



New Mexico Arts Panelist Biographies

Arts in Social Service & Service Organizations

Name: Greta Brunschwyler

City: Taos NM

Education/Degree: MFA, Museum Exhibition Design & Planning from University of the Arts, Philadelphia, PA; BA, Studio Arts, University of Maryland; AAS, Display & Exhibit Design, Fashion Institute of Technology, New York, NY.

Arts Background: Formally trained in arts and design. Worked as Executive Director for several museums with a focus on the arts. Executive Director of the Millicent Rogers Museum for 4+ years; Curated and designed many arts exhibits; Produced musical theater and an outdoor concert series for several years.

Administrative Background: Senior staff and Executive Director in museums for several decades Taught Museum studies graduate and undergraduate courses; Held over a dozen board positions, primarily in museum associations, and am on the board of the Taos School of Music; Currently President of NM Assoc. of Museums. Serve on the American Alliance of Museums national Museum Accreditation Commission, a five-year appointment.

Additional areas of interest and/or expertise: Avid birder, cook, and life-long learner.

Name: Emma Lawrence

City: Chicago IL

Education/Degree: Bachelor of Arts, Smith College - Dance and American Studies

Arts Background: A dancer, choreographer, and performing arts administrator from Santa Fe, NM. Is a recent graduate from Smith College with a Bachelor of Arts in Dance, specializing in contemporary, ballet, and experimental work and styles. Has performed in repertory works by postmodern dance pioneer Lucinda Childs and MacArthur fellow Jawole Willa Jo Zollar, as well as a "Footprints" premiere by choreographer Brian Brooks at the 2023 American Dance Festival. Studied at Smith under Rodger Blum, Chris Aiken, and Angie Hauser and in the pre-professional company at the National Dance Institute (NDI) of New Mexico with wonderful teachers Allegra Lillard, Tara Debevec, Donna Scheer, and Amy Compton. Held roles as stage manager, production assistant, and nonprofit grant writer, and recently worked as a Public Relations intern at Jacobs Pillow Dance Festival (2022)



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and an Usher Team Leader at the Santa Fe Opera (this past season). Pursuing a career in performing arts administration and dance. Most interested in creating more access and equity in the arts, as well as using dance performance to imagine alternative futures.

Administrative Background: As an administrator, has gained experience in Development, Public Relations, and Programming, in nonprofits and the performing arts. Worked for three years as the Production Office Program Assistant at Five College Dance (2021 to 2024). Supported the production and artistic aspects of Five College dance productions, building cross-campus relationships. As a grant writer and development intern at Earth Care New Mexico in 2023, researched and wrote grants to private and national foundations, supported mutual aid, fundraising, and membership projects, and developed curriculum. Helped raise \$35,000 towards the development of “community plazas” on the Southside of Santa Fe. As a Public Relations Intern at Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, designed programs for performances, communicated with press and artists, made media pitches to local and regional news publications

Additional areas of interest and/or expertise: Worked as a Teaching Fellow at Breakthrough Santa Fe, with an interest in education and teaching. Steering committee member of Earth Care's project YUCCA (Youth United for Climate Crisis Action) with a passion about climate justice and youth organizing. She is a Certified yoga teacher, who loves hiking and writing.

Name: Amanda Curreri

City: Albuquerque NM

Education/Degree: MFA

Arts Background: Artist educator and faculty member in the Department of Art at UNM. Her artwork is centered on textiles, painting, and social practice and has been exhibited in spaces from commercial galleries, contemporary art centers and museums, to public engagement projects that serve a wide range of communities. Is committed to contributing to community and arts infrastructure for the longevity of the arts.



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Administrative Background: Has worked in many administrative capacities, as faculty and as a curator and arts administrator at arts non-profits in Berkeley and San Francisco, CA. Served as a juror for the San Francisco Public Arts Council and for various non-profit arts organizations and fellowships. and as a board member of museums and an arts magazine.

Additional areas of interest and/or expertise: Textiles, painting and drawing, interdisciplinary arts, performance, social practice, pedagogy, material studies, craft studies, publishing, social justice studies.



