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This Land Has Returned to Indigenous Hands

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Charles "Tuck" Collins



The Sogorea Te' Land Trust has been given a community garden on Ashby Avenue by the family of a UC Berkeley student who wanted to return Ohlone land to Indigenous stewardship. "It's amazing for us; this beautiful idea that this land is coming back to us in this beautiful way," says Corrina Gould, chair of the Confederated Villages of Lisjan and co-director of the land trust.

Credit: Zac Farber

‘This land is coming back to us’: Berkeley community garden gifted to Ohlone land trust

An anonymous donor paid \$435,000 to save part of the Ashby Community Garden in Southwest Berkeley and has given it to the Sogorea Te’ Land Trust.

By [Kate Darby Rauch](#)

April 20 2022 Thanks to an anonymous donor, a private Southwest Berkeley lot most recently used as a community garden has been passed to an Ohlone land trust.

The lot went on the market in September for the first time in two decades, with an asking price of \$500,000 cash. The garden was closed, and plants removed. It was one of two privately owned side-by-side lots on Ashby between Mabel and Acton streets tilled by residents since 2004, with permission of property owners. Together, the lots have been known as [Ashby Community Garden](#).

When the eastern lot went up for sale, garden supporters [launched a campaign](#) to buy the 3,920-square-foot lot at 1376 Ashby Ave. There were hopes the city would make a contribution.

Supporters also reached out to several land trusts, including the [Sogorea Te’ Land Trust](#), run by Indigenous women.

News of the situation was spread by social media, traditional media, city meetings and word of mouth.

A student at UC Berkeley, who wants to remain anonymous, was struck by the idea of returning Ohlone land to Indigenous care, said Corrina Gould, co-director of Sogorea Te’ and chair of the Confederated Villages of Lisjan, which includes many Bay Area Ohlone tribes.

Working with her parents, who are local, the student’s family purchased the lot and donated it to the trust, Gould said. The selling price was \$435,000.

“It was just a sweet story,” said Gould. “It’s amazing for us; this beautiful idea that this land is coming back to us in this beautiful way.”

The trust is also in discussions about purchasing the adjacent, western, garden lot at 1370 Ashby Ave., Gould said. The owner of that parcel reached out to the trust, she said. If a deal is reached, the land would be paid for by the trust.

Gould said the student whose family donated the eastern lot felt strongly about the concept of paying shuumi, a voluntary contribution from non-Indigenous people living on traditional Ohlone lands to the Sogorea Te’ Land Trust, which facilitates the return of Bay Area property to Ohlone stewardship.

Formed in 2015, the women-led trust's mission is to help heal historical wounds from colonization, and care for ancestral territory with respect for the land. The trust also focuses on preserving Ohlone culture and language.

Shuumi means gift in Chochenyo, the local Ohlone dialect.

The trust calls it **rematriating** land, because in Ohlone tradition, Gould said, women make decisions about settling and gathering and growing — “when to bring life to the earth and when to leave it.”

The trust will rename the Ashby Community Garden, Gould said, but maintain its purpose. The trust intends to partner with the gardeners and the community groups “already working the land,” she said, so neighbors can gather and grow and share food.

The garden has been run by the nonprofit [We Bee Gardeners](#). Home to a variety of community educational and volunteer programs, it is a mix of individual and communal plots.

Gould said land trusts are integral to their surrounding neighborhoods, and believes recovering Indigenous practices can benefit the health and well-being of entire communities. The goal, she said, is for everyone in the Bay Area to “reimagine the world in abundance.”

Gould praised the users and founders of the community garden.

“They’ve been there a long time; they’ve vested their time and energy,” she said. “Neighbors there want to put their hands in the soil. It’s exciting. This is an amazing opportunity to work with people and show them that we’re still here, and how to share the land, and how to love the land with reciprocity. It’s going to be super fun.”

“Everyone I’ve spoken to is excited and supportive,” said Bonnie Borucki, a longtime gardening coordinator of the Ashby plots. “It’s what we’ve been hoping for.”

The land has come “full circle” she said, from Indigenous stewardship to Indigenous stewardship.

