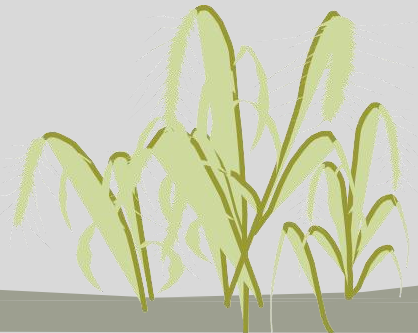
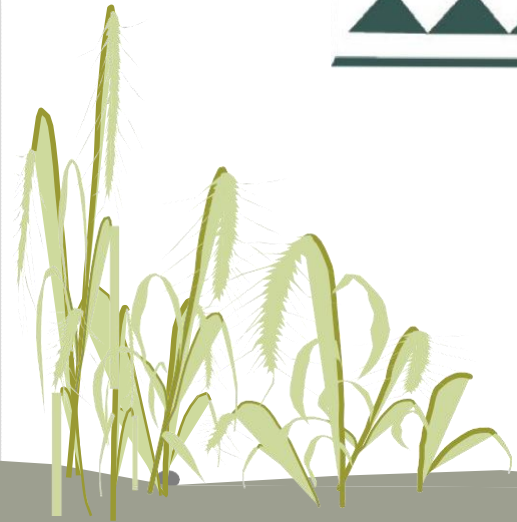




# STEWART INDIAN SCHOOL

CULTURAL CENTER & MUSEUM



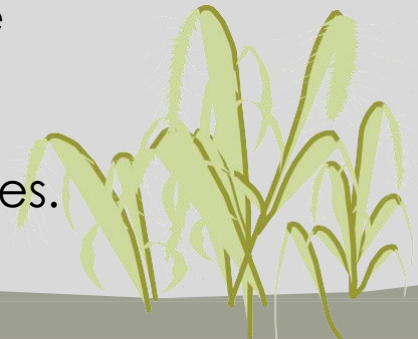
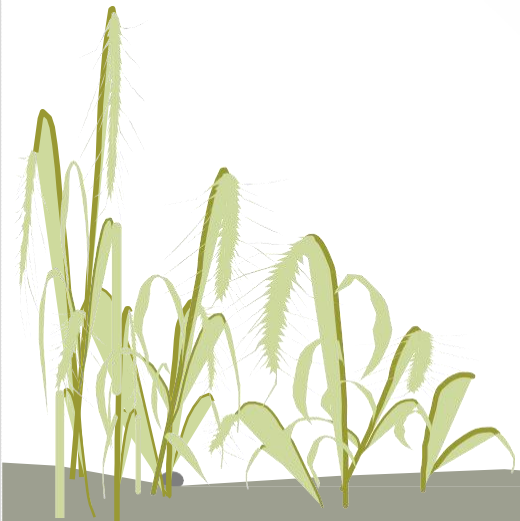
# Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge the traditional homelands of the Wa She Shu (Washoe), Numu (Northern Paiute), Newe (Western Shoshone), and Nuwu (Southern Paiute) people of Nevada. This includes the 28 bands, tribal nations, and colonies that exist as sovereign nations and continue as stewards to this land. We appreciate the opportunity to live and learn on these Indigenous homelands.



## **Sense of Place**

This land was sacred to the Great Basin tribes long before anyone else settled here. To recognize this sense of place we have worked with Stewart alumni to develop this place to be community-oriented, community-created, and community-driven, and acknowledge the relationships of all living beings, including people, animals, plants, traditions, songs, ceremonies, spiritual beliefs, and languages.



