

Nevada's First Lady Kathleen Sandoval and Virginia Vogel, the woman who designed Sandoval's two gowns for the 2011 Nevada Inaugural Balls, will be honored at the Nevada State Museum at 6 p.m. Thursday, April 19. The public is invited to attend a free reception for the museum's new exhibit "Dress and Designer" featuring the first lady's inaugural ball gowns. Vogel will discuss her work in the museum's South Changing Gallery at 6:45 p.m.

Vogel created two different ensembles for Sandoval to wear to the governor's inauguration. The skirts are the same for each, with subtle jeweled differences. The bodices and jackets are unique. The First Lady wore the different ensembles to the Reno and Las Vegas events. Sandoval donated the one she wore in Las Vegas to the Nevada State Museum in Carson City and kept the other as her own.

Sandoval grew up in Nevada and graduated from Wooster High School in Reno. She earned a bachelor's degree in speech pathology, audiology and psychology from California State University, Long Beach. She holds a master's degree from the University of Nevada, Reno. She married Brian Sandoval in 1990. At the Children's Cabinet in Reno, Sandoval works closely with children and youth to reduce school truancy, evaluate mental issues, support youth in need and prevent family violence.

Vogel is a professor at UNR. A graduate of Albion College and Texas Christian University, Vogel is an artist and costume designer. Her work was presented recently at the Terryberry Gallery in Grand Rapids, Michigan as part of ArtPrize 2011. Vogel's work has been exhibited in Nevada and California. Most recently, Vogel created costume designs for "Hamlet" at UNR for the U.S premiere of the play as performed in original pronunciation. She has designed for the Nevada Opera, Nevada Festival Ballet and the Nevada Shakespeare Festival.

The Nevada State Museum is at 600 N. Carson St. in Carson City. For more information, contact Jan Loverin at (775) 687-6173.