



NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS

2026 State Tribal Collaboration Act Annual Report



Pueblo of Jemez Governor John Galvan and 1st Lt. Governor Mathew Gachuping, Jr. visit Jemez Historic Site

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SECTION I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The New Mexico Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA) is committed to strengthening government-to-government relationships with Tribal Nations, Pueblos, and Indigenous communities across the state. Through service delivery, cultural resource protection, program partnerships, and ongoing consultation, DCA works to support quality of life, cultural continuity, and economic well-being throughout Tribal communities.

DCA divisions maintain long-standing collaborations as well as new initiatives with Tribal partners. Highlights include:

- Consultation, repatriation, and cultural stewardship under the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA).
- Financial assistance for Tribal libraries, including operational, capital, and broadband support.
- Grant funding for Native artists and cultural organizations through New Mexico Arts.
- Support for traditional artisans through the Native American Artisans Portal Program at the New Mexico History Museum
- Educational programming and outreach delivered statewide by all DCA divisions.

SECTION II. AGENCY OVERVIEW/BACKGROUND

Mission Statement

The mission of DCA is to Preserve, present, and nurture New Mexico's rich culture.

Vision

Our vision is to strengthen New Mexico communities by fostering greater connection, belonging, and respect for all cultural contributions.

Values

- Respect the communities we serve and with whom we collaborate.
- Inclusion of our state's diverse voices, perspectives, and experiences.
- Awareness of the meaningful intersections of arts, cultures, histories, and science.
- Connections to relevant contemporary issues and community vitality.
- Responsiveness to our constituents through open dialogue and timely actions.
- Intellectual rigor and respectful dialogue.
- Ethical and professional standards, innovation, creativity, and excellence in all we do.

Department Overview

Created in 1978 by the New Mexico Legislature, DCA embodies New Mexico's dedication to preserving and celebrating the cultural diversity and integrity of the state. The agency owns and operates facilities and provides services in communities throughout New Mexico, reaching every county in the state. The department is responsible for over 240 structures, museums, historic sites, and support facilities, over 100 of which are on the State Cultural Properties and/or National Register of Historic Places.

The Secretary, appointed by the Governor, directs DCA. The agency has 448 employees. The fiscal year 2026 operating budget was \$63.8 million, including \$ \$47.4 million in state general funds, \$6 million in federal revenue and \$10.4 million in other revenue and transfers. In addition, multiple private foundations and friends groups across the state provide financial support.

Key Divisions and Support Areas

- Office of the Cabinet Secretary (**OTS**), Santa Fe
- Office of General Counsel (**GC**), Santa Fe
- Office of Information Technology (**IT**), statewide
- Administrative Services Division (**ASD**), Santa Fe
- Facilities Management Bureau (**FMB**), statewide
- Historic Preservation Division (**HPD**), statewide
- Museum of Indian Arts and Culture (**MIAC**), Santa Fe
- Museum of International Folk Art (**MOIFA**), Santa Fe
- Museum Resources Division (**MRD**), Santa Fe
- Museum of Space History (**MSH**), Alamogordo
- National Hispanic Cultural Center (**NHCC**), Albuquerque
- New Mexico Arts (**NMA**), statewide
- New Mexico Farm and Ranch Heritage Museum (**NMFRHM**), Las Cruces
- New Mexico History Museum (**NMHM**), Santa Fe
- New Mexico Historic Sites (**NMHS**), statewide
- New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science (**NMMNHS**), Albuquerque
- New Mexico Museum of Art (**NMMA**), Santa Fe
- New Mexico State Library (**NMSL**), statewide
- Office of Archaeological Studies (**OAS**), statewide

SECTION III. DIVISION REPORTS

Historic Preservation

Staff Contact: Michelle Ensey, michelle.ensey@dca.nm.gov

The mission of the Historic Preservation Division (HPD) is to protect, preserve, and interpret the unique character of New Mexico by identifying, documenting, and evaluating, and registering prehistoric and historic properties.

Official Scenic Historic Markers

In FY26, the Cultural Properties Review Committee (CPRC) and HPD continued their tribal collaboration initiative in the administration of the New Mexico Scenic Historic Marker program. During FY26, HPD contacted a total of 12 tribal entities, the pueblos of Pojoaque, Nambe, Jémez, Ohkay Owingeh, San Ildefonso, Picuris, Isleta, Santa Clara, Tesuque, Sandia, Zuni, and Taos regarding proposed revisions and relocations of 29 markers. Three markers for the Pueblo of Acoma and one marker for the Pueblo of Santa Ana were approved by the CPRC at its August 2025 meeting and December 2025 meeting, respectively.

Markers for Isleta and Sandia are slated for CPRC consideration in FY27 following successful collaboration with tribal delegates. Ongoing discussions with Cochiti, Pojoaque, and Tesuque are likely to yield additional results in the coming year.



Revised Historic Marker at Pueblo of Acoma Following Tribal Collaboration, Installed February 2026

Unmarked Human Burial Notifications

Section 18-6-11.2 of the Cultural Properties Act, NMSA 1978 requires law enforcement and the Office of Medical Investigator to notify the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) when unmarked human remains are uncovered during ground disturbing activities. In FY26, the SHPO responded to six notifications from law enforcement or the Office of the Medical Investigator, two from land managing agencies, two from private individuals, and one from archaeologists conducting fieldwork. In addition, SHPO notified the Gila National Forest of the presence of ancestral human remains on forest land in Grant County.

Ancestors exposed in Cibola and San Juan Counties were left in place and reburied. Ancestral remains uncovered in Lincoln and Valencia Counties were recovered by archaeologists holding an Annual Unmarked Human Burial Excavation Permit. The archaeologists were able to rebury the ancestors from Lincoln County on site. Consultation with the Pueblos of Pojoaque and Tesuque on ancestors uncovered within Santa Fe County resulted in site visits and an agreement to rebury at the site. Ancestors uncovered on private land in Taos County will be reburied in July 2026. All other ancestral remains are held at the Center for New Mexico Archaeology until reburial can occur.

Native American Graves Protection and Repartition Act (NAGPRA)

HPD participated in the tribal convening on NAGPRA hosted by DCA in November 2025 and HPD held an informational meeting and listening session on April 6, 2026. The information meeting was an opportunity for HPD to present an overview of state law and NAGPRA as applies to the ancestors HPD holds. A separate meeting was held with the Pueblo of Pojoaque Tribal Historic Preservation Officer in June 2026.

Priorities for FY27 include hosting a meeting at the Center for New Mexico Archaeology to discuss duty of care and providing the tribes with an opportunity to see the space where ancestors are housed. This meeting is scheduled for August 7, 2026.

Museum of Indian Arts and Culture

Staff Contact: Danyelle Means, danyelle.means@dca.nm.gov

The Museum of Indian Arts and Culture (MIAC) serves as a center of stewardship, knowledge, and understanding of the artistic, cultural, and intellectual achievements of the diverse peoples of the Native Southwest. Through ongoing collaboration with Tribal Nations, Pueblos, artists, educators, knowledge keepers, and community members, MIAC supports government-to-government relationships while advancing the care, interpretation, and accessibility of Indigenous cultural heritage.

Overview

MIAC continued to strengthen partnerships through repatriation and consultation, collections access, exhibition development, educational programming, and public engagement. These collaborations reflect the museum's commitment to respectful engagement, shared stewardship, and meaningful opportunities for Tribal communities to access and help shape the interpretation of their cultural heritage.

MIAC also continued to work closely with its Indian Advisory Panel, Tribal Historic Preservation Officers, Tribal leadership, Native artists, educators, and community organizations throughout New Mexico and the Southwest. These relationships support the museum's work across collections stewardship, exhibitions, educational programming, and long-term planning.

Repatriation

MIAC continued its work with Tribal Nations, Pueblos, and federal partners to support consultation and repatriation under the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA). MIAC repatriated 550 associated funerary objects from two archaeological sites to the Hopi Tribe. The museum also completed a joint repatriation with the Bureau of Indian Affairs involving three archaeological sites, resulting in the transfer of 198 cultural items and two Ancestors from MIAC's control to the Pueblo of Pojoaque.

MIAC continues to assist numerous federal agencies by facilitating consultation, repatriation, rehousing, and reinterment of Ancestors and cultural items stewarded at the Center for New Mexico Archaeology under curatorial agreements. During FY26, the museum consulted with multiple Tribes, Pueblos, and Nations on four major archaeological projects, including the Townsend/Salt Creek Data Recovery Project, La Plata Highway Salvage Project, Angus and Little Creek sites, and Galisteo Basin sites. These consultations address NAGPRA compliance for approximately 280 Ancestors and more than 1,080 cubic feet of associated cultural items.

MIAC responded to two large Tribal requests for information from the Pueblos of Pojoaque and Santa Clara by providing summaries of archaeological, ethnographic, contemporary art, archival, and library collections with potential cultural affiliation to each Pueblo. In addition, MIAC implemented a process requiring documentation of Tribal permission before providing research

access to, or reproducing, collections that may be subject to National NAGPRA's Duty of Care provisions.

In November 2025, the Department of Cultural Affairs hosted a three-day Tribal Convening on NAGPRA, welcoming representatives from 38 Tribal communities from New Mexico and neighboring states. MIAC staff assisted with planning the convening and supported department-wide consultation efforts, including Tribal requests for collections information and consultation on culturally sensitive collections and exhibition content.

Community Visits, Research, and Lending

MIAC continued to provide Tribal communities with access to collections through research visits, object loans, and consultation. Members of the Pueblo of San Ildefonso visited the Archaeological Research Collections to select vessels for exhibition at the Bradbury Science Museum. MIAC also facilitated the loan of three ceramic vessels to Zuni Pueblo for exhibition in its newly opened Fair Building.

Curatorial staff hosted research visits for Pueblo language teachers and Tribal library staff participating in a University of New Mexico oral history project, representatives from San Ildefonso Pueblo working as cultural protectors on archaeological projects, members of Isleta Pueblo including the Tribal Archivist, Native American students and faculty from Harvard University, and students from the Native American Community Academy. These visits supported research, language preservation, exhibition development, and community-based educational initiatives.



Students from San Ildefonso Pueblo during MIAC's Tribal Libraries Program, June 2026

Educational Programs

MIAC continued to collaborate with Tribal schools, Native organizations, artists, and educators through a variety of educational programs and public events. Beginning in late 2025, MIAC partnered with the Institute of American Indian Arts to host artists participating in IAIA's Artist in Residence program through workshops and presentations.

During the 2025-2026 school year, MIAC welcomed students from fourteen Tribal schools, many of whom participated through the museum's School Bus Fund. Students from the Native American Community Academy presented a one-day exhibition examining the effects of uranium on their communities, while students from Santa Fe Indian School collaborated with STEMarts Lab to create interactive digital artwork presented during the museum's nighttime stargazing event.



Students from the Santa Fe Indian School touring Makowa: The Worlds Above Us, in collaboration with STEMarts Lab, February 2026

In June 2026, MIAC hosted the inaugural Indigenous Foodways Festival, bringing together more than twenty Indigenous chefs and knowledge keepers from across North America. The festival featured cooking demonstrations, *horno* baking, tastings, workshops, and panel discussions, welcoming more than 1,500 visitors throughout the day.

MIAC also hosted its annual Tribal Libraries Program, welcoming 120 children and their chaperones from San Ildefonso Pueblo, Sandia Pueblo, and Kewa Pueblo for two days of hands-on learning. Additional programming included the Native Dance Series, featuring Indigenous dance groups from New Mexico Pueblos and the Navajo Nation, as well as planning for the Fifth Annual Youth Hoop Dance Championship.

