

# ARTSpeak

Fall 2005

## New Mexico Arts' Mission

To Preserve, Enhance, and Develop the Arts in New Mexico Through Partnerships, Public Awareness, and Education, and to Enrich the Quality of Life for Present and Future Generations.



*Nature's Quilt*  
Pat Pendleton  
Oil on canvas  
24" X 36"  
NMA CARE building - County of Santa Fe

# ARTSpeak

NEW MEXICO ARTS a division of the Department of Cultural Affairs

## Greetings from the Executive Director

**N**ew Mexico Arts held an exciting workshop on rural cultural tourism and using the arts to promote economic development with Becky Anderson of *HandMade in America* August 5-6, at the Madonna Retreat and Conference Center in Albuquerque. Anderson is the driving force behind Handmade in America's successful loop tours that highlight artisans and craftspeople in rural North Carolina. Many seeds were planted during Anderson's public presentation and the invite-only gathering that followed, which included about 60 representatives from arts and community groups from New Mexico's rural areas.

We strongly believe our arts-based rural economic development initiatives help bolster Governor Bill Richardson's "Growing New Mexico Initiative" and we are working with the governor's office to see how we can best help take these efforts to the next level.



Becky Anderson and Judy Heart at NMA's Arts and Rural Economic Development workshop.

"There's no question that artistic creativity is, and should be, a major economic engine for rural New Mexico," Governor Richardson said in a message to welcome participants to our gathering with Becky Anderson. "When people talk about the quality of life in New Mexico, so often they're referring to life in our

small towns across our state. So anything you can do to create economic opportunities in our small towns preserves our heritage and our culture for generations to come."

Our challenge now at New Mexico Arts is to help channel the positive energy that resulted from our intensive workshops with Becky Anderson. Four working groups of arts organizations and other interested parties formed as a result of our two-day conference – one statewide group focused on fiber arts in New Mexico and three regional groups focused on Northeast New Mexico, Northwest New Mexico, and Southern New Mexico.

I want to personally thank U.S. Senator Pete Domenici, New Mexico's senior senator, who played a crucial role in this year's congressional budget negotiations and helped to secure increased funding for the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA). "Pete Domenici saved our butts," NEA Chairman Dana Gioia said in a speech he gave in Taos in July, referring to Domenici's efforts on behalf of the NEA. It should be noted that New Mexico Arts used about \$10,000 of our federal Challenge America money from the NEA to pay for our two-day rural arts-

based economic development conference with Becky Anderson. U.S. Representative Tom Udall of New Mexico also deserves recognition for speaking out on the House floor in support of the amendment by which Congress increased NEA funding by \$5 million, giving the arts endowment a total budget of about \$125 million for FY06.

I'm pleased to report that some New Mexico Arts rural economic development initiatives are touted in a newly released best practices issue brief by the National Governors Association. We have a link to the report, *Strengthening Rural Economies through the Arts*, at our website [www.nmarts.org](http://www.nmarts.org) or find it at <http://www.nga.org/Files/pdf/RURALARTS.pdf>.

In this issue of ARTSpeak, we provide a county-by-county breakdown of our FY06 grants, which are funded by about 60 percent state General Fund money and 40 percent federal NEA money. The New Mexico Arts Commission approved about \$960,000 in grants for FY06 for about 150 arts organizations across New Mexico and five folk arts apprenticeships. Please be sure to remember to thank all of our congressional representatives, your local state legislators, and the governor for their continued support of the arts in New Mexico. It is vitally important for them to hear from you how their investments in the arts help make New Mexico such an enchanting place to live.

