Greetings from the Executive Director

Presorted Std
U.S. Postage
PAID
Albuquerque, NM
Permit No. 172

ARTSpeak • SPRING 2009 • www.nmarts.org

Thanks to members of the arts community who made telephone calls, wrote letters and emails, and talked to our elected leaders about the importance of state funding for the arts, the House Appropriations and Finance Committee restored much of our funding and the budget approved by the House cut us by about 10 percent, or about $215,000. The state budget still needs to be approved by the state Senate as ARTSpeak goes to press in March and more cuts are possible. But there is no doubt that the advocacy efforts by the arts community were very effective and have saved our state arts funding from even deeper cuts.

The arts community also did a great job in rallying across the country to urge Congress to include arts funding in the economic stimulus package. And the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act signed into law by President Obama did include $50 million for the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA). This is a wonderful affirmation of how critical the arts are to any economic stimulus effort. It is also wonderful that the Virginia State Legislature, in its final days of session, passed a bill that seeks to strengthen arts programs in Virginia.

One of our new programs, percent cash, booth $2500, is our state funding, which could have devastated our mission if it had been eliminated. Together, with our budget, our budget, and our budget, we could not have met the needs of our arts community in March. But New Mexico arts have been able to meet the needs of our arts community in March.

I want to thank everyone who contacted the governor and state legislators during the 2009 legislative session to ask that state funding be restored to New Mexico Arts’ base budget. Our budget is not finalized for the upcoming fiscal year, which begins July 1, as I write this column in March, but the House Appropriations Committee restored about 25 percent of our funding. Our budget is now at 75 percent of our original budget. We are engaging in a series of fundraising efforts to reach our full budget goal. We are also working on new programs to enhance our ability to meet the needs of our arts community.

ARTCOMMISSIONERS

Charmay Allred, Santa Fe
Bob Cooper, Santa Fe
Karen Cotter, Albuquerque
Glenn Cutter, Mesilla
Sherry Davis, Santa Fe
Herb Denton, Albuquerque
Jim Enote, Zuni
Christine Glidden, Albuquerque
JoAnn Huff, Albuquerque
Mary Robinson, Santa Fe
John Rohovec, Silver City
Terri Salazar, Los Ranchos
Ann Silver, Santa Fe
Janice Spence, Hobbs

Spring 2009
NEW MEXICO ARTS | A division of the Department of Cultural Affairs
Greetings from the Executive Director

I want to thank everyone who contacted the governor and state legislators during the 2009 legislative session to ask that state funding be restored to New Mexico Arts’ base budget. Our budget is still not finalized for the upcoming fiscal year, which begins July 1, as I write this column in March. But our situation is looking a lot better than it was in January when we faced a 20 percent cut, about $420,000, to our state funding, which could have devastated our arts programs.

Thanks to members of the arts community who made telephone calls, wrote letters and emails, and talked to our elected leaders about the importance of state funding for the arts, the House Appropriations and Finance Committee restored much of our funding and the budget approved by the House cut us by about 10 percent, or about $215,000. The state budget still needs to be approved by the state Senate as ARTSpeak goes to press in March and more cuts are possible. But there is no doubt that the advocacy efforts by the arts community were very effective and have saved our state arts funding from even deeper cuts.

The arts community also did a great job in rallying across the country to urge Congress to include arts funding in the economic stimulus package. And the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act signed into law by President Obama did include $50 million for the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA). This is a wonderful affirmation of how critical the arts are to our economy and to our well-being as a nation. Please be sure to thank our members of Congress, the New Mexico State Legislature, and Governor Bill Richardson for their efforts to fund the arts for the future generation.

ARTSpeak • SPRING 2009 • www.nmarts.org
supporting the arts. The debate over the $50 million for the NEA revealed, however, that we still have more work to do on behalf of the arts, particularly given the grave state of our economy, both nationally and in New Mexico. I was very struck by a comment that was extremely critical of the $50 million for the NEA in a USA Today story. “When families are struggling to make ends meet, $50 million going to the arts means $50 million less to help families put food on the table,” Brian Riedl, a federal budget analyst at the Heritage Foundation, told the national newspaper.

Mr. Riedl and others who share his views need to realize that artists have families, too. Artists pay taxes, buy groceries, pay rent, or make mortgage payments. Arts businesses and nonprofits help drive this nation’s economy just as other small businesses do. And the arts nourish our souls and improve our quality of life.

New Mexico Arts has submitted an application to the NEA to be able to regrant New Mexico’s share of the arts stimulus funds to nonprofit arts organizations in our state. If our plan is approved, we will be moving quickly to do a call for applications to get this federal money out to those most in need and to where the funds can have a real impact. It is important to note that the NEA arts stimulus funds are aimed at preserving arts jobs that are in jeopardy or have already been eliminated. So these funds may only be used to pay salaries or to pay artists’ fees or contractual personnel within this framework.

