Greetings from the Executive Director

We need to do a better job at telling our story to make our case for state and federal arts funding in these very tough and challenging budgetary times.

We need to put a human face on our artists and arts organizations to show our legislators and public officials how essential the arts are to the economy of New Mexico and to our nation. And we need your help in telling that story in compelling ways.

So if you benefit from our arts services grants, a state public arts commission, or our state public art purchase program, please let your legislators and public officials know. If you’re an artist or site along one of our Arts Trails or if you receive or work in one of our Arts and Cultural Districts, please tell your legislators and public officials about the role the arts play in your local economies and how your arts programs help bring visitors to your communities.

We know our arts programs are investments in our local communities that help create and fund jobs across our state. And we know arts events are tourism and economic drivers, which bring people downtown to our Main Streets. But we need help in telling these stories in effective language that resonates with our public officials. We need you to tell your stories about the impact of what you do, and how our arts funding helps – and what the impact would be if you lost our arts funding.

To show the impact of our state and federal funding, New Mexico Arts staff members Jenice Gharib and Ruth Lommel recently compiled a new report that looks at our investment in nonprofit arts businesses. Using data from the final reports of 164 arts services grants recipients in FY10, our last completed fiscal year, they found:

• We are one of the top funders in the state, investing $976,987 in 164 arts businesses in FY10. These 164 arts businesses earned nearly $12 million in revenues, with a total business or program income of $26.5 million.

Every $1 of public funds invested by New Mexico Arts in these 164 arts businesses leveraged $36 of additional income.

• We funded businesses or projects in 28 of New Mexico’s 33 counties in which 99 percent of the state’s population of 2.1 million live.

• More than 1.1 million New Mexicans benefitted from these programs and services, and more than 300,000 youth were served. By comparison, attendance and outreach at our DCA state museums and monuments for the same time period totaled 1.2 million, with a significantly larger public investment of $17 million and 360 employees.

New Mexico Arts employs 15 staff. We know that doing more with less will be our mantra for some time to come at New Mexico Arts, but this report shows that our arts investments are extremely worthwhile, not just in our urban centers of Santa Fe, Albuquerque and Las Cruces, but especially in our rural areas. We’ve also started to compile similar economic impact and arts jobs data from our Arts Trails and one percent for public art program.

We know more budget cuts are coming and we are ready to do our share to help get our state back on track. But this is a precarious time, as our state program funds were cut by about 32 percent in the last two fiscal years, with more cuts looming for FY12, which begins July 1.

What makes these additional state cuts even more challenging is the fact our federal funder, the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), is also facing cuts – and the only reason we managed to hold our arts grants budget harmless the last two years was thanks to one-time bumps in our federal funding. But now President Obama’s
New Mexico State Champion to take part in National Finals of Poetry Out Loud: National Recitation Contest

Nicole Bartlett, a senior at Oñate High School in Las Cruces, won our Sixth Annual State Finals of Poetry Out Loud: National Recitation Contest to represent New Mexico in the national finals on April 28-29 in Washington DC.

Bartlett received $200 and an all-expense paid trip with chapteur to Washington DC to represent New Mexico at the national finals April 28-29.

"The power of a program like Poetry Out Loud is that it helps our young people to master public speaking skills and build self-confidence," Governor Susana Martinez said in a statement to the students. "This is great training for the rest of your lives, no matter what career you choose." It’s important to remember that a critical part of our state isn’t just the economic and tourism value of the arts, especially in a state like New Mexico where arts and culture are so vital. Perhaps even more important is the transformative power of the arts, and the way participating in the arts can change lives.