**Loie Fecteau**  
Executive Director  
[loie.fecteau@state.nm.us](mailto:loie.fecteau@state.nm.us)

### Arts Commissioners

Charmay Allred, *Santa Fe*  
Maria Elena Alvarez, *Albuquerque*  
Sally Anderson, *Roswell*  
Karen Cotter, *Albuquerque*  
Glenn Cutter, *Las Cruces*  
Herb Denish, *Albuquerque*  
JoAnn Huff, *Albuquerque*  
Demetria Martinez, *Albuquerque*  
Gerri Mattson, *Carlsbad*  
Betty Morris, *Tucumcari*  
Mary Robinson, *Santa Fe*  
John Rohovec, *Silver City*  
Janice Spence, *Hobbs*  
Pat Wisenteiner, *Santa Fe*

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COUNCILS & STATEWIDE SERVICE  
ORGS, ARTS IN SOCIAL SERVICE

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IS DATABASE ADMINISTRATOR

**Chuck Zimmer**  
PUBLIC ART COORDINATOR

ARTSpeak is a free, quarterly publication of New Mexico Arts, a Division of the Department of Cultural Affairs. Funding for New Mexico Arts comes from the State of New Mexico and the National Endowment for the Arts. To receive ARTSpeak, call NM Arts at 505/827-6490 or 800/879-4278, TDD 505/827-6925 or write ARTSpeak/NM Arts, PO Box 1450, Santa Fe, NM 87504-1450. Deadline for the Winter 2006 issue is November 18, 2005; send info and/or photos to ARTSpeak c/o NM Arts, or email [anna.blyth@state.nm.us](mailto:anna.blyth@state.nm.us). ARTSpeak and other NM Arts publications can be accessed on the web at [www.nmarts.org](http://www.nmarts.org).

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Print



# The Importance of Tracking Organizational In-Kind Support

by Ann Weisman, Grant Program Coordinator

**M**any grant applications provide space in their budget forms for applicants to list in-kind donations. Yet some organizations don't understand what an in-kind contribution is or the importance of delineating in-kind contributions.

In-kind contributions are services or items donated to an organization. These are items or services that an organization would normally purchase with cash. Because these goods and services are donated, no cash is expended.

Examples of in-kind donations are if a grocery store donates juice and cookies for summer camp snacks, if a graphic designer produces a brochure at one-half the normal fee, or if a bank provides rent-free office space. You can calculate the value of each as the amount of cash you would have spent on the item or service if it weren't donated – the retail value of cookies and juice, one-half the graphic designer's fee, or the square-foot rental of office space in your community.

On a grant budget, your in-kind income will equal your in-kind expense. The bank donation of office space is a corporate in-kind donation. The rent you would have paid is an in-kind expense.

It is important to track in-kind donations in order to have a true picture of your organization's cost of doing business. It is important to note a \$3600 in-kind donation of annual rent because, even though your organization is saving \$3600 this year, you need to be aware of the amount in case the situation changes and you need to actually rent a space. Tracking in-kind carefully gives you a realistic picture of the cost of doing business.

It is also important to note in-kind donations thoroughly because they are a measure of community support. The more in-kind donations your organization receives reflects how much the community values your organization. Funders pay attention to this because they want to encourage organizations that are important to the community. They also like to know what kind of financial activity their grant helps generate for the organization.

Sometimes, organization members will purchase supplies and will not let the organization know how much they spent and will not ask for reimbursement because they want to donate to the organization. The best way to handle this situation is for the member to turn in his or her receipts and accept a reimbursement check from the organization. In turn, the member can then write a donation check to the organization. This accomplishes two things. First, the organization has a true record of the cost of the event or activity because all expenses are logged. Second, the member gets to take the tax advantage for the donation.

Finally, remember to write a thank you note to your in-kind donors just like you do to your cash donors. Some in-kind donations can be tax deductions for the donors, and they will need a formal thank you. Be sure to indicate the value of the donation in the letter. Consult your accountant for more information. The IRS has a publication, Publication 526-Charitable Contributions, that has helpful information.



*Yin Yang*  
William Hyden  
Silver gelatin photo  
20"X 60"  
Childcare Center - City of Santa Fe

# FY2006 ARTS FUNDING

The New Mexico Arts Commission awarded nearly \$960,000 in arts services contracts to about 150 organizations and 5 folk arts apprenticeships statewide for programs occurring between August 2005 and July 2006.

