FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Nevada Humanities Selects Two Nevada Authors to Represent Nevada at the National Book Festival
Selections are part of the national Great Reads from Great Places program

RENO, NV — Nevada Humanities and its Nevada Center for the Book have selected two books written by Nevada authors to represent Nevada at the 2024 Library of Congress National Book Festival. Both titles are included as part of the Library of Congress Center for the Book’s national Great Reads from Great Places initiative, a list which includes books for youth and adults from each affiliate center from the 50 states and six U.S. territories.

Nevada Humanities’ 2024 selections are:

- (Youth title) The Moon’s Tear: A Desert Night’s Dream by Sophie Sheppard
- (Adult title) The Meth Lunches: Food and Longing in an American City by Kim Foster
This year’s Great Reads from Nevada call attention to the urgency of protecting dark skies in our state and keeping them visible, and the myriad ways that food, stories, and our shared humanity are interconnected.

“We are excited to share these Nevada stories on the national stage at this year’s National Book Festival in Washington, DC,” said Christina Barr, executive director of Nevada Humanities. “Our selections this year highlight the beauty of and the need to preserve our dark, starry skies in the West, and the real-life significance of what the food that we eat reveals about our connections to one another and our shared humanity.”

During this year’s National Book Festival on Saturday, August 24, 2024, at the Washington Convention Center in Washington, D.C., representatives from the 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, American Samoa, Guam, and Northern Marianas, will promote their book selections and other literary works reflective of their unique locations. The festival will include many livestreamed and recorded virtual programs celebrating books and authors.

**The Moon’s Tear: A Desert Night’s Dream** by Sophie Sheppard

A third-generation painter, Sophie Sheppard lives and works in the remote northwest corner of the Great Basin where the distances are vast and the silences are deep. Her paintings and writing are place-based in this land where she, her husband Lynn Nardella, and three generations of their family practice regenerative agriculture and put carbon back in the soil where it belongs. Her children’s book *The Moon’s Tear: A Desert Night’s Dream* is based on a dream she had while sleeping under clear desert night skies.

**The Meth Lunches: Food and Longing in an American City** by Kim Foster

Kim Foster is a James Beard Award-winning writer and author of *The Meth Lunches: Food and Longing in an American City*. Foster writes about people enmeshed in mental illness, family separation, poverty, addiction, trauma, and incarceration. She has written for, or been written about, in publications including The Washington Post, Slate, The Guardian, and others. Foster lives in Las Vegas, Nevada.

To learn more about Sophie Sheppard and Kim Foster and their books, as well as upcoming local programming featuring these authors, visit nevadahumanities.org/nevada-center-for-the-book

The Nevada Center for the Book, a program of Nevada Humanities, is one of 56 affiliates of the Library of Congress and its Center for the Book, which was established by Congress in 1977 to stimulate public interest in books and reading, and remains a national force for reading and literacy promotion. Nevada Humanities’ participation in the National Book Festival and the National Book Festival Roadmap to Reading are made possible by the generous support of the
INSTITUTE OF MUSEUM AND LIBRARY SERVICES AND THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES WITH ADDITIONAL SUPPORT FROM CHIEF OFFICERS OF STATE LIBRARY AGENCIES.

ABOUT NEVADA HUMANITIES

Nevada Humanities is one of 56 independent, nonprofit state and territorial humanities councils that partner with the National Endowment for the Humanities. With offices in Reno and Las Vegas, Nevada Humanities creates public cultural programs and supports public cultural 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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