Greetings from the Executive Director

New Mexico Arts continues to play a leadership role in arts-based economic development and tourism initiatives across our state, especially in our rural areas.

We were among a coalition of New Mexico organizations to bring Becky Anderson of HandMade in America back to our state in late March to show how artisans, agricultural producers, and other entrepreneurs can collaborate effectively with policy leaders, community activists, and others to stimulate rural economic development. Anderson, of Asheville, N.C., is widely regarded as one of the most visionary leaders of the creative economy in the United States.

New Mexico Arts first brought Anderson to New Mexico last August for a two-day conference. As a result of that gathering, a number of rural organizations have formed partnerships to create arts-based trails and cultural tourism loops across New Mexico. One group of textile artists and weavers is developing a fiber arts trail statewide.

I’m extremely pleased to report that New Mexico Arts was successful in securing $250,000 in a nonrecurring special appropriation during this year’s legislative session to take these arts trails to the next level. This will really help us put New Mexico artists on the map and bring the market to them. We plan to use this money to support community-based efforts to develop arts trails, sponsor workshops with national experts for New Mexico artists and arts organizations, and to provide technical assistance to ensure that all New Mexicans are able to enjoy these great artworks for generations to come.

I personally want to thank Governor Bill Richardson; Dave Contarino, the governor’s chief of staff; Eric Witt, the governor’s legislative liaison; and Eric’s assistant Stephanie Maez for helping us secure this critical funding. They made sure we were included in the FY07 budget as one of the governor’s special initiatives for New Mexico arts initiatives across our state, especially in our rural areas.

There was lots of competition for funding during the 30-day legislative session, and it is humbling to see the long list of worthy programs that failed to make it into the budget signed by the governor. We all need to keep beating the drum about the importance of arts funding in New Mexico.

New Mexico Arts is pleased to welcome three new arts commissioners recently appointed by Governor Richardson: Jim Enote of Zuni; Terri Salazar of Los Ranchos; and Ann Silver of Santa Fe.

We also plan to use some of this one-time money to begin survey and make digital images of our existing public art collection, which is in all 33 counties of our state. We envision arts trails to highlight these exciting public artworks in every region of New Mexico, which would be a real tourism booster.

Creating a restoration and maintenance program for our public art collection is part of the Department of Cultural Affairs’ five-year capital outlay plan. We’ll just have to keep pushing to secure funding for this critical need as some pieces in our public art collection are more than 20 years old. We want to ensure that all New Mexicans are able to enjoy these great artworks for generations to come.

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Arts Education Professional Development Institute in June

New Mexico Arts is pleased to announce that we will present Making Connections: Movement, Performance, & Learning, a professional development institute in performing arts for educators and teaching artists working in rural New Mexico communities. Two sessions of this pilot program, funded by the Dana Foundation, will take place at the Madonna Retreat Center in Albuquerque on June 14-17 and June 19-22. Each session will begin at 1:00 pm on the first day and end by noon on the last day. Participants will stay onsite during the institute. There will be morning, afternoon, and evening sessions. Each participant will have a private room in a dormitory setting. Their only costs will be for transportation and food, about $57 for all four days. Each session will offer instruction in developmental movement and brain maturation, the language of creative movement, and child development. There will be small-group sessions in each of the performing arts disciplines that incorporate movement: dance, music, and theater. Methods of arts integration will be addressed.

Instruction will also be given on the Critical Response Method developed by MacArthur awardee and dancer Liz Lerman as a way of criticizing performances in any discipline. Participants will also have the opportunity to work together and create their own collaborative pieces. Forty-five people can attend each session. K-12 classroom teachers, arts specialists in any discipline, physical education teachers, district arts coordinators, and teaching artists are invited to attend. Preference will be given to teams of four or five educators and artists from a school district. However, single enrollments are welcome.

We anticipate continuing education credit being offered for the institute. Those working in any arts coordinators, and teaching artists working in rural New Mexico communities. Two sessions of this pilot program, funded by the Dana Foundation, will take place at the Madonna Retreat Center in Albuquerque on June 14-17 and June 19-22. Each session will begin at 1:00 pm on the first day and end by noon on the last day. Participants will stay onsite during the institute. There will be morning, afternoon, and evening sessions. Each participant will have a private room in a dormitory setting. Their only costs will be for transportation and food, about $57 for all four days. Each session will offer instruction in developmental movement and brain maturation, the language of creative movement, and child development. There will be small-group sessions in each of the performing arts disciplines that incorporate movement: dance, music, and theater. Methods of arts integration will be addressed.