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Arts Learning in Community

Name: Lucy River

City: Santa Fe NM

Education/Degree: Juris Doctor, UNM School of Law, New Mexico; Diploma in Speech and Drama Studies, DIT, Dublin, Ireland

Arts Background: Actress, improviser, improv instructor, and voiceover artist. Currently a teacher and performer at Santa Fe Improv.

Administrative Background: Nonprofit manager for seven years as the Program Director of Leadership Santa Fe; Managing Director of Santa Fe Improv; Marketing and Communications Coordinator for New Mexico Children's Foundation; Policy and Communications Director for New Mexico Ethics Watch.

Name: Cecilia Vargas

City: Las Cruces NM

Education/Degree: MA Arts Adin/Art History

Arts Background: Has worked for 8 years as a Teaching Artist running hand-on arts education programs/residencies/workshops in the Chicago area. Her creative practice is both curatorial and administrative.

Administrative Background: Has been involved with nonprofits and arts administration since the early 2000s. From 2013-2023, has worked in higher education, specifically running exhibitions, public programs (lectures, hands-on workshops, performances), and managing collections.

Additional areas of interest and/or expertise: Interested in developing the creative community in New Mexico. Work on the Las Cruces City Art Board led to work on policies, procedures, and programs that support local artists, and the visibility of public art.



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Name: Kimberly Zitzow

City: Abiquiu NM

Education/Degree: BFA in Sculpture & Extended Media from Virginia Commonwealth University in 2005 and MFA from the State University of New York at New Paltz in 2013.

Administrative Background Director at the Española Valley Fiber Arts Center; focused on developing a youth program as well as overseeing all operational and administrative duties.

Additional areas of interest and/or expertise: Passionate about the handmade remaining relevant and vibrant for future generations, as well as collaborative interdisciplinary arts programming rooted in the community.



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Arts Learning in Schools

Name: Christy Georg

City: Santa Fe NM

Education/Degree: MFA Sculpture

Arts Background: Professional artist with a BFA and MFA in sculpture- Works in an array of media and processes and has been awarded dozens of residencies, fellowships, and. Served as a professor at several fine art institutions including Massachusetts College of Art & Design, Maine College of Art, the School of the Museum of Fine Arts at Tufts University, Institute of American Indian Arts, Santa Fe University of Art & Design, and Santa Fe Community College.

Administrative Background: Has been involved at the nonprofit creative makerspace MAKE Santa Fe, in various roles, since 2018. She currently works as a part time Education Coordinator. As the Operations Manager, she handled many of the administrative duties of membership, community outreach, volunteer program, events organization, classes, and communications.

Additional areas of interest and/or expertise: "Artist/Adventurer" with extensive knowledge on everything material and tangibly 3-D from building renovations to sculpture and public art. Strong arts field business acumen. Has a passion for outdoor adventure, including sailing and long-distance backpacking in the wilderness.

Name: Anita Massari

City: Chama, NM

Education/Degree: Bachelor of Arts, Dual License, General Education and Special Education, UNM, 2014.

Arts Background: Assistant Director Havana Gallery, Chicago, 2007/2008; Film producer, The First and Only Lesson, 2009; The Road Unspoken, 2011; Executive Director Chama Valley Arts, 2019-present; Involved with arts and nonprofits in Rio Arriba County since 2008.

Administrative Background: **Teacher**, adult and youth education, in various settings from Boys and Girls Club to Northern NM College, to ACE Leadership High School from 2005-



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2014. Special Education Coordinator ACE Leadership 2014-2016. Executive Director Chama Valley Arts 2019-present.

Additional areas of interest and/or expertise: Spanish/English bilingual; outdoor recreation, gardening, ecology, baking; Facilitated Pre-School Story Hour from 2019-present.

Name: Araceli Solis

City: Las Cruces NM

Education/Degree: Bachelor of Arts in Visual Arts from California State University Bakersfield

Arts Background: Arts Educator for Las Cruces Public Schools; Artist; Performer Dance/Folklorico Dancer; Dance instructor.

Administrative Background: Executive Director Dona Ana Arts Council; Educator Mentor/Coach.

Additional areas of interest and/or expertise: Education



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Arts Projects 1

Name: Stuart A. Chase

City: Chimayo, NM

Education/Degree: Virginia Commonwealth University, BFA, Art History, Museum Studies.