## BERNALILLO COUNTY

Albuquerque Baroque Players	\$3,399
Albuquerque Boy Choir	\$5,132
Albuquerque Folk Festival	\$5,949
Albuquerque Health Care for the Homeless	\$6,849
Albuquerque Little Theater, Inc.	\$7,132
Albuquerque Youth Symphony Program, Inc.	\$7,532
Art in the School, Inc.	\$5,649
Arts Alliance, Inc.	\$8,932
Board of Regents UNM (KNME-TV)	\$8,932
CAMBIO, Inc.	\$4,554
Chamber Music Albuquerque	\$5,732
Chatter: A Chamber Ensemble	\$3,166
Indian Pueblo Cultural Center, Inc.	\$6,732
Keshet Dance Company	\$7,332
Loren Kahn Puppet & Object Theatre	\$4,749
Los Reyes de Albuquerque Foundation	\$5,049
Luis Mojica, Folk Arts Master Artist	\$2,940
Musica Antigua de Albuquerque, Inc.	\$5,349
National Institute of Flamenco	\$7,132
New Mexico Ballet Company	\$6,932
New Mexico Jazz Workshop	\$7,932
New Mexico Symphony Orchestra	\$6,532
New Mexico Young Actors, Inc.	\$3,699
OFFCenter Community Arts Project	\$6,699
ONCE UPON A THEATRE	\$4,599
Opera Southwest	\$7,732
Opera Unlimited, Inc.	\$5,949
Outpost Productions, Inc.	\$8,932
Partnership for Arts-in-Medicine	\$7,299
Performers Ballet & Jazz Company	\$6,332
Senior Arts Project	\$6,112
Southwest Traditional & Bluegrass Music Association	\$2,933
The Harwood Art Center, Escuela del Sol Montessori	\$6,532
THE LAND/an art site	\$3,249
Theatre New Mexico	\$5,132
Turquoise Trail Performing Arts, Inc.	\$3,549
VSA arts of New Mexico	\$5,119
WESST Corp	\$11,310
Working Classroom	\$9,732

## CHAVES COUNTY

Roswell Fine Arts League/The Gallery	\$3,999
Roswell Symphony Orchestra, Inc.	\$6,532
UNITY Center, Reach 2000	\$12,180

## CIBOLA COUNTY

Cibola Arts Council	\$6,332
Voz de Nosotros	\$5,499

## COLFAX COUNTY

Angel Fire Mountain Theatre, Inc.	\$2,499
Moreno Valley Arts Council	\$5,332
Music from Angel Fire	\$7,732
Raton Arts & Humanities Council, Inc.	\$8,332

## CURRY COUNTY

Clovis Community College	\$7,732
Clovis Mainstreet, Inc.	\$4,299

## DONA ANA COUNTY

A Children's Theatre of the Mesilla Valley	\$4,749
Citydance Theatre	\$4,899
Colonias Development Council	\$3,766
Doña Ana Arts Council, Inc.	\$8,732
Las Cruces Symphony Association	\$7,932
Mesilla Valley Concert Band	\$5,349
New Mexico State University-Music Department	\$7,061
Tomasita J. Rodriguez, Folk Arts Master Artist	\$3,332

## EDDY COUNTY

Carlsbad Arts & Humanities Alliance	\$4,732
Carlsbad Museum & Art Center	\$7,532

## GRANT COUNTY

The Mimbres Region Arts Council	\$9,532
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## LEA COUNTY

Southwest Symphony, Inc.	\$7,332
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## LINCOLN COUNTY

Ruidoso Community Concert Association	\$2,466
Ruidoso Regional Council for the Arts	\$6,532
Spencer Theater for the Performing Arts	\$5,532
The Hubbard Museum of the American West	\$5,332

## LOS ALAMOS COUNTY

New Mexico Music Educators Association	\$6,932
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## LUNA COUNTY

Deming Arts Council	\$6,932
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## MCKINLEY COUNTY

City of Gallup, El Morro Theater	\$5,499
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Disability Services Inc., Gallery 211	\$2,554
El Morro Area Arts Council	\$8,932

## MORA COUNTY

Tapetes de Lana	\$11,658
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## OTERO COUNTY

Flickinger Center for Performing Arts	\$7,332
Junior Daugherty, Folk Arts Master Artist	\$3,878

## QUAY COUNTY

Quay Council for Arts & Humanities	\$8,332
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## RIO ARRIBA COUNTY