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Hispanic Folk Songs of New Mexico

by Claude Stephenson, Folk Arts Coordinator

The Hispanic folk song tradition of New Mexico derives from many sources, but its tap root is 15th century Spain. The most popular type of folk song in Spain during the 15th century was the romance (pronounced roh-MAHN-say). The romance was a heroic and often historically-based narrative ballad that typically had royalty as its subject matter. It had a very specific lyric form of sixteen syllable lines that was sometimes accompanied by a short refrain called an indita. The romance had a very specific melodic form but it still retains the melodic and enigmatic mysteries of life. Among my personal favorites of the old folk song forms is the trova. Trova is Spanish for poem. Trovadores, or troubadours as they are known in English, often traveled with the cortesias, or wagon trains, up and down the Camino Real between Santa Fe and Mexico City. When two trovadores encountered each other, a song exchange typically occurred, with each trovador trying to outdo the other. Such encounters often ended in a musical contest, or duel, with the trovadores inventing insulting verses to a tune on the spot. One trovador would pose a question in his verse and the other would have to sing a response followed by another question, and thus the contest continued until one of the trovadores exhausted his repertoire of witty repartees. Many of the trovadores were famous regionally and were known by various nicknames such as Pelón (bold one), Gracia, and El Viejo Vilmas (old man Vilmas). Several of the surviving trovos were attributed to these verse masters and modern singers frequently take on the persona of either Gracia or Vilmas when performing trovos.

To ease the hardship of colonial life in New Mexico, a humorous type of song called a relación was created. A relación usually deals with the absurdities of life and songs frequently employ animal characters or exaggerated situations. One of the most famous of these is the Ballad of Don Simón, where a bewildered narrator relates satirical news of the changing world around him to his friend, Don Simón, ending each verse with the exaggerated cry of “Ay que tiempos Señor Don Simón!” (Ay! What times these are Don Simón!). The beauty of this song is that it can be continually updated to reflect the changing world around the singers, which must be a minimum of 65 points, and the total amount of funding available to New Mexico Arts for applicants. Based on these two factors, the Planning & Budget subcommittee of the Arts Commission will meet in mid-May to recommend funding for eligible applicants. Final approval of funding recommendations will be determined at the next full meeting of the New Mexico Arts Commission in June.

New Mexico Arts’ staff has been working hard to bring new applicants into the process, especially organizations from rural and underserved areas of the state. As a result, we received the largest number of applications for funding in recent years. A total of 185 final applications were received, including 16 Folk Arts Apprenticeships, compared to 161 applications from organizations and Folk Arts Apprenticeships last year. Of the 185 applicants this year, 184 are going to panel meetings for review and rating by peer panelists (one applicant withdrew their application).
AIPP ANNOUNCEMENTS

Artwork Installed at Luna Community College

Muralist Noel Marquez of Artesia, New Mexico, recently completed the installation of his art work, Curanderismo, in the new Allied Health Center at Luna Community College in Las Vegas. The mural is on the southeast wall of the lobby with a smaller related mural on a nearby concrete column. The mural references New Mexico’s medical history with an emphasis on the practice of curanderismo. The piece includes images of medicinal plants from Native American and Spanish traditions, a curandero from Las Vegas teaching a student about the plants, people in a sweat lodge with burning sage and feathers, lo sobadores (healing with massage), the Virgin Mary representing the connection between the curanderero’s rituals and Spanish Catholic healing traditions, and modern medicine is referenced by a doctor using ultrasound technology. These images are used to show how many different ideas and practices have worked together to create New Mexico’s unique medical history. The theme is continued in the smaller mural, which depicts medicinal plants wrapping around the concrete column. A dedication date has not been set.