“This choice to be a catalyst for rematriation and returning it to Ohlone hands means it will never be destroyed or thoughtlessly misused,” said Nora Shourd, secretary of We Bee Gardeners. “Our gratitude to Sogorea Te’ for seeing clearly that the land is sacred and means everything is immense.”

Borucki and Shourd also expressed thanks to the parcel owners who allowed the vacant parcels to be used as neighborhood gardens.

“A large part of the story has been the families who have been tolerant and supportive of the garden by letting us be on it for so many years,” Shourd said.

Before Spanish colonization in the late 1700s, the Confederated Villages of Lisjan Ohlone, made up of six tribes, lived in what’s now Alameda, Contra Costa, Solano, Napa and San Joaquin counties. They are one of several geographically distinct Ohlone nations, each with their own

language. This population was decimated after explorers, colonizers and missionaries moved into California, bringing disease, usurping land and forcing settlement.

Sogorea Te' is the name of a Karkin Ohlone village and burial site located in Glen Cove in Vallejo. The founders of the trust were deeply involved in efforts to save the site from development – undertaking years of action and advocacy. Eventually, a cultural easement was established to protect it. This partially collapsed later with disagreements, including among some of the Ohlone advocates, according to the Sogorea Te' website.

Sogorea Te', headquartered in Oakland, was established as a nonprofit in 2016.

The trust oversees several properties, including a quarter-acre site in East Oakland called Lisjan, with gardens, a rain-water catchment system and an emergency response hub, called a Himmetka, with water, food and supplies.

It's partnering with the nonprofit [Planting Justice](#) on a two-acre lot in Oakland. Now the site of a robust permaculture plant nursery, Planting Justice has plans to give most of the land to the trust.

The trust also partners with the Gill Tract community garden on UC Berkeley property in Albany, as well as with gardens in Richmond, El Sobrante and West Oakland.

This is all part of an international wave in returning land to aboriginal and Indigenous peoples, and preserving and protecting their cultures, Gould said. Interest, passion, and belief in this movement are heightening, she said, notably in Australia, New Zealand and Canada.

"I feel like the ancestors are answering our prayers," Gould said. "We've been doing a lot of praying on how to bring them home."

Kate Rauch, a Bay Area native, has been contributing to Berkeleyside for almost 10 years, and in journalism for many more, with a few other interesting gigs along the way.

Construction Workers Uncover Massive 800-Year-Old Aztec Dwelling in Mexico City

Elizabeth Djinis, Daily Correspondent, May 13, 2022

[https://](https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/construction-workers-uncover-massive-800-year-old-aztec-dwelling-mexico-city-180980079/?utm_source=smithsoniandaily&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=20220511-daily-responsive&spMailingID=46832322&spUserID=OTYyNTc5MzkyMTQyS0&spJobID=2241357158&spReportId=MjIOMTM1NzE1OAS2)

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No sea serpents, mobsters but Tahoe trash divers strike gold

They found no trace of a mythical sea monster, no sign of mobsters in cement shoes or long-lost treasure chests. The dozens of dives that concluded this week were part of a first-of-its-kind effort to learn more about the source and potential harm caused

[Associated Press](#)

Scholarships (R-Y) with June 15-30 Deadlines

R.W. "Bob" Holden Scholarship	Varies	06/30/2022
Sealant, Waterproofing, and Restoration (SWR) Foundation Scholarship	\$1,500	06/30/2022
SMRP Scholarship	\$2,000	06/17/2022
South Carolina Tuition Grants Program	Varies	06/30/2022
SRK Consulting Inc. Graduate Scholarship Program	\$3,000	06/30/2022
SVEC Farm Services Achievement Scholarship	\$2,000	06/30/2022
SW Neighborhood Assembly's Education & Scholarship Task Force	\$5,000	06/30/2022
The David Scholarship	\$1,000	06/30/2022
The Ruth Scholarship	\$1,000	06/30/2022
The VANROSS Foundation	\$500	06/30/2022
The Vipin Agrawal Memory Scholarship Fund Inc.	\$1,000	06/30/2022
The Woman's Century Club Scholarship	\$2,000	06/30/2022
The Women in Aerospace Foundation Scholarship	\$2,000	06/16/2022
Traub-Dicker Rainbow Scholarship	\$3,000	06/24/2022
Virginia Department of Health Nursing Scholarships	Varies	06/30/2022
VPMA Virginia Tech Entomology Scholarship	\$1,500	06/30/2022
Women in Defense Michigan - STEM Scholarship	\$2,500	06/30/2022
Women of the Vine & Spirits Foundation Student Educational Scholarship	\$5,000	06/30/2022
WSHA Student Scholarships	\$2,000	06/28/2022
Young Community Leaders Scholarship	\$2,000	06/25/2022
YPE SF Bay Area Scholarship	\$2,500	06/30/2022



