GRASS VALLEY-NEVADA CITY
CULTURAL DISTRICT
CULTURE CONNECTION

Welcome to Culture Connection

Grass Valley-Nevada City Cultural District's newsletter, featuring the events, stories, and people of our community

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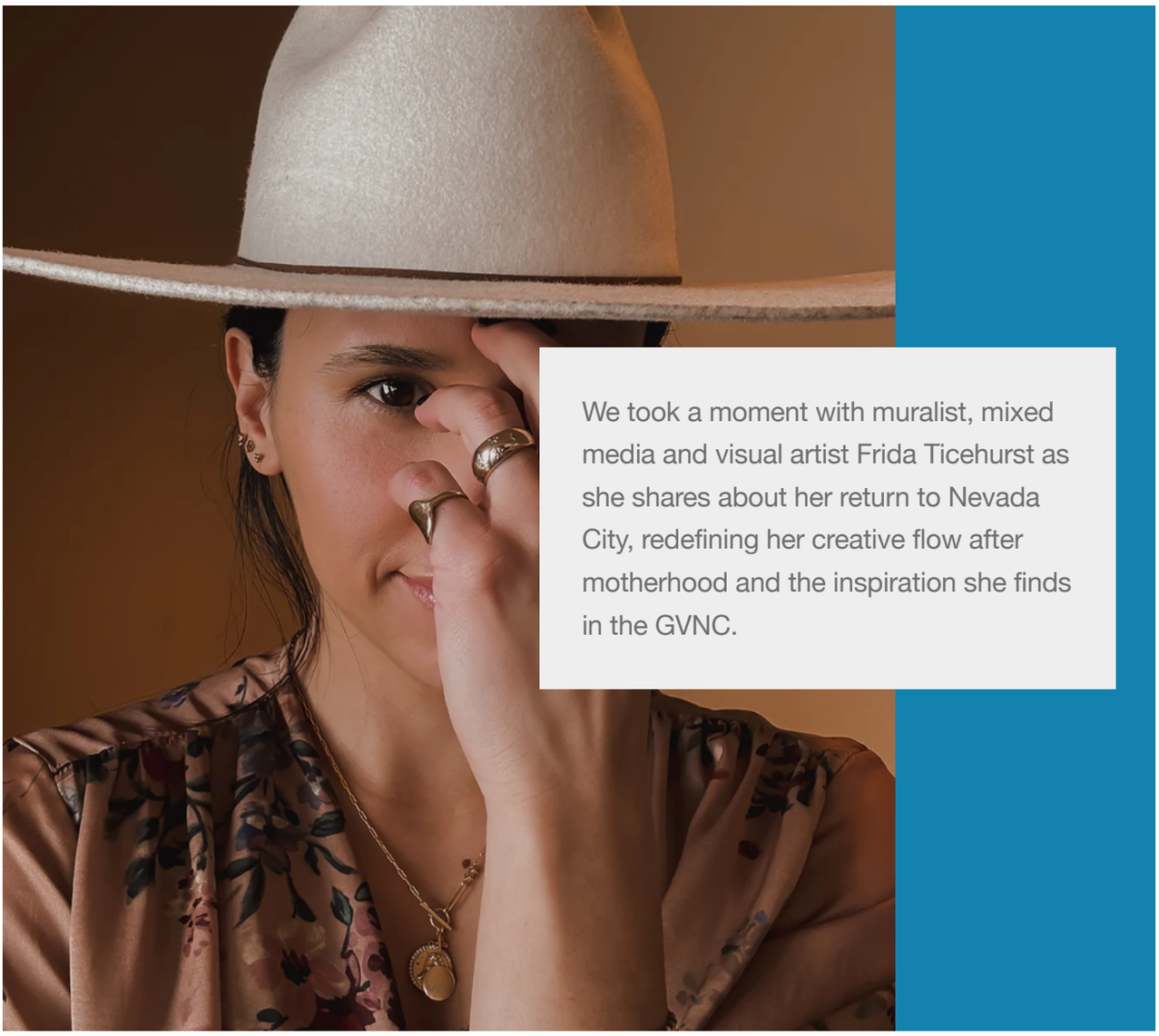
This holiday season, join Grass Valley-Nevada City Cultural District as we celebrate our local businesses, artisans, and performers across Nevada County.

Explore unique gifts, watch captivating performances, and immerse yourself in the spirit of community. Let's make the holidays memorable by supporting our local creative economy.

