Greetings & Happy New Year from the Executive Director

New Mexico Arts has a busy and exciting year ahead as we seek to ramp up our arts-based economic development and cultural tourism initiatives.

We also need to update our strategic plan for the National Endowment for the Arts and submit our long application to the NEA this fall under our state partnership agreement. As we did three years ago, we will be seeking input from all of you in the coming months on what you think of the job we’re doing here at New Mexico Arts and how we might improve. We want to know what you think our priorities should be, and how we can best support New Mexico artists and arts organizations across our state.

Our primary priorities for the 60-day legislative session, which begins January 16 at the State Capitol, are budgetary. We particularly hope to secure $250,000 as recurring funding for our Arts Trails project, an initiative of Governor Bill Richardson and the Legislature. This is considered a budget expansion request as we received a one-time special appropriation of $250,000 in the 2006 legislative session for a pilot Arts Trails project focused on rural fiber artists statewide. We plan to publish a guidebook with maps on the New Mexico Fiber Arts Trails in the spring. We’re also planning workshops to help the sites selected for the pilot Fiber Arts Trails get ready for company. And we plan to sponsor workshops to help artists and arts organizations develop other Arts Trails around New Mexico. We envision a system of Arts Trails across our state, including Folk Arts Trails, Pottery Trails, Music Trails, and the like. We’d also like to expand the Fiber Arts Trails to include Santa Fe and Albuquerque.

Our Arts Trails project, designed to put New Mexico artists on the map and bring the market to them, is part of the governor’s economic development initiatives, particularly for rural New Mexico. This project is also aimed at increasing cultural tourism statewide.

If you would like to see more Arts Trails developed around New Mexico, please let your local legislators and the governor know that you support making this funding recurring for New Mexico Arts. There will be lots of competition for funding during the session, so it is critical that our lawmakers hear from you about the importance of securing $250,000 in recurring funding for the Arts Trails.

We’re also seeking to change four staff positions at New Mexico Arts that are currently paid for with some of our federal funds to permanent positions paid for by General Fund monies. If successful, this would mean we would be able to increase our grants budget by about $158,000 a year and we would no longer have to use some of our federal funding to pay for staff positions. This would benefit arts organizations around New Mexico.

In another budget request that affects New Mexico Arts, Secretary Stuart Ashman has proposed creating a $1 million artists-in-the-schools program still funded by New Mexico Arts, which we would greatly expand should we get this additional funding.

During the 2007 legislative session, New Mexico Arts is also requesting $75,000 in capital outlay monies for restoration and maintenance of our state Public Art collection so that it can be enjoyed by generations to come. We have public art in all 33 New Mexico counties, and should we be successful in getting the recurring funding for our Arts Trails project, we intend to develop Public Art Trails to showcase this important collection across our state.

New Mexico Arts welcomes our commissioner, Christine Glidden of Albuquerque, partner and founder of High Desert Forge, an award-winning designer and fabricator of architectural metals, including public art projects.

Be sure to visit the State Capitol on Tuesday, February 6, to help us celebrate Culture Day in New Mexico. All DCA divisions, including New Mexico Arts, will have displays off the Rotunda in the Roundhouse. Please stop by and say hello.

Loie Fecteau
Executive Director
Loie.fecteau@state.nm.us

New Mexico Arts’ Mission
To preserve, enhance, and develop the arts in New Mexico through partnerships, public awareness, and education, and to enrich the quality of life for present and future generations.
Poetry Out Loud

New Mexico Arts is the local host for the 2007 Poetry Out Loud National Recitation Competition, which is a project of the National Endowment for the Arts and the Poetry Foundation. Participating high schools are from the state-capital region, from Santa Fe to Taos and Las Vegas, and all communities in between.

The state finals for Poetry Out Loud will be held on Sunday, March 11, at 1:00 p.m. in the auditorium of the Museum of International Folk Art in Santa Fe. This event is free and open to the public.

During January and early February, Anne MacNaughton of Taos will present workshops on performing poetry for students from participating classrooms. MacNaughton was a co-founder of the Taos Poetry Circus. The workshops will be held in Las Vegas, Santa Fe, and Taos.

The winner of the competition will receive $200 and an all-expenses-paid trip to Washington DC (with an adult chaperone) to compete in the national finals. The winner’s school will receive a $500 stipend for the purchase of poetry books. The national champion will receive a $10,000 scholarship and a $5,000 grant to the school.

“We are excited about participating in Poetry Out Loud,” said Leis Fecteau, Executive Director of New Mexico Arts. “This project is an integral part of New Mexico Arts’ contribution to First Lady Barbara Richardson’s initiative to promote literacy across our state.”