Arts Background: More than 40 years of museum and arts administration, including curatorial and development roles. Museum management, community engagement, collection development, capital campaigns.

Administrative Background: More than 35 years of Museum leadership roles in art and history museums from MA to CA; Executive Director of the Rockwell Museum of Western Art, Corning, NY. Management of capitol campaigns, fund development, museum education and acquisitions.

Additional areas of interest/expertise: American art history, especially the Southwest; Museum management, community engagement, collection development.

Name: Dawn Facka

City: Kirtland NM

Education/Degree: Master of Public Administration

Administrative Background: Manage a small business development program for women. Experience as a peer grant reviewer for the National Corporation and Community Service program. Experience as a grant writer for nonprofit organizations. Developed training curriculum and provided business coaching for creative entrepreneurs.



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Name: Leslee Richards

City: Albuquerque NM

Education/Degree: MBA from The University of New Mexico's Anderson School of Management.

Arts Background: Is an actor, director, designer, and producer with over 30 years of experience. She regularly attends theater in Albuquerque, in addition to traveling to New York and London for performances.

Administrative Background: She has served on the board of the Vortex Theatre since 2006, holding at the offices of secretary, treasurer, and President. She was the Executive director of the New Mexico Shakespeare Festival between 2016 and 2023. Currently she is the chair of the Artistic Committee of the Vortex Theatre and serves on the publicity committee.



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Arts Projects 2

Name: Erin De Rosa

City: Santa Fe NM

Education/Degree: Bachelor of Fine Arts, University of Georgia; Master of Fine Arts, Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts

Arts Background: Has worked as a painter for over 20 years. While in Philadelphia, she trained with the City's Mural Arts Program. She has worked with several high-profile muralists, including Katarina Grosse, Pastel, and James Burns. Since then, De Rosa has worked on murals in various cities around the United States and has restored murals for the City of Albuquerque's Public Art Program through her business, ColorFinds (colorfinds.com).

Administrative Background: De Rosa's work in the grantmaking field began at the Greater Philadelphia Cultural Alliance more than 10 years ago, where she managed a statewide regranting partnership & annually allocated \$400,000 of funding to 200+ local artists & organizations. Invigorated with the behind-the-scenes knowledge of equipping artists with money for their work, she has since generated funding for a variety of multidisciplinary creative projects, including the City of Albuquerque's Public Art Program, MurosABQ, and the Indigenous Design and Planning Institute's A Living Archive of Urban Indians. In her current role, she collaborates with SITE SANTA FE's development department to raise funds for exhibitions, education programs, and museum operations.

Additional areas of interest and/or expertise: Education; Rock Climbing; Gluten-free food and drink.



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Name: Mara Christian Harris

City: Santa Fe, NM

Education/Degree: BA History, University of Virginia.

Arts Background: 25-year career in retail as a stylist and art director; avid Mexican folk-art collector; 9 years as Communications Manager at the Georgia O'Keeffe Museum; currently retired; volunteer for numerous arts organizations, including the International Folk Art Market since its 2004 inception and the Santa Fe International Literary Festival.

Administrative Background: Has been a project manager, including budget management; strategic planning and execution; marketing planning and execution of deliverables; personnel management; and multi-organization collaborations.

Additional areas of interest and/or expertise: Conversant in Spanish; published author of magazine articles, primarily lifestyle and travel.

Name: Mark Zero

City: Santa Fe NM

Education/Degree: MFA, Creative Writing, University of Arizona

Arts Background Published six novels and a book of nonfiction under the name, Mark Beauregard. His last novel, THE WHALE: A LOVE STORY (Viking/Penguin 2016), was a finalist for a Los Angeles Times Book Prize and the Lascaux Prize for Literature and won the M.M. Bennetts Award for Historical Fiction.

Administrative Background: Has served in nonprofit administration for more than twenty years with organizations including the American Red Cross Southern Arizona Chapter (Grant Writer), Imago Dei Middle School (Director of Development), the Tucson Pops Orchestra (General Manager and Interim Executive Director), and the Santa Fe Desert Chorale (current, Grants Manager). As a development consultant with the firm



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Raise the Bar, I also helped raise millions of dollars for the Pima County (AZ) Attorney's Office, Tucson Police Department, The Colibrí Center for Human Rights, Children's Clinics (Tucson), Emerge Center Against Domestic Abuse, Mobile Meals of Southern Arizona, and many others.