Visit our website for shopping and gallery guides, a holiday event calendar and more!

Artist Spotlight



We took a moment with muralist, mixed media and visual artist Frida Ticehurst as she shares about her return to Nevada City, redefining her creative flow after motherhood and the inspiration she finds in the GVNC.

GVNC Cultural District: What is your medium?

Ticehurst: I am a mixed media artist mainly using botanical inks and dyes, watercolor, and acrylic on paper, wood, and textiles.

GVNC: At what point in your life did you realize your calling?

Ticehurst: I've always known I was an artist. I have a photo of me making art in diapers with my godmother, who is also an artist. I think being named after Frida Kahlo had a big impact on my interest in art. Part of my childhood was in Mexico and I lived two blocks from Frida Kahlo's house.

I also had very supportive parents who always encouraged me to explore my creativity and got me fun art supplies to experiment and express with.

As a family we moved a lot, and art was always a safe space for me to be with myself. I think my parents saw that and encouraged it as a way of expression for me.

GVNC: Tell us about your creative process.

Ticehurst: I am very visual and tend to always see universes as visions and dreams. I receive a lot of visions daily and many times these are parts of the art I make or ideas of things I want to create.

For commission work, I tend to sketch out my ideas but other times I just flow and map it out on my canvas as I go.

Since becoming a mother my art-making practice has changed. Before I would be very calculated, measure, and map out my piece before painting. Now I allow my hand to lead and flow as I go. This new way allows for more “imperfections” which I appreciate. I like my art to remind us that there is a human hand creating the work. A pulse that sometimes trembles capturing my breath in the moment of creating the work. I want to remind people of that by letting my work be more organic and natural.

Another big influence on my creative process is my spiritual practice. This has opened my visions and desire to capture the beauty and spirit of life through my work. Sometimes in a more abstract way as with my “Shapes of Creation” series, and others in a very obvious way like with my hummingbird paintings. Overall I want to bring people closer to nature and spirit through my work.

GVNC: What inspires you?

Ticehurst: Nature!!! I am forever fascinated by the beauty of natural ecosystems and landscapes. I see a lot of connections with all of them and from there, I can access infinite ideas and inspiration.

I am very inspired by hummingbirds and butterflies. Partly because hummingbirds have been a strong presence in my life since I was a kid. I have countless memories of getting visits from hummingbirds by my window especially while making art in every country I have lived. Butterflies mean a lot to my Mexican heritage, they connect us with our loved ones and carry such a profound message of beauty and transformation.

But out of all, I would say my biggest inspiration is water. Whenever I need inspiration, ideas, clarity, or just a reset, I go to water.

GVNC: What are you most proud of?

Ticehurst: Currently, I am most proud of my ability to let my hand lead in an organic way when I make art. It requires a level of trust in myself that I don't think I had until after I became a mother. I feel proud that I am genuinely interested in how I will make my next piece without too much control but rather letting my hand lead.

GVNC: What do you love best about our creative community?

Ticehurst: The talent, commitment, and appreciation of the arts are something I love about our creative community. Art is celebrated here and appreciated as a valuable component of our community, which for me, is essential for its health and wellbeing.

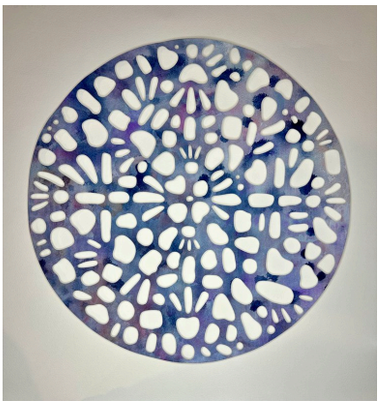
GVNC: Name two Nevada county artists you admire and why.

Ticehurst: It's so hard to narrow it down, but if I have to choose only two they are Viine Creations- I love her commitment to her craft and passion so much! She makes beautiful things.

Sora Onyx - I really appreciate the wide range of creative expression! The details and colors are beautiful.

GVNC: What's coming up for you?

Ticehurst: I recently launched my website fridaticehurst.com and I'm excited to offer new artwork and apparel. I am also looking forward to larger projects like more murals, workshops, and collaborations for 2025.



