Greetings from the Executive Director

In these challenging times, it is extremely important to put a human face on arts funding to help protect our public art funding. And a big thank you, as well, to Governor Bill Richardson, DCA Cabinet Secretary Stuart Ashman, and State Representative Brian Egolf of Santa Fe for stepping up and recognizing the importance of arts funding to our state and local economies and that, in turn, creates economic and cultural tourism drivers. Arts administrators are an important part of the drum.

As we head into our 30-day regular legislative session, I want to thank our artists, art galleries, and cultural organizations for standing up and fighting about why arts funding matters, especially as our state budget situation goes from grim to grimmer. I've been thinking about why the arts are important, particularly as our state programs and contracts got gobbled out for excessive cuts.

As the drum, I'm thinking about why arts funding matters and how I know we may face deeper cuts. But the arts enrich the quality of life for present and future generations.

To preserve, enhance, and develop the arts in New Mexico and our state program money — and that was a victory as we had faced much worse cuts when the 2009 regular legislative session began. Keep in mind that most of our state program money — and that was an additional 10.5 percent in state General Fund monies and 40 percent federal funds. But unfortunately, the other programs and contracts.

Music Commission's budget, as well as cut in our regular arts grants budget, which benefited about 160 arts organizations in New Mexico, the important thing to stress with legislators is that state Arts Commission Vice Chair John Rohovec of Carlsbad, Senator Betty Kereiakes, DCA Commissioner Wren Prather-Stroud, and representatives to help protect our public art funding. And a new Mexico Arts Permanent Collection, Taos Center for the Arts, Taos.

Greetings from the Executive Director
Greetings from the Executive Director

I’ve been thinking about why the arts are important, particularly as our state budget situation goes from grim to grimmer. I’ve been thinking about what a bleak place the world would be without arts and culture.

I know it’s hard to have to keep fighting this fight about why arts funding matters, especially in a state like New Mexico where arts and culture are so central to our multicultural history. But we have to keep beating the drum.

As we head into our 30-day regular legislative session that begins January 19 in Santa Fe, the important thing to stress with legislators and the governor’s office is that state funding for the arts has been cut and we know we may face deeper cuts. But the arts should not be cut more than other state agencies and programs.

To put where we’re at into perspective, in late 2008, New Mexico Arts was cut 5 percent in our state General Fund program money for FY09, the last fiscal year. Then the Legislative and the governor cut us an additional 10.5 percent in state General Fund monies for FY10, the current fiscal year, which amounted to a 17 percent cut to our state program money — and that was actually a victory as we had faced much worse cuts when the 2009 regular legislative session began. Keep in mind that most of state government was cut an average of 4 percent in General Fund monies in FY10, while we were cut 10.5 percent. We were also cut much deeper than almost any other division in the Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA).

At the end of 2009, we were cut an additional 5.5 percent in state funding for FY10. In addition, all staff must take five unpaid leave days by the end of June. So I think we have and will continue to contribute our fair share to the belt tightening required to help resolve the state’s budget crunch.

The good news is we, so far, have managed to absorb these program cuts without cutting our regular arts grants budget, which benefits about 160 arts organizations in New Mexico and contributes to the quality of life across our state. But even deeper cuts threaten our arts grants too. We have cut our Arts Trails program, lost state funding for an Art in Public Places contractor, reduced the Music Commission’s budget, as well as cut other programs and contracts.

It’s ironic that a year ago the Legislature’s Interim Rural and Economic Development Committee sponsored a committee bill carried by Senate Majority Leader Mary Jane Garcia of Las Cruces to increase state funding to our arts grants by $900,000, in effect doubling our arts grants budget, which is 60 percent state General Fund monies and 40 percent federal funds. But unfortunately, the bottom fell out of our state economy and we ended up with budget cuts, even as many legislators acknowledged the need to increase funding for the arts.

So in the months ahead we need your help to try to hold the line on budget cuts as best we can. We know we need to accept our fair share of cuts, but the arts should not be singled out for excessive cuts.

