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**NOMINATIONS SOUGHT FOR ANNUAL GOVERNOR'S AWARDS FOR
EXCELLENCE IN THE ARTS**

SANTA FE - The New Mexico Arts Commission and New Mexico Arts, a division of the Department of Cultural Affairs, are accepting nominations for the 2010 Governor's Awards for Excellence in the Arts. The annual Governor's Arts Awards are New Mexico's highest and most prestigious arts award and recognize lifetime achievement in the arts. Nominations can be submitted by individual New Mexico residents or representatives of businesses or organizations in New Mexico. Self-nominations are discouraged.

Nominations for the Governor's Arts Awards may include New Mexican individual living artists working in any discipline who have demonstrated outstanding lifetime achievement in the arts, individual non-artists who have consistently made significant or distinguished contributions to the arts in New Mexico, and businesses, nonprofits, or foundations with sustained involvement in and support for the arts.

Nominations must be received by March 5, 2010. Nominations may also be hand-delivered no later than March 5. Nomination forms are available online at www.nmarts.org/awards or contact New Mexico Arts at 505/827-6490, 800/879-4278 (statewide), or email virginia.castellano@state.nm.us. All nominations are reviewed by a committee of the New Mexico Arts Commission, which sends its recommendations to the Governor and First Lady. Recipients will be honored September 24, 2010, at a special public awards ceremony hosted by Governor Bill Richardson and First Lady Barbara Richardson.

Established in 1974 by Governor Bruce King and First Lady Alice King, the Governor's Arts Awards celebrate the role that artists, craftspeople, and arts supporters play in the economic and cultural life of New Mexico. Throughout its existence, a diverse and

prestigious list of painters, weavers, sculptors, dancers, musicians, storytellers, poets, actors, playwrights, and potters have been honored.

Since 1974, 244 individuals, businesses, and corporations have received this coveted award.

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New Mexico Arts, a division of the Department of Cultural Affairs, is the state arts agency. New Mexico Arts administers the state's One Percent for Public Art program, awards grants to nonprofit organizations for arts and cultural programs in their communities across the state, and provides technical assistance and educational opportunities for organizations, artists, and arts educators throughout New Mexico.