Greetings from the Executive Director

Loie Fecteau

Executive Director

New Mexico Arts to manage our arts travel program...
Greetings from the Executive Director

We are already working on our legislative priorities for the coming year. A top priority at New Mexico Arts will be getting approval and funding from the governor and legislature to create a new staff position at New Mexico Arts to manage our Arts Trails program.

As many of you are aware, we have undertaken this new initiative over the last two years with existing staff who have other duties, and we really need an Arts Trails manager to take this program to the next level and to ensure the development of future Arts Trails across our state.

We’ll also be seeking to increase our grants budget in the next legislative session that begins January 20. Our grants budget has been flat or even decreased in the last several years, and it is about time our arts organizations get a much deserved pay raise.

We need your help in getting these legislative initiatives enacted as there is always lots of competition for funding in New Mexico. So please be sure to let your local legislators know the importance of increased funding for New Mexico Arts and how the arts programs we support are making a difference in our local communities. Because all 112 state legislative seats are up for election in November, now is a good time to contact your local state legislator or legislative candidate to make sure they support arts funding.

We got a nice bump this year in our federal funding from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), that we are passing on to our constituents. Our arts grants budget for FY09, which began July 1, will be about $976,000, including both federal and state general funds. That’s up about $76,000 from last year, thanks to our increase in funding from the NEA.

I was able to attend the launch of the Ancient Way Arts Trail, our first community-based, multidisciplinary arts trail May 31-June 1 in northwestern New Mexico. I want to congratulate our many partners on this exciting new venture, especially Tom Kennedy, Ancient Way Arts Trail project manager for the Northwest New Mexico Council of Governments. For more information about this arts trail, which runs from Grants to Gallup to Zuni Pueblo to Ramah to El Morro to Acoma “Sky City,” call Tom Kennedy, telephone 505/782-7299, and be sure to check out their new website www.ancientwayartstrail.com.

We'll be working with the Western States Arts Federation (WESTAF) to incorporate some new media and interactive features into the site.

I am pleased to announce that Ann Weisman has been promoted to be our new communications director at New Mexico Arts. Ann, who had been one of our program coordinators, brings a wealth of talent and experience in arts administration to her new position. Ann came to us from Oklahoma where she headed a municipal arts agency and ran a nonprofit arts organization.

We'll be working with the Western States Arts Federation (WESTAF) to incorporate some new media and interactive features into the site.

As many of you are aware, we have undertaken this new initiative over the last two years with existing staff who have other duties, and we really need an Arts Trails manager to take this program to the next level and to ensure the development of future Arts Trails across our state.

We’ll also be seeking to increase our grants budget in the next legislative session that begins January 20. Our grants budget has been flat or even decreased in the last several years, and it is about time our arts organizations get a much deserved pay raise.

We need your help in getting these legislative initiatives enacted as there is always lots of competition for funding in New Mexico. So please be sure to let your local legislators know the importance of increased funding for New Mexico Arts and how the arts programs we support are making a difference in our local communities. Because all 112 state legislative seats are up for election in November, now is a good time to contact your local state legislator or legislative candidate to make sure they support arts funding.

We got a nice bump this year in our federal funding from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), that we are passing on to our constituents. Our arts grants budget for FY09, which began July 1, will be about $976,000, including both federal and state general funds. That’s up about $76,000 from last year, thanks to our increase in funding from the NEA.

I was able to attend the launch of the Ancient Way Arts Trail, our first community-based, multidisciplinary arts trail May 31-June 1 in northwestern New Mexico. I want to congratulate our many partners on this exciting new venture, especially Tom Kennedy, Ancient Way Arts Trail project manager for the Northwest New Mexico Council of Governments. For more information about this arts trail, which runs from Grants to Gallup to Zuni Pueblo to Ramah to El Morro to Acoma “Sky City,” call Tom Kennedy, telephone 505/782-7299, and be sure to check out their new website www.ancientwayartstrail.com.

We’ll be working with the Western States Arts Federation (WESTAF) to incorporate some new media and interactive features into the site.

I am pleased to announce that Ann Weisman has been promoted to be our new communications director at New Mexico Arts. Ann, who had been one of our program coordinators, brings a wealth of talent and experience in arts administration to her new post. Ann came to us from Oklahoma where she headed a municipal arts agency and ran a nonprofit arts organization.