Educational and Curatorial Collaboration

Collaboration with Tribal artists, cultural practitioners, and community representatives remained central to MIAC's exhibition program throughout FY26.

Essential Elements: Art, Environment, and Indigenous Futures opened during Indigenous Peoples' Day celebrations in October 2025 and featured work by twenty-four Pueblo, Diné, and Apache artists. The opening included artist talks by Shayla Blatchford (Diné) and Leah Mata Fragua (Northern Chumash).



Indigenous Foodways Festival butchering demonstration with Chef Elena Terry (Ho Chunk). Chef Terry is a noted wild game specialist, butcher, and the founder of the non-profit Wild Bearies.

In May 2026, *Native Dimensions: Contemporary Art from the Museum of Indian Arts and Culture* opened in the Governor's Gallery at the New Mexico State Capitol. Prior to installation, MIAC staff consulted with the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer for the Pueblo of Pueblo regarding culturally sensitive subject matter contained within two works in the exhibition.

MIAC continued development of a traveling version of *Makowa: The Worlds Above Us*, co-curated by Marlon Magdalena (Jemez Pueblo) in consultation with Tribal representatives. The exhibition is being developed for travel to Tribal communities and libraries throughout New Mexico.

During FY26, MIAC also presented *Màatakuyma: Now It Is Becoming Clearer to Me*, featuring photographs and films by Hopi filmmaker Victor Masayesva Jr., who participated in public programs and film screenings. The museum additionally received support from the Terra Foundation for American Art to begin planning *Brilliant Gleaming: The Art of Silverhorn*, which will be developed in consultation with Kiowa community members and descendants of the artist.

In partnership with Native Bound Unbound and former New Mexico State Historian Estevan Rael-Gálvez, MIAC hosted the Santa Fe premiere of the *Archive of Indigenous Slavery*, welcoming more than 100 Genízaro and Indigenous descendants for community dialogue.



Sky City Buffalo/ Ram Dance Group during MIAC's Winter Solstice Event, December 2025

Museum of International Folk Art

Staff Contact: Charlie Lockwood, charlie.lockwood@dca.nm.gov

The Museum of International Folk Art (MOIFA) shapes a humane world by connecting people through creative expression and artistic traditions. The museum expands the understanding of folk art and encourages dialogue about traditions, cultural identity, community, and aesthetics. The museum is a dynamic, multidimensional learning environment that is an integral part of community life. MOIFA's collection and programming provide important connections between past, present and future folk art and related traditions.

Overview

In FY26, MOIFA partnered with the Museum of Indian Arts and Culture (MIAC) to present the annual community day program, *Gathering Seeds, Tending Roots*. The event also recognized the City of Santa Fe's twentieth year as a UNESCO Creative City for Folk Art and Craft. Guided by themes related to UNESCO sustainable development goals, particularly sustainability and cultural resilience, the program highlighted traditional Native cultural practices of the Santa Fe region.

Performances were offered by the Zuni Olla Maidens, the Jir Project led by Jir Anderson (Cochiti Pueblo), and musician Ailani Swentzell (Owingeh). Panel discussions featured prominent Indigenous artists and community leaders, including La Milpa Comunitaria and a conversation between artists Jason Garcia (Owingeh) and Diego Romero (Cochiti Pueblo), facilitated by MIAC curator Tony Chavarria. The event also included demonstrations of Indigenous foodways and welcomed 996 visitors.

Truths Be Told: Artists Activate Tradition, curated by MOIFA curator Laura Addison, opened in December 2025. The exhibition featured Indigenous artists such as Nicholas Galanin (Tlingit/Unangax), Cannupa Hanska Luger (Arikara/Hidatsa/Mandan), Marie Watt (Seneca), and Collectivos Subterranos of Oaxaca, Mexico. The artists explored how heritage-based practices evolve through new media to address contemporary issues including environmental concerns, Native histories, and human rights. The opening event drew 489 guests. Exhibition programming included a printmaking demonstration by artist David Sloan (Diné) and a discussion between Cannupa Hanska Luger and Sonya Clarke attended by 160 visitors. MOIFA contributed to Luger's Bison Bead Project through a Summer Arts Alive session. An additional program with Gary Pyne, Lieutenant Governor of the Pueblo of Picuris, is planned to further explore the Picuris bison initiative.

In FY26, MOIFA also opened *I Am Clay: Acoma Life in Figures*, curated by Laura Addison in collaboration with the Pueblo of Acoma. The exhibit was co-curated by former Governor Brian Vallo and four cultural advisors who contributed new works and selected pieces from MOIFA's collection. Two related programs were held: a community day with 150 visitors, and a public opening with 678 attendees. Both featured panels with the co-curators, and the public opening included performances by a multi-Pueblo dance group.



*Co-Curators: Brian Vallo, Lilly Salvador, Prudence Correa, Marilyn Ray and Claudia Mitchell
June 2026*

The Arts Alive! program invited David Sloan (Diné) to lead a printmaking workshop focused on New Mexico's landscape. Combined participation for the Bison Bead and printmaking workshops totaled 246 individuals. Folk Art to Go kits were provided to the Cherokee Immersion Charter School in Tahlequah, Oklahoma.

In partnership with MIAC's education team, MOIFA also supported tribal library programs, offering the bison bead activity to community members from Kewa, Sandia, and San Ildefonso Pueblos, serving 161 participants.

For the annual Teacher In-Service, MOIFA hosted educators from across New Mexico for exhibition-based training and a printmaking activity led by David Sloan, attended by 21 teachers. The education team also participated in Cochiti Elementary's STEAM fair and hosted visits from IAIA, SIPI, SFIS, and Kewa Elementary.

MOIFA supported the Pueblo Youth Opera program by providing hands-on activities for participating students and collaborated with other DCA divisions on the Create Station during SWAIA in Summer 2025.

In Fall 2025, the Japan Foundation Los Angeles proposed a collaboration featuring Japanese ceramicist Shoshi Watanabe. MOIFA partnered him with Kewa Pueblo potter Thomas Tenorio. Their March 2026 program included a pottery demonstration, audience Q&A, and a traditional firing demonstration at Tenorio's home. The event attracted 52 visitors.

Tribal Dialogues

During FY26, MOIFA convened the Indian Advisory Panel (IAP) to review the Pueblo Feast Day display in Girard's *Multiple Visions: A Common Bond*, on view since 1982. Representatives from

multiple Pueblos and tribal organizations provided guidance on addressing cultural sensitivities and offered recommendations for future approaches.

MOIFA also partnered with Bernstein & Associates to assess its Native American collections and refine consultation processes related to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA). Staff members attended a tribal consultation and NAGPRA conference at Pojoaque Pueblo in November 2025. After further consultation and in connection with the opening of *I Am Clay*, MOIFA elected to cover the Pueblo Feast Day display and begin developing new approaches to representing Indigenous communities in that space.



*Artists Thomas Tenorio and Shoshi Watanabe as part of the Japan Foundation Los Angeles/Museum of International Folk Art Collaboration
March 2026*



Cochiti STEAM Day Fair, May 2026

Museum Resources Division

Staff Contact: David Rohr, david.rohr@dca.nm.gov

Museum Resources Division (MRD) is a centralized services group comprised of skilled museum professionals who support education, exhibition, design and conservation for museums and historic sites. MRD includes talented designers, woodworkers, mount makers, preparators, conservators, marketers, writers, editors and educators.

Wonders on Wheels Mobile Museum

In FY26, the Wonders on Wheels (WoW) mobile museum completed seventeen visits and increased engagement with predominantly Indigenous communities by 42%. This growth resulted from targeted outreach through email, social media, and direct communication with community groups and leaders. Publicity for WoW's participation in the Diné Week of the Young Child led to an invitation to visit the Haanadli Community School FACE Program, operated by the Bureau of Indian Education's Early Childhood Office.

Because our 2025 exhibition highlighted the significance of churro sheep and weaving in Diné communities, WoW was invited to the Navajo Churro Sheep event in Farmington. In FY27, the WoW RV also visited multiple Pueblo communities, including Tesuque, Santo Domingo, Pojoaque, Jemez, and Santa Ana. Guided by our 2025 exhibition on Tafoya family pottery of Jemez Pueblo, we conducted four visits to Walatowa schools, the Walatowa Visitor Center, and Jemez Historic Site.

For the 2026 season, WoW developed *The Arts of Democracy in New Mexico*, a locally grounded exhibition commemorating the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. The first panels introduce the concepts of self-government and sovereignty embedded in the Declaration and the American Revolution. A subsequent panel, titled *But What About New Mexico?* emphasizes Indigenous communities' long-standing governance traditions, most notably the Pueblo Revolt of 1680. The exhibition includes iPad access to film trailers from Silver Bullet Productions on the canes of sovereignty, Pueblo military service, women's leadership, and environmental stewardship, as well as 3D animations of nine Galisteo Basin Pueblos as they appeared eight centuries ago. Educators highlight that most of present-day New Mexico was historically home to Indigenous communities with sophisticated systems of participatory governance.

Visitors have responded positively to the inclusion of Indigenous histories in the narrative of democracy in New Mexico. During a visit to an adult education program in Roswell, one attendee shared that, as a person of mixed Pueblo heritage, she valued seeing Pueblo political traditions recognized and taught.

Indigenous engagement remains central to WoW's mission to deliver inclusive and equitable museum programming across New Mexico. For the 2027 season, WoW is collaborating with the Office of Archaeological Studies to develop an exhibition on Ice Age New Mexico, emphasizing the innovative lifeways of Indigenous peoples in response to environmental conditions of the period.

WoW looks forward to working closely with Indigenous communities in shaping and touring this exhibition.



The Pueblo of Tesuque visiting Wonder on Wheels

Museum of Space History

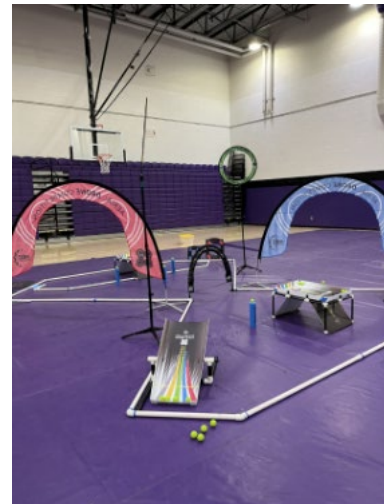
Staff contact: Karen Kincaid-Brady, karen.kincaidbrady@dca.nm.gov

The mission of the New Mexico Museum of Space History (NMMSH) is to bring the history of mankind's exploration of air and space to New Mexico and to show the world New Mexico's key role in mankind's past, present, and future pursuit of the frontiers of air and space.

Overview

From July 2025 to the present, NMMSH has documented sustained engagement with Native American participants through educational programs, outreach, community events, and collaborative initiatives. During the reporting period, 182 entries recorded Native American participation, reflecting consistent interaction with Native students, families, educators, and community members in both on-site and off-site settings.

NMMSH delivered a wide range of programs linking space history, astronomy, and STEM learning to community interests and educational priorities. Offerings included Rocketeer Academy classes, constellation and asterism interpretation, paper rocket launches, kaleidoscope building, astronomy presentations, star parties, Mars geology discussions, and programming related to Artemis, Gateway, hydroponics, and careers in space science. Engagement with Mescalero Apache partners and Native-serving schools was particularly significant, including robotics training, a drone scrimmage at Mescalero Apache School, participation in a school blessing ceremony, and STEM-focused outreach aligned with Museum initiatives. Additional programs in communities such as Tularosa and Alamogordo provided students with opportunities to learn about space exploration, debate scientific priorities, and explore aerospace career pathways.