Please check our website www.nmarts.org to learn more.

We want to do all we can to help artists and arts organizations not only survive these difficult times but find a way to thrive. In March, New Mexico Arts conducted a short survey to help us gauge the state of the arts in our state at this time. We wanted to get a handle on what is happening out in the field so that we might best respond as your state arts agency. We continue to welcome your suggestions so that we will know best how to focus our limited staff and resources. We are in this together.

Pueblo Feast Day Dances
Claude Stephenson, New Mexico State Folklorist

One of the most pleasurable things I get to do as the New Mexico State Folklorist at New Mexico Arts is to attend feast day dances at many of the Pueblos. It gives me a chance to catch up with colleagues, friends, and acquaintances, and assess the traditional arts in each Pueblo. I also often get to meet many artists who may be candidates to participate in our folk arts program. An added bonus are the dances themselves and, of course, the opportunity to dine on fine Pueblo cuisine. If you’ve never tasted famous Jemez enchiladas, you don’t know what a great New Mexican treat you are missing.

While the celebrations and dances long predate the arrival of Spaniards and Christians, the largest ones now occur on the feast day of the Pueblo’s adopted Catholic saint. When the name of the Pueblo is the same as the saint, for example, Santa Ana Pueblo, it’s easy to determine what the calendar date is for the feast day of St. Anne. For Pueblos like Cochiti that retain their native names, you need to do some research to determine that the patron saint of Cochiti is San Buenaventura or St. Bonaventure.

The most common feast day dance is called the Corn Dance or sometimes Green Corn Dance. It is called other names as well, such as Harvest Dance and Tallalta Dance, technically it is a Rain Dance. Don Roberts points out in his 1972 essay in Alfonso Ortiz’s New Perspectives on the Pueblos that the dance should more properly be called the Fertility Dance, as it encompasses a whole broad range of well-being, abundance of crops, and good life for all in the Pueblo. No matter the name outsiders have given it, the dance is a major event in each Pueblo and most members come from far and wide to participate in the celebration.

The dances typically start mid-morning and continue all day with an hour or so break for lunch. The Turquoise (winter) and Squash (summer) moieties dance in turn with a short break between them. Men, women, and children of all ages participate. The men dress in their finest embroidered dance kilts belted by a finely woven white rain sash. Laced strings of seashells hang like bandoleros across their chests, and shells and bells adorn their knees and ankles. Many have badger or fox skins attached to the backs of their dance kilts. Evergreen branches are tied to their upper arms and sacred macaw feathers circle the other.

The women dress in a simple but finely embroidered black manta and carry an evergreen branch in each hand. Many dance barefoot although moocassins are not uncommon. Each woman has a thin flat painted wooden board called a talud tied to her head. Its stair-stepped shape is said to act as a conduit between the sky and the earth. Some dancers have red circles painted on their checks or foreheads.

The dance is accompanied by a single drummer and a large group of male singers clad in their finest ribbon shirts, concho belts, dress moocassins, and silver and turquoise bracelets, necklaces, and hoop earrings. The dancers are attended by the Pueblo clowns, who keep order as well as entertain. The clowns wear little more than breechcloths and stripes of white and black painted with a headpiece that resembles two tops of a corn stalk.

A male dancer leads the dance carrying a large and very tall wooden pole, or “spirit stick.” (Gertrude Kurath calls it a “standart” in her Music and Dance of the Tewa Pueblos), adorned with feathers, a vertical flag with an image of a green corn stalk, and a large corn tuft on the top. During the course of the dance, he will alternately carry the pole vertically and then drop it low and wave it back and forth horizontally over the heads of the dancers.

To the side of the plaza stands a 12’ tall or temporary arbor-like structure covered with evergreen boughs that houses a bulto (statue) of the patron saint, for example, San Buenaventura, the largest one now. Each woman has a thin flat painted wood board called a talud tied to her head. Its stair-stepped shape is said to act as a conduit between the sky and the earth. The patron saint of Cochiti is San Buenaventura or St. Bonaventure.

Perhaps one of the most enjoyable things about the dances is the food. As Steve Fehr once said, “The best part of the dance is the feast that follows.” After the dance has come to a close, the women of each pueblo start preparing a picnic-style lunch. The Turquoise (winter) and Squash (summer) dances typically end with a potluck meal featuring roasted meat, vegetables, corn bread, beans, and eggs, often seasoned with a dash of hot red chile pepper. The food is topped off with a delicious homemade ice cream.

As the dancers file out of the plaza, the musical accompaniment continues with a lively call-and-response song. The dancers sing in unison while the clowns respond with a different line. This goes on for a number of songs, each with a different variation of words.

The next day dance, you should know in advance that there is no photography, sketching, or note-taking allowed. Don’t try to sneak a photo with your cell phone unless you are prepared to lose it and pay an expensive fine.