NEVADA COUNTY arts COUNCIL

TOGETHER WE ELEVATE ARTS & CULTURE

SUPPORT THE FUTURE OF OUR CREATIVE SECTOR:

- **MUSE 2025** celebrating Nevada County's unique culture.
- **Arts & Culture Action Plan** your voice shaping the future of our creative economy.
- **Career development** and **advocacy** for local artists and arts orgs.

HELP US REACH OUR END-OF-YEAR MATCH!

CLICK TO DONATE

BECOME

Holiday Happenings and New Year Celebrations

The 20th Anniversary presentation of the

"Nevada County Nutcracker"

Friday, December 20 | 6:00pm
Saturday, December 21
2:00 and 6:00pm
Sunday, December 22 | 2:00pm

Don Baggett Theatre
Nevada Union High School
11761 Ridge Road, Nevada City

Centerstage Dance Studio presents their annual Nevada County Nutcracker—a unique opportunity for dancers of all ages and technical levels to work and dance together and bring diverse audiences to celebrate the beauty of classical ballet and music.

LeGacy Presents

“It’s A Wonderful Life… A Live Radio Play”

November 29 through December 24th

ONE Thursday night show
December 19 | 7:00pm

Sunday, December 22 | 2:00pm

SPECIAL closing matinee
Christmas Eve, December 24 | 2:00pm

To cherish life, love each other and the invaluable importance of friendship…

56th Annual Cornish Christmas

Final Night
Friday, December 20 | 6:00-9:00pm

Downtown Grass Valley
Main and Mill Streets

Step into the warmth and wonder of an Old-Fashioned Christmas Street Faire, where the charm of a bygone era comes alive under twinkling lights and festive decorations.

Victorian Christmas

Wednesday, December 18
5:00-9:00pm
Sunday, December 22 | 1:30-6:00pm

Downtown Nevada City

The aroma of roasted chestnuts fill the air, along with cries of street vendors hawking their wares and lamp-lit streets filled with Christmas treasures…

DJ K. Bueno Victorian Christmas After-Party

Wednesday, December 18 | 9:00pm

Crazy Horse Saloon
230 Commercial Street, Nevada City

DJ K. Bueno is in a league of his own, carrying the sort of Zen-cool of Paul Newman getting ready for a Color of Money type hustle. His sonic strategy instantly casts a collective spell, leaving inhibitions in its wake.

Presented by Enrique's Lounge

Mezcal Mashup 2.0

Friday, December 20
9:00pm-2:00am

Enrique's Lounge
120 E Main St, Grass Valley

Enrique's Lounge Mezcal is the best and smoothest Mezcal in the entire Grass Valley downtown area. Featuring 4 live DJ's that make ya wanna dance. Food and bar open 'til 2am. Maybe this is your

Christmas gift to yourself?

VOCES8

Saturday, December 21
2:00pm & 7:30pm

Peace Lutheran Church
828 West Main St, Grass Valley

Join InConcert Sierra for a sparkling holiday celebration with the 2023 Grammy-nominated British vocal ensemble VOCES8 is proud to inspire people through music and share the joy of singing.

NYE New York Style: Banner Mountain Blues Band Dance Party

Tuesday, December 31 | 5:00-10:00pm

Wild Eye Pub
535 Mill Street

Fully alive in 2025! Bring it in with Banner Mountain Blues Band with a New York-style New Years Eve! Ring in the new year, while you boogie.

Presented by The Center for the Arts

The Brothers Comatose: New Years Eve Party!

with Brett Shady opening

Tuesday, December 31

Doors: 8:00pm | Brett Shady: 9:00pm | Brothers Comatose: 10:00pm

The Brothers Comatose are a roots-infused bluegrass band known for their infectious blend of Americana, folk, and traditional bluegrass with a reputation for their high-energy performances, heartfelt songwriting, and impressive musicianship.