Goddard's Centennial Celebration in Roswell and Obstacle Course at Mescalero Apache Drone Competition

NMMSH also maintained strong visibility at regional public events that reached Native participants alongside broader community audiences. Staff contributed to TRIO Future Fest, Community

Connections at Holloman, the Spaceport America Open House, the Southern New Mexico State Fair, and other outreach activities, offering artifact-based interpretation, astronomy content, and hands-on STEM experiences. These events strengthened awareness of NMMSH resources and expanded public access to educational programming.



Rocketeer Academy Summer 2025 Activities

National Hispanic Cultural Center

Staff Contact: Philip Baca, philip.baca@dca.nm.gov

The National Hispanic Cultural Center (NHCC) is dedicated to the preservation, promotion and advancement of Hispanic culture, arts, and humanities. The Center presents exhibitions, lectures, book readings, performing arts, and educational programming that are meaningful to the local, statewide, and national communities of *Gente*. It offers the Hispanic, Chicano and Latine artists, who also often have Indigenous ancestry in the Americas, a place to present their work and bring it to the national stage. The NHCC is committed to making a cultural home for the diverse identities that shape the community.

Overview

In fiscal year 2026, the NHCC Visual Arts Museum continued its work with Tribal artists and storytellers, drawing on its extensive collection of protected artworks from the Americas. The exhibition *Nuclear Past, Present, and Future: Art in Action* highlighted the impacts of nuclear testing in New Mexico on Indigenous communities and featured work by Shayla Blatchford (Diné), Mallery Quetawki (Zuni), and Will Wilson (Diné). The opening event welcomed more than 350 attendees. NHCC will continue strengthening partnerships that honor the shared heritage and histories of New Mexicans and Indigenous communities.



NHCC's annual cultural ceremonies, including Luminito and Yankwik Xiwitl (Mexika/Aztec New Year) celebrate community unity and Indigenous identity. Luminito combines traditional *Luminaria* and *Faralito* customs and opens with Pueblo dance ceremonies. This year's celebration featured the Toya dance group, whose families are from the Pueblos of Jemez and Zia.



The Diplomacy and Arts Agreement between NHCC's History and Literary Arts Division and the Government of Mexico requires NHCC to host three annual cultural functions. This year, NHCC presented *Veinte Años de Fiesta*, an exhibition of 45 photographs documenting Indigenous dances across Mexico over a 20-year period.



NHCC archivists and curators from both Visual Arts and History and Literary Arts attended the DCA's NAGPRA Tribal Convening at Buffalo Thunder in November 2025. Following the training, NHCC conducted an internal review of its archives in coordination with departmental partners. The Center is expanding efforts to ensure accurate attribution throughout its collections.

New Mexico Arts

Staff Contact: Michelle Laflamme-Childs, michelle.laflamme@dca.nm.gov

The primary function of New Mexico's state arts agency, New Mexico Arts (NMA), is to provide financial support for arts services and programs to non-profit organizations statewide and to administer the 1% public art program for the State of New Mexico.

Overview

In FY26, New Mexico Arts (NMA) awarded approximately \$25,106 in grants to organizations serving tribal communities. Funded projects included:

- Authentic Native Arts Association, Inc. (Bernalillo): \$5,032 for the Annual Bernalillo Indian Arts Festival
- Indian Pueblo Cultural Center, Inc. (Albuquerque): \$5,143 for temporary exhibitions featuring contemporary Native artists
- National Ghost Ranch Foundation, Inc.: \$5,143 for an Eight Northern Pueblos Residency and Exhibit
- IndigenousWays (Santa Fe): \$4,479 for its annual festival
- Southwestern Association for Indian Arts, Inc.: \$5,309 in support of the annual Santa Fe Indian Market

NMA supported two Folk Arts Apprenticeships in Native traditional arts:

- Louie Garcia (Master Artist, Tiwa/Piro of Socorro del Sur Pueblo/Chicano) and Allysa Concha Ortiz (Apprentice, Taos Pueblo): Pueblo weaving and fiber arts (\$6,000)
- Joseph Andrew Swazo (Master Artist, Tesuque Pueblo) and Dorothy L. Herrera (Apprentice, Tesuque Pueblo): Traditional Tesuque pottery (\$5,965)

Throughout FY26, the Folk Arts Program expanded outreach to Indigenous traditional artists, organizations, and communities. Coordinator Amy Mills strengthened relationships by attending feast days, powwows, and markets, conducting preliminary research, and initiating new collaborations. As a partner in Santa Fe's UNESCO 20th anniversary program, NMA also contributed to community-focused events exploring themes such as climate resiliency and custom car culture in collaboration with MIAC and MOIFA.

In fiscal year 2026, the Art in Public Places program directly supported 82 artists from Pueblos and Tribal nations through its direct purchase program and open call initiatives.

The Art in Public Places (AIPP) program directly supported 82 artists from Pueblos and Tribal nations through direct purchase and open-call opportunities. Highlights include:

- Pueblo of Zuni: Acquisition of 15 artworks totaling \$93,000 for the Zuni Fair Building
- Pueblo of Pojoaque: Artwork selections for the Senior Center and Poeh Cultural Center
- Navajo Nation (Ojo Encino Chapter): Two works by Christopher Peshlakaki (Diné)
- Pueblo of Laguna: Eight artworks for the Fire Station and Library totaling \$50,100
- Pueblo of Santa Ana: Six artworks for four public buildings



Edward Wemytewa, *A:shiwi Cultural Landscape – Greater Chaco Region*, 2023



Eldred Martinez, *Zuni Corn Maiden Necklace* 2025, Sterling silver inlay with precious stones

- Pueblo de San Ildefonso: Two artworks for the Wellness Center by Jicarilla Apache artist Felix Vigil
- Pueblo of Picuris: One artwork for the Environmental Resource Center
- Standing Rock Chapter (Navajo Nation): Four artworks for the Senior Center

AIPP also worked closely with the Pueblos of Nambe, Santa Ana, Tesuque, and Santa Clara, the Jicarilla Apache Nation, Mescalero Apache Nation, and multiple Navajo Nation chapters to advance forthcoming FY27 projects, including work honoring the Gallup Inter-Tribal Ceremonial for the McKinley County Courthouse rotunda. This public space serves the community year-round for voting, events, meetings, and cultural activities.



Christopher Peshlaki, *Tse'Chizhi'Bito*, oil on canvas



Ojo Encino's *Beauty*, oil on canvas

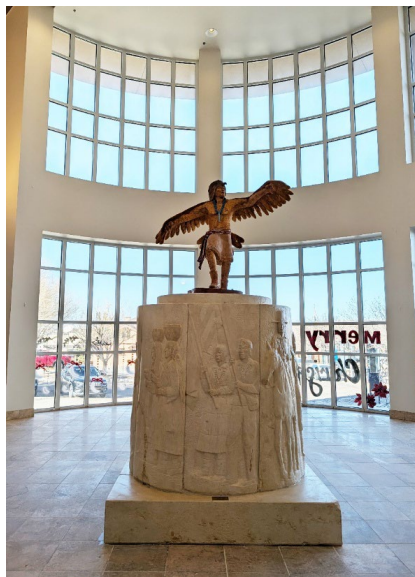


Alfred Pino, Laguna Pueblo Eagle Dancer with Mission, acrylic on canvas with turquoise stones



Pat Pruitt, A-I-R Clouds, Stargazing and Cloudy, stainless steel

There was one outstanding commission installed at the McKinley County Courthouse Rotunda



Tim Washburn (Navajo), Spirit of Gallup Ceremonial, 2025

Additional Statistics

- Total of \$888,915 in AIPP funds supported Native American artists in FY26.
- Nine Tribal sites acquiring public art, specifically, Zuni Pueblo Fair Building, Pueblo of Pojoaque, Ojo Encino Chapter House, San Ildefonso Pueblo Wellness Center, Pojoaque Pueblo Senior Center, Santa Ana Pueblo Wellness Center, Laguna Pueblo Fire Station, Laguna Pueblo Library, and Pojoaque Pueblo Poeh Cultural Center.

New Mexico Farm and Ranch Heritage Museum

Staff Contact: Steve Loring, steve.loring@dca.nm.gov

The New Mexico Farm and Ranch Heritage Museum (NMFRHM) connects the present generation to the history of farming and ranching in New Mexico, inspiring a deeper appreciation and understanding of the state's rich heritage. The museum accomplishes this by providing exhibitions and programs that enable its users to understand and learn from the past in ways that enrich their present lives and help them shape a better future.



School tour at mural in the Early Agriculture section of the main gallery, photo by Alison Penn

Educational Activities

In FY26, NMFRHM collaborated with the Tortugas Pueblo community to renovate the garden on the northwest side of the main building. This partnership included regular meetings with Tribal leadership and community members to determine the garden's name, layout, themes, interpretive elements, and educational programs. Members of the Tortugas Pueblo community and the NMSU American Indian Program joined museum staff in hands-on work sessions to construct the space, now officially named the Jardín de Tortugas Pueblo.

A NASA and U.S. Forest Service "Moon Tree" was planted in August 2024 and formally unveiled in April 2025. The tree symbolizes the connection between traditional agricultural practices and technological innovation and was blessed by Bill Acosta of Tortugas Pueblo to integrate it into the garden's educational mission. The walkway was completed in June 2026 and first used by the Little Ranchers summer camp on June 8, 2026. A formal dedication with a community blessing is planned for early September 2026.



Jardín de Tortugas Pueblo, June 2026



Garden work session with Tortugas Pueblo and NMSU American Indian Program, April 2025, photo by Alison Penn



Blessing the “Moon Tree” April 2025, photo by Alison Penn

Exhibits

The *Agricultural Beginnings* section of the Main Gallery highlights New Mexico’s early agricultural history, emphasizing the development of maize and other cultivated plants over more than 4,000 years. Components include a Mogollon pit house replica, stone tools, a mural of early farming practices, and a hands-on corn-grinding activity.

The Spanish Colonial Period section features two panels interpreting historic Pueblo culture. The first introduces Pueblo lifeways at the time of Spanish arrival in 1598, focusing on harvest traditions, food storage, and agricultural knowledge shared with colonists. The second interprets the Pueblo Revolt of 1680, during which northern Pueblos organized a coordinated uprising after more than eighty years of Spanish rule.

The Exhibits Group is planning updates to the Main Gallery to strengthen interpretation of the continuity of Native American and Spanish agricultural traditions, pending budget availability. NMFRHM is also initiating discussion with the Navajo Nation Museum (Window Rock, AZ) regarding a potential collaborative exhibit.

Additional FY26 programming included collaboration with Tortugas Pueblo during the museum’s annual Blessing of the Fields, where Tribal representatives led traditional blessings. The Sheep Barn continued to feature Navajo-Churro sheep and an interpretive panel explaining their introduction by Spanish colonists in 1598 and the breed’s subsequent importance to the Diné people. The museum also hosted its annual *HomeGrown: A New Mexico Food Show & Gift Market*, which includes Native vendors selling jewelry and crafts.

In alignment with the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), NMFRHM worked with Archaeology Southwest to review collections for items of potential cultural significance, resulting in several items being flagged for further evaluation.

New Mexico History Museum

Staff Contact: Maria Sanchez-Tucker, maria.tucker@dca.nm.gov

The New Mexico History Museum (NMHM) is a statewide educational resource, a nationally significant historic landmark, and visitor destination. Programs focus on the diverse experiences of the people of New Mexico, the dynamics that have shaped our state, and the relationships that connect our region with the rest of the world. Located on the north side of the Plaza in the center of Santa Fe, the museum campus consists of three buildings including the historic Palace of the Governors. In addition to traditional functions such as exhibitions, object collections, and educational activities, NMHM is home to noteworthy legacy programs such as the Fray Angélico Chavez History Library, Palace of the Governors Photo Archive, the Press at the Palace of the Governors, and Native American Artisans Program—otherwise known as the Portal Program.