Additional areas of interest and/or expertise: Served as an adjunct professor in the Graduate Program of the Humanities Department of Western New Mexico University, teaching fiction writing and long-form journalism; a special features reporter for CC Motorcycle Newsmagazine; and Arts Editor of The Tucson Free Press.



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Colleges, Universities & Government Entities

Name: Georgina Lavery

City: Las Cruces NM

Education/Degree: Master of Music (Piano Performance), Bachelor of Science (Business & Finance)

Arts Background: Performs regularly as a church pianist and in festivals/competitions for adult performers with other occupations.

Administrative Background: Currently he holds a full-time position as a Staff Accountant. Has worked as a licensed Financial Advisor.

Additional areas of interest and/or expertise: Takes ballet classes and has sat RAD ballet vocational exams. Music and Ballet.

Name: John M. McLean

City: Santa Fe NM

Education/Degree: BA Art History, George Washington University MA; Creation Spirituality, Naropa University.

Arts Background: National Endowment for the Arts, Washington DC; John Michael Kohler Arts Center, Sheboygan, WI; Dream A World Education, Los Angeles, CA, and Santa Fe, NM.

Administrative Background: Program administrator, NEA - 5 years; Museum Grant Writer - 2 years; TV producer / Network TV Executive - 13 years; Senior Minister - 20 years; experience in creating and managing budgets up to \$4,000,000.

Additional areas of interest and/or expertise: Crafts and Folk Art / Visual Arts; Theatre and performing arts.



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Name: Dorothy Stermer

City: Albuquerque NM

Education/Degree: Bachelor and Master of Science degrees in Chemical Engineering

Arts Background: Stermer grew up in a family of artists and understands the needs of artists to express their creativity and to run a business. She appreciates artists' contributions and knows they are the heart and soul of the community. She serves on the Albuquerque Public Arts Board, representing District 9. Dorothy has served on various art non-profit boards in leadership and participant roles.

Administrative Background: Has a 30+ year career in engineering, research and management, demonstrating skills in engineering, resource and people development and management, reporting and presentations. As a manager, she was responsible for personnel and program success in information technology systems such as program cyber and network security, network system administration, and system and quality engineering. As a Distinguished Member of Technical Staff, she was responsible for developing strategies in collaborative research and technology development projects that benefit Sandia/NNSA, industry and our federal customers. As a Chemical Engineer, she was responsible for design, test and implementation of various projects.



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Community Arts 1

Name: Cinzi Lavin

City: Winsted CT

Education/Degree: BA Texas State University

Arts Background: Born in Manhattan and raised in Texas, she began studying piano at the age of five and worked regularly as a paid performer by age 16. She is the award-winning creator and producer of three full-length original musical dramas, three novels, and numerous theatrical works.

Administrative Background: Nonprofit arts board service.

Additional areas of interest and/or expertise: Member, Houston Arts Alliance grants panel, 2023, 2024.

Name: Louise Richardson

City: Painted Post NY

Education/Degree: Bachelor of Art degree in Child Development and Early Childhood Education

Arts Background: Graphic designer; dancer; arts coordinator for early childhood center.

Administrative Background: New York State Council on the Arts Decentralization panelist; ARTS Council of the Southern Finger Lakes Project Funding panelist; ARTS Council of the Southern Finger Lakes Board member; Co-chair, A Festival of Art/Artsfest, Corning NY; Development Director, the ARTS Council of the Southern Finger Lakes; graphic designer for various exhibits.

Additional areas of interest and/or expertise: Recognition of underrepresented artistic communities.



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Name: Mark Craig

City: El Prado NM

Arts Background: After attaining Bachelor's and Master's Degrees, Craig performed regionally in operas and musicals throughout the Midwest and East Coast. He spent 10 years + performing and leading Education/Outreach groups and toured various states performing opera (in pared down versions) for and with children. He spent two years doing outreach work in Alaska, via Anchorage Opera, traveling to remote Native Alaskan villages working with children through five-day residencies that culminated in performances.