It’s also important to protect our state’s one percent for public art law and public art funding. I want to thank our artists, art galleries, arts commissioners, and arts advocates for rallying during the special session in October to help protect our public art funding. And a big thank you, as well, to Governor Bill Richardson, DCA Cabinet Secretary Stuart Ashman, and State Representative Brian Egolf of Santa Fe for stepping up and recognizing the importance of arts funding to our state economy and to our communities.

In these challenging times, it is extremely important to put a human face on arts funding and to show legislators that artists and arts administrators are an important part of our state and local economies and that, in New Mexico, the arts are important economic and cultural tourism drivers. Arts Commission Vice Chairman John Rohovec of Silver City had this to say at a recent arts commission meeting: “The arts are a business and the arts are good for business in New Mexico.”

Our Fifth Annual State Finals for the Poetry Out Loud: National Recitation Contest for high school students will be held Sunday, February 21, beginning at 1 p.m., at St. Francis Auditorium at the New Mexico Museum of Art in Santa Fe. Please come and watch our talented students compete. The winner will represent New Mexico as our state finalist in the Poetry Out Loud national championship in April in Washington DC.

Loie Fecteau
Executive Director
loie.fecteau@state.nm.us
Nominations must be postmarked by March 5, 2010. Nominations may also be hand-delivered to New Mexico Arts offices no later than March 5 by 5 p.m. Nomination forms are available online at http://arts.nm.gov/gov-arts-awards.html. For more information, contact New Mexico Arts at 505/857-6490, 800/879-4278 (statewide), or email Virginia Castellano at vcastellano@nmas.state.nm.us.

Governor’s Awards for Excellence in the Arts – Nominations Sought

The New Mexico Arts Commission and New Mexico Arts, a division of the Department of Cultural Affairs, are now accepting nominations for the 2010 Governor’s Awards for Excellence in the Arts.

Nominations for the Governor’s Awards can be submitted in the categories Artist and Major Contributor to the Arts. Only living artists working in any discipline who have made significant and outstanding achievements in the arts will be considered for this lifetime achievement award. Individual non-artists who have made significant or distinguished contributions to the arts in New Mexico through their work as arts patrons, arts advocates, and arts educators, etc. Organizations including businesses, nonprofits, or foundations with sustained involvement in and support for the arts can also be nominated. Nominations can be submitted by New Mexico residents, except for members of the New Mexico Arts Commission and New Mexico Arts staff.

Nominations must be postmarked by March 5, 2010. Nominations may also be hand-delivered to New Mexico Arts offices no later than March 5 by 5 p.m. Nomination forms are available online at http://arts.nm.gov/gov-arts-awards.html. For more information, contact New Mexico Arts at 505/857-6490, 800/879-4278 (statewide), or email vcastellano@nmas.state.nm.us.

Poetry Out Loud: National Recitation Contest New Mexico State Finals - February 21, 2010

On Sunday, February 21, 2010 at 1 p.m., join ten New Mexico high school students in the National Auditorium at the New Mexico Museum of Art in Santa Fe, as they compete to become New Mexico’s Poetry Out Loud: National Recitation Contest State Champion.

This year over 2,500 students from 13 schools around the state will compete at the classroom level. Participating schools include Bernalillo High School, Bloomfield High School, Clayton High School, Clovis High School, Deming High School, La Cueva High School (Albuquerque), Las Montanitas High School (Las Cruces), Oñate High School (Las Cruces), Roswell High School, San Andres High School (Mesilla), Santa Teresa High School, Silver High School (Silver City), and Southwest Learning Center (Albuquerque). For the first time, runoffs will take place for schools in Albuquerque and Las Cruces to determine district winners.

The winner will receive $200 plus an expense-paid trip with chaperones to Washington DC to compete in the national finals. The winner’s school will receive $500 to purchase poetry books for the school library. The runner-up will receive $100 and $50 for their school library. A total of $50,000 in awards and school stipends at the National Finals will be awarded to the winners.

Poetry Out Loud is a project of the National Endowment for the Arts, the Poetry Foundation, and state arts agencies such as New Mexico Arts. Poetry Out Loud encourages students to learn about great poetry through exploration, memorization, and performance. The program seeks to promote poetry in both the classroom and community. Student performers are judged on physical presence, voice and articulation, appropriateness of dramatization, level of difficulty, evidence of understanding, and accuracy.