Circle of Love	\$4,279
Española Valley Fiber Arts Center	\$13,050

## SAN JUAN COUNTY

Northwest New Mexico Arts Council	\$2,499
San Juan College Silhouette Series	\$6,532
San Juan Symphony League	\$5,932
Sarah Yazzie Zah, Folk Arts Master Artist	\$3,876
Theater Ensemble Arts, Inc.	\$4,899

## SAN MIGUEL COUNTY

Las Vegas Arts Council	\$7,532
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## SANDOVAL COUNTY

Corrales Cultural Arts Council	\$7,732
Placitas Artists Series, Inc.	\$5,349
Pueblo of Jemez-Walatowa Visitors Center	\$4,149

## SANTA FE COUNTY

Aspen Santa Fe Ballet	\$7,732
Center for Contemporary Arts of Santa Fe, Inc.	\$6,532
El Museo Cultural de Santa Fe, Inc.	\$7,932
El Rancho de las Golondrinas Museum	\$7,332
Fine Arts for Children and Teens, Inc.	\$7,732
Georgia O'Keeffe Museum	\$8,332
Hands On Community Arts	\$5,049
Institute for Spanish Arts	\$7,132
Institute of American Indian Arts	\$7,132
Lensic Performing Arts Center	\$7,132
Life Monologue Project	\$5,349
New Mexico CultureNet	\$5,732
New Mexico Literary Arts	\$3,549
Open Arts Foundation	\$5,732
Open Hands	\$3,866

Outside In Productions	.....\$6,999
Pomegranate Productions	.....\$3,849
Red Thread Collective	.....\$2,799
Sangre de Cristo Chorale	.....\$3,699
Santa Fe Art Institute	.....\$6,332
Santa Fe Arts Commission	.....\$9,132
Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival	.....\$6,532
Santa Fe Community College	.....\$5,732
Santa Fe Community Orchestra	.....\$5,499
Santa Fe Concert Association	.....\$4,532
Santa Fe Council for the Arts, Inc.	.....\$3,366
Santa Fe Desert Chorale	.....\$7,332
Santa Fe New Music, Inc.	.....\$6,099
Santa Fe Opera	.....\$7,332
Santa Fe Performing Arts School & Company	.....\$6,732
Santa Fe Playhouse	.....\$7,732
Santa Fe Pro Musica	.....\$7,732
Santa Fe Symphony Orchestra & Chorus, Inc.	\$6,332
Santa Fe Teen Arts Center – Warehouse 21	..\$6,732
Santa Fe Women's Ensemble	.....\$5,199
Santa Fe Youth Symphony	.....\$7,732
Self-Realization Center	.....\$2,499

SITE Santa Fe	.....\$8,132
Southwest Children's Theatre Productions	...\$7,132
Southwestern Association for Indian Arts, Inc.	\$7,732
Spanish Colonial Arts Society, Inc.	.....\$8,132
St. John's College	.....\$7,732
The College of Santa Fe	.....\$7,532
Theater Grottesco	.....\$7,132
Theaterwork	.....\$5,949
Wheelwright Museum	.....\$7,932
Wildlife West, New Mexico Wildlife Association	.....\$6,932
Wise Fool New Mexico	.....\$6,249

**SIERRA COUNTY**

Sierra County Arts Council	.....\$5,932
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**SOCORRO COUNTY**

New Mexico Tech Performing Arts Series	...\$8,132
Socorro Consolidated Schools	.....\$6,332
Special Orchestra, Inc.	.....\$4,749

**TAOS COUNTY**

Art for the Heart	.....\$3,249
Danza Azteca de Anahuac	.....\$4,449

Evolving Creative Opportunities	.....\$5,049
High Road Artisans	.....\$12,528
Puppet Theatre Los Titiriteros	.....\$4,599
SOMOS, Society of the Muse of the Southwest	.....\$5,949
Taos Center for the Arts	.....\$6,732
Taos Children's Theatre	.....\$4,899
Taos Community Orchestra & Chorus	.....\$5,649
Wholly Rags	.....\$1,433
ZoukFest	.....\$4,599

**TORRANCE COUNTY**

Manzano Mountain Arts Council	.....\$4,932
Rene Zamora, Folk Arts Master Artist	.....\$4,000