We’re going to open up our Poetry Out Loud competition for high school students to teachers and their classes from across New Mexico in the coming year. In the past three years, we focused this competition on schools in our state capital region as directed by the NEA, which funds Poetry Out Loud nationwide to encourage high school students to memorize and perform great poems.

Work is continuing with our state Economic Development Department’s MainStreet program on the new Arts and Cultural Districts initiative. Our advisory body, the New Mexico Arts Commission, adopted a policy regarding use of the Arts and Cultural Districts logo at the commission’s May meeting. We hope to use this logo to create a strong state brand for the Arts and Cultural Districts in New Mexico.

I want to congratulate the 2008 recipients of the annual Governor’s Awards for Excellence in the Arts who are highlighted in this issue and will be honored in ceremonies on September 12 in Santa Fe. Please join us at these free public events, including an afternoon reception and exhibition opening from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. in the Governor’s Gallery, 4th Floor, State Capitol, followed by the awards ceremony, beginning at 5:15 p.m. at the St. Francis Auditorium, New Mexico Museum of Art.

First Lady Barbara Richardson said of this year’s awardees: “Without these people and organizations, our lives would be less full, our communities less vibrant.”

Loie Fecteau
Executive Director
loie.fecteau@state.nm.us
2008 Governor’s Awards for Excellence in the Arts

Governor Bill Richardson and First Lady Barbara Richardson, along with the New Mexico Arts Commission, have announced the recipients of the 2008 Governor’s Awards for Excellence in the Arts.

This year’s recipients are Harry Benjamin of Silver City for Painting; Tammy Garcia of Santa Clara Pueblo for Visual Arts – Pottery, Sculpture, and Glass; Jack Loeffler of Santa Fe for Ethnomusicology and Writing; Noel Marquez of Artesia for Painting and Mural Artistry; Eugene Neumann of Ribera for Painting; Ali MacGraw of Teague – Major Contributor to the Arts; Eileen A. Wells of Santa Fe – Major Contributor to the Arts; and KHFM Radio 95.5 of Albuquerque – Major Contributor to the Arts.

Established in 1974 by Governor Bruce King and First Lady Alice King, the Governor’s Arts Awards celebrate the role that artists, craftspeople, and arts supporters play in the economic and cultural life of New Mexico. During its 34-year existence, a diverse and prestigious list of painters, weavers, sculptors, dancers, musicians, storytellers, poets, actors, playwrights, and potters have been honored.

Nominations for the awards are invited each year from arts groups and individuals. All nominations are reviewed by a committee of the New Mexico Arts Commission, which sends its recommendations to the full commission and to the governor.

The 2008 Governor’s Arts Awards ceremonies will be held on Friday, September 12, 5:15 to 7:00 p.m. at the St. Francis Auditorium, New Mexico Museum of Art in Santa Fe. A public reception and exhibit opening will be held from 3:00 to 4:30 pm, in the Governor’s Gallery, 4th Floor, State Capitol. Both events are free and open to the public.
THE MUSIC OF THE NEW MEXICAN MATACHINES DANCE

by Claude Stephenson, State Folklorist

Following our recent successful Matachines dance gathering in May, I have had many queries about the music that accompanied the different groups that performed. I think the topic merits some discussion and would be relevant to both those who attended and those who could not. Jack Loeffler wrote an essay about the music for our program booklet, but there are a few more pieces to the puzzle that I would like to add to the mix.

The Music of the New Mexican Matachines Dance
by Claude Stephenson, State Folklorist

HARRY BENJAMIN has played an important role in his community of Silver City. The renowned painter has a rich history of involvement with the Silver City Museum, Western New Mexico University, Cobre Schools, Mimbres Region Arts Council, and numerous other arts organizations and individual artists. Benjamin is best known for his stunning depiction of the southwestern New Mexico landscape and his wonderful eclectiic spirit. A recent 40-year retrospective of his work at the Silver City Museum featured more than 80 paintings, drawings, sculptures, collages, and ceramic works. In the 1990s, Benjamin's studio/gallery/residence 'What's a Pot Shop' was the only place of its kind in a downtown area that was run down and fading. Now it is an anchor of a vibrant creative arts district. Benjamin has helped many artists in Silver City to find gallery representation by taking them around to meet other gallery owners and artists.