To find out when each Pueblo is celebrating its feast day, you can call the Pueblo directly and ask or you can look on the internet. The Indian Pueblo Cultural Center in Albuquerque maintains a calendar of all Pueblos feast days on their website at http://www.indianpueblo.org/pueblos/feast- days.html or call them at 1-800-755-7902.
New Mexico State Champion to Compete in the Finals of Poetry Out Loud: National Recitation Contest

Santana Shorty, 16, a sophomore at Santa Fe Indian School, will represent New Mexico in the national finals of Poetry Out Loud National Recitation Contest April 26-28 in Washington DC. The New Mexico project of the national poetry recitation contest is sponsored by New Mexico Arts. More than 1000 students from across New Mexico took part in Poetry Out Loud at the classroom level.

Santana Shorty receives $200 and an all-expense paid trip with chaperone to Washington DC. Her school will receive a $500 stipend to purchase poetry books for the school library.

Shorty is a member of the Navajo Nation. She is captain of the Spoken Word Club at Santa Fe Indian School and an active athlete in both cross country and track. She loves writing as well as drawing and shows her visual artwork annually at the Santa Fe Indian Market and Abiquiu Studio Tour. Shorty competed in the 2008 Brave New Voices National Youth Poetry Slam in Washington DC as a member of Team Santa Fe. She and her team were recently featured in The New York Times and on The NewsHour with Jim Lehrer.

The other participants in the state finals included runner-up Danielle Turner, 17, a junior at the Southwest Learning Center; Marty Fragua, 16, a sophomore at Walatawa Charter High School; Jemez Pueblo; Kaitlyn Frederick, 15, a sophomore at Carlsbad High School; Carlsbad; Sarah Frost, 15, a sophomore at Clovis High School, Clovis; Trevor Nazario, 18, a senior at Oñate High School, Las Cruces; and Megan Schaeffer, 17, a senior at Deming High School, Deming.

Poetry Out Loud seeks to foster the next generation of literary readers by building on the resurgence of poetry as an oral art form, as seen in the slam poetry movement and the popularity of rap music. Through Poetry Out Loud, students master public speaking skills, build self-confidence, and learn about their literary heritage. The contest also seeks to address decreasing reading rates among young people, as cited in a recent NEA study To Read or Not To Read: A Question of National Consequence. Now in its fourth year of national competition, Poetry Out Loud has inspired hundreds of thousands of high school students to discover classic and contemporary poetry.

Poetry Out Loud encourages high school students to learn about great poetry through memorization and performance, and is the creation of the NEA and the Poetry Foundation. New Mexico students were among the more than 200,000 students nationwide who took part in this year’s contest at the classroom level.

The Poetry Out Loud national finals will take place in Washington DC at George Washington University’s Lisner Auditorium on April 27 and 28 during the final days of National Poetry Month. On April 27, students grouped in three geographic regions will compete in semifinal competitions. Twelve students (four from each region) will advance to compete in the National Finals on April 28. Judges will evaluate each student performance on criteria including physical presence, articulation, evidence of understanding, level of difficulty, and accuracy. Both events are free and open to the public; no tickets or reservations are required.

Prospectus #202 - New Mexico State Fair African-American Pavilion

Deadline: Midnight, Thursday, May 21, 2009

New Mexico Arts and the local selection committee at the New Mexico State Fair African-American Pavilion seek to commission an artwork for outside the pavilion at the State Fair in Albuquerque. The committee is interested in contemporary artwork that will focus attention on the building’s entrance. Professional artists currently residing in New Mexico and experienced in creating public funded commission projects are invited to submit qualifications to this opportunity.

Project Amount is $35,050, to include all fees and expenses: materials, equipment costs, fees, labor, insurance, taxes, travel, installation, project plaque, and written and photographic documentation of the completed project. Three to five finalists will be invited to submit a formal proposal for the project.

New Mexico Arts uses the CaFÉ™ electronic application and selection process online at http://www.callforentry.org. There is no application fee to apply for the project or to create an account on the system. All materials must be submitted according to the specifications outlined on the CaFÉ™ website.

Prospectus #203 - TIME-Las Cruces

Deadline: Midnight, Thursday, June 4, 2009

New Mexico Arts and the City of Las Cruces Museums seek to commission up to five temporary environmentally-based artworks to be exhibited in various locations in Las Cruces. Available sites include, but are not limited to, the Rio Grande Theatre, Branigan Cultural Center, Las Cruces Railroad Museum, Hadley Center, and the Las Cruces Museum of Art and the Museum of Nature and Science. Proposed artworks should relate to this year’s theme of Regeneration.

This project is open to Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas residents only. Artists in all stages of their careers are encouraged to apply.