**UNION COUNTY**

Clayton Art Council, Inc.	.....\$5,732
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**VALENCIA COUNTY**

Manzano Vista Middle School	.....\$11,832
Through the Flower Corporation	.....\$4,919
Valencia Community Arts	.....\$5,649

**AIPP ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**T.I.M.E. Projects -  
A Metaphorical Look  
at Migration**

by Kathryn Minette,  
AIPP Program Manager

The Art in Public Places Program is excited to announce a new pilot program to promote temporary, visually engaging, and conceptually rich environmental artwork. From November 14-December 5, artists from throughout New Mexico will participate in T.I.M.E., Temporary Installations Made for the Environment. The works will include unique, provocative, never-before-seen exterior artworks, loosely based on the theme of Migration. They will be exhibited for a brief period of time and then will be gone forever.

The artists possess a diversity of backgrounds and experience. The creations will be viewed and experienced at various locations throughout Socorro County such as the Bosque del Apache, the El Camino Real International Heritage Center, the Socorro Plaza, and the campus of New Mexico Tech University. The installations will coincide with the 18th Annual Festival of Cranes at the Bosque

del Apache and the grand opening of the El Camino Real International Heritage Center.

The idea for the projects was inspired by the emerging national public art trend to engage artists interested in creating more spontaneous immediate artworks with short life spans. AIPP hopes this type of project will attract both emerging artists, new to working in public art, and more experienced artists. The initiative is meant to involve the public and foster a renewed interest in public art and to introduce less experienced artists to the planning, logistics, and issues related to working with a site that are part of the public art process.

Please come join us in Socorro for this celebration of culture and nature. Locations of the artwork in Socorro County can

*The Sound of The Last Leaves*  
Mel Scully  
Oil on canvas  
48" X 24"  
Lea County Income Support Division,  
Hobbs



## CITY OF ALBUQUERQUE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Silver City artist **Michael Metcalf** was selected by the City of Albuquerque Arts Board and a Local Selection Committee to create two 30' tall bronze and stainless sculptures for the Louisiana Boulevard/Interstate 40 Interchange. Metcalf holds an MFA from the University of Pennsylvania and is currently Chair of the Expressive Arts Department at Western New Mexico University. Three bronze spires will protrude from a natural rock base. The spires will be tied by sloping stainless steel cables circling the sculpture. One sculpture will flow clockwise and the companion work on the opposite median will rotate counterclockwise. The pieces represent the positive energy of New Mexico that interconnects the sky to the earth. Total funds for the two works is \$300,000 – \$225,000 federal highway funds and \$75,000 City of Albuquerque 1% for Art funds.

be downloaded from New Mexico Arts website at [www.nmarts.org](http://www.nmarts.org), or maps can be obtained from numerous locations in Socorro.

### Artist Selected to Create Site-Specific Artwork for Student Services Center at New Mexico Tech in Socorro

The Local Selection Committee at New Mexico Tech University in Socorro has

chosen internationally known, San Francisco-based artist Shan-Shan Sheng to create the artwork for the new Joseph A. Fidel Student Services Center. The sculpture, *Rhythms in Growth and Learning*, will be made of approximately 52 panels of cold cast glass suspended from the ceiling. The panels will be joined to create two interlocking ribbons approximately 38 feet long.

The two ribbons of *Rhythms in Growth and Learning* represent the two aspects of student life. One ribbon represents academic life and will contain detailed images of symbols of knowledge, the other repre-

sents personal life. The ribbons will echo the interaction of these aspects.

The sculpture, with a budget of \$89,853, is scheduled for completion in the fall of 2006.

### Glass and Light Sculpture for ENMU's Communications Center

The Local Selection Committee of Eastern New Mexico University, Portales, recently selected California artist Deanne Sabeck to create a site-specific artwork for the

## TIPS FOR APPLYING FOR A PUBLIC ART PROJECT

### When applying for an AIPP project:

- Carefully read the prospectus.
- If you have questions call the contact person listed on the prospectus.
- Try to visit the site/facility and visit the website, if provided, to find out more information about the location.
- Make sure you submit all the required materials.
- Make sure that all materials are typed including the resume, slide key, and other supplemental materials.
- Include information on your exhibition record from the past 5 years only.
- Make certain you submit professional quality slides/digital images that clearly show your work.