# US Boarding Schools

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- There were over 500 boarding schools in the US in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, either run by the federal government or churches
- Stewart is only one of those, and it was operated by the federal government from 1890-1980 in Carson City, NV
- The goal of our museum is to honor the children who attended the school, tell the truth about their experiences, and help the alumni, their families, and their communities to heal from the historical trauma of the early years



# Indian Boarding Schools by State

# Stewart was one of 500 schools



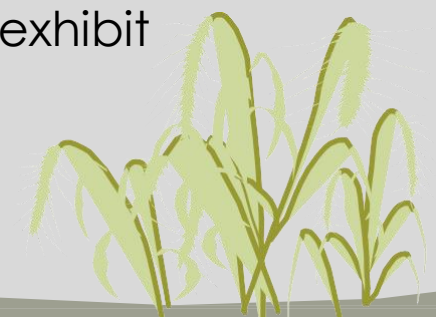
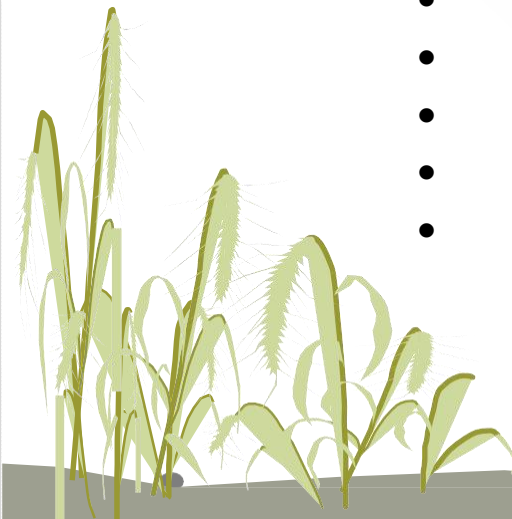
\* indicates the school is open and continues to board as of 2020.



# Stewart Cultural Advisory Committee

Made up of Stewart alumni and their family members

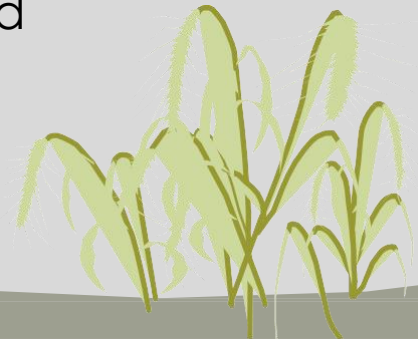
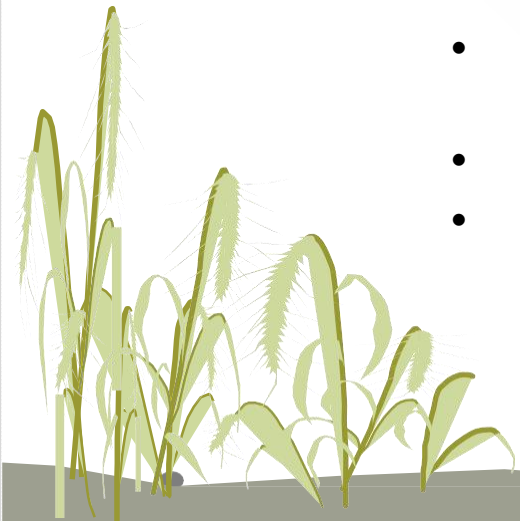
- Oversee everything about this museum—
- how it was planned and designed, what classes to offer
- incorporating Great Basin Native art throughout the museum
- sharing their stories in exhibit content
- recording their Great Basin languages for the Voices of Stewart exhibit





# Stewart Indian School

- Operated by the federal government through the Bureau of Indian Affairs for 90 years, from 1890-1980
- US federal government set up boarding schools to remove children from families to get vocational training and learn English
- Forced assimilation policy was part of treaty rights but justified dividing up Native land through allotment
- Intended to assimilate Indian children into dominant culture
- Thousands of students, their families, and communities were affected





# Changes over time

- Initially created to educate the children from Nevada's Great Basin Tribes—
  - Washoe, Paiute, and Shoshone
- School grew quickly to 200-400 students
- Eventually over 200 tribes attended over the 90 years
- Originally taught English and vocational skills, eventually offered different educational levels up to eight grade

