



# Agenda

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

DATE 8/3/15 TIME 3:46pm

SERVED BY Julie Bystrom

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**AMENDED  
ARTS COMMISSION  
Monday, August 10, 2015  
City Councilors' Conference Room  
200 Lincoln Avenue  
505-955-6707  
5:00 PM**

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Approval of Agenda
4. Approval of Minutes
  - a) July 13, 2015
5. Report of Chair
  - a) Cultural Affairs Advisory Group
6. Report of Director
  - a) Arts Commission Program Planner
7. Committee Reports/Updates
  - a) Art in Public Places (Debra Garcia y Griego)
  - b) Gallery Committee (Penelope Hunter-Stiebel/Debra Garcia y Griego)
  - c) Nominating Committee (Todd Lovato/Debra Garcia y Griego)
8. Action Item
  - a) Request for Approval of Fiscal Year 2015-16 Initiative Priorities
  - b) Request of Approval of Artist Walk of Fame Plaque for Laura Gilpin
  - c) Request for Approval of Community Gallery Themed Exhibit, "Banned"
9. Site Visits
10. Adjourn

Persons with disabilities in need of accommodations, contact the City Clerk's office at 955-6520 five (5) working days prior to meeting date

**ARTS COMMISSION  
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July 13, 2015**

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Approval of Minutes: Corrections: Page 2, Item 6(a) – Report under this item should be reflected under Report of Director. 7 (c) - Debbie Garcia y Griego – Name Correction - Debra Garcia y Griego (correct)	<i>Ms. Perry moved to approve the minutes of June 16, 2015 as amended, second by Mr. Lovato, motion carried by unanimous voice vote.</i>	Page 1-2
7B Request for approval of Resolution	<i>Ms. Campbell Wells moved for approval of the Resolution Directing the City of Santa Fe Arts Commission to Develop a Long-Term Cultural Plan, the Purpose of Which is to Inventory Cultural Assets, Assess Needs, Draft Specific Recommendations to Support the Current and Long-Term Health of Our Cultural Community, and Identify Ways the City of Santa Fe Can Support and Develop its Unique Cultural Brand; Directing the Arts Commission to Work With Other Appropriate Groups; and Directing the Arts Commission to Provide a Six (6) Month Update, and Present a Final Report One Year From Adoption of This Resolution, second by Mr. Lovato, motion carried by unanimous voice vote.</i>	Page 2-3
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Art on Loan, Sorrel Sky Gallery, agent for Star Liana York	<i>on Loan from Sorrel Sky Gallery agent for Star Liana York, second by Ms. Perry, motion carried by unanimous voice vote.</i>	
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Adjournment	There being no further business to come before the Arts Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 6:20 pm	Page 7
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## ARTS COMMISSION

Monday, July 13, 2015

5:00 pm – 6:20 pm

### MINUTES

#### 1. Call to Order & Roll Call

**The meeting was called to order by Mr. Chippeaux, Chair for the Arts Commission at the City Councilor's Conference Room, Santa Fe, New Mexico at 5:00 pm. The record reflects a quorum.**

**Present:**

Chip Chippeaux, Chair

Todd Lovato

Ashlyn Perry

Bernadette Pena

Penelope Hunter-Stiebel

Shanan Campbell Wells

**Not Present:**

Sandra Deitch, Excused

Kathlene Ritch, Excused

**Others Present:**

Ms. Debra Garcia y Griego, Executive Director Arts Commission

Randy Randall, Convention and Visitors Bureau

Julie Bystrom, Project Manager, Arts Commission

Anna Blyth, Program Planner, Arts Commission

Fran Lucero, Stenographer

#### 2. Approval of Agenda

Chair Chippeaux requested to move Action Item 7B after approval of minutes.