The New Mexico Museum of Art is located downtown Santa Fe (107 West Palace Avenue). Admission is free. For more information, contact Jenice Gharib, New Mexico Arts, at 505/857-6490, 800/879-4278 (statewide), or by email at jgharib@nmas.state.nm.us.

To learn more about New Mexico’s efforts at statehood, visit the state’s official website at: http://www.newmexicocentennial.org/
Two years from now, New Mexico will mark a major milestone, one hundred years of statehood. On January 6, 1912, after more than sixty years of petitioning, New Mexico was finally admitted into the union of the United States of America. The story of how New Mexico became the forty-seventh state in the Union is an interesting one.

Though history has lost to us what New Mexico was called by its early residents, when Coronado visited the area in the 1540s he referred to the land as Tiéques, from the Tiwa-speaking Pueblo Indians he met near present-day Bernalillo.

After Hernán Cortés compared the Aztecs and destroyed their capital of Tenochtitlán in 1521, he rebuilt the city and named it after the Aztec, or Mexica as they called themselves. The country was initially called New Spain, and its capital was Mexico City. Most of the emerging provinces north of Mexico City were given regional names from Spain, such as Nuevo Leon and Nuevo Galicia. As many ships laden with gold and jewels from the New World reached Europe, the word Mexico became synonymous with great riches.

Francisco de Ibarra is credited by some historians as being the first to refer to the lands north of the Rio del Norte as Nuevo Mexico. Ibarra, a gold-seeking adventurer, came northward about twenty years after Coronado in search of the legendary cities of Cíbola. It is said that Ibarra, having been told by his scouts that in a large village he encountered were dressed in colored clothing like the Aztecs, thought he had discovered another land of fabulous wealth. He told people on his return he had discovered a “new” Mexico.

Others credit Antonio Espejo, whose visit in 1583 was featured in a chapter entitled “Of New Mexico and how it was discovered” in Padre Juan Gonzales de Mendonca’s book The Great Kingdom of China. Whatever the truth, the name stuck for good in 1610 after it was published in Gaspar Perez de Villagrá’s classic narrative of the Cibola Expedition, The History of New Mexico.

In a stop in Santa Fe in 1846, on his way to California during the Mexican-American War, U.S. Brigadier General Stephen Watts Kearney proclaimed that the land was the United States Territory of New Mexico. This proclamation by occupation was later ratified under Article IX of the 1848 Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo that ended the Mexican-American War.

The people of New Mexico went to work to establish their new government and Governor Donaciano Vigil called a Convention in October of 1848 in Santa Fe. A formal Petition was drawn up and sent to Washington requesting the United States Congress “for the speedy organization of a territorial civil government” and “respectfully, but firmly, protest[ing] against the dismemberment of our territory in favor of Texas or from any cause.” Among other requests in the short Petition was one that emphasized the new territory’s desire not to allow domestic slavery. This had major repercussions in Washington where the slave issue was under intense debate. Pro-slavery senators were reportedly astounded at the insolence of the Petition and the request was not acted upon, and New Mexico remained under military rule.

New Mexico was caught between the South’s struggle to adhere to the Missouri Compromise and maintain a balance between pro- and anti-slavery states in Congress. California was under consideration for statehood and would be admitted as an anti-slavery state, and it appeared that the only way to keep the balance was to admit New Mexico as a slave state. Undeterred, New Mexicans held another Convention in 1849, and in 1850 ratified a Constitution requesting Congress to immediately approve statehood as an anti-slave state. California was admitted in the Compromise of 1850, but New Mexico remained a territory.