Administrative Background: Has worked extensively in various administrative positions, in addition to work as General Director of the Taos Opera Institute, writing grant applications, creating programs, maintaining the organization's budget, oversight of fundraising software, and working with community leaders and individuals.

Additional areas of interest and/or expertise: While classical music (opera) is a significant focus, is interested in musical theatre working with students primarily utilizing classic musical rep and pieces from the "Great American Songbook" (Gershwin, Porter, etc.)



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Community Arts 2

Name: Michael Romanos

City: Cincinnati, OH

Education/Degree: Diploma in Architectural Engineering from the National Technical University of Athens, Greece; MS in City and Regional Planning, Florida State University; Ph.D. in Economics, Cornell University.

Arts Background: Painter in continuous training. 12 Years of art courses in the United States and overseas. Have participated in several art exhibitions, many of them juried, and had one solo show in 2022.

Administrative Background: Director, Illinois Bureau of Planning Research. Director, University of Cincinnati School of Planning. Senior Advisor for economic development, via US Department of State, Government of Indonesia.

Name: Connor Tharp

City: White Rock NM

Education/Degree: BA Hotel, Restaurant, and Tourism Management, Master of Public Health, emphasis in Healthcare Management, Administration, and Policy

Arts Background: Background in community-based cultural programming and arts funding. As the Deputy Director of the Northern Rio Grande National Heritage Area, leads initiatives that celebrate and preserve traditional arts through workshops, exhibitions, and grant funding. Organized recent traditional arts workshops at Los Luceros Historic Site and has collaborated with artists and cultural organizations to enhance public access to the arts. Has served on arts grant committees, including Santa Fe International Film Festival.

Administrative Background: Leadership in program development, policy oversight, and grant management. Oversees program operations, coordinating budgeting and reporting, and ensuring alignment with federal procurement and financial policies. Experience includes revising organizational policies, such as updating procurement and financial reporting guidelines to meet federal standards and developing programs that promote economic development in the region. Has managed entrepreneurial training programs, led donor prospecting events, and streamlined administrative processes to support the organization's mission.



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Additional areas of interest and/or expertise: Strong interest in community health and economic development. An educational background in Healthcare Management, Administration, and Policy ensures active involvement in health advocacy with internships focused on public health law and policy. Interests include data analysis, communications, and fostering collaborations among stakeholders, to navigate complex issues and drive positive outcomes.



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Local Arts Councils

Name: Laura Wzorek Pressley

City: Santa Fe NM

Education/Degree: Master of Public Administration

Arts Background: Bachelor of Fine Arts, concentration in photography with an ongoing photographic arts practice. Laura has also curated, co-curated, and produced several photographic arts exhibitions including The Dispossessed, The Frontier, the Korea International Photographic Festival, and more.

Administrative Background: Has served as a cultural producer and arts administrator at the helm of the nonprofit organization CENTER in Santa Fe for over 16 years. CENTER's mission is to support socially and environmentally engaged lens-based projects through education, funding, public platforms, and partnerships. She was previously the Vice-President of the Blue Earth Alliance, supporting environmental lens-based projects. She directs one of the most effective outcome-driven programs for photographers in the world, CENTER's annual Review Santa Fe Photo Symposium. In addition to high-impact, outcome-driven programs, CENTER fosters an esteemed network of professionals that includes book publishers, curators, editors, gallerists, and many of today's leading thinkers in imaging.

Additional areas of interest/expertise: In 2024, she conducted an in-depth research project on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion programs in the public sector. Also, as part of her research, she was a Senior Fellow in the Policy & Evaluation Lab at the University of New Mexico, providing quantitative and qualitative analysis for non-profit organizations and cultural institutions. She is passionate about root cause analyses and transformative evaluation, helping communities analyze and identify solutions to systemic issues.



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Name: Leslie Everson

City: Lovington NM

Education/Degree: Master's in hospitality and Retail Management TTU

Arts Background: Lea County Museum/Art Gallery: Secretary/ 2016 to present

Administrative Background: Grant Development Manager- City of Lovington; Business Advisor/ Webinar Coordinator NM Small Business Development Center; Chief Executive Director - Lovington Chamber of Commerce; Micro-Enterprise Business of the Year/Small Business Owner - Lubbock, TX.