T.I.M.E.-SILVER CITY (TEMPORARY INSTALLATIONS MADE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT)

Prospectus #142

Deadline: May 18, 2006

The Art in Public Places Program (AIPP) of New Mexico Arts will commission up to ten temporary, visually engaging, conceptual environmental artworks to be exhibited in various locations in and around the Town of Silver City. The installation of the works will coincide with Silver City’s 10th annual Art Walk. The proposed artwork should relate to this year’s theme of Alchemy. The project is open to all artists that are residents of New Mexico. Up to 10 artists/artist teams will be selected. Project amount is $1,500 per artist/artist team plus travel and per diem, based on mileage.

Artists must complete a prospectus to apply. For more information or to receive a prospectus visit the website at www.nmarts.org or contact NM Arts, PO Box 1450, Santa Fe NM 87504, telephone 505/827-6490, 808/879-4278 (instate), or email aipp@state.nm.us.

INSTATE OPPORTUNITIES

Second Annual Pushpin Show – Deadline April 28, 2006

Avant Garde, the young members group of the Museum of New Mexico Foundation, seeks young artists to participate in the Second Annual Pushpin Show opening on April 28, 2006, at the Steward L. Udall Center for Museum Resources on Museum Hill in Santa Fe. The show requires that all artworks must either be hung with pushpins or use pushpins as a component of an installation or 3-D work (no framed works will be accepted). Artists are encouraged to think creatively and incorporate pushpins into making fine art, and to challenge preconceived notions that art must be framed and matted in a “professional” setting. All works will be hung salon style as part of the exhibit. The evening will start as a blank canvas and visually evolve as artworks are added to create a spontaneous montage of collected works. Local artists between the ages of 21-45 are encouraged to bring their work; up to three works per artist will be accepted. Artwork will be accepted on a first-come first-served basis. A panel of judges from the Santa Fe arts community will be on hand to award top three prizes. For more information contact Laura Mott 505/899-8784, or visit the website at www.pushpinshow.com.

OUT-OF-STATE OPPORTUNITIES

Deadline: April 30, 2006

The Fields Project and InBronze Foundry announce a call to professional sculptors to participate in the 3rd Fields Project Sculpture Competition. Eligibility for submitting a maquette in the sculpture competition is contingent on participation in the 1-day Fields Project Fine Arts Festival held on June 25, 2006. Sculpture competition maquettes will be judged in September, with preference given to entries that incorporate the theme of Alchemy. The project is open to all artists that are residents of New Mexico. Up to 10 artists/artist teams will be selected. Project amount is $1,500 per artist/artist team plus travel and per diem, based on mileage.

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Deadline Open

Tilt Gallery and Project Space is currently reviewing artist portfolios for the 2006-2007 exhibition series. Tilt Gallery and Project Space specializes in emerging and under-recognized artists, both regional and national, through artist lectures, exhibits, and special projects. Tilt Gallery primarily exhibits experimental, challenging difficult-to-show work. Proposals for installation and site-specific work are welcome. Artist materials may be sent to Tilt Gallery and Project Space, 625 NW Everett, Suite 106, Portland OR 97209. For more information, contact Jenene Nagy, Director and Curator, at til@jilfred.com.

Deadline Open

The Craft Liberation Front welcomes submissions from emerging craftspeople with less than 10 years of experience for exhibitions that explore issues of race, ethnicity, or cross-cultural understanding. There are two exhibition galleries, open to all disciplines. Proposals are accepted from both individuals and groups. Applications should include a statement of purpose and a brief description of the proposed project’s content, what it is intended to accomplish, and the timeline needed. Also included only three of the six required forms for the contract term (Interim Cash Request, Final Cash Request, and Final Fiscal Report). Deadline Open

For the first time, contract forms and instructions for FY06 contracted arts organizations have been placed on our website – www.nmarts.org – for downloading as needed. Approved contract packets mailed to organizations last August and September included only three of the six required forms for the contract term (Interim Cash Request, Final Cash Request, and Final Fiscal Report). Blank copies of these forms and copies of the three additional forms (Final Report pages 1 and 2 and Supplement to the Final Report) can be found by going to www.nmarts.org, clicking on the “online application/grants application” box on the home page, and scrolling down the next page to “Grant Application Reimbursement & Report Forms”. You can then select and print out the instructions or reporting forms needed. All reporting forms are in PDF format.

FY06 Contract Forms Are Now Available Online

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