UN Participation Webinars Ready to View

The Implementation Project produced webinars on leveraging the UN Decade of Indigenous Languages in revitalization efforts and tribal progress in implementing the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

[View Webinars →](#)

Biden Administration Announces \$254 Million to Tackle Polluted Brownfield Sites

Today, the Biden Administration through the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) awarded \$254.5 million in Brownfields grants to 265 communities. Today's grants are supported by President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, which provides a total of \$1.5 billion to advance environmental justice, spur economic revitalization, and create jobs by cleaning up contaminated, polluted, or hazardous brownfield properties.

Brownfield projects can range from cleaning up buildings with asbestos or lead contamination, to assessing and cleaning up abandoned properties that once managed dangerous chemicals. Once cleaned up, former brownfield properties can be redeveloped into productive uses such as grocery stores, affordable housing, health centers, museums, parks, and solar farms.

The Brownfields Program advances President Biden's [Justice40 Initiative](#), which aims to deliver at least 40 percent of the benefits of certain government programs to disadvantaged communities. Approximately 86 percent of the communities selected to receive funding as part of today's announcement have proposed projects in historically underserved areas.

"With today's announcement, we're turning blight into might for communities across America," **said EPA Administrator Michael S. Regan**. "EPA's Brownfields Program breathes new life into communities by helping to turn contaminated and potentially dangerous sites into productive economic contributors. Thanks to President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, we are significantly ramping up our investments in communities, with the bulk of our funding going to places that have been overburdened and underserved for far too long."

EPA's Brownfields grants and other technical assistance programs like the [RE-Powering America's Land Initiative](#) are also helping to build the clean energy economy. Today's announcement includes a former coal mine in Greene County, Pennsylvania, that will become a 10-megawatt solar farm, and a former dump site in the Fort Belknap Indian Community in Montana that will be converted to a solar farm, saving local residents an estimated \$2.8 million in energy costs over 25 years, among many others.

Today's announcement includes approximately \$180 million from the historic \$1.5 billion investment from President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to help turn brownfield sites across the nation into hubs of economic growth and job creation, along with more than \$75 million from Fiscal Year 2022 appropriations.

The funding includes:

- \$112.8 million for 183 selectees for Assessment Grants, which will provide funding for brownfield inventories, planning, environmental assessments, and community outreach.

- \$18.2 million for 36 selectees for Cleanup Grants, which will provide funding to carry out cleanup activities at brownfield sites owned by the recipient.
- \$16.3 million for 17 selectees for Revolving Loan Fund grants that will provide funding for recipients to offer loans and subgrants to carry out cleanup activities at brownfield sites.
- \$107 million for 39 high-performing Revolving Loan Fund Grant recipients to help communities continue their work to carry out cleanup and redevelopment projects on contaminated brownfield properties. Supplemental funding for Revolving Loan Fund Grants is available to recipients that have depleted their funds and have viable cleanup projects ready for work.

[View the list of selected applicants here.](#)

Since its inception in 1995, EPA's investments in brownfield sites have leveraged more than \$35 billion in cleanup and redevelopment. This has led to significant benefits for communities across the country. For example:

- To date, this funding has led to more than **183,000 jobs** in cleanup, construction, and redevelopment and more than **9,500 properties** have been made ready for reuse.
- Based on grant recipient reporting, recipients leveraged on average **\$20.43** for each EPA Brownfields dollar and **10.3 jobs per \$100,000 of EPA Brownfields Grant funds expended** on assessment, cleanup, and revolving loan fund cooperative agreements.
- In addition, an academic peer-reviewed study has found that residential properties near brownfield sites increased in value by **5% to 15%** as a result of cleanup activities.
- Finally, analyzing data near 48 brownfields, EPA found an estimated **\$29 million to \$97 million in additional tax revenue for local governments** in a single year after cleanup — 2 to 7 times more than the \$12.4 million EPA contributed to the cleanup of those brownfields sites.