*Mr. Lovato moved to approve the agenda as amended, second by Ms. Perry, motion carried by unanimous voice vote.*

#### 3. Approval of Minutes

**Corrections:** Page 2, Item 6(a) – Report under this item should be reflected under Report of Director.

**7 (c) - Debbie Garcia y Griego – Name Correction - Debra Garcia y Griego (correct)**

***Ms. Perry moved to approve the minutes of June 16, 2015 as amended, second by Mr. Lovato, motion carried by unanimous voice vote.***

***Change in Agenda: 7(b)***

- b. Request for Approval of a Resolution Directing the City of Santa Fe Arts Commission to Develop a Long-Term Cultural Plan, the Purpose of Which is to Inventory Cultural Assets, Assess Needs, Draft Specific Recommendations to Support the Current and Long-Term Health of Our Cultural Community, and Identify Ways the City of Santa Fe Can Support and Develop its Unique Cultural Brand; Directing the Arts Commission to Work With Other Appropriate Groups; and Directing the Arts Commission to Provide a Six (6) Month Update, and Present a Final Report One Year From Adoption of This Resolution.

Ms. Garcia y Griego provided the update that a couple months back the Arts Commission had approved the outline for a Cultural Committee and the Mayor made the decision to introduce a resolution (Exhibit A – in packet). The wording in the resolution came from the document presented by the Arts Commission. The Resolution is on the Finance Committee agenda for this same date and on the Council agenda next week. The monetary request is for \$30,000 under Professional Services. The indicated expenditure is to hire an outside consultant to assist with inventory of assets and facilitating constituent feedback process. The revenue is within the existing Arts Commission FY 15/16 budget to fund new cultural initiatives within the community. Ms. Garcia y Griego said within the scope of work would be asset mapping and facilitation community involvement process.

Ms. Hunter-Stiebel asked if this person would report to Ms. Garcia y Griego and the answer is yes.

Ms. Perry asked if the \$30,000 will come out of the Lodgers Tax and the answer is yes.

Mr. Lovato asked what the process would be for the 6 month update. Ms. Garcia y Griego said they would be ready to report on the updates for the 6 month update to the Mayor and City Council. Report would be discussed with the Arts Commission before presenting in final form for the 6 month update.

***Ms. Campbell Wells moved for approval of the Resolution Directing the City of Santa Fe Arts Commission to Develop a Long-Term Cultural Plan, the Purpose of Which is to Inventory Cultural Assets, Assess Needs, Draft Specific Recommendations to Support the Current and Long-Term Health of Our Cultural Community, and Identify Ways the City of Santa Fe Can Support and Develop its Unique Cultural Brand; Directing the Arts Commission to Work With Other Appropriate Groups; and Directing the Arts Commission to Provide a Six (6) Month Update, and Present a Final Report One Year From Adoption***

*of This Resolution, second by Mr. Lovato, motion carried by unanimous voice vote.*

**4. Report of Chair**

a. Nominating Committee

The Chair, Ms. Garcia y Griego and Ms. Deitch will compose the Nominating Committee. The Chair asked that the committee members send him the names and resumes of interested individuals for the Arts Commission openings. The terms would be for 2-years renewable.

Mr. Randall noted that he has always felt that the Arts Commission should have representation from the lodging community as funding comes from the lodging community. There has been a gap vs. a bridge between these two entities in the past. Mr. Randall wanted to ask if the Arts Commission has interest in Mr. Randall pursuing representation from the lodging industry.

Ms. Garcia y Griego said she will look at the ordinance to review what the composite of the membership should represent. She will bring this information forward to the next meeting.

b. Art in Public Places Appointment

**5. Report of Director**

None

**6. Committee Reports**

a. Art in Public Places (Anna Blyth)

A meeting was held on June 18<sup>th</sup> and the new member, Ann Weisman was in attendance and was introduced at that time. At that meeting an Art on Loan request from Sorrel Sky Gallery was presented and will be discussed later in the meeting. Art in Public Places committee did approve that art of loan. They was additional discussion on recommendations to be brought forth to the August 2016 Arts Commission meeting regarding Artist Walk of Fame. A brief criteria was discussed where it was noted that the artist must be deceased and their passing would need to be noted in a National publication, their artistic regional/national recognition. More information on recommendations will follow at next meeting along with a list of the questions asked and the criteria.

The Chair asked if this happens annually. Ms. Garcia y Griego said it started annually, about 8 years ago and a series of three was presented. Ms. Garcia y Griego said that discussion will need to take place related to the amount of space allowed and there is some cost involved and normally handled as a cost share with the estate, gallery or private foundations.

*Sundance Native Labs Program Request* (not listed on the agenda for Arts Commission).

