FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 17, 2014

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INAUGURAL BUILDING CREATIVE COMMUNITIES CONFERENCE
TAKES PLACE NOVEMBER 12-14, 2014

Santa Fe, NM – New Mexico Arts, New Mexico MainStreet, New Mexico Historic Preservation Division, and New Mexico Tourism Department invite community builders throughout the state to join an exciting new training, educational and networking event. The Building Creative Communities Conference takes place November 12-14, 2014 at the La Fonda on the Plaza in Santa Fe.

“Arts and culture have been shown to be ‘must-haves’ for our communities to thrive economically,” said Department of Cultural Affairs Secretary Veronica N. Gonzales. “The Building Creative Communities Conference will give our communities the needed skills to capitalize on their cultural assets and become more vibrant. The Department of Cultural Affairs – though our Historic Preservation Division and New Mexico Arts – is proud to partner with MainStreet on this event.”

The Building Creative Communities Conference is founded on a collaborative approach to the economic challenges our urban and rural communities face, bringing together practitioners representing the diverse fields of community building, arts, culture and redevelopment. Local and state efforts in commercial district revitalization, arts, cultural and heritage tourism and preservation are fostered though this engagement.

Doug Borwick, Ph.d., one of the county’s leading advocates for the arts and community engagement, will present one of one of four conference keynotes. Borwick will focus on the potential of arts/community partnerships to impact economic development, education, community building, and creative placemaking.

Littleglobe, a New Mexico community arts organization, will directly engage participants in the session “Art at the Heart: Artists Drive Community Development” and share their experience of creating and sustaining a large-scale community project with multiple partners.

They will be joined by more than thirty-seven other area specialists from New Mexico and beyond through a variety of sessions and activities over the three days.
“This pioneering conference represents a great interagency, interdisciplinary effort to explore and encourage our creative economy,” said Economic Development Secretary Jon Barela, who urged stakeholders from across New Mexico to participate.

The Building Creative Communities Conference takes place November 12-14, 2014 at the La Fonda on the Plaza, 100 E. San Francisco Street, Santa Fe. For more information, including speaker bios, conference schedule, and lodging information, please visit www.buildingcreativecommunities.org. Registration is open at www.buildingcreativecommunities.eventbrite.com.

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New Mexico Arts, a division of the Department of Cultural Affairs, is the state arts agency. New Mexico Arts administers the state’s One Percent for Public Art program, awards grants to nonprofit organizations for arts and cultural programs in their communities across the state, and provides technical assistance and educational opportunities for organizations, artists, and arts educators throughout New Mexico.