

Panelist Bios

FY2027 – Folk Arts Apprenticeship Program

Lillia McEnaney

City: Santa Fe, NM

Education/Degree: MA - Museum Studies, New York University. BA - Archaeology and Religious Studies, Hamilton College.

Arts Background: Lillia McEnaney is a museum anthropologist, independent curator, and assistant professor of museum studies at the Institute of American Indian Arts. She has over a decade of curatorial, programmatic, and teaching experience in collaboration with diverse museums and cultural organizations across the United States.

Administrative Background: Lillia is the Secretary of the Board of the Council for Museum Anthropology, a section of the American Anthropological Association. Previously, she was director of the Hands-On Curatorial Program at the Ralph T. Coe Center for the Arts and adjunct instructor in Lehigh University's Department of Art, Architecture, and Design/Semester in the American West. Her recent exhibition projects have been in partnership with the Museum of Indian Arts and Culture, Museum of International Folk Art, the Maxwell Museum of Anthropology at the University of New Mexico, Axle Contemporary, and others.

Additional areas of interest and/or experience: Lillia is co-editor, with Dr. Jennifer Nez Denetdale (Diné), of the forthcoming volume, “Our Livestock Will Never Diminish” / “Nihinaaldlooshii doo nídínééshgóó k’ee’aa yilzhish dooleet:” Breathing Life into the Photography of Milton Snow Across Diné Bikéyah (University of New Mexico Press, 2027).

Heidi McKinnon

City: Santa Fe, NM

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

Arts Background: Heidi McKinnon’s background is in museum development and curatorial work. She worked at the Smithsonian Institution for seven years as a researcher for the Center for Folklife and Cultural Studies and a museum specialist for the National Museum of the

American Indian. She has worked as a museum and cultural consultant ever since. Her last major museum project was as curator for a national human rights museum in Panama, the Museum of Freedom and Human Rights. She currently serves as Chair of the International Council of Museums and Collections of Ethnography for the International Council of Museums.

Administrative Background: In Panama, Heidi was Director of Planning and Exhibitions for the Museum of Freedom and Human Rights where she created all organizational documents for the museum, managed staffing and training, managed a \$7 million USD budget with the Director and was consultant to the Board of Directors on all aspects of museum development. She currently has a business in Santa Fe that focuses on heritage arts from Latin America and has two long-term staff members.

Additional areas of interest and/or experience: Heidi's background has been in Indigenous arts across Latin America with a special focus on textiles. At UNM, she also worked with artists from across New Mexico at the Maxwell Museum of Anthropology.

Jackson Medel

City: Salt Lake City, UT

Education/Degree: BA - English and Folklore, Idaho State University. MA - English and Folklore, University of Missouri. ABD - English and Folklore, University of Missouri.

Arts Background: Jackson Medel has studied Literature and Writing since 2006, throughout his undergrad and graduate work. He has worked in multiple museums as a curator and folklorist. Those museums mostly focused on folk art and local/regional history. He has also worked on multiple folklife festivals throughout his professional career.

Administrative Background: In his work with the Missouri Folk Arts Program, Ward Museum, Kentucky Museum, the Sharlot Hall Museum, and the Utah Division of Arts & Museums, Jackson has been engaged with budget management, event planning, exhibition curation, folklife fieldwork, and strategic planning for these organizations.

Additional areas of interest and/or experience: Jackson is a writer and nature enthusiast. He loves to get outdoors and understand the complexities of human communities through their engagement with outdoor activities and natural environments.

Patricia Perea

City: Santa Fe, NM

Education/Degree: Ph.D. in American Studies

Arts Background: Published poet, and creative non-fiction essayist, Nuevomexicano heritage arts - practicing weaver and colchera.

Administrative Background: Director of Education at Museum of International Folk Art for 1.5 years, Director of Manitos Community Project for 4 years, Director of Center for the Study of Race and Ethnicity in America at Brown University for 2 years.

Additional areas of interest and/or experience: Native American Studies, Chicana and Chicano Studies, Ethnic Studies, Post-Colonial Studies, U.S. American Literature, U.S. Southwest Literature, U.S. Southwest Cultural Studies, Latin American Studies.

Sally H. Rampe

City: Colorado Springs, CO

Education/Degree: BA - Liberal Arts and Sciences area studies in Folklore. MS - American Studies/Folklore from Utah State University (Logan).

Arts Background: Independent Folklorist specializing in heritage preservation and grant writing since 2000; specializing in identifying traditional and heritage-based artisans and crafts people in efforts to preserve culture. Metal-smith/jeweler working with found objects and sheet metals; current student of ceramics at Pikes Peak State College. Volunteer teacher in the Colorado school systems specializing in introducing students to science, gardening, oral history interviews, and the art of storytelling.

Administrative Background: Art Gallery Curator at Great Basin College in Elko, Nevada; Artistic Director of American West Heritage Center, Wellsville, Utah; Program Manager of the National Cowboy Poetry Gathering at the Western Folklife Center in Elko, Nevada; Administrative assistant at the National Council for the Traditional Arts in Washington, D.C.

Additional areas of interest and/or experience: Registered Yoga Teacher with the Yoga Alliance, Utah Master Gardener, RC&D Non-Profit Management Certification.

Lucy Salazar

City: Albuquerque, NM

Education/Degree: BA - Psychology, Pomona College, Claremont, CA 1973. BS - Physical Therapy, UNM, Albuquerque, NM 1991.

Arts Background:

- Bailes de Salón Instructor (1969-present)
- Instructor - Asociación Nacional de Grupos Folklóricos (1991 and 2024)
- Artist in the Schools - NM Arts Division (1978-1985)
- Bailes de Salón Instructor – National Hispanic Cultural Center (2021-2024), Museum of International Folk Art (1991), Oasis of Albuquerque (2024-2026), Blue Door (2025-2026)
- Feldenkrais Practitioner
- Tai Chi Instructor

Administrative Background: Artistic and Executive Director of Ballet Folklórico del Norte de Española (1980-1991).

Additional areas of interest and/or experience: 2025 Recipient of Dance USA Fellowship.