In 2006, New Mexico was well represented at the national finals by Fantasia Lonjose, a student at the Santa Fe Indian School. The 2006 runner-up was Jade McClellan of Capital High School in Santa Fe. In 2005, the state finals for Poetry Out Loud were held in Carlsbad.

For more information about Poetry Out Loud, contact Ann Weisman at New Mexico Arts, telephone 505-837-6490, or email ann.weisman@nmar.org.

Governor’s Awards for Excellence in the Arts

Governor Bill Richardson and First Lady Barbara Richardson are seeking nominations for the 2007 recipients of New Mexico’s highest and most prestigious artistic honors: the Governor’s Award for Excellence in the Arts. This is an annual program of New Mexico Arts in collaboration with various institutions. You may download a 2007 Nomination Form at www.nmar.org, and click on ‘Breaking News’ on the home page. If you would like to receive information or a nomination form by mail, call Virginia Castellano at (505) 827-6490, or telephone New Mexico Arts at 800-879-4278 (instate) or 505-827-6490. For information about previous recipients, visit the New Mexico Arts web site. The deadline for nominations is March 9, 2007.

A staple of many a ‘W’ father, the Hollywood singing cowboy could yield while deftly roping a calf and expertly shooting six guns out of the hands of bad guys. While this idealized romantic notion may no longer be accepted image, his origins were far from stylish or glamorous.

If New Mexico can’t prove to be the birthplace of the cowboy singer, (and perhaps it can), our fair state can boast of having produced the cowboy song, for it was here that many of them were born and nourished. Many early cowboy songs still popular today are about well-known heroes around New Mexico. The Goodnight Loving Tintománo bemoans the plight of the old camp cook who tells of this landmark trail that ran from west to Texas to the railheads in Denver. Although this trail started in Texas and ended in Colorado, it traversed the entire length of the state of New Mexico, traveling up the Pecos River from the Texas border to Fort Sumner, where it then ran north to follow the Canadian River to the Colorado border.

Many versions of the old song Trail of the Buffalo tell of the hard life in the deserts of New Mexico. But one of the best evidence of New Mexico’s role in the development of the cowboy song comes from a man who reunited the west in the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries, Jack Thorp. Born the son of a wealthy New York lawyer in 1867, Thorp came west to the state known as the Wild West, originally and for a time, a state of native Americans. As he put it: “I have noticed that the further you are from a gold strike, the richer it is.” Furthermore, cowboys didn’t just sing cowboy songs; they sang any song that suited their fancy; train songs, river songs, and sappy sentimental popular love songs.

In 1908, Jack walked into the office of a newspaper publisher in Estancia with his collection of 23 cowboy songs. He paid the man six-cents a copy to print two-thousand, which he in turn sold for fifteen-cents a piece. Cheekily made on a poor grade of paper, very few copies of the original 1908 Songs of the Cowboys survive today. However, they caught the public’s fancy, and two decades later, the W Publishing Company published the first book opened doors to new material, and in 1921, Thorp published a second edition containing 101 cowboy songs. In addition to collecting songs, Thorp wrote several of them, but being the ever humble cowboy, did not sign or copyright them. Some of them, such as Little Joe the Wrangler, made a lot of money for others, while Thorp never saw any money for himself.

Many of the songs Thorp collected also come with an account of their provenance. While there is little hard proof to back up the asertions, many of the accounts sound plausible. The Educated Feller, also known as the Ziba Dun, supposedly really happened on the grassy plains of northeastern New Mexico. This colorful tale of a city slicker who shows up in a cow camp spouting “bad-breaking words” and seeking a horse to continue his journey is a classic song of the cowboy way of life. The cowboys decide to trick the stranger and offer him the meanest bronco in the string. Of course the stranger turns out to be quite the bronco rider and reper, and the camp rambles offers him a job.

According to a cowboy named Poweler River Jack Lee, the song was based on a real cowboy named Con Price who had his clothes stolen on the Big Bend ranch and had to travel wearing eastern clothes and a hard headed hat, and that the event happened at the camp of some cowboys from the Circle S Ranch. Nearly a century after Jack Thorp published his first volume of them, cowboy songs still continue to be sung in New Mexico and new ones are still being made up every day. Stop in at many of the cowboy poetry gatherings held in the state, and you’ll hear the latest batch. To learn more about Jack Thorp and the songs he collected, you can read Jack Thorp’s Songs of the Cowboys, edited by Mark L. Gardner, Museum of New Mexico Press, Santa Fe, 2005, or sing the Roo Grande. Cowboy. Jack Thorp’s New Mexico, edited by Peter White, Ancient City Press, Taos, 2000, Large Print White, Ancient City Press, Santa Fe, 1988.