The project amount is $3,000 per artist/artist team plus a travel per diem. This amount includes all fees and expenses: materials, equipment costs, labor, insurance, taxes, installation, project plaque, and written and photographic documentation of the completed project. Up to five artists/artist teams will be selected.

New Mexico Arts uses the CaFÉ™ electronic application and selection process online at http://www.callforentry.org. There is no application fee to apply for the project or to create an account on the system. All materials must be submitted according to the specifications outlined on the CaFÉ™ website.
New Mexico Selected to Participate in the National Endowment for the Arts’ Education Leaders Institute

A team of five education leaders from New Mexico has been selected by the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) to participate in its prestigious Education Leaders Institute in June in Chicago. New Mexico participants will focus on how the state’s arts education programs and arts resources can be used to address New Mexico’s high dropout rate.

New Mexico Arts supports arts education through the funding of Arts Learning Projects and Residencies, professional development workshops for teachers and teaching artists, arts advocacy resources, technical assistance, and direct programming through the Poetry Out Loud: National Recitation Contest. New Mexico Arts works in collaboration with teachers, teaching artists, arts educators, New Mexico Public Education Department, New Mexico Advisory Council for Arts Education, and other state arts agencies.

The multi-agency and cross-disciplinary team of education leaders includes State Senator Cynthia Nava of Las Cruces, who chairs the Senate Education Committee and is Superintendent of the Gadsden School District, Dr. James Holloway, Assistant Secretary of Education at the state Public Education Department, and an advocate and champion for New Mexico’s identified 46 rural school districts; Dr. Shelle Sánchez, Director of Education at the National Hispanic Cultural Center in Albuquerque, who is committed to arts and cultural education with special attention to collaborative programs, building community connections, and celebrating the power of individual creativity. Shelly Norris, principal at the Arts Academy at Bella Vista in Clovis, who has pioneered two national award-winning fine arts magnet schools over the last eight years; and Jenice Gharib, arts education coordinator at New Mexico Arts, who will serve as team leader.

Five teams were selected to participate in the institute by a panel convened by the NEA in partnership with the Illinois Arts Council. The participating states are Alabama (team lead: Alabama State Council on the Arts), Indiana (team lead: Indiana Arts Council), Maine (team lead: Maine Arts Commission), New Mexico (team lead: New Mexico Arts), and Utah (team lead: Utah Arts Council). The NEA is covering all the costs for teams to participate in the institute.

The Education Leadership Institute (ELI) supports the design of K-12 education with arts at the core through pioneering thinking and intensive dialogue with national leaders. Established by the NEA, ELI brings together school leaders, policymakers, educators, consultants, and scholars to envision a healthy national education environment founded on the power of individual creativity; Shelly Norris, principal at the Arts Academy at Bella Vista in Clovis, who has pioneered two national award-winning fine arts magnet schools over the last eight years; and Jenice Gharib, arts education coordinator at New Mexico Arts, who will serve as team leader.

The multi-agency and cross-disciplinary team of education leaders includes State Senator Cynthia Nava of Las Cruces, who chairs the Senate Education Committee and is Superintendent of the Gadsden School District, Dr. James Holloway, Assistant Secretary of Education at the state Public Education Department, and an advocate and champion for New Mexico’s identified 46 rural school districts; Dr. Shelle Sánchez, Director of Education at the National Hispanic Cultural Center in Albuquerque, who is committed to arts and cultural education with special attention to collaborative programs, building community connections, and celebrating the power of individual creativity. Shelly Norris, principal at the Arts Academy at Bella Vista in Clovis, who has pioneered two national award-winning fine arts magnet schools over the last eight years; and Jenice Gharib, arts education coordinator at New Mexico Arts, who will serve as team leader.

Five teams were selected to participate in the institute by a panel convened by the NEA in partnership with the Illinois Arts Council. The participating states are Alabama (team lead: Alabama State Council on the Arts), Indiana (team lead: Indiana Arts Council), Maine (team lead: Maine Arts Commission), New Mexico (team lead: New Mexico Arts), and Utah (team lead: Utah Arts Council). The NEA is covering all the costs for teams to participate in the institute.

The Education Leadership Institute (ELI) supports the design of K-12 education with arts at the core through pioneering thinking and intensive dialogue with national leaders. Established by the NEA, ELI brings together school leaders, policymakers, educators, consultants, and scholars to envision a healthy national education environment founded on the power of individual creativity; Shelly Norris, principal at the Arts Academy at Bella Vista in Clovis, who has pioneered two national award-winning fine arts magnet schools over the last eight years; and Jenice Gharib, arts education coordinator at New Mexico Arts, who will serve as team leader.

Five teams were selected to participate in the institute by a panel convened by the NEA in partnership with the Illinois Arts Council. The participating states are Alabama (team lead: Alabama State Council on the Arts), Indiana (team lead: Indiana Arts Council), Maine (team lead: Maine Arts Commission), New Mexico (team lead: New Mexico Arts), and Utah (team lead: Utah Arts Council). The NEA is covering all the costs for teams to participate in the institute.