Tammy Garcia's accomplishments in introducing unique contemporary design to ceramics, jewelry, pottery, and sculpture are unparalleled. She has helped redefine traditional pueblo pottery and incorporate it into contemporary art. Garcia will be recognized with a lifetime achievement award and is the youngest recipient at age 18. The Eiteljorg Museum of American Indians and Western Art in Indianapolis has held a retrospective of Garcia's work and the National Museum of Women in the Arts in Washington D.C. will have a major exhibition of Garcia's work this coming August. Garcia is a descendant of the renowned Tafoya family of distinguished potters, learning her craft from mother Linda Cain and grandmother Mary Cain. Garcia is known for being an artist who gives back to the community. She donates works of art to benefit numerous nonprofits in New Mexico including the Buckaroo Ball and Santa Fe Indian Market. Through her Blue Rain Gallery in Santa Fe, she helps promote other Native American artists and organizes traveling shows in the major art markets in the United States.

JACK LOEFFLER is a true Renaissance man. During the 1910s and early 1960s, Loeffler was a jazz trumpeter who performed throughout the United States. He has written numerous books, including Adventures with Ed: A Portrait of Abbey, which was published in 2002 and recounts his experiences with writer and pioneering environmentalist Edward Abbey. Loeffler moved to New Mexico in 1962 and has devoted the last 40 years to preserving and sharing the arts and stories of the people of his adopted state. He has interviewed and recorded writers, visual artists, traditional indigenous people, musicians, and ordinary people who live in every region of the state.

As a master artist in ethnomusicology, Loeffler has set extremely high standards for sound quality and editing. Through his artistic recordings, he has exposed the world to traditional Hispano and Native American music and culture. Loeffler's personal archive of interviews, music, and environmental sounds has been fully digitized onto archival gold CDs and hard drives to be saved for future generations. The collection is already being used in current exhibitions and programs at the Palace of the Governors that will share this outstanding ethnomusicology collection in the new State History Museum, which is set for a public opening on Memorial Day weekend 2009. Loeffler's radio shows, which include the ongoing Lore of the Land and Morning Waters – the Colorado River and the West, are legendary, not only for the information they impart, but for the inspiration they engender.

Born and raised in Artesia, NOEL MARQUEZ has devoted his artistic career since the early 1970s to working with the community in which he has lived. With degrees from the University of New Mexico and University of California, Marquez has created important artworks in New Mexico. Marquez has been commissioned by the state public art program for murals in Hobbs, Lake Arthur, Artesia, and Carlsbad. He has worked as an artist in residence, taught mural workshops, and led community-based murals like the Eddy County Mural in Carlsbad and a mural at the Heritage gallery.

2008 Governor’s Awards for Excellence in the Arts Recipients

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Artistic Field</th>
<th>Title of Award</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jack Loeffler</td>
<td>Ethnomusicology</td>
<td>Lifetime Achievement</td>
<td>Silver City</td>
<td>Recognizes significant contributions to New Mexico arts and culture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tammy Garcia</td>
<td>Ceramics</td>
<td>Youngest Recipient</td>
<td>New Mexico</td>
<td>Recognizes exceptional young talent in Native American arts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harry Benjamin</td>
<td>Painting</td>
<td>Lifetime Achievement</td>
<td>Silver City</td>
<td>Recognizes a lifetime of artistic achievement and community impact</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Noel Marquez</td>
<td>Mural Art</td>
<td>Commissioned Work</td>
<td>New Mexico</td>
<td>Recognizes contributions to public art and community engagement</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Chili Ristras, Dorie Hagler | Silver Gelatin Print | 21" X 27" | Bernalillo Police Department, Bernalillo |
Walkway in Artesia. Along with his public art projects, Marquez has taken part in selected group shows at the State Capitol, National Hispanic Cultural Center, Carlsbad Museum and Art Center, and New Mexico Museum of Art.

EUGENE NEWMANN, a highly regarded painter, is considered one of the pioneering artists of the Santa Fe art scene. Born in Czechoslovakia, raised in Colombia and schooled in Brooklyn and Chicago, he has made New Mexico his home since the 1970s. A abstract expressionist, Newman's work has inspired many artists, and he has been acknowledged as generous with his time and knowledge. Newman's exhibitions have exhibited widely in New Mexico and elsewhere over the last 30 years. His work is in many private and public collections throughout the United States. He lives in Riberia with his wife and fellow artist Dana Newmann.