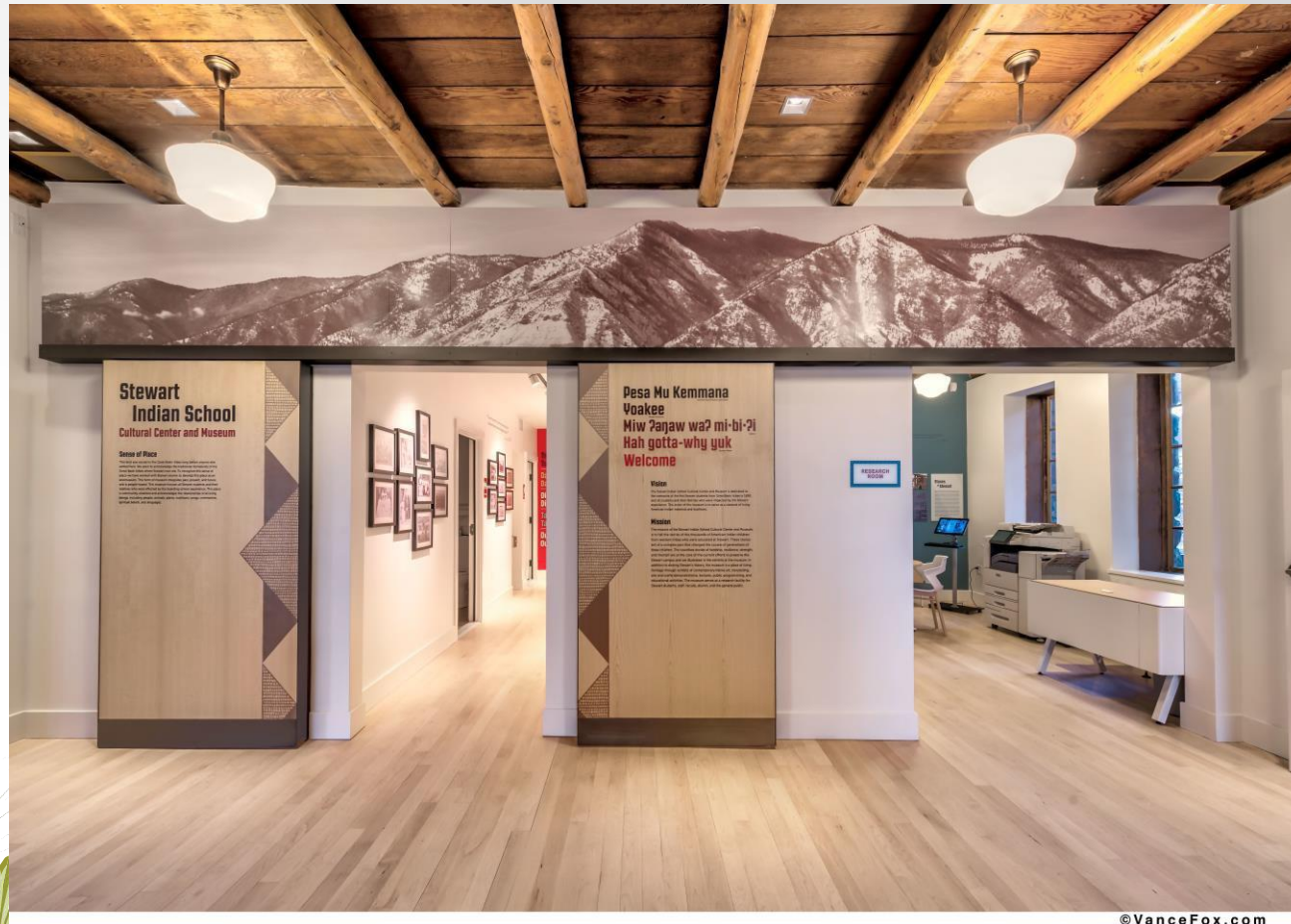
# Stewart Indian School Cultural Center & Museum



- In 2017 and 2019 the State of Nevada created the Stewart Indian School Cultural Center & Museum with staff, newly renovated buildings, and an operating budget.
- Museum building and former post office renovated for \$4.5 million
- The museum officially opened in January 2020.