"EPA's Brownfields Program is the true embodiment of turning adversity into opportunity— it takes contaminated and potentially hazardous places and turns them into thriving generators of economic prosperity," said **Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works Chairman Tom Carper**. "Today's announcement is great news for the nation, as we unveil vital investments from our Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to help more communities benefit from this transformative program."

"Today's announcement is welcome news for the 149 million Americans who live within three miles of a brownfields site," said **House Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman Frank Pallone**. "These funds, predominantly from our Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, will allow families across the country to rest a little easier knowing that some of the most contaminated sites in their area will soon be cleaned up, revitalized, and generating new jobs and economic opportunities. I'm grateful to Administrator Regan and the Biden Administration for working so closely with Congress to prioritize the Brownfields program and I'll keep fighting to ensure every community — particularly those that have been historically overlooked and underserved — receives the resources they need."

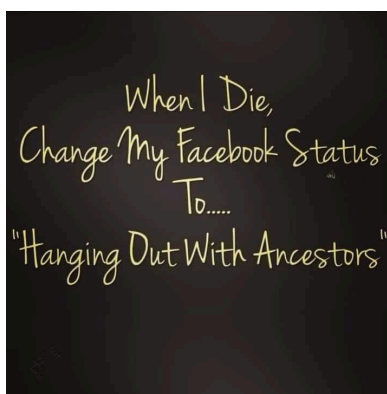
"Last year, President Biden signed the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act into law, which provided once-in-a-lifetime investment that is fundamentally transforming our critical infrastructure," said **House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure Chairman**

Peter DeFazio. “This Bipartisan Infrastructure Law also included significant funding to EPA’s Brownfields program for the cleanup of legacy toxic contamination that scars our communities with hazardous, blighted, or underutilized properties and threatens the health of our families and our environment. The grants being announced today continue the successful tradition of the brownfields remediation program while targeting resources to those communities, both urban and rural, that haven’t been able to participate in the program due to lack of local-technical capacity or lack of local matching resources.”