Since moving to New Mexico more than a decade ago, Santa Fe resident ALI MACGRAW has given generously of her time as an artist in the arts community. Among the organizations to benefit from MacGraw's efforts are Aspen Santa Fe Ballet, Santa Fe Film Festival, and Santa Fe Short Story Festival. MacGraw was born in Westchester County, New York, the daughter of commercial artists. She is a graduate of Wellesley College and began working in 1960 as a photographic model. Her film credits include The Getaway, Love Story; and the 1985 ABC prime time soap opera Dynasty.

RILEEN A. WELLS has been an energetic and tireless supporter of the arts in New Mexico since she moved to Santa Fe in 1989. She has served as a board member and volunteer of the Museum of New Mexico Foundation in support of the four Santa Fe-based state museums. Wells has been a leader in generating private funding for exhibitions to capital projects and more. In 1999, she co-chaired a $7 million capital campaign, to create the Museum of Spanish Colonial Art, which opened on Museum Hill in 2002. Since late 2005, Wells has chaired the Museum of New Mexico Foundation’s shape the Future campaign, which has raised $118 million to date. Wells’ leadership in funding is not limited to seeking contributions she also gives generously to the causes she supports. Wells recently designated $5.5 million as a planned gift for the Museum of New Mexico Foundation that will provide endowment funds to help support foundation-affiliated institutions well into the future. Other organizations that have benefited from Wells’ contributions to the arts include the Wheelwright Museum of the American Indian, Institute of American Indian Arts, Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival, National Dance Institute of New Mexico, and the New Mexico Committee of the National Museum of Women in the Arts.

Since its founding in November 1954, KHFM Radio 95.5 has been broadcasting classical music and promoting and showcasing the arts in New Mexico. This unique radio station, one of the longest running classical music stations in the United States, provides an up-to-the-minute Arts Calendar for a number of New Mexico communities, including Albuquerque, Santa Fe, Los Alamos, Roswell, Ruidoso, and Rio Rancho. The station serves as the official radio outlet and broadcasts performances for the New Mexico Symphony Orchestra and promotes upcoming concerts. The station has never been driven by profits or ratings, but rather a commitment to classical music. The station helps support the Santa Fe Opera with previews of all the summer season’s operas, and informative discussions of upcoming performances, and supports other New Mexico summer festivals such as Music from Angel Fire and the Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival. KHFM has long had a commitment to encourage the participation of young people in the arts through a weekly children’s program, Classics for Kids, which introduces children to music they would likely not hear anywhere else on the radio. KHFM also conducts musical instrument drives in Albuquerque and Santa Fe in which instruments are collected from listeners, repaired and given to middle school students who are interested in music but cannot afford to buy or rent instruments.

ART IN PUBLIC PLACES PROGRAM Prospectus #196

Deadline: Midnight, Thursday August 28, 2008

New Mexico Arts announces the third New Mexico Only Purchase initiative which happens every two years. The project was created to diversify the state’s public art collection through the purchase of artwork from artists in all stages of their careers that are living, working, and exhibiting in New Mexico. There are approximately 65 public art sites throughout the state with 1% for Public Art funds. Each site may select one to two artworks. All media will be considered.

The available amounts for each site range from $1,000 to $15,000. Artists need to include all applicable expenses: materials, insurance, framing, labor, taxes, installation, project plaque, and photographic documentation of the artwork in the cost of the artwork. The deadline for submissions is midnight, Thursday, August 28, 2008. A complete prospectus can be downloaded from the website at www.nmarts.org, or contact New Mexico Arts, telephone 505/827-6490, 800/879-4278 (statewide).
Walkway in Artesia. Along with his public art projects, Marquez has taken part in selected group shows at the State Capitol, National Hispanic Cultural Center, Carlsbad Museum and Art Center, and New Mexico Museum of Art.

EUGENE NEWMANN, a highly regarded painter, is considered one of the pioneering artists of the Santa Fe art scene. Born in Czechoslovakia, raised in Colombia and schooled in Brooklyn and Chicago, he has made New Mexico his home since the 1970s. An abstract expressionist, Newmann’s work has inspired many artists, and he has been acknowledged as generous with his time and knowledge. Newmann has exhibited widely in New Mexico and elsewhere over the last 30 years. His work is in many private and public collections throughout the United States. He lives in Ribera with his wife and fellow artist Dana Newmann.