Making Connections

New Mexico Arts will present a professional development institute in performing arts education this summer. Making Connections: Movement, Perception, and Learning will take place in Albuquerque with two sessions in June. Fine arts specialists, classroom teachers, administrators, and teaching artists working in rural New Mexico schools are invited to attend the institute.

This is the second and final year of a pilot program funded by the Dana Foundation. There is no fee for the institute. Each participant will have a private room in a dormitory. Participants’ costs are about $175 for the 3 night/4 day institute) and travel to Albuquerque. School districts may use their Elementary Fine Arts Education Program professional development funds to cover the expenses of their elementary teachers to attend the institute.

The institute will cover topics such as the current research in neuroscience, especially as it pertains to brain development and motor skill development. Participants will work on movement and cognitive development; and how to implement the Critical Response Process, an artist-based method of critiquing performance and visual art pieces developed by MacArthur award winner and dancer Liz Lerman.

In the pantheon of mythology surrounding the history of the American West, the image of a singing cowboy looms large.
**Deadline: Ongoing**

Phoenix, AZ – The Arizona Commission on the Arts is developing a list of artists who are blind or visually impaired for a future art activity. If you are a blind/visually impaired artist or know someone who is, please provide the following information: artist name, phone, mailing address, email (if available), type of art, and how long you have been doing this activity.

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There will be workshops in dance, music, and theater. Arts integration methods will also be discussed.

The dance and head instructor, Eleanor Weissman, is the Director of Movement Studies at Allegheny College in Meadville, Pennsylvania, where she teaches courses in dance and neuroscience in addition to courses in the dance and movement program. She has over thirty years’ experience in dance and dance education, one of her specialties is in developmental movement.

Steve Bailey, the theater and Critical Response Process instructor, is the Education Director at JumpStart Performance Company in San Antonio. He has more than twenty years’ experience in theater and theater education.

Douglas Bellen, an itinerant elementary music teacher for Albuquerque Public Schools, will be our music instructor. Certified in Orff levels I and II, Doug is the Music Director for the Del Norte High School Theater productions and is an instructor in the New Mexico Jazz Workshop’s summer program.

The institute evaluator is Karen DeMoss, Assistant Professor of Education at the University of New Mexico.

Here are some comments from participants in the 2006 institute:

- This workshop has given me more confidence in sharing the arts. I am more comfortable in discussing them. This is so much different than searching for the right words to describe what I see. Now I know that it is possible, and I'm certain my students will embrace [the arts] if given the opportunity to experience them as I have.
- I appreciated this workshop as I was able to experience these connections first hand, as opposed to just reading or hearing about them. I was able to see the connection between all of the disciplines through my own artistic involvement. I think that the instructors were fantastic and really appreciated their philosophical approach to the arts. Thank you!
- This institute changed my life! I have already incorporated the arts into my curriculum, and I know that it is possible, and I'm certain my students will embrace [the arts] if given the opportunity to experience them as I have.
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Registration for the 2007 institute will begin March 1 and will close May 1. The sessions are scheduled for June 11 and 18 – 21. On-line registration will be available on the New Mexico Arts web site at www.nmarts.org. Contact New Mexico Arts for other registration methods or for more information.

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**ARTSpeak • JANUARY 2007 • www.nmarts.org**

**Barbara and Bill Richardson Pavilion Art Project at UNM Hospital Seeks Visual Art Donations**

The UNM Hospital Gallery, and what has now become the UNM Health Sciences Center Art Collection, was established in 1991. The acquisition program relies solely on gifts. Throughout the generosity of artists and donors, the collection now numbers more than 1,800 pieces. It is remarkable for a public hospital and academic health center to have a collection of this size and quality. Its regional and national reputation is growing and the Hospital Gallery is working on a catalog that will be published by UNM Press.

Currently under construction, the Barbara and Bill Richardson Pavilion is a six-floor, 476,555 sq. ft. addition to UNM Hospital that will be completed in spring 2007. It will house the children’s hospital, emergency center, adult critical care center, women’s and maternity center, and private patient rooms—all of which need gifted art.

Any work that is accepted into the collection may be tax-deductible, based upon the item's appraised value and the advice of your tax consultant. While the Hospital Gallery emphasizes quality in the collection, they can accept works of art that may not be appropriate for local museums, and therefore the gift or acquisition policy is quite liberal.