*\*\*\* Remember - This is your initial opportunity to sell yourself to a committee. Your submission is one of many to be reviewed. Make sure that your presentation materials are professional in appearance to increase your chances of being considered.*

### Commission Projects Only:

- Carefully read the prospectus to determine what the site/LSC are seeking in project concept and content.
- Determine if a project calls for the literal or visual interpretation of the project's theme or intent, or if it is open to a more conceptual interpretation.

- A project that is open to a conceptual theme will require artists to be more abstract in their approach to the project's intent. If unsure about the theme or project, clarify with contact person.

### Local Selection Committee criteria for review of AIPP submissions:

- Clear slides/digital images of the artwork without background interference or distractions.
- Professional presentation.
- Consistency in media and/or style.
- Good craftsmanship.
- Originality of concept.
- Appropriateness of artwork for public display.
- The artist's professional qualifications.
- Artistic merit as evidenced by slides/digital images and other supporting materials.
- Appropriateness of submission to project intent and site – example: artist submits examples of exterior work for site seeking exterior artwork.
- Proven ability to undertake projects of the described scope - artists who have never been selected for a commission project are encouraged to apply for smaller commission projects to gain experience in budgeting, time management, sub-contracting, etc.



**Range**  
 Ryan Henel  
 Latillas, photoluminescent paint  
 30' L X 8' W X 6' H  
 Temporary installation in Austin TX  
 as part of Americans for the Arts Annual  
 Conference

vestibule wall of the university's new Communications Center. Sabeck has been working as a public artist for more than 15 years. Her proposed artwork will feature glass, stainless steel, and light. As halogen lights move across thick arcs of glass, rainbows of bright colors will move across the wall, reflecting words that have been inscribed into the glass. The artwork, which measures approximately 24' x 7' x 7", will span almost the entire wall space.

"The impact of this artwork will be multi-dimensional," said Sabeck. "The initial impact will be the brilliant colors of light appearing, evolving and disappearing on the wall. As the words come into focus, the viewer will become engaged on another level, reading and thinking about what they are seeing and

the order in which they are viewing them."

"In short, this installation will stimulate the mind and create a sense of wonder about the power of communication," Sabeck added. The vestibule artwork is scheduled for completion in the fall of 2006.

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**Receipt Deadline: 5:00 PM, Friday  
 December 2, 2005**

**Prospectus #179**

**Acclaimed Artists Series**

The Art in Public Places Program (AIPP) of New Mexico Arts announces the third biannual Acclaimed Artists Series. Renowned, established artists residing in the Four Corner states of New Mexico, Arizona, Colorado, and Utah are invited to participate.

The goal of the Acclaimed Artists Series is to diversify the state's public art collection by purchasing the highest caliber existing artwork from the most distinguished artists of the Four Corners region. A panel of visual arts professionals and artists from the Four Corners states will jury submissions. Regional Buying Committees representing sites and communities with 1% for Art funds will purchase the juried 2- and 3-dimensional artwork.

Only artwork created from 2001-2005 will be accepted. Artwork must be durable, permanent, low-maintenance,

and in compliance with ADA guidelines. All media will be considered except video and installation. Photography is limited to silver gelatin, c-prints, lambda, ilfochrome, or similar techniques; giclee and other digital prints will not be accepted. Prints must be hand pulled, no mechanical reproductions. Artists will be responsible for museum quality framing and the secure and permanent installation of the artwork, including a project plaque, at the site. Artists may submit up to five slides or digital images of available work. Artwork submitted for purchase does not need to be removed from other sale opportunities during this period. If a submitted work is sold, the artist or artist agent is required to notify New Mexico Arts so the work can be removed from the list of available pieces.