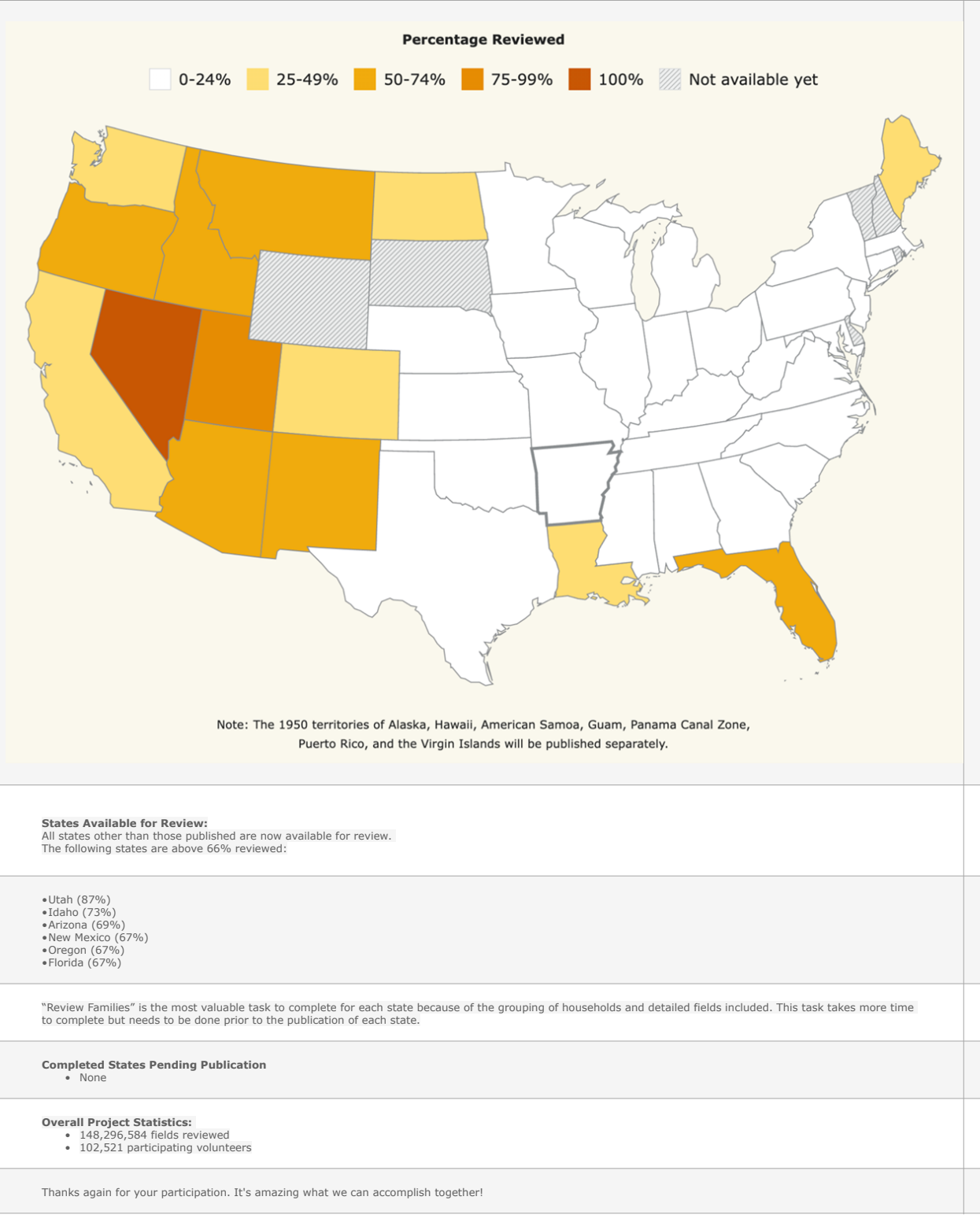
Additional Background

A brownfield is a property for which the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant. Redevelopment made possible through the program includes everything from grocery stores and affordable housing to health centers, museums, greenways, and solar farms.

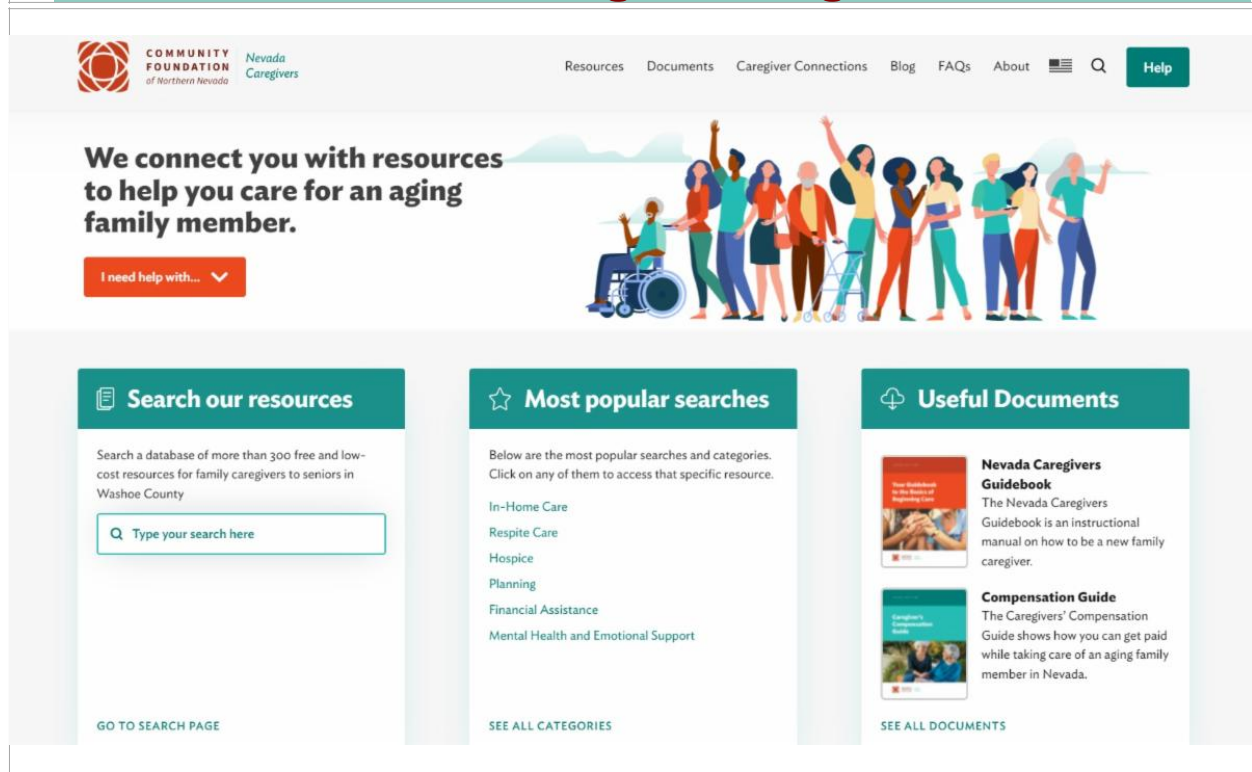
The next National Brownfields Training Conference will be held on August 16-19, 2022 in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Offered every two years, this conference is the largest gathering of stakeholders focused on cleaning up and reusing former commercial and industrial properties. EPA co-sponsors this event with the International City/County Management Association (ICMA). Conference registration is open at www.brownfields2022.org.
[Read more on Brownfields Grants.](#) [Read more on EPA’s Brownfields Program](#)