Since moving to New Mexico more than a decade ago, Santa Fe resident ALI MACGRAW has given generously of her time as an activist in the arts community. Among the organizations to benefit from MacGraw’s efforts are Aspen Santa Fe Ballet, Santa Fe Film Festival, and Santa Fe Short Story Festival. MacGraw was born in Westchester County, New York, the daughter of commercial artists. She is a graduate of Wellesley College and began working in 1960 as a photographic assistant at Harper’s Bazaar and at Vogue as a photographer’s stylist and fashion model. Her film credits include Goodbye, Columbus; Love Story; The Graduate, Gorby, and the 1985 ABC prime time soap opera Dynasty. In 2006, she made her New York Broadway theater debut in the drama Festen.

EILEEN A. WELLS has been an energetic and tireless supporter of the arts in New Mexico since she moved to Santa Fe in 1989. She has served as a board member and volunteer of the Museum of New Mexico Foundation in support of the four Santa Fe-based state museums. Wells has been a leader in generating private funding for exhibitions to capital projects and more. In 1999, she co-chaired a $17 million capital campaign, to create the Museum of Spanish Colonial Art, which opened on Museum Hill in 2002. Since late 2005, Wells has chaired the Museum of New Mexico Foundation’s shape the future campaign, which has raised $18 million to date. Wells’ leadership in funding is not limited to seeking contributions she also gives generously to the causes she supports. Wells recently designated $5.5 million as a planned gift for the Museum of New Mexico Foundation that will provide endowment funds to help support foundation-affiliated institutions well into the future. Other organizations that have benefitted from Wells’s contributions to the arts include the Woolworth Museum of the American Indian, Institute of American Indian Arts, Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival, National Dance Institute of New Mexico, and the New Mexico Committee of the National Museum of Women in the Arts. Since its founding in November 1954, KHFM Radio 95.5 has been broadcasting classical music and promoting and showcasing the arts in New Mexico. This unique radio station, one of the longest running classical music stations in the United States, provides an up-to-the minute Arts Calendar for a number of New Mexico communities, including Albuquerque, Santa Fe, Los Alamos, Roswell, Ruidoso, and Rio Rancho. The station serves as the official radio outlet and broadcasts performances for the New Mexico Symphony Orchestra and promotes upcoming concerts. The station has never been driven by profits or ratings, but rather a commitment to classical music. The station helps support the Santa Fe Opera with previews of all the summer season’s operas, and informative discussions of upcoming performances, and supports other New Mexico summer festivals such as Music from Angel Fire and the Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival. KHFM has long had a commitment to encourage the participation of young people in the arts through a weekly children’s program, Classics for Kids, which introduces children to music they would likely not hear anywhere else on the radio. KHFM also conducts musical instrument drives in Albuquerque and Santa Fe in which instruments are collected from listeners, repaired and given to middle school students who are interested in music but cannot afford to buy or rent instruments.

ART IN PUBLIC PLACES PROGRAM
Prospectus #196
Deadline: Midnight, Thursday August 28, 2008

New Mexico Arts announces the third New Mexico Only Purchase initiative which happens every two years. The project was created to diversify the state’s public art collection through the purchase of artwork from artists in all stages of their careers that are living, working, and exhibiting in New Mexico. There are approximately 65 public art sites throughout the state with 1% for Public Art funds. Each site may select one to two artworks. All media will be considered.

The available amount for each site range from $1,000 to $15,000. Artists need to include all applicable expenses: materials, insurance, framing, labor, taxes, installation, project plaque, and photographic documentation of the artwork in the cost of the artwork. The deadline for submissions is midnight, Thursday, August 28, 2008.

For more information, contact New Mexico Arts, telephone 505/827-6490, 800/879-4278 (statewide).
THE MUSIC OF THE NEW MEXICAN MATACHINES DANCE
by Claude Stephenson, State Folklorist

Following our recent successful Matachines dance gathering in May, I have had many queries about the music that accompanied the different groups that performed. I think the topic merits some discussion and would be relevant to both those who attended and those who could not. Jack Loeffler wrote an essay about the music for our program booklet, but there are a few more pieces to the puzzle that I would like to add to the mix.

