The town of Las Vegas is founded during the Grand Land Auction of May 15 and 16th. It becomes the central hub for the Salt Lake, San Pedro and Los Angeles Railroad, later the Union Pacific railroad.

First two schools are established, and first hospital opens.

1906
Permanent train depot opens

Hotel Nevada opens at Fremont and Main, first hotel in Las Vegas, now the Golden Gate Casino. First telephone is installed.

First Catholic church opens

First of 84 "Railroad Cottages" are built to house railroad workers and their families.

The infamous Arizona Club opens on Block 16.

1907
First municipal church founded.

1908
First Methodist Church opens

First baseball game is played in Las Vegas

First theater opens in Las Vegas

The first Museum Lodge opens in Las Vegas. Lodge 22 is the oldest Masonic Lodge in Nevada.

1909
Clark County breaks away from Lincoln County and Las Vegas becomes the new county seat.

1910
Within years after its founding, the US census recorded only 800 residents

1911
Helen Nevada, at Fremont and Main, first hotel in Las Vegas, now the Golden Gate Casino

1911
Mesquite Club is founded by Helen Stewart and Helen Squires. Today it remains one of the oldest continuously operating women's service clubs in Nevada. The club helped plant hundreds of trees across the new town and helped establish the first library.

1914
The Clark County Court House and first city park is built. Designed by renowned architect Frederick Delongchamps.

Las Vegas Grammar School is built

1916
First Community Christmas Tree is installed on Fremont Street.

1920
Cragin and Hoe opens the "Airdome" opera air theater on 3rd and Fremont streets.

Randall Henderson lands the first airplane in Las Vegas at Fremont Airfield. Directly behind what would eventually become the Sahara Hotel and Casino.

1923
The historic Westside School opens. The school first served Hispanic, African American and Native American students.

The Washington School opens in what would eventually become the city of North Las Vegas. It is the last remaining Streamline Moderne building left in North Las Vegas. It was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1992.

1924
Gerald Ashby and Jewelry Store opens on Fremont Street. Las Vegas's first music shop and jewelry store.

1926
The Las Vegas Pueblo Revival, a popular, dance pavilion, two lakes and orchards opens to the public. Originally founded in 1924 by French immigrant David G. Lionel as a farm.

Western Air Express establishes regularly scheduled flights for airmail to Los Angeles.

Boulder Dam is completed

Catholic Cardinal Jean-Gerlard Pecelli, Vatican Secretary of State, future Pope Pius XII visits Hoover Dam.

Winged Figures of the Republic, bronze sculptures installed at Boulder Dam, by sculptor Oskar J.W. Hansen. First sculpture in Southern Nevada.

The new Las Vegas Grammar School opens. Today the school is named the Historic 5th Street School and is home to the Nevada School of the Arts, an auditorium and art gallery. It is also on the national and local registers of historic places.

1939
The original Sahara Resort Style Las Vegas train depot opens on Fremont Street. Today it is the Boulevard Mobile Home Park. Designed by Jack Gogerty. A defining moment in Las Vegas architectural history marking the moment that the city entered the modern era.

1931-1940

1931
Nevada legalizes gambling

Las Vegas resident Wayne Stocker becomes the first person in Nevada to hold a gaming license.

Construction of Boulder Dam commences (later renamed Hoover Dam). Becomes the major tourist attraction in Southern Nevada.

The new Las Vegas High School opens. Today the school is home to the Las Vegas Academy of the Arts. It is the oldest continuously operating public high school in the state of Nevada and one of the first in the nation.

Walking Box Ranch is established by silent film star Clara Bow and her husband and cameraman film actor Rex Bell. The ranch would be one of the largest in the United States spanning the Nevada and California border. Rex Bell would go on to open several stores in Downtown Las Vegas, such as Bee's Saloon and Bee Bell's Western Wear Company. He would go on to be Lieutenant Governor of the state many years later.

1932
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints build a new church at 500 South Main Street. Today the church is the main genealogical library in Southern Nevada and one of the largest Mormon Temples in the United States. Structures in the American Modern.