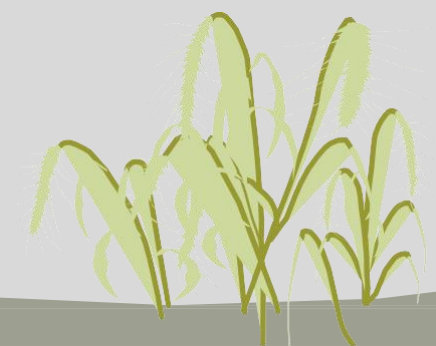
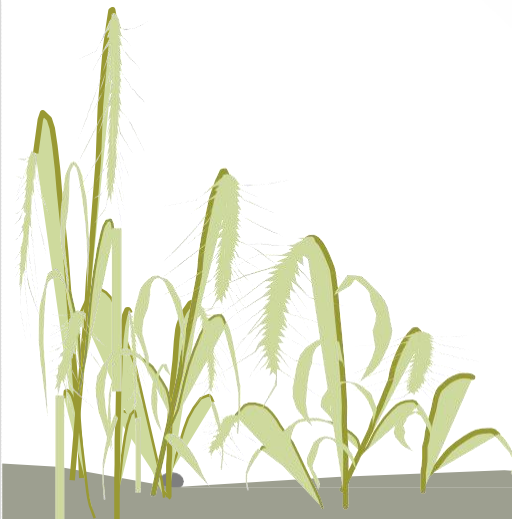


# Welcome to Stewart



- Lobby acknowledges the traditional homelands of the Washoe, Paiute, and Western Shoshone tribal nations where Stewart Indian School is located.
- Great Basin languages say welcome or come in.

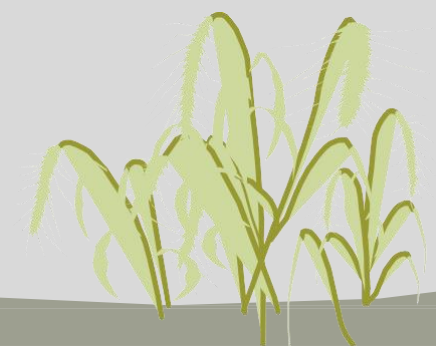
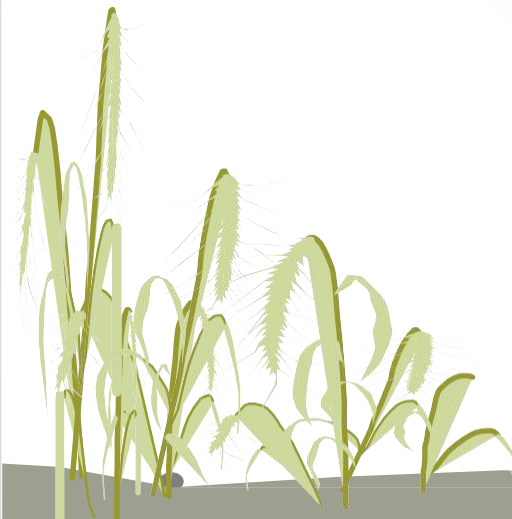
# Storytelling Room