The Education Leadership Institute (ELI) supports the design of K-12 education with arts at the core through pioneering thinking and intensive dialogue with national leaders. Established by the NEA, ELI brings together school leaders, policymakers, educators, consultants, and scholars to envision a healthy national education environment founded on the power of individual creativity; Shelly Norris, principal at the Arts Academy at Bella Vista in Clovis, who has pioneered two national award-winning fine arts magnet schools over the last eight years; and Jenice Gharib, arts education coordinator at New Mexico Arts, who will serve as team leader.

Five teams were selected to participate in the institute by a panel convened by the NEA in partnership with the Illinois Arts Council. The participating states are Alabama (team lead: Alabama State Council on the Arts), Indiana (team lead: Indiana Arts Council), Maine (team lead: Maine Arts Commission), New Mexico (team lead: New Mexico Arts), and Utah (team lead: Utah Arts Council). The NEA is covering all the costs for teams to participate in the institute.

The Education Leadership Institute (ELI) supports the design of K-12 education with arts at the core through pioneering thinking and intensive dialogue with national leaders. Established by the NEA, ELI brings together school leaders, policymakers, educators, consultants, and scholars to envision a healthy national education environment founded on the power of individual creativity; Shelly Norris, principal at the Arts Academy at Bella Vista in Clovis, who has pioneered two national award-winning fine arts magnet schools over the last eight years; and Jenice Gharib, arts education coordinator at New Mexico Arts, who will serve as team leader.

Five teams were selected to participate in the institute by a panel convened by the NEA in partnership with the Illinois Arts Council. The participating states are Alabama (team lead: Alabama State Council on the Arts), Indiana (team lead: Indiana Arts Council), Maine (team lead: Maine Arts Commission), New Mexico (team lead: New Mexico Arts), and Utah (team lead: Utah Arts Council). The NEA is covering all the costs for teams to participate in the institute.

The Education Leadership Institute (ELI) supports the design of K-12 education with arts at the core through pioneering thinking and intensive dialogue with national leaders. Established by the NEA, ELI brings together school leaders, policymakers, educators, consultants, and scholars to envision a healthy national education environment founded on the power of individual creativity; Shelly Norris, principal at the Arts Academy at Bella Vista in Clovis, who has pioneered two national award-winning fine arts magnet schools over the last eight years; and Jenice Gharib, arts education coordinator at New Mexico Arts, who will serve as team leader.

Five teams were selected to participate in the institute by a panel convened by the NEA in partnership with the Illinois Arts Council. The participating states are Alabama (team lead: Alabama State Council on the Arts), Indiana (team lead: Indiana Arts Council), Maine (team lead: Maine Arts Commission), New Mexico (team lead: New Mexico Arts), and Utah (team lead: Utah Arts Council). The NEA is covering all the costs for teams to participate in the institute.

The Education Leadership Institute (ELI) supports the design of K-12 education with arts at the core through pioneering thinking and intensive dialogue with national leaders. Established by the NEA, ELI brings together school leaders, policymakers, educators, consultants, and scholars to envision a healthy national education environment founded on the power of individual creativity; Shelly Norris, principal at the Arts Academy at Bella Vista in Clovis, who has pioneered two national award-winning fine arts magnet schools over the last eight years; and Jenice Gharib, arts education coordinator at New Mexico Arts, who will serve as team leader.

Five teams were selected to participate in the institute by a panel convened by the NEA in partnership with the Illinois Arts Council. The participating states are Alabama (team lead: Alabama State Council on the Arts), Indiana (team lead: Indiana Arts Council), Maine (team lead: Maine Arts Commission), New Mexico (team lead: New Mexico Arts), and Utah (team lead: Utah Arts Council). The NEA is covering all the costs for teams to participate in the institute.
New Mexico Selected to Participate in the National Endowment for the Arts’ Education Leaders Institute

A team of five education leaders from New Mexico has been selected by the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) to participate in its prestigious Education Leaders Institute in June in Chicago. New Mexico participants will focus on how the state’s arts education programs and arts resources can be used to address New Mexico’s high dropout rate.

New Mexico Arts supports arts education through the funding of Arts Learning Projects and Residencies; professional development workshops for teachers and teaching artists; arts advocacy resources, technical assistance, and direct programming through the Poetry Out Loud: National Recitation Center. New Mexico Arts works in collaboration with teachers, teaching artists, arts educators, New Mexico Public Education Department, New Mexico Advisory Council for Arts Education, and other state arts agencies.