1935
Helldorado Days and parade is established. Marking the beginning of one of Las Vegas's most popular events and traditions. It was established as a way to help build community pride by celebrating the construction of Hoover Dam. It entice the dam workers to remain in Southern Nevada after the dam was completed.

Lost City Museum in Overton opens. First museum in Southern Nevada.

1936
Boulder Dam is completed

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1941-1950

1941
El Cortez Hotel and Casino, on Fremont, designed by Wayne McAllister. Last remaining Streamline Moderne Resort casino in Las Vegas. It is also the only hotel and casino in Las Vegas placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

KENO, Las Vegas first successful radio station opens by Maxwell and Lucy Bruce Mizener. The radio station was located at the El Cortez Hotel and Casino.

1942
Las Vegas Free Department is established. The previous fire brigade was all volunteer.

Clark County Community College is established. In 1999 it is renamed the Community College of Southern Nevada and in 2007 it is renamed College of Southern Nevada.

Clark County Library is built on East Flamingo Library. Designed by Paul Thomas Tomkowicz in 1941 and in 1994. Text was removed in 2000.

1944
Robert School of Dancing and Dugdale & Bilt-Id, (opened 42 years)

The Huntridge Theater, opens. Designed by the renowned theater architect S. Charles Lee. Huntridge neighborhood established by Charles Lee and named in honor of his father.

The Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce establishes the "Live Wire" to help promote Las Vegas as a tourist destination.

Modern Cleaners opened its doors at 800 S. Las Vegas Blvd and Gass. Today it is known as Super Cleaners. It is the last remaining Streamline Moderne building left in North Las Vegas. It was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1992.

1946
Las Vegas Jewish Community Center and daycare opens at 1210 E. Charleston Avenue

City of North Las Vegas is incorporated

1947
The Desert Sea Nevis Bureau is founded by Steve Hannagan, to photograph Las Vegas and its visitors to send on the global news wires to help promote the city as a "Place in the Sun".

The Clark County Chamber of Commerce hires the Bernhard Margolis firm to create marketing material to attract visitors to Las Vegas. The famous "Vacation Playground" "Cowboy is created by the firm.

Mormon Let Youth Club located in the former War Memorial Building located at 4th and Stewart. By the 1950s the building was City Hall, it was demolished in the 1970s for a new City Hall which is now the Zapp's headquarters.

1948
Sahara Nevada Historical Society founded

1949
Save Joan of Arc Catholic Church and shrine opens in Downtown Las Vegas. Joan of Arc was canonized in 1920 and is the patron saint of Catholic Women conference.

"Ocean's Eleven" movie opens with the Rat Pack at the Fremont Theater

City of Boulder City is incorporated. Though it was founded in 1931 for the construction of Hoover Dam.

Six segregation of casinos begins

Leonard Bernstein arrives with his orchestra to perform in the new Las Vegas Convention Center Rotunda

The Lobate Dancers from Argentina arrive in Las Vegas to perform at the El Rancho Vegas (the day it burned down. Several of the dancers decided to stay in Las Vegas to become the first Argentines to live in the city.

1951-1960

1951
Atomic Energy Commission builds offices & test facility at Mercury, 65 miles northwest of Las Vegas

Designs Unlimited is founded by Las Vegas artist Irving Stone at 1500 Main Street. It is the first arts related store to open in what would eventually become the 18b Las Vegas Arts District.

First atomic bomb exploded at the Nevada Test Site

First A-bomb-on-Fremont-post card is created

The "Vegas Vic" neon sign is installed at the Pioneer Club on Fremont Street. Designed by Patrick Demer and built by Ben Paris and Electric Sign Company. The sign was moved to Fremont Street in the 1980's in the 1980's.

Las Vegas Librarians are the first in the state of gaffers. In 2013, CC Library embedded 30 exhibits per year were presented through this system.

1953
KLAS TV, Channel 8, first TV station

City of Henderson is incorporated

Las Vegas Opera Association helps spearhead the construction of the Las Vegas High School Auditorium.

1955
Opening and closing of Moulin Rouge Casino

Nevada Test Site receives national funding from the State of Nevada.