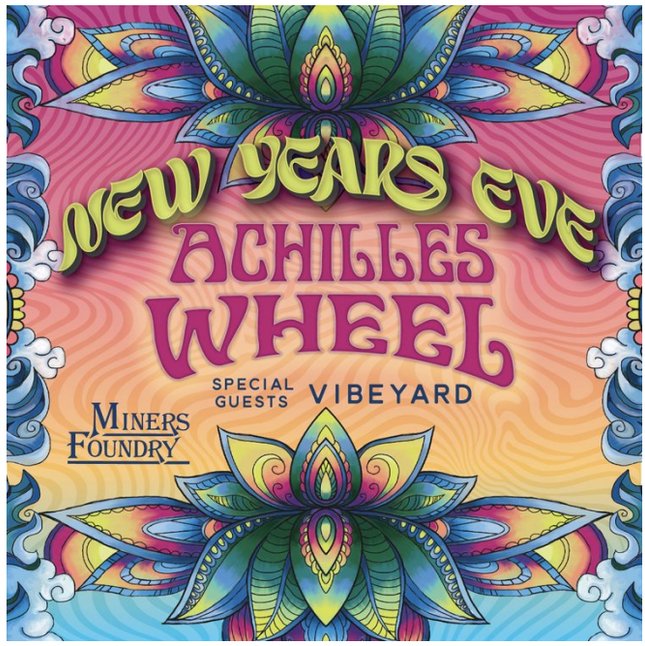
Paul Emery Music presents

New Year's Eve Bash

Tuesday, December 31
Bar 8:00pm | Show 9:00-11:30pm

Miners Foundry
325 Spring Street, Nevada City

This year local favorites Achilles Wheel take the stage with special guests Vibeyard. Achilles Wheel is a band that blurs the lines between genres with a mix of infectious high energy dance beats and stark lyrical ballads.

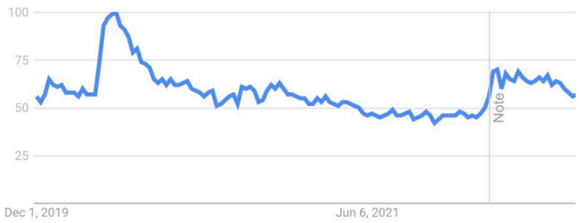


Bird's Eye View

a word from our student intern

Underground Music

With Thanksgiving passing just recently and the Holidays right around the corner, I want to talk about an anomaly that I am grateful for, despite the opinion of many. This relates to the recent uptick of underground artists that have begun popping up worldwide. Since the 21st century technological advancements skyrocketed, and the accessibility of professional-grade Digital Audio Workstations (DAWs) followed suit. I have noticed that the trend of young people who have picked up music production has drastically increased since the 2020 pandemic, picking up new, maintainable hobbies while being locked inside. These factors have played a massive role in changing the game in any genre produced without physical instruments like hip-hop and EDM.



Search trends of the phrase 'FL Studio' from 2019-2021 depict a notable spike in 2020.

Over the last decade, breakthrough artists like Charli XCX and Tyler the Creator have been perfect examples of incredibly skilled artists who create their music in a way that inspires the average person with few resources. Charli produced and wrote her first song at age 14, the song was then used in Versace's SS10 fashion show in 2010. Tyler produced his breakthrough generational cult classic album Igor using only the free trial version of the popular DAW FL Studio. Living in a day and age where industry-standard digital workspaces are right at the fingertips of anyone who wants to try them is something I find to be a net positive, however, this is an unpopular opinion to many underground music fans and artists alike.

The discourse in online and real-life spaces can be boiled down to frustration due to the oversaturation of the underground scene, with the number of registered music creators on SoundCloud doubling from 20 million in 2018, to 40 million in 2023. For artists who have been honing their craft since before this boom of new artists, their frustrations are entirely justified. With creators blowing up after not having been in the game for a fraction of how long others have been, and a theme of quantity over quality, it causes the waters to become muddied in many ways.

Cover of Charli XCX's 2008 debut mix tape, '14'

A year ago, I would have fully agreed with the public opinion on this topic. My perspective has now shifted to that of great appreciation for these countless independent artists, and I have taken up music production myself. Within Nevada County, there is a flourishing scene of young people who produce all kinds of music, and I would never have been a part of this community if it weren't for my peers who taught me how to use music production software. Because there are so many people globally who have a passion for these modern genres of music, there are countless opportunities to build community and collaborate on projects with people one never would otherwise. I find this very inspiring, as artists of all varieties are stronger when working together and not pitted against each other.

More Info:

Interview with Tyler the Creator about his debut album.
Article on Charli XCX's breakthrough success.
More on the history of independent music.

Save the Date:
January Creatives Meetup

Mark your calendar for our first Creatives Meetup of 2025! We'll be hosted by our friends at Wild & Scenic Film Festival on **January 9th from 5:00-7:00pm** at their headquarters at 313 Railroad Ave., Suite 101 in Nevada City.

We'll see you there!

ART MOVES MOUNTAINS
RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

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