

## **FY2019 NEVADA HERITAGE AWARD PANEL**

## **PANELIST BIOGRAPHIES**



### **STEVEN HATCHER**

Steven Hatcher is the state folklorist and director of the Folk and Traditional Arts Program at the Idaho Commission on the Arts. A public sector folklorist with eighteen years of experience, Steven spent a decade living in four countries and on as many continents. Overseas, his experience focused on the educational side of public folklore through contract positions awarded by the State Department and as an expatriate hired in the local economy. Prior to life overseas, he cut his teeth at the Western Folklife Center in Elko, Nevada, where he was an archives assistant and worked on the *National Cowboy Poetry Gathering*. At the Idaho Commission on the Arts, Steven documents, supports, and celebrates the folklife of Idaho through public programs and grant funding. He has a M.A. in American Studies from Utah State University and a B.A. in English from the University of Utah.



### **JENNIFER JAMESON**

Jennifer Joy Jameson is a public folklorist and cultural organizer with an interest in documenting the ways culture shapes creativity, especially in rural spaces. She directed the folk and traditional arts program at the Mississippi Arts Commission from 2014 to early 2017, and is now based in Los Angeles, working with the statewide Alliance for California Traditional Arts, directing programs, grants, and media work. Jennifer's research and writing has focused primarily on the makers of built art environments, and on music collectors in the American South. Earlier this year, Jennifer co-curated an exhibition exploring the local legacy of Loy Bowlin, Mississippi's "Original Rhinestone Cowboy," who famously bedazzled his entire home. The exhibition, titled *The Making of a Dream*, ran until March 2018 at the John Michael Kohler Arts Center in

Sheboygan, WI. Jennifer lives in Eagle Rock, and is a proud member of the Northeast Local of the Los Angeles Tenants Union.



### **SALLY VAN DE WATER**

Sally Van de Water is a folklorist and cultural heritage professional with 20 years of experience in the public sector. Since 2015 she has served as the consulting coordinator for FolkArt PA, the statewide folk arts program managed by Jump Street for the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts. Other professional experience includes work at the Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage, where she managed ethnographic education programs for youth and organized national and international events and workshops. Prior to her Smithsonian work, Van de Water managed the folk arts program at Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation. She has facilitated national meetings of cultural heritage professionals and has managed or produced festival programs at the Richmond Folk Festival, the Lowell Folk Festival, The Boston Arts Festival, and the Kentucky Folklife Festival among others. In 2012, she was a participant in the inaugural China-US Forum on Intangible Cultural Heritage Professional

Exchange. Van de Water was co-convenor of the American Folklore Society's Public Programs Section, the Society's largest and most active section, from 2009 through 2012. She holds an A.B. in Folklore and Folklife from Bryn Mawr College and a M.A. in Folk Studies from Western Kentucky University. In addition to her folklore and cultural heritage work, Van de Water is an active member of USA Weightlifting and serves as a Category 2 referee for the International Weightlifting Federation. On International Women's Day 2018 (March 8), she was named one of the 18 Women Trailblazers of USA Weightlifting. She is co-owner of McKenna's Gym in Pennsylvania and teaches introductory strength training classes. She is also a Girl Scout Troop leader.