Exhibitions

NMHM opened *A Question of Power* in the Palace of the Governors on April 19, 2026. The exhibition documents the story of three remarkable Diné (Navajo) women who helped defeat the construction of a coal-fired power plant on the Navajo Nation. The exhibition captures the story of the three Diné women, Sarah Jane White, Lucie A. Willie, and Molley Hogue. They drew from the strength of their matrilineal cultural system as land managers to lead a successful campaign against the construction of the power plant. They organized and managed a protest camp near the proposed Desert Rock site, held campfire vigils, met with journalists, and spoke to New Mexico State legislators and Governor Bill Richardson. Sara Jane White joined the museum for the opening reception. The exhibition will run through 2027.



History Programs

Shawn Price (Diné), the Director of the Dineh Tah' Navajo Cultural Program provided a lecture at the New Mexico History Museum. Price spoke about how the rise of the automobile and the creation of Route 66 opened new opportunities for commerce and tourism while deeply impacting Tribal communities and reshaping the cultural landscape

In May, NMHM partnered with the La Fonda hotel to provide a program about the 100th Anniversary of Fred Harvey's Indian Detours at a special event. NM History Museum's Librarian Kathleen Dull spoke about the history of the earliest Detours. Elmer and Deborah Torres from San Ildefonso Pueblo spoke about how they are reenvisioning and reclaiming Indian Detours for today's travelers.



Shawn Price provides a lecture on Route 66

The Native American Artisans Portal Program

As part of its core mission, the NMHM continues to support traditional Southwestern Native American arts through administration of the Native American Artisans Program. By law and museum policy, the Palace of the Governors portal is reserved for Native American artists to display and sell their work. The program is overseen by the Portal Committee, a group of artisans elected annually by their peers. The committee manages daily operations and conducts inspections to ensure that all items sold meet established standards for quality and authenticity under NMAC 4.51.57.

The Portal Coordinator, an NMHM staff member, supports the committee and ensures transparent, accountable program operations. The coordinator also assists with broader museum initiatives involving Native community engagement. This year, the coordinator began collaborating with Debra Torres of the City of Santa Fe's Office of Economic Development Native Business Development Program to strengthen relationships and increase visibility for artists participating in the Portal Program.

NMHM hosted the following Portal Program events:

- Native American Artisans Summer and Winter Youth Show
- Native American Artisans Program Indian Market
- The Native American Artisans Program Annual Meeting



Indian Market Artists in the museum courtyard



Young artist selling during the Youth Art Sale

Education

On March 12, 2026, Tribal leaders, district and school administrators, Indian Education departments, Tribal education partners, and educators from across New Mexico convened to advance implementation of the New Mexico Indigenous Instructional Scope (NMIIS). The convening positioned NMIIS as a foundational framework for teaching, learning, and leadership that honors Indigenous ways of knowing while supporting meaningful learning for all students. Through keynote presentations, breakout sessions, and systems-focused discussions, participants examined strategies for implementing NMIIS effectively at the classroom, school, and district levels.

Key themes included:

- The importance of growth-based schooling aligned with NMIIS to strengthen schools as community anchors supporting students' cognitive, social, and emotional development.
- The value of outdoor and land-based learning as culturally grounded approaches to applying NMIIS principles.
- The need to reevaluate policies related to discipline, attendance, grading, and scheduling to reduce marginalization of Indigenous students and foster relationship-centered learning environments.

School Tours

During the 2025–2026 school year, NMHM hosted seven Indigenous schools, providing nine tours to 270 Native students. All tours—whether for Native or non-Native groups—emphasize accurate interpretation of New Mexico's deep Indigenous history through themes of continuity, movement, descendant communities, and relationships to place.

Schools visiting the museum included:

- Holbrook SDA Indian School – 7 Navajo 12th graders
- Cochiti Middle School – 30 Cochiti Pueblo 5th–6th graders
- Khapo Community School – 26 Santa Clara Pueblo 4th–5th graders
- Dulce Elementary School – 43 Jicarilla Apache 4th graders and 20 6th–8th graders
- Santo Domingo Elementary & Middle School – 8 Kewa Pueblo Special Education students (2nd–7th grades)
- Santa Fe Indian School – 110 7th graders and 78 12th graders
- Pine Hill School – 26 Ramah Band of Navajo students (1st–12th grades)

Collections Projects

NMHM collections staff attended NAGPRA training and worked with Bernstein & Associates to survey holdings, develop an implementation plan, and establish a compliance tracker. Staff also provided digital files in response to a substantial request from the Mescalero Apache Tribe. The Photo Archives and History Library fulfilled research requests from Pojoaque and Santa Clara Pueblos and continued to support tribal members and tribal-related projects.

NMHM future plans include developing a scope of work for a San Ildefonso project (proposed FY27 budget: \$10,000), laying groundwork for a Tourism and Transportation digitization collaboration with potential partners including Isleta Pueblo, San Ildefonso Pueblo, IPCC, Poch Cultural Center, and Kewa Pueblo, and expanding all-ages educational programming to Pueblos and Tribes to support Native American history and culture.

New Mexico Historic Sites

Staff Contact: Anne McCudden, anne.mccudden@dca.nm.gov

New Mexico Historic Sites (NMHS) protects and preserves those culturally significant properties designated as state historic sites and provides for their interpretation, use, and enjoyment by present and future generations. NMHS operates eight sites located across the state. Site contents range from 16th Century Spanish, Native American, and Civil War, to 20th Century art and culture. NMHS operates 135 structures across 500+ acres and provides learning experiences for the public through exhibits, programs, and partner initiatives

Los Luceros Historic Site

Los Luceros staff continued extensive preservation work on the Hacienda to prepare it for public use. As part of this process, staff developed updated interpretive content reflecting the site's diverse history, including collaboration with Ohkay Owingeh Lieutenant Governor Matthew Martinez to incorporate Tewa history. These enhancements are expected to support future partnerships with neighboring Pueblos.

In spring 2026, Los Luceros hosted the Northern Rio Grande National Heritage Area's *Cultures and Creators* event, featuring artists from across New Mexico and the eight Northern Pueblos. More than 700 students attended and participated in hands-on activities and an exhibit of local arts in the Community Room.

Jemez Historic Site

In FY26, Jemez Historic Site worked closely with the Pueblo of Jemez to advance restoration, development, and site enhancement projects, including a June meeting with Governor John Galvan to plan collaborative efforts for FY27.

The site's Elders in Residence program provided \$1,000 stipends for Jemez Pueblo elders to engage with visitors and share cultural knowledge, enhancing the public's understanding of Jemez history.

Two major annual events were held:

- Pueblo Independence Day, held annually in August, commemorates the Pueblo Revolt of 1680. Jemez community members participated in a memorial run from Jemez Pueblo to Jemez Historic Site, where they are welcomed with festivities and traditional Jemez dances celebrating Pueblo independence. The event was funded in the amount of \$1,800 by the State of New Mexico and the Museum of New Mexico Foundation.
- The Lights of Gisewa is the site's most popular event, held annually in December, 700-year-old Gisewa Pueblo and the 17th-century San José de los Jémez Mission with hundreds of glowing farolitos. The evening includes traditional Pueblo dances, live music, bonfires, and Native arts and crafts. Lights of Gisewa was funded by the State of New Mexico and the Museum of New Mexico Foundation in the amount of \$6,783, with an additional \$2,700 from the Friends of Coronado and Jemez Historic Sites, for a total of \$9,483.

The site also established the Jemez Community Youth Volunteer Program, a three-week training experience in historic site stewardship, public engagement, interpretation, and operations, to provide high school and college-age community members with meaningful professional and educational experience. Over the course of three weeks, youth volunteers learn about historic site management, stewardship, customer service, public speaking, interpretive tours, site maintenance, sales, and daily operations. The program is designed to support students preparing for future employment, college applications, or volunteer experience for resumes.

Coronado Historic Site

In FY26, a Jemez Pueblo work crew completed a full re-mudding of all buildings and kivas, funded by the State of New Mexico at \$45,937.50.

Coronado Historic Site continued to support local Pueblo and Native artisans by providing opportunities to sell artwork and crafts on the Coronado Historic Site Visitor Center portal and at many of the site's larger public events. These partnerships help promote Native artists while enhancing visitor engagement and education.

Ranger and Hopi Tribal Member Robert Silas also led the site's popular Ancient Hopi Pottery class; a week-long program held twice per fiscal year that teaches participants how to create ancestral-style Hopi pottery using traditional methods. The program was funded by the Friends of Coronado and Jemez Historic Sites in the amount of \$136.83.

In addition, Coronado Historic Site hosted several Native artisan demonstrations featuring artists from Hopi, Zuni, Acoma, Kewa, and Piro communities. These demonstrations allowed visitors to learn directly from artists about traditional and contemporary Native craft practices. The demonstrations were funded by the Friends of Coronado and Jemez Historic Sites in the amount of \$3,600.

Bosque Redondo Memorial at Fort Sumner Historic Site

In fiscal year 2026, staff collaborated closely with the Navajo Nation and Mescalero Apache Tribe to strengthen partnerships and initiate new projects at Bosque Redondo Memorial. Work with Mescalero Apache partners enhanced the Mescalero Apache Prayer Circle, honoring their ancestors' sacrifices in the 1860s. Recent efforts led to the installation of nine new benches, interpretive signage including one created by Mescalero Apache High School in fiscal year 2024, a firepit, and flagstone through funding from various capital improvement projects and the Mescalero Apache High School.

In spring 2026, staff worked with six Diné groups and families to distribute 31 Navajo-Churro sheep from the Friends of the Bosque Redondo Memorial flock. Each family received three to seven Navajo Churro Sheep, totaling 31 sheep donated in fiscal year 2026.

Additionally, the staff worked with Shawn Price, Diné, to co-develop a June event commemorating the Treaty of 1868. The event featured the Dineh Tah' Dancers, honoring the Diné's resilience and the partnership between the United States Government and the Sovereign Navajo Nation as stated in the Treaty. Shawn Price also presented a program titled "100 years:

Route 66 and Tribal Communities of New Mexico" in the site Resource Room, funded by the Museum of New Mexico Foundation (\$2,700) and the Friends of the Bosque Redondo Memorial (\$224).



Treaty Day Commemoration Dances 2026



Shawn Price Route 66 Presentation



Marcie Sunseson (Dine) Sheep Donation

Lincoln Historic Site

At Lincoln Historic Site, Starlyn Bigrope (Mescalero Apache) opened the annual Lincoln Lecture Series with her presentation, *Nde (Mescalero Apache) History: Our Story, Our Experiences*, delivered inside the historic Courthouse. Her lecture centered Ndé voices and explored Mescalero Apache history and heritage. The program was supported by a grant from the Mescalero Apache Violence Against Women Awareness Program and the U.S. Department of Justice.

Fort Stanton Historic Site

The Fort Stanton Historic Site strengthened relationships with Indigenous wildland firefighters throughout FY26. During the annual Fort Stanton Live event, staff recognized crews who protected the site during the 2025 Camp Fire, presenting certificates of appreciation to the Zuni Interagency Hotshots, Vulcan Peak Helitack (including members of Jemez Pueblo and the Navajo Nation), and Bureau of Land Management Engine Boss and Incident Commander Charles Smith (Mescalero Apache).

