



Nevada Humanities To Feature National Journalists in Conversation about White Supremacy and the Threat to Democracy

Virtual “Why It Matters” Conversations to Take Place Throughout Beginning of 2021

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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January 27, 2021—RENO, Nev—As part of a national initiative about civic and electoral engagement, [*Why It Matters: Civic and Electoral Participation*](#), Nevada Humanities welcomes journalists John L. Smith (*Nevada Independent* and author of the forthcoming book, *Saints, Sinners, and Sovereign Citizens: The Endless War over the West’s Public Lands*), Talia Lavin (independent journalist and author of *Culture Warlords: My Journey Into the Dark Web of White Supremacy*), and Eli Saslow (*Washington Post* and author of *Rising out of Hatred: the Awakening of a Former White Nationalist*) to talk about the violent events at the United States Capitol on January 6, 2021. [*Why It Matters: White Supremacy and the Threat to Democracy*](#) will delve into this critical moment for our nation, exploring the threads of white nationalism, armed militias, and unrest in the United States that threatens to destabilize our democracy. This event will be held virtually on **Zoom at 6 pm on February 4, 2021**, and is moderated by Dr. Todd Felts, Teaching Associate Professor of Public Relations & Advertising at the Reynolds School of Journalism at the University of Nevada, Reno. [Register](#) for this event at nevadahumanities.org.

Christina Barr, Executive Director of Nevada Humanities, notes: “Civic participation has been on all of our minds this year, not only with record-breaking voter turnout in the 2020 presidential election, but unprecedented public protests and demonstrations across the nation. The events at the U.S. Capitol on January 6, 2021, shook us all. With a longstanding commitment to bringing people together to talk about ideas that matter, Nevada Humanities is honored to host this conversation and others like it with our community in Nevada.”

[*Why It Matters*](#) includes a special series of online conversation programs through April 2021 around the topics of voting, electoral participation, and civic engagement, featuring academics, journalists, and community leaders working in the field. These events are meant to bring people

together to talk, share, learn, and listen using the humanities to promote understanding through historical context and conversation.

These events are funded by the “Why it Matters: Civic and Electoral Participation” initiative, administered by the Federation of State Humanities Councils and funded by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

About Nevada Humanities: Nevada Humanities is one of 56 independent, nonprofit state and territorial humanities councils affiliated with the National Endowment for the Humanities. With offices in Reno and Las Vegas, Nevada Humanities creates public programs and supports public projects statewide that define the Nevada experience and facilitate the exploration of issues that matter to the people of Nevada and their communities. For more information about Nevada Humanities visit nevadahumanities.org.

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