The multi-agency and cross-disciplinary team of education leaders includes State Senator Cynthia Nava of Las Cruces, who chairs the Senate Education Committee and is Superintendent of the Gadsden School District; Dr. James Holloway, Assistant Secretary of Education at the state Public Education Department, and an advocate for New Mexico’s identified 46 rural school districts; Dr. Shelle Sánchez, Director of Education at the National Hispanic Cultural Center in Albuquerque, who is committed to arts and cultural education with special attention to collaborative programs, building community connections, and celebrating the power of individual creativity; Shelly Norris, principal at the Arts Academy at Bella Vista in Clovis, who has pioneered two national award-winning fine arts magnet schools over the last eight years; and Jenice Gharib, arts education coordinator at New Mexico Arts, who will serve as team leader.

Five teams were selected to participate in the institute by a panel convened by the NEA in partnership with the Illinois Arts Council. The participating states are Alabama (team lead: Alabama State Council on the Arts), Indiana (team lead: Indiana Arts Council), Maine (team lead: Maine Arts Commission), New Mexico (team lead: New Mexico Arts), and Utah (team lead: Utah Arts Council). The NEA is covering all the costs for teams to participate in the institute.

The Education Leadership Institute (ELI) supports the design of K-12 education with arts at the core through pioneering thinking and intensive dialogue with national leaders. Established by the NEA, ELI brings together school leaders, legislators, policy makers, educators, consultants, and scholars to envision a healthy national education environment founded on powerful arts education programs. This project allows states to share challenges on specific topics, receive feedback and insight from colleagues, and draw on national experts from fields beyond arts education. By striving to make powerful arts education programs, ELI allows states to focus on powerful arts education programs. This project allows states to share challenges on specific topics, receive feedback and insight from colleagues, and draw on national experts from fields beyond arts education.

Prospectus #200 - New Mexico State Fair Fine Arts Building

Deadline: Midnight, Thursday, May 21, 2009

New Mexico Arts and the local selection committee at the New Mexico State Fair seek to commission an artwork for outside the Fine Arts building at the State Fair in Albuquerque. The committee is interested in artwork that is integrated into the available space. Professional artists currently residing in the New Mexico and experienced in creating public funded commission projects are invited to submit qualifications to this opportunity.

Project Amount is $200,000, to include all fees and expenses: materials, equipment costs, fees, labor, insurance, taxes, travel, installation, project plaque, and written and photographic documentation of the completed project. Three to five finalists will be invited to submit a formal proposal for the project.

New Mexico Arts uses the CaFÉ™ electronic application and selection process online at http://www.callforentry.org. There is no application fee to apply for the project or to create an account on the system. All materials must be submitted according to the specifications outlined on the CaFÉ™ website.

Prospectus #201 - New Mexico State Tri-Lab Facility

Deadline: Midnight, Thursday, May 28, 2009

New Mexico Arts and the local selection committee at the New Mexico State Tri-Lab Facility seek to commission an artwork for the new Tri-Lab building located adjacent to the University of New Mexico’s campus in Albuquerque. The committee is interested in contemporary artwork responsive to the structure of the building that expresses the warmth and richness of the mission of the public health service to the community and the natural environment. Professional artists currently residing in the United States and experienced in creating public funded commission projects are invited to submit qualifications to this opportunity.

Project Amount is $53,770, to include all fees and expenses: materials, equipment costs, fees, labor, insurance, taxes, travel, installation, project plaque, and written and photographic documentation of the completed project. Three to five finalists will be invited to submit a formal proposal for the project.

New Mexico Arts uses the CaFÉ™ electronic application and selection process online at http://www.callforentry.org. There is no application fee to apply for the project or to create an account on the system. All materials must be submitted according to the specifications outlined on the CaFÉ™ website.

Prospectus #202 - New Mexico State Fair Fine Arts Building

Deadline: Midnight, Thursday, May 21, 2009

New Mexico Arts and the local selection committee at the New Mexico State Fair seek to commission an artwork for outside the Fine Arts building at the State Fair in Albuquerque. The committee is interested in artwork that is integrated into the available space. Professional artists currently residing in the New Mexico and experienced in creating public funded commission projects are invited to submit qualifications to this opportunity.

Project Amount is $200,000, to include all fees and expenses: materials, equipment costs, fees, labor, insurance, taxes, travel, installation, project plaque, and written and photographic documentation of the completed project. Three to five finalists will be invited to submit a formal proposal for the project.

New Mexico Arts uses the CaFÉ™ electronic application and selection process online at http://www.callforentry.org. There is no application fee to apply for the project or to create an account on the system. All materials must be submitted according to the specifications outlined on the CaFÉ™ website.

New Mexico Arts supports arts education through the funding of Arts Learning Projects and Residencies; professional development workshops for teachers and teaching artists; arts advocacy resources, technical assistance, and direct programming through the Poetry Out Loud: National Recitation Center. New Mexico Arts works in collaboration with teachers, teaching artists, arts educators, New Mexico Public Education Department, New Mexico Advisory Council for Arts Education, and other state arts agencies.