Thank you for your ongoing interest in the 1950 US Census Community Project. It's amazing to see the progress that is happening thanks to the efforts of more than 100,000 engaged volunteers.	
New! Nevada is now published! Census records for 7 states are now available for searching on FamilySearch and Ancestry!	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Delaware• Nevada—New!• New Hampshire• Rhode Island• South Dakota• Vermont• Wyoming	
New! You can now find and review families at the city or county level! Select the state, and then click on the option below the selected state to find families within a county or city. This also works with a specified surname, so finding specific families to review is easier than ever.	
Indexed by computers, reviewed by people	



Launch of NevadaCaregivers.org Resource Guide



The Community Foundation of Northern Nevada's Caregiver Support Initiative is directed at the needs of unpaid family caregivers to seniors.

We are proud to share the launch of our new and improved resource directory website, nevadacaregivers.org, formerly known as washoecaregivers.org.

Before nevadacaregivers.org went live, we invited family caregivers to test the website for feedback with Mesh Creative Web Developer Milan Sperka. Caregivers shared feedback to make the website easier to navigate, which Milan incorporated to the site.

The user-friendly website will help ease the confusion that caregiving can sometimes bring. Getting started as a caregiver can be challenging. Caregiving jargon like respite care and community-based care can be a puzzle. Many have contacted the Community Foundation saying they don't know how to start as a caregiver. To guide through the maze of resources and complex topics, we created the "Not sure where to start" section to help people navigate common caregiver scenarios, including needing a break and finding living arrangements for an aging family member.

Please visit nevadacaregivers.org and share with anyone in need of caregiving resources. For any questions or for more information, call the Community Foundation at 775-333-5499.

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**Answer to What's the brutal truth of today?** by Bianca Andrea

[https://worldsnews.quora.com/Whats-the-brutal-truth-of-today-1?ch=15&oid=351793761&share=876568cf&srid=uXxYbS&target\\_type=answer](https://worldsnews.quora.com/Whats-the-brutal-truth-of-today-1?ch=15&oid=351793761&share=876568cf&srid=uXxYbS&target_type=answer)  
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**All are welcome at Papunya Tula's art centers. Anthony Ham**

**Australia's Western Desert Art Movement Turns 50**

Since 1972, hundreds of artists have painted under the guidance of Papunya Tula, one of the most respected players in the world of Indigenous art



*"Every morning I go to the gallery to paint," said Nampitjinpa. Anthony Ham*



**MEMORIAL SERVICES**  
**For Charles "Tuck" Collins**

Father to the late Shelley Collins

Viewing at Rost Funeral Home in Mtn. Home,  
Idaho on:

Wednesday May 18, 2022 at 2:00 pm.

Graveside Services in Owyhee, Nevada on:  
Thursday May 19, 2022 at 10:00 am.

Chinatown Cemetery

**U.S NAVY VET**