Ms. Garcia y Griego brought forth an item which she received late on Friday; it will be brought before the Art in Public Places for action at the next meeting on Thursday. The Sundance Native Labs Program: an educational platform for the development of Indigenous talent within the medium of film. They have a 3-day shoot planned between July 24<sup>th</sup> and August 3<sup>rd</sup> and would like for the location of this film and its actual mural to be Ft. Marcy Community Center. The mural itself will measure 6 x 8 feet. This will entail 3 days of filming, a very minimal crew size with limited equipment and vehicle parking, i.e., no more than 15 crew members. There are no special effects, noises, gun fires, pyrotechnics, etc.

They would like to donate the finished mural to the City of Santa Fe, on behalf of the Sundance Native Labs Program as well as the Native cultures represented therein. Ms. Garcia y Griego showed visually where they would place the mural on the building. Ms. Garcia y Griego said that discussion was held with Ms. Ho on an agreement. The Arts Commission would like to make sure that a maintenance agreement be discussed. Ms. Garcia y Griego also noted that the artist is informed that the City has the right to remove at their discretion. Ms. Garcia y Griego also explained the process for graffiti clean-up. The new Parks & Recreation Director is very interested in the concept of free walls that can come under a certain parameter of art.

Mr. Lovato said that when you do murals on walls it detracts from graffiti.

Mr. Randall also made reference to a new mural done by Sage Inn and they used Teen Corp to do this.

Mr. Randall noted that in the visitor center they are borrowing art – it is not through Art in Public Places. The city as well as the gallery will insure this art loan. Also, behind the convention center there is an area referred to as the orchard that has become totally uncontrollable as the trees have died, it is above the parking area. As it becomes more open it could be a beautiful sculpture garden where visitors could come and enjoy in a compact area. I would like to see this be referred to the Art in Public Places take on this project and discussion of items in between the sidewalk. The two projects could be connected. If there is a cost involved in creating a better base or lighting in this area, Mr. Randall would be pleased to find the funding. The Chair asked Ms. Blyth to put this on the August Agenda.

Mr. Lovato said he wrote a white paper for the Nighttime Economic Task Force on a proposal for kiosks that are entertainment based. Santa Fe is a hard time to put flyers out unless you go to private businesses so you see the dilemma when you try to promote something. Mr. Lovato feels that this would be nice to promote through Art in Public Places. He noted that a proposal is to use an Intern to monitor the placement and date sensitive information. He would like to talk about how the kiosks would fit in to the bigger scheme of things. The formal report will go to the Mayor in August.

- b. Gallery Committee (Penelope Hunter-Stiebel)  
30 Under 30 was a great exhibit. It was a very foresighted attempt to use the Gallery not only to show the local artists but to use it as a lens for art around the state. The resulting work did not measure up to the work that Rod has been doing. It reflected the difficulty of getting curators from throughout the state to participate. The idea and the initiative is a good one and it might be worth doing it for another year to spur the interest for Curators.

Ms. Bystrom commented that she is in the Gallery every day and this show was amazing and she viewed very successful bringing in a younger generation of artist. This has been as interesting for her as she meets people who say they have come to see this show. This show has engaged a new generation. Ms. Bystrom said she is also seeing ages between 17 & 27; they love that they are being show cased. It is a very successful show, what they are showcasing is what they see.

The Chair asked if we track numbers of visitors coming to the Gallery. Ms. Garcia y Griego said that they do as this information is used as demographics when applying for grants.

Ms. Garcia y Griego said that on Friday they got mention by Generation X.

Mr. Randall said we have close to 400 visitors a day between the plaza and Railyard. Mr. Randall directed to Mr. Lovato; we need those Kiosks. The Gallery is a great visitor experience.

The signage is now available for the Gallery thank you to Mr. Randall paid for through his budget.

- c. Marketing Committee (Shanan Campbell Wells)  
Ms. Campbell Wells provided information on Mission, Vision, Values, Policy Planks & Opportunities and Our Work. This would be a unified elevator speech for the commission to have as we start educating people.

Ms. Garcia y Griego said that at a recent meeting of the Marketing Committee they prepared the above mentioned talking points for the Arts Commission. (Exhibit C)

Mr. Randall said in addition to the four key areas, the depth of the market here in Santa Fe, demographics on performing arts associations and galleries we have supported, we need everyone on the same page on the number of demographics, which would be really good.