Additional areas of interest and/or expertise: Passionate about promoting and enhancing the arts in rural communities.

Name: Lara Evans

City: Santa Fe NM

Education/Degree: PhD

Arts Background: Evans is Native Americanist art historian specializing in contemporary Native art, including contemporary expressions of historical practices as well as innovative, experimental contemporary practice. Her scholarship and curatorial practice have included installation art, video and technology installation art, sculpture, photography, printmaking, painting, drawing, ceramics, textiles, fashion, digital art, jewelry, and public art. They also have experience in documentary films and performing arts. Working with living Native artists also includes following events/issues in mainstream art because the cultural intersections/overlaps are important. Their undergraduate training was in studio arts, so brings an artist's perspective to their scholarly and curatorial work.

Administrative Background: Has built and operated artist-in-residence programs, artist fellowships, and scholarly fellowships. Serves as a board member of the College Art Association and the National Committee for the History of Art (US chapter of CIHA, the oldest professional organization for art historians, based in Europe). Served on college faculty for a total of 18 years at two institutions, became a full professor, department chair and associate



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academic dean.

Additional areas of interest and/or expertise: Other experience includes performing arts and independent film, film festivals, and intercultural leadership in the arts.



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Major Cultural Organizations

Name: Cynthia Jones

City: Rio Rancho NM

Education/Degree: AA Marketing Communications, UCSD

Arts Background: She worked at the La Jolla Museum of Contemporary Art. Attended the College of Arts and Crafts in Oakland and has taken multiple art and design courses over the years. She has created marketing pieces for corporations and nonprofits, from semiconductors to botanical gardens.

Administrative Background: She worked in marketing for successful semiconductor environment for 9 years. Beginning as the marketing admin for a 10-person department, she managed marcom efforts for a division from its inception to over \$10M in annual sales. She managed a marketing department for an online university with a 7-person department and a \$4M annual budget. She has worked in multiple nonprofits and is currently consulting with the Arizona Philharmonic.

Additional areas of interest/expertise: All types of art, photography, travel and gardening.

Name: Danielle Schlobohm

City: Albuquerque NM

Education/Degree: Undergraduate Bachelor of Arts: Major: General Design, Minors: Photography & Art History

Arts & Administrative Background: Graduate student in the UNM Art Department for painting. Worked at Downtown ABQ MainStreet as a Downtown Growers' Market Manager, organizing juries to score non-farmer applications, worked with farmers, food-producers and creatives to promote their businesses and provide opportunities for growth. Currently serves as the Executive Director leading more arts focused projects and programs. The Albuquerque Artwalk is under the Downtown Arts & Cultural District; sustaining a successful monthly event that supports both local artists and locally owned Downtown businesses. She has led feasibility studies in partnership with the City of ABQ's Metropolitan



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Redevelopment Agency to explore an Artspace housing project for Albuquerque in partnership with Artspace, a Minnesota based nonprofit that specializes in consulting, building and maintaining affordable housing for creatives. She has led the marketing and promotion of the Downtown Growers' Market and the Downtown Arts & Cultural District for the past 5 years overseeing grant and contract funded projects to bring new murals Downtown, new theater groups, artist meet-ups and education, as well as cultivated relationships with all the art spaces in and near Downtown Albuquerque.

Additional areas of interest and/or expertise: Has an Interest in local food systems and sustainable living practices. After years at a local food cooperative, worked as an AmeriCorps VISTA volunteer with a nonprofit farm in Ester, AK. Participated in a Farmer Training Program where she lived and worked on the farm together learning how to grow food and understand farming as a business. Other key skills were cultivated while in the training program including animal husbandry, wild crafting, wool cleaning, spinning, dying, knitting, crocheting, sewing, needle felting, blacksmithing, cooking, baking and more. The farm had a close connection with the local Folk School where she also attended classes.