# Research Room

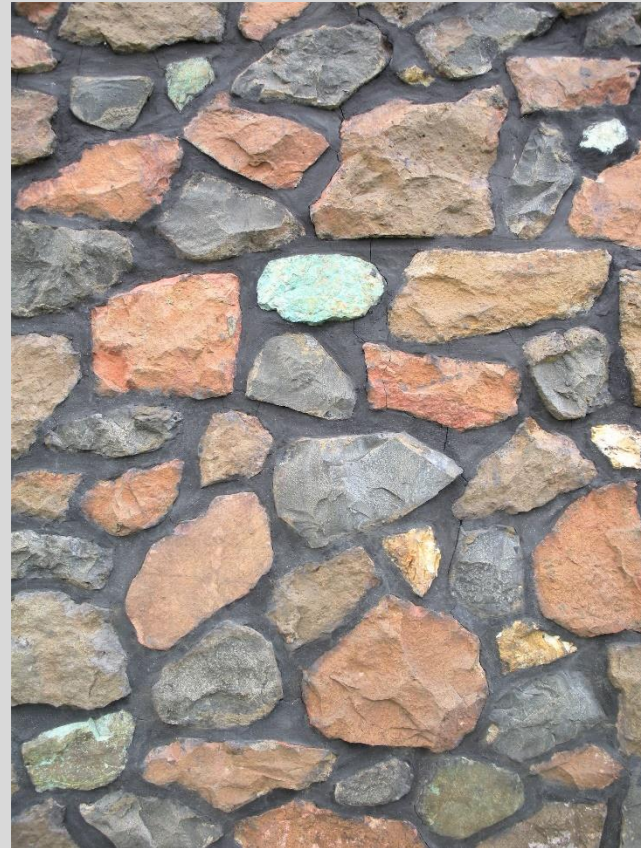


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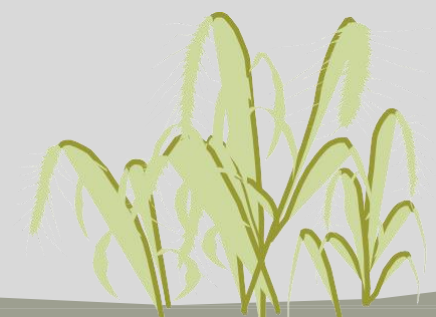
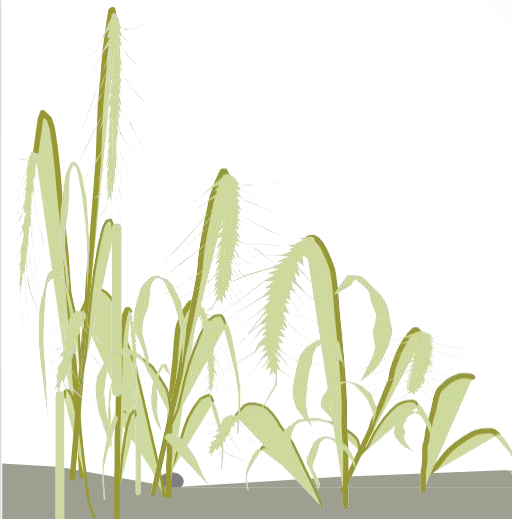


# Artistry in Hopi Stonework

- Superintendent Frederick Snyder transformed the campus in the 1920s into an architectural and horticultural showpiece
- He brought up Hopi stonemasons from Arizona to teach stone masonry
- Hopi stonemasons and students built 65 stone buildings still standing today on 110 acres
- Currently listed on the National Register of Historic Places
- Stewart is one of the most intact boarding school campuses