In 1869, a movement outside of the state attempted to have the New Mexico Territory become the State of Lincoln, but this move was defeated in the Senate. Then in 1873, Territorial Delegate Stephen B. Elkins introduced an Enabling Act for statehood in parallel with a similar bill to admit Colorado. The New Mexico Statehood bill passed the House and Senate, and returned to the House because of Senate amendments. However, in order to act on the bill, the House would have to suspend the rules, and this required a two-thirds vote. The possibility appeared achievable until fate stepped in. Representative Julius Burroughs of Michigan gave a powerful speech in support of protecting the civil rights of freed Negroes and shocked his southern colleagues. The gregarious and affable Elkins, who had not heard a word of the speech, walked in as Burroughs was being congratulated by supporters. In his characteristic fashion, Elkins walked up and vigorously shook the speaker’s hand. Several southern members who observed Elkins were angered by his action and were determined to thwart the delegate’s efforts on behalf of New Mexico.

This now infamous handshake cost Elkins his two-thirds majority and set back statehood for another thirty years.

Another impediment to New Mexico’s inclusion in the union of states was its significant Hispanic and Native population. There was a lot of prejudice in the late 19th century and this did not serve the newly acquired western states. The prevailing attitude at the time was summed up by one politician, name unknown, who stated that, “Ulah has too many Mormons, Oklahoma too many Indians, New Mexico too many Catholics and Mexicans, and Arizona, not enough of anyone.”

Many well-intentioned but misguided proponents of statehood believed that the name New Mexico was an impediment in and of itself, evoking confusing echoes of our southern neighbors. In 1889, there was an attempt to
ArcTisTics

Though their performances are unexpected, funny, touching, profound and absurd, ArcTisTics is committed to bringing about social change in which people with developmental disabilities are fully integrated into the cultural and social life of the community. ArcTisTics members include a talented group of performers, musicians, and artists with and without disabilities who create and present professionally integrated, performing arts events in Taos.

Since 2004, ArcTisTics has produced five original plays and performed for over 6,000 people. They offer theater workshops for children and adults with disabilities. Facilitated by ArcTisTics Artistic Director Cristina Masoliver and members of the ArcTisTics cast, they conduct two-day or one-week trainings for staff, caregivers, and family members, providing general information, developing theatre vignettes, and creating a small performance with all participants.

Masoliver says she is constantly challenged and surprised by the work, and captivated by the creative process. As the only program of its kind in Taos County, ArcTisTics provides a powerful voice for those with disabilities and is changing attitudes. Masoliver describes the work in this way, “We do not talk, preach, or teach. We do not seek to be therapeutic or politically correct, and do not make apologies either. We are integrated, included and diverse, and that in itself transposes to our audiences. In this way, through our experience with theater, we are contagious. It is really as simple as that.”

ArcTisTics is a project of Taos County Arc (Arc). Arc provides support services to persons with developmental disabilities and their families by working collaboratively with the community and in partnership with private and public organizations. For ArcTisTics, Arc contracts with Puppet Theatre Ian Titiriteros, a Taos-based performing arts group founded by Masoliver. Each ArcTisTics production is preceded by seven months of sessions and rehearsals, and takes place at the Taos Community Auditorium. Past ArcTisTics productions include Old West, The Great Outdoors, Fish, Dream Big, and Summer in a Nutshell. This winter, the entire cast of ArcTisTics is involved in the creation and performance of a new production entided Departures that will premiere at the end of April in Taos.

ArcTisTics was recently awarded a National Endowment for the Arts Challenge America Grant to support the production of the theater piece Oxygen directed by Isabelle Kessler. Challenge America: Reaching Every Community Fast-Track Review Grants offer support primarily to smaller and mid-sized organizations for projects that extend the reach of the arts to underserved populations whose experiences to observe the arts are limited by geography, demographics, economics, or disability.

For more information on Taos County Arc and the ArcTisTics program, contact Arc at 575-758-4774.

AIPP ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Prospectus #205 Santa Fe Community College
Deadline: Midnight, February 25, 2010

New Mexico Arts and a local selection committee at Santa Fe Community College seek an artist or artist team to create a site-specific commission project at the main campus in Santa Fe.

Professional artists who are legal residents of New Mexico and experienced in creating public-funded commission projects are invited to submit qualifications to this opportunity.

$84,250 is available for this project. The amount includes all fees and expenses: materials, equipment costs, labor, insurance, taxes, travel, installation, project plaque, and written and photo documentation of the completed project. Up to five finalists will be invited to submit a formal proposal for the project.