During the Seven Cabins Fires, Fort Stanton again hosted Indigenous wildland firefighters, including the Zuni Interagency Hotshots, White Mountain Apache Fire and Rescue, and the Yavapai Apache Nation Wildland Fire Department.

For a FEMA-funded fire mitigation project, staff consulted Mescalero Apache Tribal Historic Preservation Officer Holly Houghten, who advised on removing invasive trees and selecting culturally significant native oaks. Incorporating these trees reflects the Mescalero Apache Tribe's connection to the site and supports culturally informed land stewardship.



Zuni Interagency Hotshots at Fort Stanton During Seven Cabins Fire

Fort Selden Historic Site

Fort Selden Historic Site began expanding its exhibits and interpretation to more fully represent Indigenous influence on the site and surrounding region. A key visible effort is the incorporation of traditional Indigenous agricultural practices in the Heritage Garden, which this year features the Three Sisters—corn, squash, and beans. This initiative provides an active interpretation of Indigenous contributions to daily life in New Mexico while broader exhibit updates continue.

Taylor-Mesilla Historic Site

Taylor-Mesilla is in the process of building tribal relations to create well thought out and appropriate programming for the site, following the structure laid out in the site's 3-year work plan

New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science

Staff contact: Anthony Fiorillo, PhD, anthony.fiorillo@dca.nm.gov

The New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science (NMMNHS) preserves and interprets the distinctive natural and scientific heritage of our state through extraordinary collections, research, exhibits and programs designed to ignite a passion for lifelong learning.

PUNCH

Over the past year, the NMMNHS continued its NASA PUNCH educational programming for Native American students and families through the multi-year NASA PUNCH grant. PUNCH—Polarimeter to UNify the Corona and Heliosphere—is a NASA solar mission, and NMMNHS is one of five outreach institutions across the Four Corners region.

The program’s theme, “Ancient and Modern Sun Watching,” connects Ancestral Puebloan archaeoastronomy and contemporary Indigenous sun-observing practices with NASA’s study of the solar corona. The initiative aims to blend scientific learning with cultural knowledge and strengthen student connections to ancestral traditions.

This past year, NMMNHS maintained ongoing outreach at Haak’u Community Academy at Acoma Pueblo. Working with the 8th-grade science teacher and an Acoma Pueblo educational consultant, staff developed curriculum and made multiple in-class visits for 12 students throughout the school year. In spring, 39 Haak’u students (grades 6–8) participated in a PUNCH-supported field trip to the museum featuring a planetarium show, a guided tour of the Sun Gallery with a special presentation by museum staff.

NMMNHS also provided PUNCH activities and solar telescope programs at Cochiti Pueblo Elementary’s STEM Night (serving 23 students and 20 adults) and at the Santo Domingo Pueblo library (34 children and 14 adults).

Universe of Learning

NMMNHS again participated in NASA’s Universe of Learning (UoL) program during the 2025-2026 school year. This program aims to connect the public to the data, discoveries, and experts that span NASA’s Astrophysics missions. The museum continued its partnership with Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute (SIPI). SIPI brought introductory astronomy students to the NMMNHS planetarium for astronomy labs. The astronomy instructor along with the help of NMMNHS planetarium staff introduced UoL resources to students so that they could produce research projects. The goal of this project was to foster innovative techniques for new program models using UoL resources. At the end of each semester, NMMNHS staff assisted instructors in evaluating student presentations that arose from this research.

Two students from SIPI participated in the program this past year and produced projects on topics that included a survey of constellations.



Haaku' Community Academy students observe the sun through Sunspotter solar telescopes.

GSK Science in the Summer

In 2025, the NMMNHS received funding from the GSK Science in the Summer™ program to deliver summer science activities to youth across the state. GSK Science in the Summer™ is a free, informal science summer program for youth entering grades 2-6. Supported by GSK and offered in collaboration with The Franklin Institute, the program goal is to increase youth interest and confidence in doing science and pursuing STEM careers, especially for youth in under-resourced communities. The summer 2025 theme for Science in the Summer was “Be a Health Scientist” with activities and experiments that allowed children to explore health careers such as athletic trainer, cardiologist, dietitian, or epidemiologist.

The program reached 280 children at Boys and Girls Clubs in Farmington, Aztec, and Bloomfield, as well as at the Shiprock Diné Youth Center and Hanaa'dii Diné Youth Center in Crownpoint.

Community Partnerships

Pueblo Youth Night at the Santa Fe Opera provides an opportunity for youth to experience the exciting world of opera. Beginning with the 2025 season, the Department of Cultural Affairs has partnered with the Santa Fe Opera to provide activities for youth and their families attending dress rehearsals at the opera. This past year, NMMNHS participated in two Pueblo Youth Nights, reaching a total of 137 children and adults with hands on activities and natural history specimens that connect the drama of nature with the drama of opera.

Sandia Mountain Natural History Center

The Sandia Mountain Natural History Center (SMNHC), operated jointly with Albuquerque Public Schools, provides ecology field programs for primarily fifth-grade students. Programming emphasizes ecosystems, biotic and abiotic components, producers and consumers, and scientific observation.

In FY26, SMNHC served nearly 6,000 students onsite, including approximately 325 Native American students. Schools with high Native enrollment, including Bernalillo Elementary and



Museum educator, Amy Pilling, discusses how birds build nests during Pueblo Youth Night at the Santa Fe Opera on July 8, 2025.



Museum volunteer, Matt Celeskey guides attendees through an animal mask making activity during Pueblo Youth Night at the Santa Fe Opera on June 30, 2026.

Jemez Valley, participated. SMNHC programming is funded through APS, grants, and school support, with transportation costs totaling about \$75,000.

Through the Outdoor Equity Fund, staff also delivered programming at Bluewater Lake State Park for approximately 250 students, primarily Navajo youth from Gallup-area schools. The program introduced students to canyon and aquatic ecosystems using the same inquiry-based methods as the center's onsite offerings.

New Mexico Museum of Art

Staff Contact: Marisa Sage, marisa.sage@dca.nm.gov

The New Mexico Museum of Art (MoA) fosters a deep understanding and enjoyment of art throughout the state and beyond. The museum works with art and artists to explore the human experience, new ideas, and diverse cultures. It also serves as a catalyst and platform for creativity, and the enjoyment of art. MoA empowers people to think critically and see a multiplicity of meanings, while bringing the art of the world to New Mexico and the art of New Mexico to the world.

Exhibitions

O’Powa-O’Meng: The Art and Legacy of Jody Folwell: On view at MoA Plaza from February 7–September 13, 2026, *O’Powa O’Meng* was organized by the Minneapolis Institute of Art and the Fralin Museum of Art and featured 25 works tracing the career of Santa Clara Pueblo potter Jody Folwell. The exhibition positioned Folwell as a leading figure in contemporary American art, highlighting her five decades of innovation in form, inscription, and sociopolitical commentary. Additional featured artists included Polly Rose Folwell, Kaa Folwell, Susan Folwell, Bob Haozous, Rose Naranjo, and Diego Romero.



O’Powa O’Meng: The Art and Legacy of Jody Folwell, New Mexico Museum of Art. Photo by Addison Doty.



Continuum: Blindfall, First Strike exhibition team, MOA staff, and exhibition opening participants pose for a picture. Photo by Eric Cousineau.

Continuum: Blindfall, First Strike: Presented at MoA Vladem Contemporary from June 20–October 18, 2026, *Continuum: Blindfall, First Strike* showcased the latest chapter of Virgil

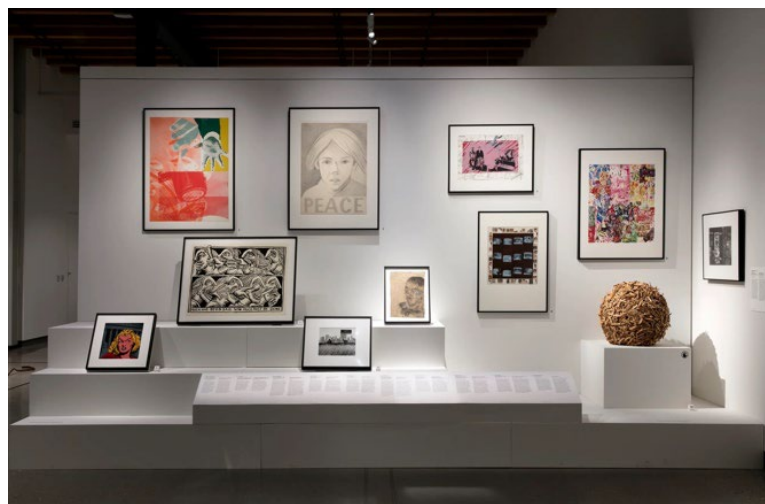
Ortiz’s “Revolt 1680/2180” project. Created in collaboration with Eric F. Garcia, the exhibition intertwined Pueblo and Spanish histories through clay and imagery while celebrating Pueblo cultural resilience. Works by Seferina Ortiz and Stephanie Herrera were also featured.

Rooted Strong: Visions of America from New Mexico: On view at MoA Plaza from April 4–October 4, 2026, *Rooted Strong* explores the diverse histories, communities, and cultural identities that shape New Mexico. The exhibition presents works ranging from everyday scenes to expressions of tradition and heritage, including works by Earl Biss, David Bradley, Helen Cordero, Harry Fonseca, R.C. Gorman, Teri Greeves, Lucy Lewis, Maria Martinez, Arlo and Michael Namingha, Cara Romero, Fritz Scholder, Emmi Whitehorse, Will Wilson, and others.



Installation shot: Rooted Strong: Visions of America from New Mexico

Lucy R. Lippard: Notes from the Radical Whirlwind: On view at MoA Vladem Contemporary from October 24, 2025–August 9, 2026, this exhibition honors the influential career of writer, curator, and activist Lucy R. Lippard. It highlights her leadership in feminist and activist art, her collaborations with prominent artists, and her impact on shaping artist-driven social movements. Featured artists included Neal Ambrose-Smith, Zig Jackson, Jaune Quick-to-See Smith, Kay WalkingStick, and Melanie Yazzie.



Installation shot: Lucy R. Lippard: Notes from the Radical Whirlwind

Education and Outreach

Pueblo Opera Nights

MoA's education team participated for the first time in Pueblo Opera Nights at the Santa Fe Opera, offering hands-on activities and museum outreach. The team engaged 280 Pueblo participants across two events.



Pueblo Opera Nights



Santa Fe Indian Market

Santa Fe Indian Market

During the Santa Fe Indian Market—held outside MoA Plaza and recognized as the world's largest juried Native American art show—MoA provided free admission and a hands-on Create Station. Additional activities were offered in partnership with MIAC, MOIFA, and MRD, serving 674 visitors.

Collections

MoA expanded its holdings of contemporary Indigenous art with acquisitions by Kay WalkingStick, Rhonda Holy Bear, Jody Naranjo, and Raven Chacon. These works advance the museum's commitment to representing the diverse artistic practices shaping New Mexico and the broader American landscape.

- Jody Naranjo's *Hunting Near Los Alamos* (1993) extends MoA's collection of contemporary Pueblo ceramics, using Tewa sgraffito traditions and humor to address environmental concerns tied to nuclear development.
- Raven Chacon's *Tiguex* (2025), created with the Tamarind Institute, documents his citywide musical performance in Albuquerque through a lithographic map-score.



