



For Immediate Release
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Contact: Loie Fecteau
(Santa Fe) 505-827-6397

Governor Bill Richardson Announces Eligible Nonprofit Arts Organizations can now apply online for Arts Jobs Funds in New Mexico

SANTA FE- Governor Bill Richardson today announced that New Mexico Arts, the state arts agency and a division of the Department of Cultural Affairs, is now accepting applications for Arts Jobs Grants to preserve arts jobs in New Mexico under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

“We’re moving ahead to get these arts recovery funds to eligible nonprofit arts organizations in New Mexico,” said Governor Bill Richardson. “The arts are extremely important to our economy and they help attract tourists to our state.”

New Mexico Arts Executive Director Loie Fecteau said the state arts agency is using the Western States Arts Federation (WESTAF) CultureGrants Online application system for the Arts Jobs Grants. The Arts Jobs guidelines are available at http://www.nmarts.org/pdf/nma_arra_guidelines.pdf and the Arts Jobs application is available at <http://newmex.cgweb.org/>.

Fecteau said the online Arts Jobs Grants applications must be submitted online by midnight, June 5, 2009. All required support materials must be postmarked on or before June 5, 2009, she said.

“We’re very pleased to be on track with our Arts Jobs Grants Program to get these funds out as quickly as we can to nonprofit arts organizations across our state,” Fecteau said.

Fecteau said New Mexico Arts successfully submitted a plan to the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) to regrant \$247,000 in ARRA funds to eligible nonprofit arts organizations across New Mexico. The New Mexico Office of Recovery and Reinvestment headed by former Governor Toney Anaya last week also approved New Mexico Arts regranting plan.

“We expect to be able to award fifteen to twenty of these Arts Jobs Grants in New Mexico,” Fecteau said. “These Arts Jobs Grants are going to be very competitive.”

To be eligible to apply for an Arts Jobs Grant, nonprofit arts organizations must have gotten a regular arts grant from New Mexico Arts in FY07, FY08, FY09 or FY10, Fecteau said. For more information, see New Mexico Arts Website, www.nmarts.org.

“The NEA is being very strict about how these Arts Jobs funds can be used,” Fecteau said.

Under NEA rules, the arts recovery funds may only be used to pay for “salary support, full or partial, for one or more positions that are critical to an organization’s artistic mission and that are in jeopardy or have been eliminated as a result of the current economic climate and/or fees for previously engaged artists and/or contractual personnel to maintain or expand the period during which such persons would be engaged.”

Fecteau said eligible nonprofit arts organizations may apply to New Mexico Arts for an Arts Jobs Grant for either up to \$20,000 in salary support for an endangered arts job or up to \$7,500 to pay for artists’ fees or contractors, as specified in the NEA rules and criteria.

“Priority will be given to arts organizations that serve our underserved populations, especially in rural New Mexico,” Fecteau said.

Eligible New Mexico Arts organizations who meet the criteria of the Western States Arts Federation also will be able to apply to WESTAF for ARRA arts funding by using New Mexico Arts online Arts Jobs Grants application. “We think this is a great service to the New Mexico Arts community as they will be able to apply to two ARRA arts funding sources – New Mexico Arts and WESTAF -- by using the same application,” Fecteau said. She noted that NEA rules stipulate, however, that nonprofit arts organizations may only get ARRA arts funding from one source.

“We are urging eligible arts organizations in New Mexico to apply to as many as possible ARRA arts funding sources, even though they will only be able to accept an Arts Jobs grant from one source, under NEA regulations,” Fecteau said. “We’re very pleased to be partnering with WESTAF on these Arts Jobs funds and I really commend them for making their online grants application system available for free to the western state arts agencies for these recovery funds. It’s a real service to the field.”

New Mexico Arts expects to announce the Arts Jobs Grants awards after a special meeting this summer of the New Mexico Arts Commission, its 15-member advisory body appointed by Governor Richardson, and hopes to get the funds out to arts organizations by the fall.

The NEA also has approved plans by New Mexico Arts to use \$44,000 in ARRA funds to hire a state public art contractor and \$6,000 to cover Arts Jobs administrative costs, including a peer panel to review the Arts Jobs Grants applications and the special meeting of the New Mexico Arts Commission, Fecteau said.