The multi-agency and cross-disciplinary team of education leaders includes State Senator Cynthia Nava of Las Cruces, who chairs the Senate Education Committee and is Superintendent of the Gadsden School District; Dr. James Holloway, Assistant Secretary of Education at the state Public Education Department, and an advocate for New Mexico’s identified 46 rural school districts; Dr. Shelle Sánchez, Director of Education at the National Hispanic Cultural Center in Albuquerque, who is committed to arts and cultural education with special attention to collaborative programs, building community connections, and celebrating the power of individual creativity; Shelly Norris, principal at the Arts Academy at Bella Vista in Clovis, who has pioneered two national award-winning fine arts magnet schools over the last eight years; and Jenice Gharib, arts education coordinator at New Mexico Arts, who will serve as team leader.

Five teams were selected to participate in the institute by a panel convened by the NEA in partnership with the Illinois Arts Council. The participating states are Alabama (team lead: Alabama State Council on the Arts), Indiana (team lead: Indiana Arts Council), Maine (team lead: Maine Arts Commission), New Mexico (team lead: New Mexico Arts), and Utah (team lead: Utah Arts Council). The NEA is covering all the costs for teams to participate in the institute.

The Education Leadership Institute (ELI) supports the design of K-12 education with arts at the core through pioneering thinking and intensive dialogue with national leaders. Established by the NEA, ELI brings together school leaders, legislators, policy makers, educators, consultants, and scholars to envision a healthy national education environment founded on powerful arts education programs. This project allows states to share challenges on specific topics, receive feedback and insight from colleagues, and draw on national experts from fields beyond arts education. By striving to make powerful, sustainable, and thriving arts education systems throughout the nation, participating states strengthen general education for all children.
New Mexico Poetry State Champion to Compete in the Finals of Poetry Out Loud: National Recitation Contest

Santana Shorty, 16, a sophomore at Santa Fe Indian School, will represent New Mexico in the national finals of Poetry Out Loud National Recitation Contest April 26-28 in Washington DC. The New Mexico project of the national poetry recitation contest is sponsored by New Mexico Arts. More than 1000 students from across New Mexico took part in Poetry Out Loud at the classroom level.

Santana Shorty receives $200 and an all-expense paid trip with chaperone to Washington DC. Her school will receive a $500 stipend to purchase poetry books for the school library.

Shorty is a member of the Navajo Nation. She is captain of the Spoken Word Club at Santa Fe Indian School and an active athlete in both cross country and track. She loves writing as well as drawing and shows her visual artwork annually at the Santa Fe Indian Market and Abiquiu Studio Tour. Shorty competed in the 2008 Brave New Voices National Youth Poetry Slam in Washington DC as a member of Team Santa Fe. She and her team were recently featured in The New York Times and on The NewsHour with Jim Lehrer.

The other participants in the state finals included runner-up Danielle Turner, 17, a junior at the Southwest Learning Center, Albuquerque; Marty Fragua, 16, a sophomore at Walatowa Charter High School, Jemez Pueblo; Kaitlyn Frederick, 15, a sophomore at Carlsbad High School, Carlsbad; Sarah Frost, 15, a sophomore at Clovis High School, Clovis; Trevor Nazario, 18, a senior at Oñate High School, Las Cruces; and Megan Schaeffer, 17, a senior at Deming High School, Deming.

Poetry Out Loud seeks to foster the next generation of literary readers by building on the resurgence of poetry as an oral art form, as seen in the slam poetry movement and the popularity of rap music. Through Poetry Out Loud, students master public speaking skills, build self-confidence, and learn about their literary heritage. The contest also seeks to address decreasing reading rates among young people, as cited in a recent NEA study To Read or Not To Read: A Question of National Consequence. Now in its fourth year of national competition, Poetry Out Loud has inspired hundreds of thousands of high school students to discover classic and contemporary poetry.

Poetry Out Loud encourages high school students to learn about great poetry through memorization and performance, and is the creation of the NEA and the Poetry Foundation. New Mexico students were among the more than 200,000 students nationwide who took part in this year’s contest at the classroom level.

The Poetry Out Loud national finals will take place in Washington DC at George Washington University’s Lisner Auditorium on April 27 and 28 during the final days of National Poetry Month. On April 27, students grouped in three geographic regions will compete in semifinal competitions. Twelve students (four from each region) will advance to compete in the National Finals on April 28. Judges will evaluate each student performance on criteria including physical presence, articulation, evidence of understanding, level of difficulty, and accuracy. Both events are free and open to the public; no tickets or reservations are required.

Deadline: Midnight, Thursday, June 4, 2009

New Mexico Arts and the City of Las Cruces Museums seek to commission up to five temporary environmentally-based artworks to be exhibited in various locations in Las Cruces. New Mexico students were among the more than 200,000 students nationwide who took part in this year’s contest at the classroom level.