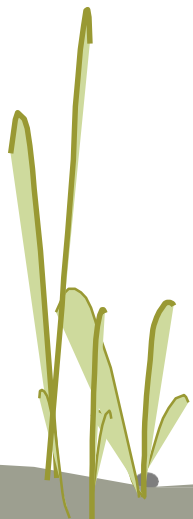
# Stewart Student Artwork



# Main Exhibit: Our Home, Our Relations



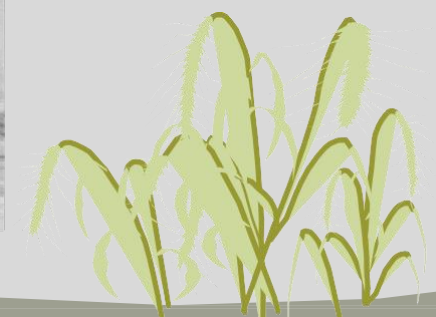
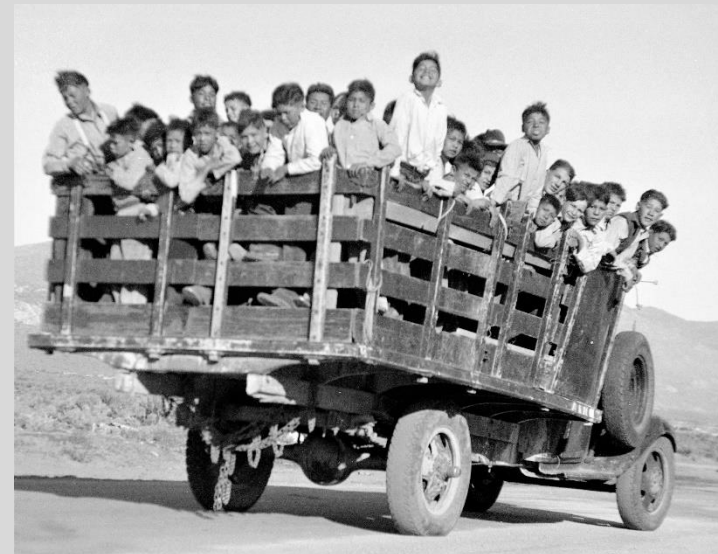
- Stewart alumni call the permanent exhibit Our Home, Our Relations
- Translated in Great Basin languages.



# Coming to Stewart



- First person stories by Stewart alumni on touch screens
- Alumni talk about the many reasons they came to Stewart Indian School
- Alumni say every student had a different experience







# Daily Life



- Run like a military school with marching everywhere, wearing military uniforms, and harsh discipline
- Vocational training and English
- Not allowed to talk to family or speak their languages



# First Person Stories

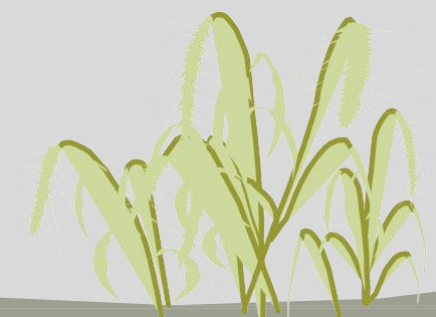
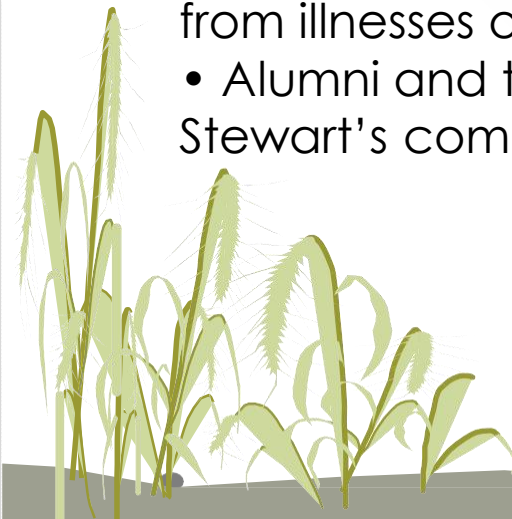
Roger Sam, Pyramid Lake Paiute, Attended Stewart 1942-1948



# Shadow of Stewart

How did children and their families cope with kidnappings, assimilation, abuse, and the attempted destruction of their cultures and languages?

- Vital links to language, culture, family, and community were damaged
- Parents and children were ripped apart, and some never saw each other again
- Unknown number of students died at Stewart, mostly from illnesses or accidents at the school
- Alumni and their families continue to grapple with Stewart's complicated legacy.



# Making Home



- Students survived by making their own community through band, athletics, and social groups
- They helped each other, the younger ones, and made lifelong friends

# Stewart in Transition

- Many changes over the 90 years
- Education level from elementary to eighth grade
- 1934 Federal Indian New Deal: better funding and medical care for boarding schools; cultural classes allowed
- Added high school level, accredited as high school from 1960s-1980
- Assimilation was always the goal



# Stewart closed in 1980



- Stewart became a high school Native students wanted to attend with other Native students
- Government closed school in 1980 even though parents and students protested



# Voices of Stewart

Over 90 years, more than 200 tribes were represented at Stewart speaking many languages. Today, tribes across the US are working within their communities to revitalize Indigenous languages. They are recording language speakers and teaching classes to all ages to make sure the languages survive. Step inside to hear a selection of the languages spoken at Stewart between 1890 and 1980 saying "This is our home."

