

***Then and Now: The Neon Boneyard Lighting Up Las Vegas***

**New Exhibition Opens on June 6 at Nevada Humanities Program Gallery in Las Vegas**

*Exhibition on Display June 6 through July 24, 2019*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**May 3, 2019—LAS VEGAS, NV**–As part of the [***Nevada Humanities Exhibition Series***](http://nevadahumanities.org/programs/nevada-humanities-exhibition-series), a new exhibition, *Then and Now: The Neon Boneyard Lighting Up Las Vegas*, will be on display at the Nevada Humanities Program Gallery in Las Vegas from June 6 – July 24, 2019. The Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority’s Las Vegas News Bureau and the Neon Museum have come together to present a new spin on the classic concept “Then and Now” by juxtaposing neon signs as they stand today in the Neon Boneyard against their vintage images from the News Bureau’s archive. Standing together these images reveal the impact that neon has had in Las Vegas from its early days to the present. This innovative look at the history of Las Vegas highlights the origins of the city’s signs and their ever evolving styles and architecture.

"People think of neon when they think of Las Vegas, and they often want to see what these iconic artifacts looked like when they first lit up the city,” said guest curator Derek Weis, Education and Engagement Manager at the Neon Museum. “We are pleased to present this opportunity to remember the signs as they once were," said guest curator Kelli Luchs, Archivist, at the Las Vegas News Bureau.

For more than 70 years, the [**Las Vegas News Bureau**](https://www.lasvegasnewswire.com/) has captured the sights and sounds of Las Vegas like no one else. It has played a unique role in promoting Las Vegas by documenting unforgettable images on film. Today, the News Bureau continues to play an important role in marketing Las Vegas as part of the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority. While its primary function is documenting and distributing images to the news media, the News Bureau shares its archival photo and film collection with the public through year-round community exhibitions. The Bureau’s active preservation program safeguard this rich and living archive of Las Vegas history for future generations.

The [**Neon Museum**](https://www.neonmuseum.org/) is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization dedicated to collecting, preserving, studying, and exhibiting iconic Las Vegas signs for educational, historic, arts, and cultural enrichment. Its two-acre campus includes an outdoor exhibition space known as the Neon Boneyard. The museum collection also includes several restored signs installed as public art throughout downtown Las Vegas. Both the Neon Boneyard and museum’s La Concha Visitors’ Center are located at 770 Las Vegas Blvd. North, Las Vegas.

Nevada Humanities is excited to host this exhibition, which brings together a strong and natural partnership between three of Las Vegas' premier cultural gems,” said Christina Barr, Executive Director of Nevada Humanities. “Nevada Humanities, the Neon Museum, and the Las Vegas News Bureau are important stewards of our culture, and the *Then and Now* exhibition offers us an important vantage point to illuminate our past and better understand our present."

*Then and Now: The Neon Boneyard Lighting Up Las Vegas* will be on display, from June 6 – July 24, 2019, at the Nevada Humanities Program Gallery, which is located in the Art Square Garden Courtyard downtown in the Las Vegas Arts District at 1017 S. First Street, #190. The Nevada Humanities Program Gallery is open Monday through Friday, from 1 to 5 pm, and until 9 pm on Preview Thursdays and the first Friday of each month.

Nevada Humanities will host a reception for *Then and Now: The Neon Boneyard Lighting Up Las Vegas* onThursday, June 6, 2019,from 6 to 9 pm, with a curator’s talk at 7:00 pm, at the Nevada Humanities Program Gallery.

**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](http://www.nevadahumanities.org/).

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