Prospectus #203 - TIME-Las Cruces

Deadline: Midnight, Thursday, June 4, 2009

New Mexico Arts and the City of Las Cruces Museums seek to commission an artwork for outside the pavilion at the State Fair in Albuquerque. The committee is interested in contemporary artwork that will focus attention on the building’s entrance. Professional artists currently residing in New Mexico and experienced in creating public funded commissions are invited to submit qualifications to this opportunity.

Project Amount is $35,050, to include all fees and expenses: materials, equipment costs, fees, labor, insurance, taxes, travel, installation, project plaque, and written and photographic documentation of the completed project. Three to five finalists will be invited to submit a formal proposal for the project.

New Mexico Arts uses the CaFÉ™ electronic application and selection process online at http://www.callforentry.org. There is no application fee to apply for the project or to create an account on the system. All materials must be submitted according to the specifications outlined on the CaFÉ™ website.
supporting the arts.

The debate over the $50 million for the NEA revealed, however, that we still have more work to do on behalf of the arts, particularly given the grave state of our economy, both nationally and in New Mexico. I was very struck by a comment that was extremely critical of the $50 million for the NEA in a USA Today story. “When families are struggling to make ends meet, $50 million going to the arts means $50 million less to help families put food on the table,” Brian Riedl, a federal budget analyst at the Heritage Foundation, told the national newspaper.

Mr. Riedl and others who share his views need to realize that artists have families, too. Artists pay taxes, buy groceries, pay rent, or make mortgage payments. Arts businesses and nonprofits help drive this nation’s economy just as other small businesses do. And the arts nourish our souls and improve our quality of life.

New Mexico Arts has submitted an application to the NEA to be able to regrant New Mexico’s share of the arts stimulus fund to nonprofit arts organizations in our state. If our plan is approved, we will be moving quickly to do a call for applications to get this federal money out to those most in need and to where the funds can have a real impact. It is important to note that the NEA arts stimulus funds are aimed at preserving arts jobs that are in jeopardy or have already been eliminated. So these funds may only be used to pay salaries or to pay artists’ fees or contractual personnel within this framework. Please check our website www.nmarts.org to learn more.

While the celebrations and dances long precede the arrival of Spaniards and Christians, the largest ones now occur on the feast day of the Pueblo’s adopted Catholic saint. When the name of the Pueblo is the same as the saint, for example, Santa Ana Pueblo, it’s easy to determine what the calendar date is for the feast day of St. Anne. For Pueblos like Cochiti that retain their native names, you need to do some research to determine that the patron saint of Cochiti is San Buenaventura or St. Bonaventure.

The most common feast day dance is called the Corn Dance or sometimes Green Corn Dance. It is called other names as well, such as Harvest Dance and Talullia Dance; technically it is a Rain Dance. Don Roberts points out in his 1972 essay in Alfonso Ortiz’s New Perspectives on the Pueblos that the dance should more properly be called the Fertility Dance since it encompasses a whole broad range of well-being, abundance of crops, and good life for all in the Pueblo. No matter the name outsiders have given it, the dance is a major event in each Pueblo and most members come from far and wide to participate in the celebration.

The dances typically start mid-morning and continue all day with an hour or so break for lunch. The Turquoise (winter) and Squash (summer) moieties dance in turn with a short break between them. Men, women, and children of all ages participate. The men dress in their finest embroidered dance kilts belted by a finely woven white rain sash. Laced strings of seashells hang like bando- loop over the heads of the dancers. As they course the dance, he will alternately wave it back and forth horizontally with a conduit between the sky and the earth. The ambience of it all is both exhilarating and relaxing, and observers often report that the dance puts them in a deep meditative state. Then again, perhaps it is the relentless sun that beats unmercifully down upon the crowd.

Outside the plaza, the atmosphere is carni- val-like. Ferris wheels and other such rides can usually be found along with vendors offering cotton candy and corn dogs. Booths filled with pottery, jewelry, baskets, and other traditional arts line the narrow streets. If you would like to attend a Pueblo feast day dance, you should know in advance that it is a religious occasion for members of the tribe and although they welcome you and will be glad that you came, it is wise to act with respect and considerately.

loise footwear Executive Director bfc_footwear@state nm us New Mexico Arts & a community arts organization Pueblo Feast Day Dances Claude Stephenson, New Mexico State Folklorist of the most pleasurable things I get to do as the New Mexico State Folklorist at New Mexico Arts is attend feast day dances at many of the Pueblos. It gives me a chance to catch up with colleagues, friends, and acquaintances, and assess the traditional arts in each Pueblo. I also often get to meet many artists who may be candidates to participate in our folk arts program. An added bonus are the dances themselves and, of course, the opportunity to dine on fine Pueblo cuisine. If you’ve never tasted famous Jemez enchiladas, you don’t know what a great New Mexican treat you are missing.