*"If we lose our language and culture, we've lost our entire world view and perspective."*

—As expressed by Washoe Tribal elders  
and retold by Herman Fillmore  
Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California



# Voices of Stewart

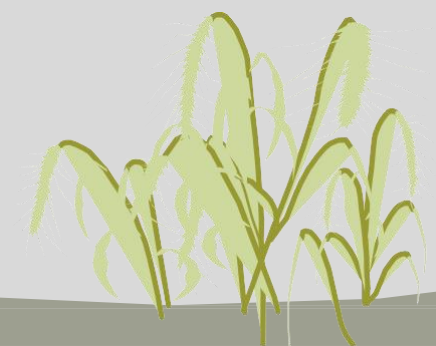
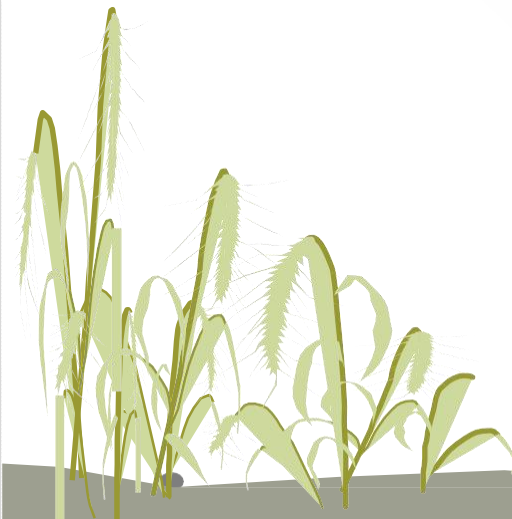




# Great Basin Native Artists Gallery



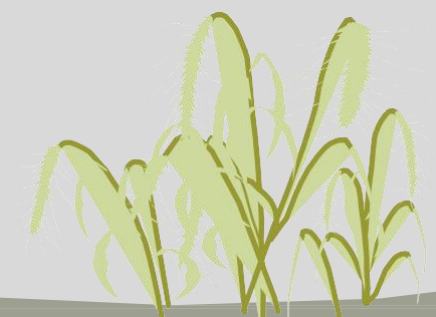
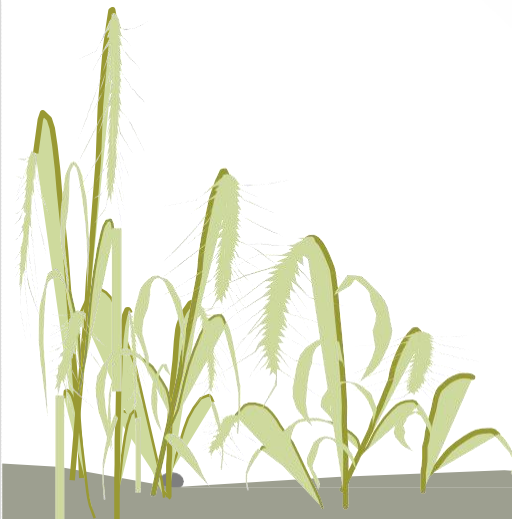
**Creating Stories: Art of Stewart Alumni,  
September 15, 2023 – February 2, 2024**



# Welcome Center and Gift Shop



**Supporting Local Native Artwork**



# Thank you—please visit



Bobbi Rahder  
Museum Director [brahder@nic.nv.gov](mailto:brahder@nic.nv.gov)  
775-687-7606

Open Monday-Friday  
10 am to 5 pm  
Closed weekends, state, federal  
holidays

[www.StewartIndianSchool.com](http://www.StewartIndianSchool.com)