*Jody Naranjo (Santa Clara), Hunting Near Los Alamos, 1993, ceramic, pigment, 20 × 9 × 9 in.
Gift of Richard Hertz and Doris Meyer, 2025*

Outgoing Loans

MoA loaned several key works by Indigenous artists nationally and internationally. Two Fritz Scholder paintings were exhibited at the Museum MMK für Moderne Kunst in Frankfurt, Germany, while Scholder's *Unfinished Liberty* was featured in the New Mexico History Museum's exhibition *250 Years of American Independence*. Additional works, including Diego Romero's *Girl in the Anthropocene*, were loaned to the National Hispanic Cultural Center for *Nuclear Past, Present and Future: Art in Action*. In 2027, selected works will travel to the Denver Art Museum and the Munson Museum of Art.



Diego Romero (American, Cochiti), Girl in the Anthropocene, 2017, lithograph, 14 7/8 × 21 in. Museum commission with funds from the Centennial Campaign in honor of the Vladez Contemporary, 2021).

New Mexico State Library

Staff Contact: Eli Guinnee, eli.guinnee@dca.nm.gov

The New Mexico State Library (NMSL) provides leadership, funding, technical assistance, and direct library services that promote equitable access to information, lifelong learning, and literacy for all New Mexicans. Through the Tribal Libraries Program and statewide library services, NMSL partners with New Mexico's Pueblos, Tribes, and Nations to strengthen Tribal public libraries, support community-driven library development, expand access to digital resources, and preserve Indigenous knowledge and cultures.

Tribal Library Program

The Tribal Libraries Program (TLP) supports the development and sustainability of Tribal public libraries throughout New Mexico through funding, technical assistance, professional development, and strategic partnerships. Services are delivered by the Tribal Libraries Program Coordinator and the Navajo Nation Outreach Program Specialist in collaboration with the Library Development Bureau. During FY26, TLP provided:

- Individual consultation and technical assistance to all Tribal public libraries.
- On-site library visits to provide operational support, planning assistance, and relationship building with Tribal leadership, conducting 50 site visits to 24 Tribal public libraries as well as visiting all 50 Navajo Chapters.
- Assistance with strategic planning, community needs assessments, policies, collection development, budgeting, and grant administration.
- Professional development opportunities delivered both virtually and in person.
- In-person training for several new library boards.
- Bi-monthly virtual meetings connecting Tribal library staff across the state to share resources, best practices, and emerging opportunities.
- Broadband and technology assistance in partnership with state and federal initiatives.
- Assistance with library planning, construction, renovation, and facility development.

Library Development and Consultation Activities

NMSL's Tribal Libraries Program continued working collaboratively with Tribal governments, library staff, and community partners to expand and strengthen Tribal library services throughout New Mexico. During FY26, activities included:

- Supporting the continued development of libraries at Picuris Pueblo, Taos Pueblo, Nambé Pueblo, Torreon/Star Lake Chapter, Pinedale Chapter, and Ojo Encino Chapter.
- Conducting outreach with Navajo Nation Chapters to explore interest in establishing new public libraries and provide information and training about NM State Library services.
- Meeting regularly with Tribal library directors, staff, and Tribal leadership to support library development, sustainability, and long-term planning.
- Partnering with universities, museums, federal agencies, and nonprofit organizations to expand resources and services available to Tribal communities.

Library Professional Development

NMSL-TLP provided professional learning opportunities specifically designed for Tribal library staff. Training opportunities included:

- NASA library-related STEM/Space programming
- Consumer health and telehealth resources
- Library planning and policy development
- Archives work relating to Indigenous materials
- Collection development, analysis, and evaluation
- Educational field experiences at the University of New Mexico Health Sciences Library and Informatics Center and Indian Pueblo Cultural Center.

Funding Amounts Associated with Programs and Services

During FY26, the New Mexico State Library administered the following funding for Tribal public libraries:

Funding Program	Amount	Libraries Served
State Grants-in-Aid	\$179,000.00	20
Tribal Library Program Grant	\$96,000.00	17
Rural Library Program Grant	\$348,507.74	14
FY26 Special One-Time Rural Library Program Grant	\$657,894.75	15

The final expenditures for the 2022 General Obligation Bond funds are being determined and distributed.

Major accomplishments during FY26 include:

- Worked with NMPBS on a story which highlighted Zuni Public Library, including the Pueblo's Archives, Museum, and Census Office. The story aired as part of *New Mexico in Focus* in the "Indigenously Positive" segment: https://youtu.be/eqOgEdvd6_w
- Supported the continued growth of Tribal public libraries by helping six developing libraries and conducting outreach to Navajo Nation Chapters interested in establishing new public libraries. This work included the opening of the Ojo Encino Community Library, where the Tribal Libraries Program Coordinator participated in the grand opening celebration.
- Strengthened local library leadership through board training, technical assistance, and ongoing support for new library directors and Tribal administrators.

Direct Library Service

In addition to supporting Tribal libraries, NMSL provides statewide direct services that are available to all Tribal communities, including:

- Three bookmobiles serving six Native communities without local library facilities.
- Books-by-Mail service reaching four additional Native communities.

- Free access to El Portal, New Mexico's statewide online library, including tutoring, workforce development resources, health information, scholarly databases, e-books, audiobooks, and educational materials.
- Access to Brainfuse, JobNow, Gale resources, New Mexico Reads, Palace Project, and The New York Times digital resources, including NYT Cooking and NYT Games.

These services expand access to educational resources, workforce development tools, literacy materials, and lifelong learning opportunities regardless of geographic location.

New Mexico Office of Archaeological Studies

Staff Contact: John Taylor-Montoya, PhD, john.taylor-montoya@dca.nm.gov

The Office of Archaeological Studies (OAS) conducts archaeological and historical research throughout New Mexico. The mission of OAS is to promote the understanding and preservation of New Mexico's rich archaeological heritage through its diverse programs of public archaeological services, specialized research, outreach and education. The archaeology of human presence in New Mexico begins at least 15,000 years ago, and more than 97 percent of that span is exclusively the history of Native America.

Archaeological Services

Over the last year, OAS has provided archaeological services across the state of New Mexico. That work has included writing reports and collaborating with Tribes on data recovery excavations, archaeological monitoring of utilities, archaeological testing in advance of building construction, and archaeological surveys as part of our mission to promote the preservation of irreplaceable cultural heritage of New Mexico. OAS continues to work with the Pueblo of Acoma to provide archaeological services in support of planned road improvements and bridge construction. OAS management worked directly with the Acoma Tribal Employment Rights Office to hire and train members from the community to work on the project. The OAS also worked directly with the Pueblo of Zia to assist with the Zia Tribal Historic Preservation Office (THPO) with cultural resources and historic preservation activities. The OAS implemented a statewide field training program in FY26 and will resume this program in the coming year. Collaboration with Tribes, Nations, and Pueblos will be a focus of the upcoming effort. We have solicited the input of Tribes regarding the curriculum and have begun important conversations with San Felipe Pueblo and others about the aims of the program and course content. The OAS will also work closely with Tribes to provide a track for training for community members to build capacity.



OAS staff archaeologists and Acoma community workers pose for a photograph at the conclusion of fieldwork at Archaeological Site LA113480.

Education Programs

OAS travels throughout the state of New Mexico providing hands on programming related to archaeology and the history of New Mexico. In fiscal year 2026 in-person programming was delivered at numerous events and served over 450 Native American participants. Multiple programs were delivered to Native American audiences including several visits to Haak’u Academy at Acoma Pueblo, the Santa Fe Indian School, Native American Student Services via Santa Fe Public Schools, Zuni Public Library, and the Native American Community Academy. The OAS is also coordinating with the New Mexico Children Youth and Families Department to deliver programming to Native American youth in New Mexico institutions. Several programs were presented by a Native American staff member. The OAS continues to utilize our Tabletop Museum of New Mexico artifacts and replicas, allowing the public to interact with replicas of textiles such as traditional throwing sticks (“rabbit sticks”), traditional technologies such as the bow and arrow, and items from all periods of New Mexico history.



OAS staff archaeologist Isaiah Coan (Diné/Zuni) crafting traditional throwing sticks (“rabbit sticks”).

Human Remains Care

The office is one of several archaeological organizations in New Mexico permitted by the Cultural Properties Review Committee to respond to inadvertent discoveries of unmarked human burials in archaeological contexts. OAS' initial role is to help determine if the remains can be left in place or if they will be disturbed by construction and need to be removed. For Native American burials, formal consultations about treatments and dispositions are in the hands of the Historic Preservation Division which consults with Tribes, landowners, and agencies. If the remains need to be excavated, OAS carries out respectful identification and custodial care.

OAS has also been working closely with the Museum of Indian Arts and Culture to ensure that both institutions are compliant with NAGPRA.

SECTION IV. ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND GOALS

FY26 Top Three Accomplishments

1. MIAC repatriated 550 associated funerary objects from two archaeological sites to the Hopi Tribe. The museum also completed a joint repatriation with the Bureau of Indian Affairs involving three archaeological sites, resulting in the transfer of 198 cultural items and two Ancestors from MIAC's control to the Pueblo of Pojoaque.
2. DCA hosted a Three-day Tribal Convening on NAGPRA, welcoming representatives from 38 Tribal communities from New Mexico and neighboring states. Staff from all DCA divisions attended this convening.
3. Supported the continued growth of Tribal public libraries by helping six developing libraries and conducting outreach to Navajo Nation Chapters interested in establishing new public libraries. This work included the opening of the Ojo Encino Community Library, where the Tribal Libraries Program Coordinator participated in the grand opening celebration.

FY27 Top Three Goals/Objectives

1. Increase collaboration with Pueblos and Tribes to provide more education programs for all-ages that support Native American history and culture.
2. Continue NAGPRA repatriations and discussions with Pueblos and Tribes about duty of care.
3. Provide training, mentoring, and collaborative opportunities that strengthen the knowledge and skills of Tribal library staff and foster partnerships that benefit Tribal communities.

SECTION V. TRAINING AND EMPLOYEE NOTIFICATION

DCA ensures that all new employees who regularly interact with Nations, Pueblos, and Tribes complete the State Tribal Collaboration Act Cultural Competency Training. In FY26, ten employees completed the training. For FY27, DCA will work with Human Resources to identify positions requiring regular Tribal engagement and ensure that new hires complete the training as part of their orientation.