Prospectus #206 New Mexico State University O’Donnell Hall
Deadline: Midnight, March 25, 2010

New Mexico Arts and a local selection committee at New Mexico State University seek an artist or artist team to create a site-specific commission project at O’Donnell Hall on the main campus in Las Cruces. Professional artists who are legal residents of the United States and experienced in creating public-funded commission projects are invited to submit qualifications to this opportunity.

$170,900 is available for this project. The amount includes all fees and expenses: materials, equipment costs, labor, insurance, taxes, travel, installation, project plaque, and written and photo documentation of the completed project. Up to five finalists will be invited to submit a formal proposal for the project.

Prospectus #207 Tamarind Institute
Deadline: Midnight, February 4, 2010

New Mexico Arts and a local selection committee at the Tamarind Institute seek to commission a professional photographer to create an artwork documenting visiting artists, master printers, and students working at the facility in Albuquerque. Professional photographers who are residents of New Mexico and experienced in creating photographs that capture the spirit of people, their work, and environment are invited to submit qualifications to this opportunity.

Proper amount is $10,000. This amount includes 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 interview for the project.
ArcTisTics

Though their performances are unexpected, funny, touching, profound and absurd, ArcTisTics is committed to bringing about social change in which people with developmental disabilities are fully integrated into the cultural and social life of the community. ArcTisTics members include a talented group of performers, musicians, artists and persons with and without disabilities who create and present professional, integrated, performing arts events in Taos.

Since 2004, ArcTisTics has produced five original plays and performed for over 6,000 people. They offer theater workshops for children and adults with disabilities. Facilitated by ArcTisTics Artistic Director Cristina Masoliver and members of the ArcTisTics cast, they conduct two-day, or one-week trainings for staff, caregivers, and family members, providing general information, developing theatre vignettes, and creating a small performance with all participants.

Masoliver says she is constantly challenged and surprised by the work, and captivated by the creative process. As the only program of its kind in Taos County, ArcTisTics provides a powerful voice for those with disabilities and is changing attitudes. Masoliver describes the work in this way, “We do not talk, preach, or teach. We do not seek to be therapeutic or politically correct, and do not make apologies either. We are integrated, included and diverse, and that in itself transpires to our audiences. In this way, through our experience with theater, we are contagious. It really is as simple as that.”

ArcTisTics is a project of Taos County Arc (Arc). Arc provides support services to persons with developmental disabilities and their families by working collaboratively with the community and in partnership with private and public organizations. For ArcTisTics, Arc contracts with Puppet Theatre Ins Títritíbes, a Taos-based performing arts group founded by Masoliver. Each ArcTisTics production is preceded by seven months of sessions and rehearsals, and takes place at the Taos Community Auditorium. Past ArcTisTics productions include Old West, The Great Outdoors; Fish, Dream Big, and Summertime. This winter, the entire cast of ArcTisTics is involved in the creation and performance of a new production entitled Departures that will premiere at the end of April in Taos.

ArcTisTics was recently awarded a National Endowment for the Arts Challenge America Grant to support the production of the theater piece Oxygen directed by Isabelle Kesler. Challenge America: Reaching Every Community Fast-Track Review Grants offer support primarily to smaller and mid-sized organizations for projects that extend the reach of the arts to underserved populations whose opportunities to experience the arts are limited by geography, demographics, economics, or disability.

For more information on Taos County Arc and the ArcTisTics program, contact Arc at 575/758-4274.

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

**Prospectus #205 Santa Fe Community College**

**Deadline: Midnight, February 25, 2010**

New Mexico Arts and a local selection committee at Santa Fe Community College seek an artist or artist team to create a site-specific commission project at the main campus in Santa Fe. Professional artists who are legal residents of New Mexico and experienced in creating public-funded commission projects are invited to submit qualifications to this opportunity.

$84,250 is available for this project. The amount includes all fees and expenses: materials, equipment costs, labor, insurance, taxes, travel, installation, project plaque, and written and photo documentation of the completed project. Up to five finalists will be invited to submit a formal proposal for the project.

