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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 2012 Governor's Awards for Excellence in the Arts. The annual Governor's Arts Awards are New Mexico's highest and most prestigious artistic honors and are intended to celebrate lifetime achievement. 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 awards may include individual living New Mexican artists working in any discipline who have demonstrated outstanding lifetime achievement; individuals 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 12, 2012. Nominations may be mailed or hand-delivered no later than March 12 to New Mexico Arts, Suite 270, 407 Galisteo St., Santa Fe, NM, 87501. Nomination forms are available online at www.nmarts.org or at www.mfasantafe.org/governors/awards or contact New Mexico Arts at 505-827-6490, 800-879-4278 (statewide), or email virginia.castellano@state.nm.us. The events for the 2012 Annual Governor's Awards for Excellence in the Arts are scheduled for September 14, 2012 in Santa Fe.

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, 254 artists and arts supporters 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.