The Music of the New Mexican Matachines Dance
by Claude Stephenson, State Folklorist

Harry Benjamin has played an important role in his community of Silver City. The renowned painter has a rich history of involvement with the Silver City Museum, Western New Mexico University, Cobre Schools, Mimbres Region Arts Council, and numerous other arts organizations and individual artists. Benjamin is best known for his stunning depiction of the southwestern New Mexico landscape and his wonderful eclectically spiritual. A recent 40-year retrospective of his work at the Silver City Museum featured more than 80 paintings, drawings, sculptures, collages, and ceramic works. In the 1980s, Benjamin’s studio/gallery/residence—What’s a Fe Shop was the only place of its kind in a downtown area that was run down and fading. Now it is an anchor of a vibrant creative arts district. Benjamin has helped many artists in Silver City find gallery representation by taking them around to meet other gallery owners and artists.

Tammy Garcia’s accomplishments in introducing unique contemporary design to ceramics, jewelry, pottery, and sculpture are unparalleled. She has helped redefine traditional pueblo pottery and incorporate it into contemporary art. Garcia will be recognized with a lifetime achievement award and is the youngest recipient at age 18. The Eiteljorg Museum of American Indians and Western Art in Indianapolis has held a retrospective of Garcia’s work and the National Museum of Women in the Arts in Washington D.C. will have a major exhibition of Garcia’s work this coming August. Garcia is a descendant of the renowned Tafoya family of distinguished potters, learning her art from mother Linda Cain and grandmother Mary Cain. Garcia is known for being an artist who gives back to the community. She donates works of art to benefit numerous nonprofits in New Mexico including the Buckaroo Ball and Santa Fe Indian Market. Through her Blue Rain Gallery in Santa Fe, she helps promote other Native American artists and organizes traveling shows in the major art markets in the United States.

Jack Loeffler is a true Renaissance man. During the 1910s and early 1960s, Loeffler was a jazz trumpeter who performed throughout the United States. He has written numerous books, including Adventures with Ed: A Portrait of Abbey, which was published in 2002 and recounts his experiences with writer and pioneering environmentalist Edward Abbey. Loeffler moved to New Mexico in 1962 and has devoted the last 40 years to preserving and sharing the arts and stories of the people of his adopted state. He has interviewed and recorded writers, visual artists, traditional indigenous people, musicians, and ordinary people who live in every region of the state.

As a master artist in ethnomusicology, Loeffler has set extremely high standards for sound quality and editing. Through his artistic recordings, he has exposed the world to traditional Hispano and Native American music and culture. Loeffler’s personal archive of interviews, music, and environmental sounds has been fully digitized onto archival gold CDs and hard drives to be saved for future generations. The collection is already being used in current exhibitions and programs at the Palace of the Governors that will share this outstanding ethnographic collection in the new State History Museum, which is set for a public opening on Memorial Day weekend 2009. Loeffler’s radio shows, which include the ongoing Lore of the Land and Moving Waters – the Colorado River and the West, are legendary, not only for the information they impart, but for the inspiration they engender.

Born and raised in Artesia, Noel Marquez has devoted his artistic career since the early 1970s to working with the community in which he has lived. With degrees from the University of New Mexico and University of California, Marquez has created important artworks in New Mexico. Marquez has been commissioned by the state public art program for murals in Hobbs, Lake Arthur, Artesia, and Mesquite. He has worked as an artist in residence, taught mural workshops, and led community-based murals like the Eddy County Mural in Carlsbad and a mural at the Heritage Center in Carlsbad. Marquez has also taught mural workshops, and led community-based murals like the Eddy County Mural in Carlsbad and a mural at the Heritage Center in Carlsbad.

For more information about the New Mexico Arts Commission, visit www.nmarts.org.

2008 Governor’s Awards for Excellence in the Arts:

For Excellence in the Arts:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Art Form</th>
<th>Size</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dorie Hagler</td>
<td>Silver Gelatin Print</td>
<td>21&quot; X 27&quot;</td>
<td>Bernalillo Police Department, Bernalillo</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For more information, visit www.nmarts.org.

ARTSpeak • SUMMER 2008 • www.nmarts.org
2008 Governor’s Awards for Excellence in the Arts

Governor Bill Richardson and First Lady Barbara Richardson, along with the New Mexico Arts Commission, have announced the recipients of the 2008 Governor’s Awards for Excellence in the Arts.

