

## Arts, Culture, and Heritage

*Local artisans and art associations; cultural events and preservations; performances; museums and galleries.*

Many artists live in the area, resulting in the creation of a community rich in visual and performing arts. The Plumas County Arts Commission functions as a model partner in the California Arts Council's State Local Partnership Program and as the county arts planning and programming agency. It publishes a quarterly newsletter and calendar of arts and events taking place almost every day of the year. Arts Council income per capita from 1997 – 2000 was \$8.40, compared to \$1.50 statewide. More than a third (37%) came from the state government and grants, 10% from local government, 10% from memberships and individual donations.

The county has six museums:

- Plumas County Museum in Quincy, displaying historical artifacts, Maidu basketry, period rooms, and a Steam Railroad display
- the Jim Beckwourth Museum, an 1805's log cabin trading post and "hotel
- Chester Museum, displaying historical photographs, Maidu basketry and artifacts, and the Butte Lake "Dinky"
- Indian Valley Museum, of the Mt. Jura Gem and Mineral Society
- Plumas Eureka State Park Museum, displaying mining, skiing, history and wildlife exhibits
- Portola Railroad Museum, displaying railroad history and photos and offering train rides.

Art displays are also on view throughout the county, at banks, galleries, government buildings and cafes.

Some examples of arts, culture and heritage events in the county include the following:

- Northern Sierra Indian Days, the county's annual celebration of traditional and contemporary Native American arts, marks its eleventh year in 2000, with demonstrations by Maidu basket weavers, dancing, and arts and crafts show
- Greenville will host its 38<sup>th</sup> annual Gold Digger Days, a two day festival with activities, music, food, contests and crafts.
- Chester, Indian Valley and Portola host summer family concert series.
- Gold Mountain hosts an annual music and arts festival the last weekend in June
- The High Sierra Music Festival has moved their annual camping and music festival to Quincy
- Several communities host monthly "Words & Music" evenings of spoken word
- and acoustic music by regional artists with open mike segments
- Visual art and writing workshops are hosted by several artists guilds and the Arts Commission
- The Mountain Harvest Festival combines art & crafts booths, community
- Booths and a restaurant tasting called "Taste of Quincy" each October.

- Chester Community Chorus and its affiliated groups which present three concert series annually, as well as presentations upon request within 150 miles.
- Almanor holds its 31<sup>st</sup> annual art show in 2000.
- Quincy Elementary School holds its third summer arts institute for teachers and artists.
- Quincy’s Bookshelf holds a monthly book group.

During a number of community surveys, residents stated that they wanted more music and art events in their communities. Indian Valley’s 1998-99 community surveys showed that 53% of respondents wanted music or art in Greenville. The Healthy Start survey of 56 families at the Greenville and Taylorsville Elementary Schools showed almost all (93%) would like to see more art and music events in the community.

### **Community Input**

Residents of each community in the county participated in community meetings or completed surveys which were tabulated separately for adults and teens. At the community meetings, each participant was asked to name key issues in fourteen areas and then to prioritize their top five local and top three countywide priorities, by using red dots for local and blue dots for countywide priorities. Therefore the number of times an item was mentioned in a community meeting would not match the number of dots. Respondents to the surveys were asked to comment on each of the fourteen areas and to set three priorities for local and countywide improvements. The survey totals show the number of times a topic was commented upon in a survey. Each respondent had several opportunities to comment on each area and generally took that opportunity. The number does not address the range of comments within a topic, for instance, “Increase funding” and “Private funding only” or simply the comment “yes.” The “total” column adds up all the dots, participants and responses from the surveys. Each response was counted and reported in Table 1.

**Table 1: Comparison of Input from Community Meetings and Adult and Teen Surveys, by Community**

	Community Meetings			Adult Survey	Teen Surveys	Total
	Red	Blue	#			
Indian Valley	12		13	21	1	47
Mohawk Valley	16	2	20	48	2	187
Quincy	14	1	18	21	133	114
Portola	16	6	32	42	18	114
Chester/Lake Almanor	17	2	45	32	68	164

Table 2 shows the number of responses in the six topics mentioned most frequently in the area of arts, culture and heritage, by community and type of input.

**Table 2: Most Frequently Raised Issues within Arts, Culture and Heritage, by Community and Type of Input**

CM = Community Meetings T = Teen Surveys A = Adult Surveys	Total			Indian Valley			Mohawk Valley			Portola			Quincy			Chester/Lake Almanor		
	CM	A	T	CM	A	T	CM	A	T	CM	A	T	CM	A	T	CM	A	T
Performing Arts/Movie Theatre	37	26	21		1		11	11		7	8	2	6	1	4	13	5	15
History/Heritage	32	28	1	8	6		5	12		9	6	1	1	3		9	1	
Museums/Galleries	16	24	5	2	4		3	6		2	9	1	5	4		4	1	4
Music/Concerts	12	7	3			1	1	3		2	2	1	3	1		6	1	1
Local Artists	8	7	0	1	1		2	3		3			1	2		1	1	
Arts Commission	2	10	0		7			1					2	2				

Performing Arts/Movie Theatre: Respondents requested either a performing arts center for both live theatre and movies or just a movie theatre.

History/Heritage: Respondents requested preservation of the local history, including Native American and natural history. There was some overlap with the museums, due to their content.

Museums/Galleries: Respondents supported local museums and galleries, for art, heritage, and youth.

Music/Concerts: Respondents supported more concerts, both local and imported.

Local Artists: Respondents commented on the wealth of talented local artists and musicians and suggested ways to share their talents with the community.

Arts Commission: Respondents praised the Plumas County Arts Commission.

## **Sources**

- EMT Associates, Inc. Quality of Life Indicators for Children and Families. County Collaborative Reform Network Learning Circle, Building Community Capacity Workshop: Summary of Previous Community Assessments.
- Plumas County, Children and Families Commission Strategic Plan July 2000 – June 2001.
- City of Portola, Tourism Action Plan for Portola, 1995.
- Portola Railroad Museum, Master Plan, October 1999.
- Emilyn Sheffield and Bob Warren, Strategic Marketing Plan for Northern California Tourism and Outdoor Recreation: A Sourcebook for Tourism and Recreation Planners.
- Plumas Corporation, Plumas County Tourism Marketing Plan, January 1996.