1956
Fremont Hotel on Fremont designed by Wayne McAllister

1957
Miss Atomic Bomb photo by Don English of Las Vegas News Bureau

Desert Art Supplies relocates to East Charleston Blvd. Established by Jack Wolkowicz. Jack ran by his son Del Wolkowicz and grandson James Wolkowicz. Originally located at the corner of Las Vegas Blvd and Bonanza. Today Desert Art Supplies is the oldest continuously operating independent art supply store in Las Vegas.

1959
Welcome to Fabulous Las Vegas sign designed by Betty Willis. Installed by Western Sign Company.

The Las Vegas Convention Center opens. Designed by Adrian Wilson. The convention is held, the World Congress of Flight opens.

Frew's Bakery opens in Las Vegas. Today it stands as the oldest continuously operating bakery in Southern Nevada.

1960
Mother Teresa's visits Las Vegas. This would mark her first trip to the United States and her first time leaving India in 30 years. She was invited to open a home for the Catholic Sisters of Catholic Women conference.

"Ocean's Eleven" movie opens with the Rat Pack at the Fremont Theater

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1961-1970

1961
La Concha Motel on the Strip designed by Paul Revere Williams

The Treetbeats band

1962
The Neonbeat Club opens, first teen nightclub in the US, Steve Miller, Keith Austin

Mahoney's Drum Shop opens at 608 S. Maryland Parkway

"Study for an End of the World No. 2 (1962)" Self-destructing large machines, designed for the purpose to slowly explode, at Jean-dry Jale Seed Company. Jean-dry Jale Seed Company was located in the Sahara Hotel. First major work of modern art in Southern Nevada

1963
Las Vegas Art Museum opens

St Anne Catholic Church by Elmo Bruner, exterior mosaics by Edith Piscek and her sister Isabel. Guardian Angel Cathedral, designed by renowned American Architect Paul Revere Williams and Claude Crane. Interior mosaics by Edith Piscek and her sister Isabel.

The Washington School opens in what would eventually become the city of North Las Vegas. It is the last remaining Streamline Moderne building left in North Las Vegas. It was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1992.

1964
The Beatles perform at the Las Vegas Convention Center

Viva Las Vegas, movie with Elvis and Ann Margaret Art in the Park festival is established in Boulder City.

1965
Clark County Art Council is established

1967
Nevada Arts Council, division of Nevada Department of Cultural Affairs, provides grants and technical supports for the arts.

Jeff Spacek Collections is established.

1968
Learning Fram Las Vegas, the forgotten symbolism of architectural form, book by Robert Venturi, Denise Scott Brown, Steve Izenour

Nevada Ballet Theatre is established

Bettie Cooper's Cocktail Parlor, Artist Collective, Artist Studio, Gallery. Founded by Adrian Wilson. The convention is held, the World Congress of Flight opens.

1969
Nevada Watercolor Society is founded

Double Negative, land art by Michael Heizer

UNLV art gallery, Archie C. Grant Hall, first gallery of UNLV

1970
The Downtown Maintenance Team depot is demolished to make way for the construction of the Union Plaza Hotel. Casino and small-town depot working room.

Las Vegas Art Museum opens

City, land art by Michael Heizer, completed 2022. First major land art in Southern Nevada.

UNLV College of Fine Arts

1971-1980

1971
Author Stanley W. Porter completes the book "Las Vegas! As it began and is grow". The first major book on the history of Las Vegas

Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas, book by Hunter S. Thompson, movie in 1998.

Mosaic installed at Temple Beth Shalom by artist and sculptor Rita Dasein Abbey

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Clark County Library is built on East Flamingo Library. Designed by Paul Thomas Tomkowicz in 1941 and in 1994. Text was removed in 2000.

1972
Bell Book and Candle Book Store opens. Las Vegas' first occult bookstore and shop. Owners, June Psy Zakowicz (Chamberlin Dey) and her husband Steve Zakowicz opened the shop at 1422 Las Vegas Blvd. S. In 1980 they relocated to E. Charleston Blvd.

KCEP 88.1 radio is established, non-commercial, community-supported, commercial-free.