Ms. Garcia y Griego said that when the resolution passes the mapping demographics will be valuable.

Ms. Garcia y Griego also provided an update and showed a sample of a business card and brochure for the Arts Commissioners.

The next thing that will be worked on will be an update of the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary facts over the 4 topic areas. Ms. Garcia y Griego said they are also researching a way to keep in touch with constituents and provide them updated information on the Gallery and Arts.

The Chair asked what the marketing is for the Mayor's Art Awards.

Ms. Garcia y Griego noted that hard copy invitations are mailed and Pasatiempo sometimes will put something in their edition. They also utilize radio programs and word of mouth by the families of those recipients. Ms. Bystrom has worked with the Mayor's Art Awards for years and years and if we found that the personal touch has worked.

The Chair asked if we could lean on the New Mexican a little more. Ms. Garcia y Griego said she would be happy to pursue but they might be more receptive hearing from the commission or a public community member.

Mr. Randall volunteered to talk to the publisher at the New Mexican to discuss marketing options. The Chair is happy to go with Mr. Randall when an appointment is set up. Thank you to Mr. Randall.

d. Meow Wolf Site Visit (Ashlyn Perry)

Ms. Perry and a group went to Meow Wolf, this project is outstanding. They are presently working on the outside of the space. Penelope, Julie and Rod were part of the group that did the visit. This project started in 2008; they are calling it the house of eternal returns. It is hard to explain and Ms. Perry recommended that the Commissioners go to the website. They are creating a narrative around an old Victorian house, they actually have a family they are making up, they have actors, and you can go through the space and walk through the house. Ms. Perry said she feels it will do amazing things for that area on Siler. They will open in the fall and they will keep prices reasonable. The walk thru was very interactive.

Ms. Garcia y Griego said that the story line will change periodically.

**7. Action Item**

- a. Request for Approval Art on Loan, Sorrel Sky Gallery, agent for Star Liana York (Exhibit D – Dimensions and description for Art on Loan Request).

Ms. Campbell Wells recused herself due to conflict of interest. Ms. Blyth noted that Art in Public Places did approve this request. A location has not been identified for this piece of art.

***Ms. Hunter Stiebel moved to approve the Art on Loan from Sorrel Sky Gallery agent for Star Liana York, second by Ms. Perry, motion carried by unanimous voice vote.***

The Chair asked if we spec signage requirements.

Ms. Garcia y Griego said that we do have signage requirements and Ms. Blyth is working on updating the language.

Ms. Garcia y Griego said that she and Ms. Blyth are working on a schedule for Art on Loan and creating a schedule. Ms. Garcia y Griego would like to know what the commissioners feel about a tighter planning process.

- b. Request for Approval of a Resolution Directing the City of Santa Fe Arts Commission to Develop a Long-Term Cultural Plan, the Purpose of Which is to Inventory Cultural Assets, Assess Needs, Draft Specific Recommendations to Support the Current and Long-Term Health of Our Cultural Community, and Identify Ways the City of Santa Fe Can Support and Develop its Unique Cultural Brand; Directing the Arts Commission to Work With Other Appropriate Groups; and Directing the Arts Commission to Provide a Six (6) Month Update, and Present a Final Report One Year From Adoption of This Resolution.  
***(Transcription and approval indicated after Approval of Minutes)***

## **8. Site Visits**

Mr. Randy Randall – Art Santa Fe was excellent and well attended. Exhibitors were from South Africa.

Ashlyn Perry – Opening of Opera, Museum of Art – Colors of the Southwest, Cold Mountain almost sold out at the Opera, last show is the 22<sup>nd</sup>. Ms. Perry said she rode on the trolley for the first time. Opera sales are up from last year.

Penelope Hunter-Stiebel – Redshow at International Folk Art Museum – it has nothing to do with folk art, it has to do with Science, History and they have not promoted at all the masterpieces. They have a great El Greco that came from the Toledo Museum. They have a great document on what happened in the Spanish new world. This is a document that had never travelled from Florence.