Name: Donna Milanovich

City: White Rock NM

Education/ Degree: BM Stetson University, FL, MM Univ of Kansas, KS, PGdipRNCM, England (Orchestral Studies), Harvard Business School Executive Education: Strategic Perspectives in Nonprofit Management

Arts Background: Orchestral Experience: regular substitute flute for Lyric Opera of Chicago (Principal - Alto Flute) 1995-2010 worked with Micheal Tilson Thomas, Sir Andrew Davis, among others; Chicago Symphony Orchestra (2nd flute-Piccolo) 1994-2002 and recordings with Solti, Boulez among others; Chicago Philharmonic (Principal - Alto Flute 1994-2012) worked with Zubin Mehta, Jesús López Cobos, Larry Rachleff, among others. Award-winning chamber music duo: Glorian Duo (Flute and Harp), Recordings with Delos label, national radio broadcasts including WQXR, NPR, VOA, WFMT, National and international tours including Weill Recital Hall, Phillips Collection, etc., Compositions written for Glorain Duo by David Diamond, Vaclav Nelhybel, William Bolcom among others. Laughlin and Milanovich Duo (Flute and Guitar) US State Department sponsored tours of Czech Republic, Cyprus and



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Romania: Notable Chamber Music Competitions won: American Harp Society Chamber Music competition: Professional management and tours, Artists International Chamber Music Award - two-time winner. Prize: Weill Recital Hall concert at Carnegie Hall, National Flute Association Chamber Music Competition - prize winner. Taught at the Merit School of Music, DePaul Community Music program, University of Illinois at Chicago, among others.

Administrative Background: Chicago Philharmonic's Executive Director 2010-2021, increased their subscription concert series to six, established a six chamber music concert series, and developed six free integrative community engagement programs, and a high school intern program. She managed the orchestra's first international exchange, first partner performance at Lincoln Center, supported the creation of an award-winning CD on Cedille, and established a composers of color composition competition.

Named Executive Director of the Year (2020) by The Illinois Council of Orchestras. Increased individual and corporate funding, won local, state, federal, and national grants, including grants from the MacArthur Foundation and the National Endowment for the Arts. Created first endowment, brokered an innovative 8-year long relationship between the Chicago Philharmonic and the Joffrey Ballet, and developed the economic model necessary to include us in their return to the Lincoln Center. Organized and creatively funded, with foreign and domestic support, a week-long trip with our musicians to Krakow, Poland in an exchange of teaching and performance, and founded the inaugural week-long Chicago Philharmonic International Music Festival. Helped CP become an increasingly major player in the renowned Ravinia Festival, along with all the other major Chicago halls. Currently at United Way of Northern New Mexico as Director of Corporate and Community Engagement.

Additional areas of interest and/or expertise: With a music and arts career spanning three decades, she led the change for a transformative music administration, which followed her career as a professional classical musician thereby creating an organization whose musician-majority governance is on the frontier of American orchestras. Her mission has been to make the music accessible to all.



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Traditional Folk Arts Projects

Name: Yvonne Aragon

City: Las Vegas NM

Education/ Degree: Bachelor of Art from Highlands University Business Administration, Associate's Degree Luna Community College

Arts Background: A juried Traditional Spanish Colonial Market Artist specializing in punched tin and straw applique art. Her award-winning work has been featured at the New Mexico State Fair and showcased in venues like the Rey Drew Gallery, Gallery 140, Casa Perea, and the Santuario de Chimayó Museum, promoting the beauty and heritage of Spanish Colonial traditions.

Administrative Background: Combined technical, regulatory, and communication expertise during tenure as a Management Analyst. Leveraging field technician certifications, oversaw compliance, budgets, and audits under federal and state guidelines. She served as the district's Public Information Officer, effectively managing communications with employees, the public, and local leaders.

Additional areas of interest and/or expertise: Creates Icon paintings, straw appliqué, and colchas, each deeply rooted in Spanish Colonial traditions. Over the years, has served on various community boards and stayed engaged as a parciente on the local acequia and as a member of the land grant, helping preserve the region's cultural heritage.

Name: Rebecca Hill

City: Brentwood MD

Education/Degree: Bachelor of Arts from Davis & Elkins College, Master of Fine Arts from University of Maryland.

Arts Background: Dance Educator for the past 15 years having taught at Augusta Heritage Center, Ashokan Center, Swannanoa Gathering, John C. Campbell Folk School among others. Performed with Footworks Percussive Dance Ensemble, Rhythm in Shoes, Sharon Leahy, Good Foot Dance Company and others. Becky served as a 2018 One Beat Fellow, a



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2024 OneBeat International Fellow, and has had artist residencies at Loghaven, Hambidge Center for the Arts & Sciences, John C. Campbell Folk School, and Strathmore. She performs regularly with Jesse Milnes, Roxy King and Ben Nelson.