Nevada Ballet Theatre is established by Vivill Sulch and Nancy Hossack.

Judy Bayley Theater and performing arts center at UNLV

1973
New Life Organic Vitji Hall opens in Las Vegas Sun

Cultural Affairs department established by the City of Las Vegas. First director Patricia Marchese

West Wrigade Cultural Center opens in former LDS church.

1974
The permanent art collection of the County library gallery opens, continues to add artists, ongoing

Las Vegas Art League changes its name to the Las Vegas Art Museum

1976
The Aladdin Theater for the Performing Arts opens. This theater was preserved due to it almost perfect acoustics.

1976
Artemus W Ham Hall concert hall is built at UNLV

Rainbow Company Youth Theater, City of Las Vegas

Las Vegas Jazz Society is established

Las Vegas Junior Symphony Listen became the Las Vegas Chamber Ensemble. Founded by Benjamin Manchaca.

1977
The Preservation Association of Clark County, Nevada is founded

1978
Charleston Heights Arts Center opens in the Las Vegas Library.

Grant Phillips's Las Vegas Showgirl Mountain is established.

Springs Preserve listed as National Register of Historic Places

First Historic Preservation Commission and Planning Guidelines completed by Charles Phillips Page and Associates Inc. with archeological resources completed by the UNLV Department of Anthropology. This study was commissioned by the City of Las Vegas and was the first comprehensive study of Las Vegas's history.

First mural commissioned by the City of Las Vegas for Duke Gymnasium and Pool. Art by Bob Bechtel who worked with local high school students including Jim and Bobbie Anne Howell.

1979
Liberace Museum and collection opens

Nevada Camera Club is established

Bad Habits, first Vegas punk band, Evil, Hill, Chris Morris, Eric Olsen, Joe Cortese

Record Exchange, later renamed The Underground, punk music and culture, on Maryland Parkway near UNLV

1980
KVRR Nevada Public Radio 88.9, classical music is established by Lamar Marchese

Botanical Cactus Garden at Ethel M Chocolates is established.

1981-1990

1981
Las Vegas Civic Ballet is established

Amber Unicorn Blues opens

KUNV radio from UNLV, 91.5, founded by students. In 1997 it was named best college radio station in the United States.

The Flashlight, sculpture at UNLV, by Claes Oldenburg and Coosje Van Bruggen, between the Judy Bailey Theater and Artemus W. Ham Concert Hall. The first public sculpture in Southern Nevada, dedicated to the work of contemporary sculpture in Southern Nevada.

Arts also established by the Allied Arts Council, Las Vegas Arts Council, Nevada State Council, founded in 1966.

1982
Nevada film office established

The Red Zone, punk music and pop culture center, downtown. The direct lineage of the current downtown arts district begins here. Jerry Busico Page After Page, comic books, Joe Pederson

Nevada State Museum, opens at Lorenzi Park, Las Vegas branch of what was until now, a Reno-based museum

1983
Las Vegas Pride established

First Martin Luther King parade in downtown Las Vegas

Social Distortion, Self Abuse, Party Shields concert at Vegas World

The Hispanic Museum of Nevada is established

1984
Goldwell open air museum founded by Belgian artist Dennis Oppenheim

The Remores perform at UNLV

Desert Shores band at Ann Road, Denny Breeden, Sean Green

1985
Nevada Chamber Symphony is established

Rhythm & Entertainment, punk club established

Caribbean Lifestyles, downtown, Stan Rankin, KUNV DJ

Sunset Park, Nevada, Jeffery Lewis and Jeffrey Lewis' band

1986
Jenny Holzer text presented on Caesars Palace Colosseum, part of the Nevada Museum of Contemporary Art

The Allied Arts Council begins Urban Design Committee, the precursor to the Neon Museum and acquires first neon sign.