This year’s recipients are Harry Benjamin of Silver City for Painting; Tammy Garcia of Santa Clara Pueblo for Visual Arts – Pottery, Sculpture, and Glass; Jack Loefller of Santa Fe for Ethnomusiology and Writing; Noel Marquez of Artesia for Painting and Mural Artistry; Eugene Newmann of Ribera for Painting; Ali MacGraw of Taos – Major Contributor to the Arts; Eileen A. Wells of Santa Fe – Major Contributor to the Arts; and KHFM Radio 95.5 of Albuquerque – Major Contributor to the Arts.

Established in 1974 by Governor Bruce King and First Lady Alice King, the Governor’s Arts Awards celebrate the role that artists, craftspeople, and arts supporters play in the economic and cultural life of New Mexico. During its 34-year existence, a diverse and prestigious list of painters, weavers, sculptors, dancers, musicians, storytellers, poets, actors, playwrights, and potters have been honored.

Nominations for the awards are invited each year from arts groups and individuals. All nominations are reviewed by a committee of the New Mexico Arts Commission, which sends its recommendations to the full commission and to the governor.

The 2008 Governor’s Arts Awards ceremonies will be held on Friday, September 12, 5:15 to 7:00 p.m. at the St. Francis Auditorium, New Mexico Museum of Art in Santa Fe. A public reception and exhibit opening will be held from 3:00 to 4:30 pm, in the Governor’s Gallery, 4th Floor, State Capitol. Both events are free and open to the public.

When I first started playing violin for the Bernalillo Matachines, I did not think much about the music other than the fact that it seemed different and strange to my ear, which had been trained in the prevalent Western European genres. I had heard the repertoire of a few other groups and noted similar tunes, but did not have the inclination to study it further until one fall evening driving home from a music festival in southern Colorado.

The previous weekend had been spent at the Border Folk Festival in El Paso where I had the opportunity to witness a Tarahumara Matachines group from Mexico. Their version of the dance and its music were very different from Bernalillo, but there was this one part in the middle that was almost exactly the same. It was the segment of the dance where the Monarca raises up the dancers two by two until they are all dancing together. The accompanying three-quarter-time melody was quite familiar, although the Tarahumara musicians played a simpler and much slower version than Bernalillo.

Listening to my car radio a week later, I heard an obvious variant of the same tune on a station from Alamosa, Colorado. Not only that, but many of the other tunes played were variants on the Bernalillo melodies I was familiar with. The announcer came on and said that we had been listening to Matachines music from Picuris Pueblo. The question then dawned on me, “How did this tune get from the mountains of Mexico to the Sangre de Cristos via Bernalillo?” And then, “Are there other tunes that these groups share and, if so, where did they come from and how did they get there?”

Like most of the mysteries surrounding Matachines, I have never found a definitive answer, but after much study I can conclude that the Matachines music played by the musicians accompanying the dance groups in northern and central New Mexico all came from one central source. The three-quarter-time melody that accompanies what I call the Monarca’s (change) and vice versa. There is a Malinche melody often performed in a medley of tunes where one can hear an echo of the roots of that are commonly shared, but the tempos and structure vary quite widely. There are other tunes that are shared by only two or three different groups.

No one knows how many long these dances have been accompanied by these tunes, but we can establish that the dance did not exist in New Mexico prior to about 1600. If the dance was accompanied by this music before that time, it had to have been played on different instruments. As the Pueblos of New Mexico were not known to have melodic instruments other than small flutes and/or conch shell trumpets before the arrival of the Spanish, it has been assumed that if the dance was being practiced here earlier, it was likely accompanied by percussion instruments and possibly voice.

My current guess is that the music we hear today probably had its New Mexican genesis in the late eighteenth to early nineteenth centuries when violins and guitars became more commonly available in small communities around the state. However, where it came from and how it got here are not readily known, and its exact origin may never truly be established.

I have surmised that some of the musicians who accompanied the Matachines dances likely also played for community fairs (dance) and, whenever these musicians gathered, they shared their latest repertoire additions with each other, much as folk musicians do today. Because it was an aerial tradition, each musician varied the tunes to their own abilities, ears, memories, and tastes when they returned home and performed them.

This explanation has been used to account for the many community variations on commonly collected New Mexican dance tunes from this period, such as

Le Faranana (the Young Girl from Warsaw) and El Vaquero (the Cowboy) and I would...