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\$45,000 in Federal Arts Recovery Funds for Southwestern Association for Indian Arts

SANTA FE- New Mexico Arts announces that the Southwestern Association for Indian Arts (SWAIA) is set to receive \$45,000 in federal arts recovery funds in a competitive grant from the Western States Arts Federation (WESTAF) in Denver.

SWAIA successfully submitted an application to the Western States Arts Federation for arts recovery funding to pay for a graphic designer position that has been vacant since January 2009, due to the economic downturn. SWAIA supports Native arts and Native artists through the production of the annual Santa Fe Indian Market, the oldest, largest and most prestigious destination event for Native arts. Indian Market is scheduled for August 22-23 this year in Santa Fe.

“I want to congratulate the Southwestern Association for Indian Arts and I am very pleased that more of these federally funded arts recovery funds are coming to New Mexico,” said Loie Fecteau, executive director of New Mexico Arts, the state arts agency and a division of the Department of Cultural Affairs. “Indian Market is a tremendous arts and cultural tourism driver in our state and critically important to our Native arts.”

WESTAF, a nonprofit regional arts organization that serves as an umbrella organization for the 13 state arts agencies in the western states, successfully applied to the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) to be a re-granter of stimulus funds and received \$593,900 under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

“New Mexico has a strong tradition of Native arts, and the Western States Arts Federation is pleased to support the Southwestern Association for Indian Arts, as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act,” said Shannon Daut, WESTAF deputy

director. “SWAIA’s Indian Market is a renowned cultural activity and effective economic driver for the state.”

Fecteau said WESTAF’s arts recovery grants were extremely competitive across the 13 western states.

“We are very pleased that a New Mexico arts organization is receiving one of these recovery grants from WESTAF,” Fecteau said.

Fecteau commended WESTAF for making its online grants application system available for free for the 13 western state arts agencies to use to re-grant their arts recovery funds from the NEA. “We also partnered with WESTAF so that eligible New Mexico arts organizations who applied to us for one of our Arts Jobs Grants also were able to apply to WESTAF for one of their arts recovery grants at the same time using the same online grants application system,” Fecteau said. “That was a real service to the field.”

Fecteau noted that this award is in addition to the previously announced \$297,000 in stimulus funds from the NEA to New Mexico Arts and another \$300,000 that the NEA is granting directly to seven nonprofit arts organizations in New Mexico.

“There arts recovery funds will help our artists and arts organizations weather these difficult and challenging economic times,” she said.

New Mexico Arts is re-granting about \$250,000 of its ARRA funds in Arts Jobs Grants to nonprofit arts organization across New Mexico, Fecteau said.

“We convened an independent panel to review and score our 63 eligible applications this week and we expect to announce our Arts Jobs awards, after review by the New Mexico Office of Recovery and Reinvestment, at a special meeting of the New Mexico Arts Commission on August 28 in Santa Fe,” Fecteau said. “Our Arts Jobs Grants also are highly competitive and we expect to be able to give out only fifteen to 20 of these awards across our state.”

Fecteau noted that 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.”

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