**Prospectus #206 New Mexico State University O’Donnell Hall**

**Deadline: Midnight, March 25, 2010**

New Mexico Arts and a local selection committee at New Mexico State University seek an artist or artist team to create a site-specific commission project at O’Donnell Hall on the main campus in Las Cruces. Professional artists who are legal residents of the United States and experienced in creating public-funded commission projects are invited to submit qualifications to this opportunity.

$170,900 is available for this project. The amount includes all fees and expenses: materials, equipment costs, labor, insurance, taxes, travel, installation, project plaque, and written and photo documentation of the completed project. Up to five finalists will be invited to submit a formal proposal for the project.

**Prospectus #207 Tamarind Institute**

**Deadline: Midnight, April 23, 2010**

New Mexico Arts and a local selection committee at the Tamarind Institute seek to commission a professional photographer to create an artwork documenting visiting artists, master printers, and students working at the institute in Albuquerque. Professional photographers who are residents of New Mexico and experienced in creating photographs that capture the spirit of people, their work, and environment are invited to submit qualifications to this opportunity.

Project amount is $10,000. The amount includes 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 interview for the project.
The New Mexico State Centennial 1912-2012
Claude Stephenson, Ph.D.

Two years from now, New Mexico will mark a major milestone, one hundred years of statehood. On January 6, 1912, after more than sixty years of petitioning, New Mexico was finally admitted into the union of the United States of America. The story of how New Mexico became the forty-seventh state in the Union is an interesting one.

Though history has lost to us what New Mexico was called by its early residents, when Coronado visited the area in the 1540s he referred to the land as Tierra, from the Tiwa-speaking Pueblo Indians he met near present-day Bernalillo.

After Hernán Cortés compared the Aztecs and destroyed their capital of Tenochtitlán in 1521, he rebuilt the city and named it after the Aztec, or Mexico as they called themselves. The country was initially called New Spain, and its capital was Mexico City. Most of the emerging provinces north of Mexico City were given regional names from Spain, such as Nuevo Leon and Nuevo Galicia. As many ships laden with gold and jewels from the New World reached Europe, the word Mexico became synonymous with great riches.

Francisco de Ibarra is credited by some historians as being the first to refer to the lands north of the Rio del Norte as Nuevo Mexico. Ibarra, a gold-seeking adventurer, came northward about twenty years after Coronado in search of the legendary cities of Cíbola. It is believed that Ibarra’s efforts on behalf of New Mexico.

New Mexico was caught between the South’s struggle to adhere to the Missouri Compromise and maintain a balance between pro- and anti-slavery states in Congress. California was under consideration for statehood and would be admitted as an anti-slavery state, and it appeared that the only way to keep the balance was to admit New Mexico as a slave state. Undersecretary of State, New Mexicans held another Convention in 1849, and in 1850 ratified a Constitution requiring Congress to immediately approve statehood as an anti-slave state. California was admitted in the Compromise of 1850, but New Mexico remained a territory.

In 1869, a movement outside of the state attempted to have the New Mexico Territory become the State of Lincoln, but this move was defeated in the Senate. Then in 1873, Territorial Delegate Stephen B. Elkins introduced an enabling Act for statehood in parallel with a similar bill to admit Colorado. The New Mexico Statehood bill passed the House and Senate, and returned to the House because of Senate amendments. However, in order to act on the bill, the House would have to suspend the rules, and this required a two-thirds vote. The possibility appeared achievable until fate stepped in. Representative Julius Burroughs of Michigan gave a powerful speech in support of protecting the civil rights of freed Negroes and chastised his southern colleagues. The gregarious and affable Elkins, who had not heard a word of the speech, walked in as Burroughs was being congratulated by supporters. In his characteristic fashion, Elkins walked up and vigorously shook the speaker’s hand. Several southern members who observed Elkins were angered by his action and were determined to thwart the delegite’s efforts on behalf of New Mexico.

This new infamously handshake cost Elkins his two-thirds majority and set back statehood for another thirty years.