SECTION VI. KEY NAMES AND CONTACT INFORMATION

Cabinet Secretary

Debra Garcia y Griego
Bataan Memorial Building
407 Galisteo Street, Suite 260
Santa Fe, NM 87501
Debra.garciagriego@dca.nm.gov
(505) 827-6354

General Counsel, Office of the Secretary

Max DeAzevedo
Bataan Memorial Building
407 Galisteo Street, Suite 260
Santa Fe, NM 87501
Max.deazevedo@dca.nm.gov
(505) 231-2966

Historic Preservation Division

Michelle Ensey, Executive Director & Tribal Liaison
Bataan Memorial Building
407 Galisteo Street, Ste. 236
Santa FE, NM 87501
Michelle.ensey@dca.nm.gov
(505) 827-4064

Museum of Indian Arts and Culture

Danyelle Means, Executive Director
710 Camino Lejo
Santa Fe, NM 87505
Danyelle.means@dca.nm.gov
(505) 476-1251

Museum of International Folk Art

Charlie Lockwood, Executive Director,
704 Camino Lejo
Santa Fe, NM 87505
Charlie.lockwood@dca.nm.gov
(505) 476-1206

Museum Resources Division

David Rohr, Executive Director
725 Camino Lejo
Santa Fe, NM 87505
David.rohr@dca.nm.gov
(505) 476-1137

National Hispanic Cultural Center

Philip Baca, Deputy Director,
1701 4th Street SW
Albuquerque, NM 87102
Philip.baca@dca.nm.gov
(505) 895-0093

New Mexico Arts

Michelle Laflamme-Childs, Executive
Director
Bataan Memorial Building
407 Galisteo Street
Santa Fe, NM 87501
Michelle.laflamme@dca.nm.gov
(505) 699-8243

New Mexico Farm and Ranch Heritage Museum

Steve Loring, Interim Director
4100 Dripping Springs Road
Las Cruces, NM 88001
Steve.loring@dca.nm.gov
(575) 491-1656

New Mexico Historic Sites

Anne McCudden, Executive Director,
725 Camino Lejo
Santa Fe, NM 87505
Anne.mccudden@dca.nm.gov
(505) 618-0249

New Mexico History Museum

Maria Sanchez-Tucker, Deputy Director
113 Lincoln Avenue
Santa Fe, NM 87501
Maria.tucker@dca.nm.gov
(505) 476-5095

New Mexico State Library

Eli Guinee, Executive Director
1209 Camino Carlos Rey
Santa Fe, NM 87507
Eli.guinee@dca.nm.gov
(505) 476-9762

New Mexico Museum of Art

Marisa Sage, Executive Director
107 W. Palace Ave.
Santa Fe, NM 87501
Marisa.sage@dca.nm.gov
(505) 476-1121

Office of Archaeological Studies

John Taylor-Montoya, Executive Director
7 Old Cochiti Road
Santa Fe, NM 87507
John.taylor-montoya@dca.nm.gov
(505) 531-7751

New Mexico Museum of Natural History & Science

Anthony Forillo, Ph.D., Executive Director,
1801 Mountain Road, NW
Albuquerque, NM 87104
Anthony.forillo@dca.nm.gov
(505) 841-2800

New Mexico Museum of Space History

Karen Kincaid Brady, Executive Director
PO box 5430
Alamogordo, NM 88311-5430
Karen.kincaidbrady@dca.nm.gov
(575) 473-2840 ext. 41118

SECTION VII. DCA STATE-TRIBAL CONSULTATION, COLLOBORATION AND COMMUNICATION POLICY

Section I. Background

- A. In 2003, the Governor of the State of New Mexico and 21 of the 22 Indian Tribes, Nations and Pueblos of New Mexico adopted the *2003 Statement of Policy and Process* (Statement), to "establish and promote a relationship of cooperation, coordination, open communication and good will, and [to] work in good faith to amicably and fairly resolve issues and differences." The Statement directs State agencies to interact with the Tribal governments and provides that such interaction "shall be based on a government-to-government relationship" aimed at furthering the purposes of meaningful government-to-government consultation.
- B. In 2005, Governor Bill Richardson issued Executive Order 2005-004 mandating that the Executive State agencies adopt pilot tribal consultation plans with the input of the 22 New Mexico Tribes.
- C. In 2007, Governor Bill Richardson issued the Goals of the "Promoting and Growing New Mexico, Performance and Accountability Contract". This document identified the process New Mexico is taking toward competitiveness in the regional, national and global economies. This process includes attracting high-skill wage industries, cutting taxes, investing in innovation, providing access to capital and investing infrastructure. The four goals for promoting and growing New Mexico include:
- *Goal 1. Improve New Mexico's Economic Base and Expand Targeted Industries*
 - *Goal 2. Strategically Invest in the Workforce and Infrastructure to Support Economic Growth*
 - *Goal 3. Expand Domestic and International Trade*
 - *Goal 4. Develop and Promote Media Arts and Cultural Assets*
- D. Several Executive Agencies were identified as the lead agencies to accomplish the Promoting and Growing New Mexico initiative. These agencies are: Department of Cultural Affairs, Department of Transportation, Department of Tourism, Department of Workforce Solutions, Economic Development Department, and the State Investment Council.
- E. On March 19, 2009, Governor Bill Richardson signed SB 196, the State Tribal Collaboration Act (hereinafter "STCA") into law. The STCA reflects a statutory commitment of the state to work with Tribes on a government-to-government basis. The STCA establishes in state statute the intergovernmental relationship through several interdependent components and provides a consistent approach through which the State and Tribes can work to better collaborate and communicate on issues of mutual concern.

- F. In Fall 2009, the Agencies charged with the Promote and Grow New Mexico initiative met with representatives from the Tribes to develop an overarching Policy that, pursuant to the STCA:
- a. Promotes effective collaboration and communication between the Agency and Tribes;
 - b. Promotes positive government-to-government relations between the State and Tribes;
 - c. Promotes cultural competence in providing effective services to American Indians/Alaska Natives; and
 - d. Establishes a method for notifying employees of the Agency of the provisions of the STCA and the Policy that the Agency adopts.
 - e. The Policy meets the intent of the STCA and defines the Agency's commitment to collaborate and communicate with Tribes.

Section II. Purpose

Through this Policy, the Agency will seek to foster and facilitate positive government-to-government relations between the Agency and the federally recognized Indian Nations, Tribes or Pueblos located wholly or partially within the boundaries of New Mexico, hereinafter referred to as "Tribes". The purpose of the Policy is to develop, improve, or maintain partnerships with Tribes by using agreed-upon processes when the Agency develops, changes or implements policies, programs or services that directly affect Tribes.

Section III. Principles

- A. Confidentiality- The Agency will protect and exhibit a high degree of respect and sensitivity regarding confidential information provided by Tribal Governments and staff and shall ensure confidentiality to the extent provided by State and Federal law.
- B. Recognize and Respect Sovereignty - The State and Tribes are sovereign governments. The recognition and respect of sovereignty is the basis for government-to-government relations and this Policy. Sovereignty must be respected and recognized in government-to-government consultation and collaboration between the Agency and Tribes. The Agency recognizes and acknowledges the trust responsibility of the Federal Government to federally- recognized Tribes.
- C. Government-to-Government Relations - The Agency recognizes the importance of collaboration, communication and cooperation with Tribes. The Agency further recognizes that Agency policies, programs and/or services may directly or indirectly affect Tribes. Accordingly, the Agency recognizes the value of dialogue between Tribes and the Agency with specific regard to those policies, programs and/or services.

- D. Efficiently Addressing Tribal Issues and Concerns - The Agency recognizes the value of Tribes' input regarding Agency policies, programs and/or services. Thus, it is important that Tribes' interests are reviewed and considered by the Agency in its policy, program and/or service development process.
- E. Collaboration and Mutual Resolution - The Agency recognizes that good faith, mutual respect, and trust are fundamental to meaningful collaboration and communication policies. As they arise, the Agency shall strive to address and mutually resolve concerns with impacted Tribes.
- F. Communication and Positive Relations - The Agency shall strive to promote positive government-to-government relations with Tribes by: (1) interacting with Tribes in a spirit of mutual respect; (2) seeking to understand the varying Tribes' perspectives; (3) facilitating communication, understanding and appropriate dispute resolution with Tribes; and (4) working through the government-to- government process towards a shared vision in areas of mutual interest.
- G. Informal Communication - The Agency recognizes that formal consultation may not be required in all situations or interactions. The Agency may seek to communicate with and/or respond to Tribes outside the consultation process. These communications do not negate the authority of the Agency and Tribes to pursue formal consultation.
- H. Economic Development Access - Providing the opportunity for economic development is a real need in the Native American communities and these communities often do not have the capacity to address this unmet need. Therefore, the Agency will inform the tribes of opportunities related to Economic Development and will provide resources and assistance to enhance the development of the tribal communities. For example, Infrastructure related to Transportation, Water and Wastewater, Solid Waste Systems, etc.

Section IV. Protocol

When working with tribal governments it is important to understand the unique relationship between American Indians and the United States government. It is a political relationship - not race based. Under both federal and common law, Native American tribes are sovereign governments with recognized powers of self-government. The status of tribes as governments means that tribes possess the inherent right to develop their own forms of government, to determine their own citizenship and to make their own laws, civil and criminal, and to be governed by them in their own judicial systems. New Mexico is home to 22 federally recognized Indian Nations, Tribes and Pueblos-each with its own history, culture, and language. Thus, it is important not to assume that one tribe or one leader speaks for all.

Section V. Definitions

A. The following definitions shall apply to this Policy:

1. American Indian/Alaska Native - Pursuant the STCA, this means:
 - a) Individuals who are members of any federally recognized Indian tribe, nation or pueblo;
 - b) Individuals who would meet the definition of "Indian" pursuant to 18 USC 1153; or
 - c) Individuals who have been deemed eligible for services and programs provided to American Indians and Alaska Natives by the United States public health service, the bureau of Indian affairs or other federal programs.
2. Collaboration - Collaboration is a recursive process in which two or more parties work together to achieve a common set of goals. Collaboration may occur between the Agency and Tribes, their respective agencies or departments, and may involve Indian organizations, if needed. Collaboration is the timely communication and joint effort that lays the groundwork for mutually beneficial relations, including identifying issues and problems, generating improvements and solutions, and providing follow-up as needed.
3. Communication - Verbal, electronic or written exchange of information between the Agency and Tribes.
4. Consensus - Consensus serves as a decision-making method for reaching agreement through a participatory process that: (a) involves the Agency and Tribes through their official representatives; (b) actively solicits input and participation by the Agency and Tribes; and (c) encourages cooperation in reaching agreement on the best possible decision for those affected. The Agency shall endeavor to conduct deliberations with Tribes in good faith and in accordance with the processes outlined in this Policy. Within this process it is understood that consensus, while a goal, may not always be achieved.
5. Consultation - Consultation operates as an enhanced form of communication that emphasizes trust and respect. It is a shared responsibility that allows an open and free exchange of information and opinion among parties that, in turn, may lead to mutual understanding and comprehension.

Consultation with Tribes is uniquely a government-to-government process with two main goals: (a) to reach consensus in decision-making; and (b) whether or not consensus is reached, to afford any party the opportunity to issue a dissenting opinion for the record, and more importantly to have honored each other's sovereignty
6. Cultural Competence - Refers to an ability to interact effectively with people of different cultures. Cultural competence comprises four components: (a) awareness of one's own cultural worldview, (b) appreciation of cultural differences, (c) knowledge of different cultural practices and worldviews, and (d) honing cross-cultural skills. Developing cultural competence improves one's ability to understand, communicate with, and effectively interact with people across cultures.
7. Culturally Relevant - Describes a condition where programs or services are provided according to the clients' cultural backgrounds.

8. Environmental resources - Environmental media listed in the Environment Improvement Act, NMSA, 1978, sec. 74-1-7A
9. Government-to-Government - Describes the relationship between the State, Tribes and the Federal government.
10. Indian Organizations -Organizations, predominantly operated by American Indians/Alaska Natives, that represent or provide services to American Indians and/or Alaska Natives living on and/or off tribal lands and/or in urban areas.
11. Internal Agency Operation Exemption - Refers to certain internal agency operations and processes not subject to this Policy. The Agency has the authority and discretion to determine what internal operations and processes are exempt from this Policy.
12. Internal Tribal Government Operations Exemption - Refers to certain internal tribal government operations not subject to this Policy. Each Tribe has the authority and discretion to determine what internal operations and processes are exempt from this Policy.
13. Linguistic Competency- Refers to one's capacity to communicate effectively and convey information in a manner that is easily understood by culturally diverse audiences.
14. Participation - Describes an ongoing activity that allows interested parties to engage one another through negotiation, compromise and problem solving to reach a desired outcome.
15. Tribal Advisory Body - A duly appointed group of individuals established and organized to provide advice and recommendations on matters relative to Agency policies, programs and services.
16. Tribal Government - The governing structure of a sovereign, federally recognized government of an Indian Nation, Tribe, or Pueblo, within the United States.
17. Tribal Implications - Refers to State legislation, regulations and other policy statements or actions that have substantial direct effects on American Indians/Alaska Natives, Tribes, or on the relationship between the State and Tribes.
18. State Agency Tribal Liaison - Refers to an individual designated by the Agency, who reports directly to the Office of the Secretary or to the Head of the Agency, to:
 - a) Assist with developing and ensuring the implementation of this Policy;
 - b) Serve as a contact person responsible for maintaining ongoing communication between the Agency and affected Tribes; and
 - c) Ensure that training is provided to staff of the Agency as set forth in Subsection B of Section 4 of the STCA.
19. Tribal Officials - Elected or duly appointed officials of Tribes or authorized intertribal organizations.