*Project Amount: \$5,000-\$30,000.*

*Contracts will be limited to a \$5,000 minimum for each piece or series. For more information, please contact the AIPP staff at 505/827-6490 or 800/879-4278 instate, or email [aipp@state.nm.us](mailto:aipp@state.nm.us). Artists must receive a prospectus to apply. The prospectus can be downloaded from New Mexico Arts website at [www.nmarts.org](http://www.nmarts.org).*

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**Receipt Deadline: 5:00 PM, Friday  
 December 9, 2005**

**Prospectus #177**

The Art in Public Places Program (AIPP) of New Mexico Arts and the New Mexico Military Institute (NMMI) Local Selection Committee seek to commission an exterior artwork. The artwork should be highly visual, original and representational, and embody the tradition and character of NMMI, a military boarding high school and junior college. This project is open to all artists who are residents of New Mexico and West Texas. *Project amount \$40,000.* Artists must receive a prospectus to apply. *Contact Rebecca Deo at 505/892-2029, or email [rebdeo@hotmail.com](mailto:rebdeo@hotmail.com); or call the AIPP staff at New Mexico Arts, 505/827-6490, 800/879-4278 instate, or email [aipp@state.nm.us](mailto:aipp@state.nm.us). A complete prospectus can be downloaded at [www.nmarts.org](http://www.nmarts.org).*

**Aspen Meadows**  
 Tom Brejcha  
 Acrylic on canvas  
 30" X 40"  
 Chaves County Courthouse, Roswell



# Dia de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) in New Mexico

by Claude Stephenson, Folk Arts Coordinator

**D**ia de los Muertos is an ancient folk tradition from Mexico that, despite centuries of immigration of Mexicans to New Mexico, has only recently been openly practiced here. According to most scholars, the practice of celebrating the dead was widespread and long standing in Mexico at the arrival of the Spanish in 1519. Originally observed by native Mexicans in mid-August, it was a month-long celebration presided over by Mictecacihuat, the Aztec goddess of death. After repeated and futile attempts to stamp out the practice, the Spanish Catholic priests succeeded in reducing it to a one-day celebration and moved it coincide with All Soul's Day on November 2.



Marigold Parade 2004

In Mexico, the day is traditionally spent decorating the graves of ancestors and celebrating their lives. Families build elaborate altars to the dead in their homes. These altars often contain items for the dead: water, food, and sometimes even alcohol or a pack of cigarettes if the person being honored used them in life. Candles light up the night. Skeletons or *calaveras* are crafted, depicting the dead in their favorite activities. Skull shaped candies and toy skeletons are distributed to children. Marigolds are everywhere. Called *cempasuchil* in Mexico, the fragrance of the marigold and its bright orange color are said to lead the spirits home, and graves are often elaborately decorated with them. After the graves and altars are decorated, the people celebrate life itself, and their good fortune at having cheated death yet another year, with dancing and singing.

The longest running New Mexican Dia de los Muertos celebration is in Albuquerque's South Valley, where the Marigold Parade and celebration have been observed for over twelve years. The parade's end and altar exhibit are held at the Westside Community Center. Parade participants dressed as calaveras throw candy and marigolds at the throngs who line Isleta Boulevard SW. Marching bands and floats decorated with colorful cut paper designs, or *papeles picados*, are interspersed with people in calavera

costumes walking, laughing, and dancing their way down the street. Children abound, both as calavera-dressed participants and gleeful recipients of the generous amounts of candy thrown to them. The organizers of the Marigold Parade also sponsor workshops on altar and float building on the Saturdays leading up to the parade. For more information about the workshops, call 505/244-0120. This year's celebration will be held November 6. For more information call 505/244-0827.

In the Las Cruces area, there is a celebration on Mesilla Plaza October 29-30, with food and dancing, culminating in a candlelight procession. Homemade altars are displayed and a giant piñata is broken open. For more information call 505/647-2639.

In Santa Fe, there will be workshops in skull sugar candy decoration and community altars will be constructed beginning on October 16 at the Museum of International Folk Art. For more information, visit the museum's website at [www.moifa.org](http://www.moifa.org) or call 505/476-1200.

Also in Albuquerque, there is an exhibit of altars made by various area artists at the South Broadway Cultural Center,

opening on October 30; the exhibit runs through the month of November. For more information about the exhibit and opening call 505/848-1320.

**Dia de los Muertos is an ancient folk tradition from Mexico that, despite centuries of immigration of Mexicans to New Mexico, has only recently been openly practiced here.**



Marigold Parade 2004