Another impediment to New Mexico’s inclusion in the union of states was its significant Hispanic and Native population. There was a lot of prejudice in the late 19th century and this did not serve the newly acquired western states. The prevailing attitude at the time was summed up by one politician, name unknown, who stated that, “Uhas has too many Mormons, Oklahoma too many Indians, New Mexico too many Catholics and Mexicans, and Arizona, not enough of anyone.”

Many well-intentioned but misguided proponents of statehood believed that the name New Mexico was an impediment in and of itself, evoking confusing echoes of our southern neighbor. In 1889, there was an attempt to

Keshet Dance Company was given a Coming Up Taller Award in November in a ceremony held at the White House. Keshet was honored for its innovative work with TIDDC, New Mexico’s state prison detention facility. Keshet’s outreach facilitators teach daily dance classes as part of the high school curriculum onsite at TIDDC, using dance to teach literacy, math, and conflict resolution skills. Keshet then incorporates a pre-release and post-release program to mentor students while they transition out of the facility, providing a structured mentorship program through the parole and reintegration process.

Coming Up Taller is an initiative of the President’s Committee on the Arts and the Humanities (PCAH), Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), and National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). The program recognizes outstanding arts and humanities programs for children.
Governor’s Awards for Excellence in the Arts – Nominations Sought

The New Mexico Arts Commission and New Mexico Arts, a division of the Department of Cultural Affairs, are now accepting nominations for the 2010 Governor’s Awards for Excellence in the Arts.

Nominations for the Governor’s Awards can be submitted in the categories Artist and Major Contributor to the Arts. Only living artists working in any discipline who have made significant and outstanding achievements in the arts will be considered for this lifetime achievement award. Individual non-artists who have made significant or distinguished contributions to the arts in New Mexico through their work as arts patrons, arts advocates, and arts educators, etc. Organizations including businesses, nonprofits, or foundations with sustained involvement in and support for the arts can also be nominated. Nominations can be submitted by New Mexico residents, except for members of the New Mexico Arts Commission and New Mexico Arts staff.

Nominations must be postmarked by March 5, 2010. Nominations may also be hand-delivered to New Mexico Arts offices no later than March 5 by 5 p.m. Nomination forms are available online at http://nmarts.org/governors-arts-awards.html. For more information, contact New Mexico Arts at 505/857-6490, 800/879-4278 (statewide), or email virginia.castellano@state.nm.us.

Poetry Out Loud: National Recitation Contest New Mexico State Finals - February 21, 2010

On Sunday, February 21, 2010 at 1 p.m., join ten New Mexico high school students in the St. Francis Auditorium at the New Mexico Museum of Art in Santa Fe, as they compete to become New Mexico’s Poetry Out Loud: National Recitation Contest State Champion.

This year over 2,500 students from 13 schools around the state will compete at the classroom level. Participating schools include Bernalillo High School, Bloomfield High School, Clayton High School, Clovis High School, Deming High School, La Cueva High School (Albuquerque), Las Montanitas High School (Las Cruces), Oñate High School (Las Cruces), Roswell High School, San Andres High School (Mesilla), Santa Teresa High School, Silver High School (Silver City), and Southwest Learning Center (Albuquerque). For the first time, runoffs will take place for schools in Albuquerque and Las Cruces to determine district winners.

The winner will receive $200 plus an expense-paid trip with chaperone to Washington D.C. to compete in the national finals. The winner’s school will receive $500 to purchase poetry books for the school library. The runner-up will receive $100 and $100 for their school’s library. A total of $15,000 in awards and school stipends at the national finals will be awarded to the winners.

Poetry Out Loud is a project of the National Endowment for the Arts, the Poetry Foundation, and state arts agencies such as New Mexico Arts. Poetry Out Loud encourages students to learn about great poetry through exploration, memorization, and performance. The program seeks to promote poetry in both the classroom and community. Student performers are judged on physical presence, voice and articulation, appropriateness of dramatization, level of difficulty, evidence of understanding, and accuracy.

The New Mexico Museum of Art is located in downtown Santa Fe (107 West Palace Avenue). Admission is free. For more information, contact Jenice Gharib, New Mexico Arts, at 505/857-6490, 800/879-4278 (statewide), or by email at Jenice.Gharib@state.nm.us.