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**VSA Nevada Selected To Create Nevada's Ornaments  
For The 2011 National Christmas Tree Display**

*Ornaments from all 56 U.S. states, territories and the District of Columbia to be displayed at the 2011 National Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony in Washington, D.C.*

Reno, November 1, 2011 – VSA Nevada has been chosen to design and create the ornaments for Nevada's tree for the 2011 National Christmas Tree display in [President's Park](#) in Washington, D.C., the [National Park Foundation](#) announced today.

A local artist and local youth were selected from each U.S. state, territory and the District of Columbia to design and create 24 ornaments. Twenty-three of the ornaments will be hung from the state or territory tree as part of the National Christmas Tree display in President's Park. One of the ornaments will decorate the White House Visitor Center Christmas tree, which showcases one ornament from all 56 states, territories and the District of Columbia.

"The decorating of the state and territory trees in President's Park is a highly anticipated holiday tradition," said Neil Mulholland, President and CEO of the National Park Foundation. "We look forward to including the creations of VSA Nevada, representing Nevada during the 89<sup>th</sup> annual celebration."

As one of America's oldest holiday traditions, the National Christmas Tree Lighting began on Christmas Eve in 1923, when President Calvin Coolidge lit a Christmas tree in front of 3,000 spectators on the Ellipse in President's Park. Since 1923, each succeeding President has carried on the tradition of what now has become a month-long event presented by the National Park Foundation and National Park Service. In addition to the National Christmas Tree display, President's Park hosts a variety of family-oriented holiday attractions, such as the Santa's Workshop, nightly holiday performances, a Yule log, nativity scene, and model train display.

"It is an honor to be selected to represent Nevada. VSA Nevada has provided arts access for all for the last 25 years working with all ages and all abilities", said Mary Ellen Horan, VSA Nevada's Executive Director. "We are excited to be a part of the National Christmas Tree display showing the creative talent of Nevada's youth for a national audience."

Two of VSAN's teaching artists, Lorna Denton and Susan Sullivan, were selected for the ornament project. Ms. Denton's ornament design is 2-dimensional with the shape of Nevada cut out in heavy silver foil embossed with holiday designs. Ms. Sullivan's design is a 3-dimensional scene displaying a snow capped mountain, evergreens and blue waters achieved with mixed media. O'Brien Middle School students will produce the "Silver State" design and Traner Middle School students will produce the mountain landscape design.

Four weeks of holiday events in President's Park will kick off with the 89th [National Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony](#) hosted by the [National Park Service](#) and National Park Foundation, the official charity of America's national parks, on Thursday, December 1, 2011, at 5:00 p.m. EST. This year's talent line up for the lighting ceremony will be announced in November. Talent announcements, as well as other event details and a live web stream of the ceremony will be available at [www.thenationaltree.org](http://www.thenationaltree.org).

Tickets for the event will be awarded via an online lottery system, providing the general public a chance to obtain free tickets to the ceremony. The online lottery will be available beginning at 10:00 a.m. EST on Thursday, November 3 (or 9:00 a.m. CST, 8:00 a.m. MST and 7:00 a.m. PST). The ticket lottery remains open through 9:59 a.m. EST on Monday, November 7 (or 8:59 a.m. CST, 7:59 a.m. MST and 6:59 a.m. PST). Visit [www.thenationaltree.org](http://www.thenationaltree.org) for more information.

#### **ABOUT**

##### **VSA NEVADA**

VSA Nevada was founded in 1986 and is celebrating 25 years of providing arts access for all. VSA Nevada also owns and operates the historic Lake Mansion, "Reno's First Address", built in 1877 and listed on the State and National Registers of Historic Places. For more information, visit [www.vsanevada.org](http://www.vsanevada.org).

#### **ABOUT**

##### **THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE**

The National Park Service preserves unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of the National Park System and its 395 National Park sites for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations. The National Park Service cooperates with partners to extend the benefits of natural and cultural resource conservation and outdoor recreation throughout this country and the world. For more information, visit [www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov).

#### **ABOUT**

##### **THE NATIONAL PARK FOUNDATION**

You are the owner of 84 million acres of the world's most treasured landscapes, ecosystems, and historic sites -- all protected in America's nearly 400 national parks. Chartered by Congress, the [National Park Foundation](#) is the official charity of America's national parks. We work hand in hand with the National Park Service to connect you and all Americans to the parks, and to make sure that they are preserved for the generations who will follow.

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