The UNM Hospital Gallery has established a fund at the UNM Foundation for those who would like to support the program through tax-deductible cash contributions. Funds are needed to appraise, maintain, and conserve the existing collection; frame and install new works; and establish an endowment to fund future purchases.

For more information, please contact Chris Fenton, UNM Hospital Art Project, at 505-272-9700 or email cfenton@salud.unm.edu.

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**ARTSpeak • JANUARY 2007 • www.nmarts.org**

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For more information, contact Gilbert E. Barrera at gbarrera@email.az.gov.

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**Donations**

The different areas of art can include but are not limited to painting, ceramics, woodwork, metal work, literature (writing poetry, fiction, etc.), music (writing, performing instruments, singing, etc.), theater, dance, etc.

Participants do not have to be professional artists, but must consider themselves good in whatever they do.

If you are a blind/visually impaired artist or know someone who is, please provide the following information: artist name, phone, mailing address, email (if available), type of art, and how long you have been doing this activity.

Please submit via telephone, fax, or email to Karla Rivas, SBVI Program Assistant, telephone 602-542-3789, or email krivas@azdes.gov.

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**Buckman Crossing | Arturo Chaves | 30” x 48” | Oil on canvas | Toney Anaya Building**

**Red Hub | Carol Shinn | 10” x 14” | Freehand machine embroidery | UNM – Communications and Journalism Building**

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**Gathering Clouds | Bruce Lowrey | 32” x 40” | Oil on canvas | Mesalands Community College, Tucumcari**

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**The Human-to-Oil Piece | Jessica Dunn | Wood, olive oil, metal | T.I.M.E: Silver City 2006**

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Governor Bill Richardson with members of the Special Orchestra performed at the dedication of the Rail Runner. The Art in Public Places Program (AIPP) and the New Mexico School for the Deaf (NMSD) local selection committee seek to commission artwork for the new Early Childhood Development Center located on the NMSD campus in Santa Fe.

The project is open to all artists who are residents of New Mexico. Up to 10 artists/artist teams will be selected. Project amounts are $1,500 per artist/artist team plus travel and per diem based on mileage. Deaf artists are strongly encouraged to apply.

Project Amount is $53,750. Artists must receive a prospectus to apply. For more information or to receive a prospectus, visit the web site at www.nmarts.org or contact New Mexico Arts, P.O. Box 1450, Santa Fe NM 87504, telephone 800-879-4278 (instate), 505-837-6490, or email aipp@sta.nm.us.

Prospectus #185 – New Mexico School for the Deaf Commission

Deadline: Thursday, March 8, 2007, 5:00 p.m.

The project is open to all artists who are residents of the United States. This project is open to all artists who are residents of the United States. Up to five finalists will be selected. Project Amount is $225,000. Non-New Mexican artists are invited to visit the web site for national opportunities.

Prospectus #186 – UNM Commission Project

Deadline: Thursday, March 15, 2007, 5:00 p.m.

The local selection committee seeks a timeless, highly visual, original artwork that will enhance the Monolithic Library room, waiting area, vestibules, main corridor, and per diem and other indoor commissions. All artwork, including outdoor site-specific works, projects are open to New Mexico artists. Beginning


Deadline: Thursday, March 1, 2007, 5:00 p.m.

The project is open to all artists who are residents of Taos and per diem and other indoor commissions. All artwork, including outdoor site-specific works, projects are open to New Mexico artists. Beginning

El Pueblo | Martin Montoya | 60” x 48” | Oil on canvas | UNM – General Hospital, Children’s Wing

Deadline: February 12, 2007

San Antonio, TX – The San Antonio Gateway Public Sculpture Competition, Sculptors’ Dominion, is working with San Antonio Gateway, a nonprofit public art effort, for large, colossal, and heroic sculptures along Highway 281 from the airport to Gateway. The Sculptors’ Dominion Institutional will highlight all Gateway candidate sculptures and proposals. Over a two-year period, 2007 and 2008, there will be ongoing year-round reviews of work submitted to Gateway.

IN-STATE OPPORTUNITIES

Bernalillo County Arts Board

The Bernalillo County Arts Board is pleased to announce several new public art projects for 2007 including outdoor site-specific works, purchases of existing artwork, and other indoor commissions. All projects are open to New Mexico artists. Beginning

OUT-OF-STATE OPPORTUNITIES

Hodgenville, KY – The City of Hodgenville, Kentucky, is holding a call for artists to create a figurative sculpture of Abraham Lincoln as a boy in honor of the bicentennial of his birth in 2009.

The project budget is $216,480. For more information, please visit the City of Hodgenville web site at www.hodgenvilleky.com.