20. Tribes - Means any federally recognized Indian Nation, Tribe or Pueblo located wholly or partially within the boundaries of the State of New Mexico.
21. Work Groups - Formal advisory bodies and task forces established through joint effort by the Agency and Tribes. Work Groups can be established to address or develop more technical aspects of policies or programs separate or in conjunction with the formal consultation process. Work groups shall, to the extent possible, consist of members from the Agency and participating Tribes.

Section VI. General Provisions

A. Collaboration and Communication

To promote effective collaboration and communication between the Agency and Tribes relating to this Policy, and to promote cultural competence, the Agency will utilize, as appropriate: Tribal Liaisons, Tribal Advisory Bodies, Work Groups and Informal Communication.

1. The Agency will make a good-faith effort to review all proposed plans, policies, rulemakings, permitting actions, or other aspects of Programmatic Actions that may have impacts on Tribal resources, and determine whether Tribal consultation or collaboration may assist in Programmatic Actions. If a proposed Programmatic Action may impact Tribal resources, the Agency will notify Tribal Governments and inquire whether Tribal consultation should occur. Tribal Officials have the discretion whether to engage in the consultation process. Consultation will be initiated by formal request
2. The Role of Tribal Liaisons. To promote State-Tribe interactions, enhance communication and resolve potential issues concerning the delivery of Agency services to Americans Indians/Alaska Natives, Tribal Liaisons will work with Tribal Officials and Agency staff and their programs to develop policies or implement program changes. Tribal Liaisons communicate with Tribal Officials through both formal and informal methods of communication to assess:
 - a) Issues or areas of tribal interest relating to the Agency's policies, programs and/or services; and
 - b) Tribal interest in pursuing collaborative or cooperative opportunities with the Agency; and
 - c) The Agency's promotion of cultural competence in its development or maintenance of policies, programs and/or services
3. The Role of Tribal Advisory Bodies. The Agency may solicit advice and recommendations from duly appointed advisory organizations or committees to

collaborate with Tribes in matters of policy development prior to engaging in consultation, as contained in this Policy. The Agency may convene such advisory organizations/committees to provide advice and recommendations on departmental policies, programs and/or service matters that have tribal impacts. Input derived from such activities is not defined as this Policy's consultation process.

4. The Role of Work Groups. The Agency Head, in consultation with recognized Tribal officials, may appoint an agency-tribal work group to develop recommendations and provide input on Agency policies, programs and/or services as they might impact Tribes and American Indians/Alaska Natives. The Agency or the Work Group may develop procedures for the organization and implementation of work group functions. (See, e.g., the sample set of procedures at Attachment A.)

5. Informal Communication.

- a) Informal Communication with Tribes. The Agency recognizes that consultation meetings may not be required in all situations or interactions involving State-Tribal relations. The Agency recognizes that Tribal Officials may communicate with appropriate Agency employees outside the consultation process, including with Tribal Liaisons and Program Managers, in order to ensure programs and services are delivered to their constituents. While less formal mechanisms of communication may be more effective at times, this does not negate the Agency's or the Tribe's ability to pursue formal consultation on a particular issue or policy.
- b) Informal Communication with Indian Organizations. The State-Tribal relationship is based on a government-to-government relationship. However, Indian organizations, such as those representing or providing services to urban and/or off-reservation American Indians/Alaska Natives, serve to benefit and assist the State, as well. Through this Policy, the Agency recognizes that it may solicit recommendations or otherwise collaborate and communicate with these organizations.

B. Consultation

Consultation shall be between the Cabinet Secretary/Agency Head and Tribal Officials or their delegated representatives who possess authority to negotiate on their behalf.

1. Applicability - Tribal consultation is most effective and meaningful when conducted before taking action that impacts Tribes and American Indians/Alaska Natives. The Agency acknowledges that a best-case scenario may not always exist, and that the Agency and Tribes may not have sufficient time or resources to fully consult on a relevant issue. If a process appropriate for consultation has not already begun, through this Policy, the Agency seeks to initiate consultation as soon as possible thereafter.

(Refer to applicable "Protocol" agreement).

2. Focus - The principle focus for government-to-government consultation is with Tribes through their Tribal Officials. Nothing herein shall restrict or prohibit the ability or willingness of Tribal Officials and the Agency Head to meet directly on matters that require direct consultation. The Agency recognizes that the principle of intergovernmental collaboration, communication and cooperation is a first step in government-to-government consultation and is in accordance with the STCA.
3. Areas of Consultation - The Agency, through reviewing proposed plans, policies, rules, or other pending and proposed programmatic actions, recognizes the need to assess whether such actions may impact American Indians/Alaska Natives and/or Tribes, as well as whether consultation should be implemented prior to making its decision or implementing its action. To such ends, the Agency strives to notify relevant Tribal Officials and pursue government-to-government consultation, provided that Tribal Officials also have the discretion to decide whether to pursue and/or engage in the consultation process.
4. Initiation - Written notification requesting consultation by an Agency or Tribe shall serve to initiate the consultation process. Written notification, at the very least, should:
 - a) Identify the proposed action to be consulted upon.
 - b) Identify personnel who are authorized to consult on behalf of the Agency or Tribe.
5. Process - The Agency, in order to engage in consultation, may utilize duly- appointed work groups, as set forth in the previous section, or otherwise the Agency Head or a duly appointed representative may meet directly with Tribal Officials, or set forth other means of consulting with impacted Tribes as the situation warrants.
 - a) Consultation will be between the Agency Head and Tribal Officials or their delegated representatives with authority to negotiate on their behalf.
 - b) The Agency will make a good faith effort to invite for consultation all perceived impacted Tribes.
6. Limitations on Consultation-
 - a) This Policy will not diminish any administrative or legal remedies otherwise available by law to the Agency or Tribe.
 - b) The Policy does not prevent the Agency and Tribes from entering into Memoranda of Understanding, Intergovernmental Agreements, Joint Powers Agreements, professional service contracts, or other established administrative procedures and practices mandated by Federal, State or Tribal laws or regulations.

- c) The Agency retains the final decision-making authority with respect to actions undertaken by the Agency and within Agency jurisdiction. In no way should this Policy impede the Agency's ability to manage its operations.
- d) Consultation with the Tribes is uniquely a government-to-government process with two main goals: (a) to reach consensus in decision- making; and (b) whether or not consensus is reached, to afford any party the opportunity to issue a dissenting opinion for the record, and more importantly to have honored each other's sovereignty.

Section VI. Dissemination of Policy

Upon adoption of this Policy, the Agency shall determine the appropriate method to distribute the Policy to all its employees.

Section VII. Amendments and Review of Policy

The Agency will meet periodically with Tribes to evaluate the effectiveness of this Policy, including the Agency's promotion of cultural competence. This Policy is a working document and may be revised as needed

Section VIII. Effective Date

This Policy shall become effective upon the date signed by the Department Secretary or the Agency Head.

Section IX. Sovereign Immunity

The Policy shall not be construed to waive the sovereign immunity of the State of New Mexico or any Tribe, or to create a right of action by or against the State of New Mexico or a Tribe, or any State or Tribal official, for failing to comply with this Policy

Section XI. Closing Statement/ Signatures

The Department of Cultural Affairs hereby adopts the State-Tribal Consultation, Collaboration and Communication Policy.



Stuart A. Ashman, Cabinet Secretary
Department of Cultural Affairs

12/18/09

Date

ATTACHMENT A

Sample Procedures for State-Tribal Work Groups

DISCLAIMER: The following illustration serves only as sample procedures for State-Tribal Work Groups. The inclusion of this Attachment does not mandate the adoption of these procedures by a work group. Whether these, or alternative procedures, are adopted remains the sole discretion of the Agency Head and/or as duly delegated to the Work Group.

- A. **Membership** - The Work Group should be composed of members duly appointed by the Agency and as appropriate, participating Tribes, for specified purpose(s) set forth upon the Work Group's conception. Continued membership and replacements to Work Group participants may be subject to protocol developed by the Work Group, or otherwise by the designating authority or authorities.
- B. **Operating Responsibility** - The Work Group should determine lines of authority, responsibilities, definition of issues, delineation of negotiable and non-negotiable points, and the scope of recommendations it is to disseminate to the Agency and Tribes to review, if such matters have not been established by the delegating authority or authorities.
- C. **Meeting Notices** - Written notices announcing meetings should identify the purpose or agenda, the Work Group, operating responsibility, time frame and other relevant tasks. All meetings should be open and publicized by the respective Agency and Tribal offices.
- D. **Work Group Procedures** - The Work Group may establish procedures to govern meetings. Such procedures can include, but are not limited to:
 - 1. Selecting Tribal and Agency co-chairs to serve as representatives and lead coordinators, and to monitor whether the State-Tribal Consultation, Collaboration and Communication Policy is followed;
 - 2. Defining roles and responsibilities of individual Work Group members;
 - 3. Defining the process for decision-making,
 - 4. Drafting and dissemination of final Work Group products;
 - 5. Defining appropriate timelines; and
 - 6. Attending and calling to order Work Group meetings.
- E. **Work Group Products** - Once the Work Group has created its final draft recommendations, the Work Group should establish a process that serves to facilitate implementation or justify additional consultation. Included in its process, the Work Group should recognize the following:
 - I. **Distribution** - The draft recommendation is subjected for review and comment by the Agency, through its Agency Head, Tribal Liaison, and/or other delegated representatives, and participating Tribes, through their Tribal Officials.
 - 2. **Comment** - The Agency and participating Tribes are encouraged to return comments in a timely fashion to the Work Group, which will then meet to discuss the comments and determine the next course of action. For example:

- a) If the Work Group considers the policy to be substantially complete as written, the Work Group can forward the proposed policy to the Agency and participating Tribes for finalization.
 - b) If based on the comments, the Work Group determines that the policy should be rewritten, it can reinitiate the consultation process to redraft the policy.
 - c) If the Agency and participating Tribes accept the policy as is, the Work Group can accomplish the final processing of the policy.
- F. Implementation - Once the collaboration or consultation process is complete and the Agency and Tribes have participated in, or have been provided the opportunity to participate in, the review of the Work Group's draft recommendations, the Work Group may finalize its recommendations. The Work Group co-chairs should distribute the Work Group's final recommendations to the Agency, through its delegated representatives, and participating Tribal Officials. The Work Group should record with its final recommendation any contrary comments, disagreements and/or dissention, and whether its final recommendation be to facilitate implementation or pursue additional consultation.
- G. Evaluation - At the conclusion of the Work Group collaboration or consultation process, Work Group participants should evaluate the work group collaboration or consultation process. This evaluation should be intended to demonstrate and assess cultural competence of the Agency, the Work Group, and/or the process itself. The evaluation should aid in measuring outcomes and making recommendations for improving future work group collaboration or consultation processes. The results should be shared with the Agency, through its delegated representatives, and participating Tribal Official.