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Executive Director
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Agriculture has played an important part in New Mexico history and Saint Isidore Labrador (Isidoro the Farmer) or San Isidro Labrador (sometimes spelled Ysidro) as we know him here, was a very popular saint to early Spanish Catholic settlers. At one time, there were many villages and towns in New Mexico that commemorated his feast day on May 15 with novenas and songs and processions, carrying his likeness through the fields. It was an important celebration that brought neighbors together after a long winter to celebrate the coming of the growing season and to bless their fortunes for the coming harvest, but the practice is now in decline. The village of Sedillo in the Manzano Mountains ceased its celebration just a few years ago. Today there are only a handful of communities left that continue this practice.

Music From Angel Fire Presents Spring Musicale at Bishop’s Lodge Santa Fe

Music From Angel Fire (MFAF) presented a Spring Musicale on April 3 at the Bishop’s Lodge in Santa Fe. The concert was an intimate gala event for supporters of Music From Angel Fire and gave a hint to the stature of their programming during their regular season scheduled for August 19 to September 4, 2011. The three-week festival brings 15 concerts, to the communities of Angel Fire, Taos, Raton, and Las Vegas. The Musicale provided a unique opportunity to see a small ensemble performance by Artistic Director and violinist, Ida Kavafian, and other festival artists Steven Tenenbom (viola) and Benjamin Beilman (violin). Beilman is a student at the Curtis School of Music. These young artists perform in classroom concerts in rural area schools across Northern New Mexico. They also have the opportunity to perform with the festival’s professional musicians in the regular program.

The Festival offers intimate events that allow for “behind the scenes” glimpses at the artistic process through open rehearsals and other special events. Audience members have the chance to interact with festival artists and learn more about the music and gain deeper insight into each work. The intimate nature of the festival provides access to high quality arts experiences while allowing for unique personal connections to arise between the audience and artists, only made possible by unique nature of this innovative chamber music festival in rural Northern New Mexico.

For more information on Music From Angel Fire’s current season, visit the website at www.musicfromangelfire.org, or call 888/377-3300.
Traditional New Mexican Music Featured on CD Compilation produced by New Mexico Arts

New Mexico Arts, with support from the National Endowment for the Arts through their American Masterpieces program, held a series of concerts featuring traditional New Mexico folk musicians in Gallup, Raton, and Socorro in the fall of 2010. The goal of the concerts was to feature folk musicians in venues where their music is not often heard. In that vein, Hispanic folk musicians from Northern New Mexico markets, measured out and photographed one-dollar’s worth of each item in his studio, without using any styling, retouching, or artificial light. The goal was to present food as a stripped-down commodity, as a symbol of wealth, power, health, and globalization in the 21st century.

The images debuted at the Biennial Southwest ’08 at the Albuquerque Museum of Art, and have been exhibited extensively. In October 2010, the project was published by the New York Times on the LENS blog, which is dedicated to contemporary photography. Within days, the series had gone viral around the planet via Twitter, Facebook, Tumblr, and the blogosphere. Subsequently, Blaustein was interviewed about the series for web publications in Spain and Italy, and for National Public Radio’s Marketplace. To date, the project has been seen by more than a million people in 128 countries, and Blaustein’s website has received almost 750,000 hits.

The purchase was made as part of the biennial New Mexico Only Purchase Initiative.

New Artwork installed as part of the New Mexico Arts Permanent Public Art Collection

Zach Reike recently installed his artwork entitled Whirled 11 at the Bataan Memorial Building in Santa Fe. The artwork purchased for the Permanent Public Art Collection is an abstract calligraphic painting with two triangle-like black forms on raw canvas. Images painted on the back-side of the canvas create “ghost” images on the front surface. The artwork references Abstract Expressionism and Japanese Zenga traditions.

Reike is a contemporary painter who resides in Santa Fe with his wife, Gail Reike. His work has been seen in many Santa Fe galleries including Linda Durham and Eva Contemporary. Along with his wife, Reike was featured in a retrospective exhibit at the New Mexico Museum of Art. His work is featured in numerous private collections, and has previously been selected for the Acclaimed Artist Series program of New Mexico Arts.

Masters of Traditional New Mexico Folk Music

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