Desert Sculpture Association established at Cactus Park

Las Vegas Central Library and Lied Discovery Children's Museum, designed by Antoine Predock, architect

Desert punk shows at Loose Road, Corrosion of Authority, 5050, Denny Breeden, Sean Green

The Newsroom, off 5th and Fremont, first downtown art coffee shop, Lenadiers Dorris

1987-1990

1987
The Newsroom moves to Maryland Parkway, the first art coffee shop there. Lenadiers Dorris

Left of Center Gallery, North Las Vegas, permanent collection of African and African Diaspora artworks, Vicki Richardson

Nevada Institute for Contemporary Art (NICA) opens in UNLV Donna Beam Gallery, moves to the Cashman City mall, moves to the Arts Factory, Tom Holder, Jerry Schetrick

Las Vegas Arts Commission created to advise Las Vegas City Council on all matters of art.

Art on Ice Bowl Shop opens first straw on Ice Vegas.

1988
Nevada Institute for Contemporary Art is established

Cafe Espresso Bizmo on Maryland Parkway, regulars the Newsroom

Vestige Madness, artisan vintage clothes, Maryland Parkway, Jeffrey Lewis, the second downtown art space established

"2000 people oriented outside the Nevada Test Site to witness the unprecedented by American Precise Test

1989
Contemporary Arts Collective and Temporary Contemporary gallery opens near UNLV.

Donna Beam Gallery at UNLV opens.

Nevada Institute for Contemporary Art Expose Rome on Maryland Parkway, across from UNLV. Bonnie Bertwistell, Jack Sorenson

50th Anniversary party of The Underground punk music, Marty, Wayne Cooper. The party was held at Bert's Second Story, large venue, the Underground was a popular venue for punk shows. The Underground was the second band after Black Flag to perform at a potential opportunity for artists.

1990
Nevada Institute for Contemporary Art moves to the Cashman City mall, moves to the Arts Factory, Tom Holder, Jerry Schetrick

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Art on Ice Bowl Shop opens first straw on Ice Vegas.

1991-2000

1991
The City of Las Vegas Historic Preservation Commission is established

Berwaag Boy, new music, on Maryland Parkway, Brian Stanton

1992
Southwest Contemporary, magazine, critical perspectives on contemporary arts

Scope Magazine, James and Staci Bricks, by 1998

Underground testing of Atom bombs halted at the Nevada Test Site

Double Down Saloon opens 7 Mocks, Scott Siegel Vegas Fort "Diner" bar

1993
Enigma Garden Cafe, 1941, 4th Street, downtown, established by Jerry Schetrick, Jeffrey Lewis, with Lenadiers Dorris, closed 2000. Following the Year of the Rat, Enigma Garden Cafe was the third downtown art space established.

Dr. Jazzy's, new music and culture, Maryland Parkway, by 1997

Tapas Tapas, on Maryland Parkway, Mike Gaza

Cafe Rainbow, Maryland Parkway, Jerry Hogle, Marci Gartrip, Rose with photo of the Rainbow, Maryland Parkway art district was at its high point with more tables than paying customers

The Committee for Public Safety, art collective, many artists, multi-media performance, poetry, music, video, 68 public events, 200 radio programs, produce Doug Jaeger, KUNV DJ

Las Vegas Academy of the Arts established in the old Las Vegas High School

Viva Las Vegas, Allen Hyzer Architecture, book, Denise Scott Brown, Steve Izenour, Allen Hyzer

The Magic Sign book by Charles F Barnard, a wide survey of classic Strip and downtown signs, Dave Deriger

Ventriloquists' Museum, hundreds of puppets and ventriloquist paraphernalia, Valentine Vox, al O'Shea's, on the Strip

1994
Tapas Tapas band debuts

Dance of Life, sculpture, Richard Shiry, later renamed the Arts Factory

Lowell Darling Group, genesis of the Loser Vibe art collective, three day multi-media event, at 1925 Oakey Sublime, FSP, perform at the Huntridge Theater

1995
Best Las Vegas Arts Center established

Culture Shock Las Vegas founded by fitness expert Denyel Thomas

Huntridge Theater ceiling collapses a couple of hours before a Circle Jerks show, no one is injured

Leaving Las Vegas, movie, Nicolas Cage, Elizabeth Shue

Jack Nicholson, 1st year of the College of Southern Nevada opens

Great Black Revolution opens in Las Vegas Christmas

Las Vegas, Guidebook to Las Vegas Architecture, book, by Frances Anderton, Jefferd Chase