Administrative Background: Has served as the Events Organizer for Augusta Heritage Center from 2012-2019 where she co-founded the Mountain Dance Trail, a heritage tourism trail and co-directed Reel 'Em Boys, Reel 'Em a documentary on WV dance traditions. She currently serves as a cultural curator for Augusta Heritage Center, Earful of Fiddle, Handmade Music School, and Helvetia Hoot and does contract work for The National Council for the Traditional Arts on the NEA Heritage Fellowship Award.

Additional areas of interest and/or expertise: Traditional music and dance practices.

Name: Heidi McKinnon

City: Santa Fe NM

Education/Degree: Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology and Spanish from the University of New Mexico

Arts Background: Serves as the Executive Director of Curators Without Borders, a nonprofit that designs exhibitions and educational programming for international development projects and underserved communities in conjunction with museum partners, government agencies and NGO partners. Her career focuses on historical memory, human rights and indigenous communities in the Americas, to which she brings over a decade of experience developing collaborative museum exhibitions both independently, at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of the American Indian, and the Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage.

Administrative Background: Eighteen years of experience in exhibition content development and management with museums and nonprofits; Ten+ years of experience conducting research, field work, interviews, oral histories, and analysis with community stake holders and partners in indigenous communities in the US and Latin America; Ten years of experience in organizational management and planning, budgeting, and strategic



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communications with museums and cultural organizations; Graduate of Getty Leadership Institute (2018), an internationally recognized museum leadership program; Cultural Leader (Spring 2024), an internationally recognized museum leadership program.

Additional areas of interest and/or Expertise: UNESCO Creative Cities Consultant, City of Santa Fe, Arts and Culture Department; Arts Commissioner, City of Santa Fe, 2022-2024



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Folk Arts Apprenticeship Program

Name: Ian Hallagan

City: Salt Lake City UT

Education/Degree: M.A. Performance Studies Texas A&M University; BAs in Folklore & Ethnomusicology & History, Indiana University; Minor Anthropology, Indiana University

Administrative Background: Folk Arts Coordinator for Utah Division of Arts & Museums from Oct. 2022. Previously served as Program Coordinator for Western Folklife Center, July 2021 - July 2022; Folk Arts & Heritage Coordinator for Bear River Heritage Area July 2021 - May 2023; Folk Arts Coordinator at McKissick Museum February 2020 - July 2021; Program & Grants Coordinator at Texas Folklife December 2015 - February 2020.

Additional areas of interest and/or expertise: Bassist & vocalist for The Big Foist, hardcore punk band from Bloomington, IN 2013-2014.

Name: Aliah Najmabadi

City: Albany CA

Education/Degree: Bachelor of Arts in World Arts & Cultures/University of Los Angeles, Bachelor of Arts in Near Eastern Languages & Cultures/University of Los Angeles, Master of Arts in Performance/University of London, School of Oriental & African Studies.

Arts Background: Aliah Najmabadi is a traditional dance artist and culture worker based in the San Francisco Bay Area. Extensively involved for over 25 years in the traditional performing arts landscape of the SF Bay Area, cultivated through her involvement with organizations such as Golden Thread Productions, Afsaneh Arts, Diaspora Arts, The Izzie's and World Arts West.

Administrative Background: **Currently** Program Manager at the Alliance for California Traditional Arts (ACTA) stewarding the Apprenticeship Program, and ACTA's national Taproot Fellowship program. Managed bio-cultural stewardship initiatives, supporting indigenous performing arts as International Program Manager of the Tajik Dance Initiative in Central Asia.



New Mexico Arts Panelist Biographies

Name: Denise Uyehara

City: Tucson AZ

Education/Degree: MFA, UCLA - World Arts & Cultures

Arts Background: An award-winning, interdisciplinary performance artist. Presented across the U.S. and in Helsinki, London and Vancouver.

Administrative Background: Program Manager, Artist Services, Southwest Folklife Alliance
Grants Manager, The Arts Foundation for Tucson and Southern Arizona