Alternate Reality Comics, Maryland Parkway, Ralph Mathieu

1995-2000

1995
Main Studio Gallery 1006 S. Main, the arts district moves east to the 22nd, 2nd Cortez, Ed Bigelow, with the Lesser Vida art collective

Urban Theater, Symposium, UNLV School of Architecture

Library Las Vegas, book, anthology edited by Mike Davis

1996
Las Vegas Artists Guild is established

Contemporary Arts Collective relocates to Downtown Las Vegas

Nevada Museum of Contemporary Art moves to the Cashman City mall, moves to the Arts Factory, Tom Holder, Jerry Schetrick

Las Vegas Arts Commission created to advise Las Vegas City Council on all matters of art.

Art on Ice Bowl Shop opens first straw on Ice Vegas.

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Fine Arts Gallery, 1941, 4th Street, downtown, established by Jerry Schetrick, Jeffrey Lewis, with Lenadiers Dorris, closed 2000. Following the Year of the Rat, Fine Arts Gallery was the third downtown art space established.

Dr. Jazzy's, new music and culture, Maryland Parkway, by 1997

Tapas Tapas band

The Arts Factory is established by Mim Allen

Contemporary Arts Collective opens in the Arts Factory, by Kathleen Nathan and James Stanford

Nevada Ballet Theatre's dancers perform with the Las Vegas Philharmonic Orchestra, Henderson Pavilion

Cockroach Theater, established in 2003 moved to its district in 2003 between the Vegas Theater Company in 2003

Dust Gallery opens in the Arts Factory, Naomi Arin, Jerry Misko

2004
Local legends Black Cement embark on 1st 4K day event tour Lower Desert Sonic Tour, Mike Davis, Mark Lewis

Google Redux, Ultramodern roadside architecture, book, by Alan Hess, Alan Weintraub, photos by Dave Hanson

Ventriloquists' Museum, hundreds of puppets and ventriloquist paraphernalia, Valentine Vox, al O'Shea's, on the Strip

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2001-2010

2001
Guggenheim Hermitage Museum, inside the Venetian Resort, designed by Rem Koolhaus, Sheldon Adelson, closed 2008

The Money and the Power, book by Sally Denton and Roger Morris

LIED Library, 352,000 square feet, by Wells Prugsley Architects

UNLV professor and international acclaimed culture and art critic Dave Hickey receives MacArthur Fellowship.

The Magic Hour, the convergence of art and Las Vegas, book, edited by Alex Farquharson, with many contemporary artists

Las Vegas Jewish Film Festival, Josh Abbey

2002
First Friday monthly arts festival founded by Cindy Funkhouser, Julie Lynn Bennett, Rose Ann Lee

Finger Mountain, art collective, Dirty Double, Ed Matheson, Alexander Sergeev, Jeffrey Lewis, Ann Ward, Anthony Stark Emerson Gallery, Dave Bailey, Kevin Kung

The Pantz' Bridge, 30' walkway with etched key by 20 poets, downtown, City of Las Vegas

2003
John E. Reid neighborhood is placed on the local and National Register of Historic Places and is the first neighborhood in Las Vegas with such a status.

Percent for the Arts Fund, in alignment with national standards, a mechanism to fund public art, established by the City of Las Vegas

Las Vegas Arts and Culture Blog is founded by Robert Kimberly and established by Brian Pace Arts.

Cockroach Theater, established in 2003 moved to its district in 2003 between the Vegas Theater Company in 2003

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Alternate Reality Comics, Maryland Parkway, Ralph Mathieu

2001-2010

2005
MCG Fine Art curatorial consultant founded by Michele Quinn

Dam Short Film Festival, Boulder City, Lee Lanier, Anita Lanier, John Lanier

Sin City Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence drag nuns troupe, Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, Vegas chapter of San Francisco's Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence

2006
The Magic Hour, the convergence of art and Las Vegas, book, edited by Alex Farquharson, with many contemporary artists

Las Vegas Jewish Film Festival, Josh Abbey

2007
Bowling Alley, sculpture, Dirty Double, Ed Matheson, Alexander Sergeev, Jeffrey Lewis, Ann Ward, Anthony Stark Emerson Gallery, Dave Bailey, Kevin Kung

Bedroom, book by Claes Oldenburg and Coosje Van Bruggen, downtown, City of Las Vegas

2008
Monument to the Simulacrum, sculpture by Stephen Hendee, at the Historic Fifth Street School, downtown

Americans for the Arts, annual convention held in Las Vegas

For Las Vegas, by Jenny Holzer, on the Fremont Street canopy, funded by City of Las Vegas

Las Vegas Diaspora: the Emergence of Contemporary Art from the Neon Homeland, mostly former students of Dave Hickey, curated by Dave Hickey, at the Las Vegas Museum of Art

2009
Towards the Neon" exhibition at the Contemporary Arts Center. Curated by Brian Pace Alvarez based on the locally acclaimed book Beneath the Neon by Las Vegas author Matthew O'Brien. Over 600 people attended the grand opening.

Bauman Rare Books opens at the Palazzo

Neon Breech mural finished, James Woodbridge, Thierry Harlin

Erotic Heritage Museum, Harry Mittleman

Las Vegas Quilters

Guggenheim Museum Las Vegas closes

2010
Las Vegas Jewish Film Festival, Josh Abbey

Clay Foster resort, casino, condominium and art project opens on the Las Vegas Strip. The single largest investment in private public art in Las Vegas history. Curated by Michelle Quinn.

Las Vegas Museum of Art closes

Jewish Museum Collection opens in the Arts Factory

Sin City Gallery opens at the Arts Factory, Laura Heckel

2010
Lowell Darling Group

Lou Rave Center for Brain Health, designed by Frank Gehry

PT Studio at the Contemporary Museum, artist residency, by the Art Production Fund and

Blacklord Studios, art spaces on Commerce, downtown, Gina Gleason

Emergency Arts Center, on Fremont Street, art spaces with the Beat coffee shop, Michael and Jennifer Comfortable, the first downtown art coffee shop in ten years since the closure of Enigma Garden Cafe

Jewish Museum in Las Vegas, group show, late in 2010, Jenjoe Vegas Tribute Gallery

Dust Deep, art collective, Alexander P Kravchenko, Kate Edge Canumay

Photo Berry Bang, studio downtown, Curtis Joe Walker

Las Vegas Natural History Museum, downtown

Vegas City Opera is founded by Ginger Lord-van Buuren

2011-2024

2011
Marjorie Barzin Museum of Art, UNLV (Originally the Barzin Museum founded in 1950)

Electric Daisy Carnival Las Vegas, electronic dance music

Nevada State Museum, in Springs Preserve

Fil Group Foundred, Street art and event curation, Diana Anderson and Phil Linson founders.

2012
Neon Las Vegas City Hall opens

Pipe Dream, sculpture at the Smith Center, Tim Bavington

New City of Las Vegas City Hall, Cass Moran Street, includes a collection of commissioned public art.

Public Fit Fitness Center, Fremont Street campus, by Hulsk Alsickie, City of Las Vegas and Creativetime

City Lights Lumpkin becomes director of the Las Vegas Art Museum

2013
Monument to the Simulacrum, sculpture by Stephen Hendee, at the Historic Fifth Street School, downtown

Americans for the Arts, annual convention held in Las Vegas

For Las Vegas, by Jenny Holzer, on the Fremont Street canopy, funded by City of Las Vegas

Las Vegas Diaspora: the Emergence of Contemporary Art from the Neon Homeland, mostly former students of Dave Hickey, curated by Dave Hickey, at the Las Vegas Museum of Art

2013
Towards the Neon" exhibition at the Contemporary Arts Center. Curated by Brian Pace Alvarez based on the locally acclaimed book Beneath the Neon by Las Vegas author Matthew O'Brien. Over 600 people attended the grand opening.

Bauman Rare Books opens at the Palazzo

Neon Breech mural finished, James Woodbridge, Thierry Harlin

Erotic Heritage Museum, Harry Mittleman

Las Vegas Quilters

Guggenheim Museum Las Vegas closes

2014
Clay Foster resort, casino, condominium and art project opens on the Las Vegas Strip. The single largest investment in private public art in Las Vegas history. Curated by Michelle Quinn.

Las Vegas Museum of Art closes

Jewish Museum Collection opens in the Arts Factory

Sin City Gallery opens at the Arts Factory, Laura Heckel

2015
Lowell Darling Group

Lou Rave Center for Brain Health, designed by Frank Gehry

PT Studio at the Contemporary Museum, artist residency, by the Art Production Fund and

Blacklord Studios, art spaces on Commerce, downtown, Gina Gleason

Emergency Arts Center, on Fremont Street, art spaces with the Beat coffee shop, Michael and Jennifer Comfortable, the first downtown art coffee shop in ten years since the closure of Enigma Garden Cafe

Jewish Museum in Las Vegas, group show, late in 2010, Jenjoe Vegas Tribute Gallery

Dust Deep, art collective, Alexander P Kravchenko, Kate Edge Canumay

Photo Berry Bang, studio downtown, Curtis Joe Walker

Las Vegas Natural History Museum, downtown

Vegas City Opera is founded by Ginger Lord-van Buuren

2016
Gold Bulla National Monument is established by President Barack Obama

Majestic Repertory Theatre, Tony Hoard

Seven Magic Mountains, installation at Jean Dry Lake, by Olga Rozdobova

Tilting the Basin, Contemporary Art in Nevada, presented by the Reno-based Nevada Museum of Art

Drum Machine, sculpture, treated aluminum, 26 feet tall, Wayne Lithgum

Big Big Jig, sculpture installed at Fergusson's on Fremont, by Mike Davis

Small Space Fest, by the Weft in the Weave Collective, in Downtown, City of Las Vegas.

Priscilla Foster Fine Art Gallery, downtown, Priscilla Fowler

2017
Museum & Symposium on Urban Design, UNLV School of Architecture

AMP utility cabinet painting program established by City of Las Vegas Arts Commission. Project recommended by arts commissioners Brian Pace Alvarez and Marc Abelman

First annual UNLV Walk

Neon Museum marks 3 murals on its hotel tower. Making the murals the largest murals in Las Vegas history

2018
Bazar Sumernety, sculpture by Luis Varela-Rico, on Main Street

Core Contemporary, gallery by Nancy Good at New Orleans Square

Double Scoop online magazine of Nevada arts, Kris Vagner

Nevada Museum of Art, Reno, exhibition of Americans in expansion to Las Vegas

Beyond Propaganda, gallery, downtown, Izaac Baron Zavaleta III

2019
Street Art Las Vegas, by William Shea Pretzka is published. First comprehensive history of Las Vegas Street Art by the same author, was "Fade to Gray".

The Beyers Museum opens with works by Andy Warhol, Richard Prince, Takashi Murakami and others. Damien Hirst designs a bar and restaurant, Wayne Newton performs with a multi-story Urs Fischer sculpture and two large murals

Neon Museum, Las Vegas, Boneyard, Rico Wolfson

The Beverly Theater, indie, revival, art movies, live performances, 186 seats, downtown

LACMA and Las Vegas Museum of Art enter into an EMA with the City of Las Vegas for land in Symphony Park. Campaign for Las Vegas Museum of Art (CLVMA) is prepared as the cost of the museum.

Clark County purchases New Orleans Square

Punk Rock Museum opens

The Sphere opens

City of Las Vegas hosts the first Arts and Culture Summit, free for patron AB Wilkinson

ASAP gallery (Available Space Art Project) opens, Steve Spencer, Holly Lu, Homero Hidalgo

Hellbound Horror, scary collectibles, Barbara and Jim McWilliams, New Orleans Square

Picoro Art Works curatorial consultancy founded by Brian Pace Alvarez

"Vegas Rising" mural by artist Gear Duran and Brian Pace Alvarez commissioned by the Downtown Partnership. First Chinese inspired mural in Downtown.

2020
Atomic Tumbleweed, sculpture, stainless steel, by Wayne Lithgoes, atop, ten eng