Bernadette Pena – Wise Fool BUST Show

## **9. Adjourn**

**There being no further business to come before the Arts Commission the Chair called for adjournment at 6:20 pm.**

**Signature Sheet for Santa Fe Arts Commission  
July 13, 2015**

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**Chip Chippeaux, Chair**



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**Fran Lucero, Stenographer**

**City of Santa Fe Arts Commission**  
**Cultural Affairs Working Group**  
as of 08/04/15

**Joanne Balzer**

Trustee, Institute of American Indian Arts Trustee; various nonprofit boards; philanthropist; collector

**Judy Espinar**

Founder, International Folk Art Market; folk art expert; former small business owner

**Robert Kret**

Director, Georgia O'Keeffe Museum; former Director, Hunter Museum of American Art

**Bob Martin**

Executive/Artistic Director, Lensic Performing Arts Center

**Michael Namingha**

Visual artist; various nonprofit boards; former City of Santa Fe Arts Commissioner

**Anna Pacheco**

Historian; author; publisher; City of Santa Fe Historian

**Carmela Padilla**

Award-winning journalist; author; written extensively about art, culture and history of New Mexico and Southwest

**Andrea Fellows Walter**

Director, Education and Outreach, Santa Fe Opera



THE CITY OF SANTA FE  
ARTS COMMISSION

Arts, Culture & Creativity Agenda  
Fiscal Year 2015-16 Priority Initiatives

## Mission

We provide leadership by and for the City to support arts and cultural affairs; we recommend policies and programs that develop and promote artistic excellence in our community.

## Vision

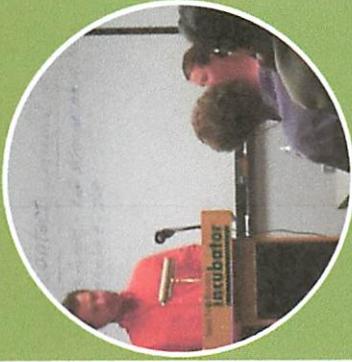
Our vision is for a thriving, collaborative, interdisciplinary cultural community that possesses a variety of resources, spaces and pathways that support the educational, economic and creative needs of Santa Fe.

# Policy Planks



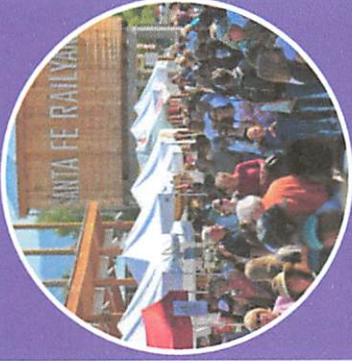
## Youth Arts

Support a continuum of opportunities for youth to benefit from our community's cultural creative resources.



## Economic Growth

Develop strategies that advance our community's cultural assets for long-term viability and profitability.



## Creative Spaces

Sustain spaces throughout our entire community that promote creative dialogue and exchange.



## Engagement

Provide all Santa Feans access to and participation in the creative life of our community.



# Initiatives



## City of Santa Fe Arts Commission Arts, Culture and Creativity Agenda

### Initiatives

Our work in the community is guided by specific initiatives that leverage resources and opportunities through existing and new programs. These initiatives are grouped into five major programmatic areas:

- Convene arts education providers, educators, artists and arts organizations in a discussion about community-wide arts education services both in and out of school.
- Partner with the Children & Youth Commission and Human Services to examine collaborative efforts to bolster arts education opportunities throughout the city.
- Continue to provide financial support to a range of arts education service providers via the Community Arts Development Program.
- Examine the creation of a "Youth Arts Ambassadors" program to engage youth as advocates for the arts in their home town.
- Assess the feasibility of reinstating the Community Youth Mural Program to increase direct arts experiences for youth, address graffiti in the community and provide employment opportunities for youth and artists.
- Strengthen existing artist professional development needs by surveying and assessing the needs of artists; convening service providers to map existing services; developing mechanisms for connecting artists to services.
- Increase promotion of public art opportunities to build a broader response.
- Institute public art micro-grants for artists in support of community/neighborhood projects.
- Pilot a purchase-only public art component to acquire a collection of art from local artists/galleries.
- Support creative tourism industry through continued development of the Creative Tourism Program.
- Convene a Cultural Affairs Advisory Committee to provide input for sustaining and developing Santa Fe's cultural assets.
- Explore the creation of "sudden opportunity" micro-grants to support the marketing and promotion of new and emerging arts events/programs.
- Examine the development of a collaborative projects grant category to encourage the presentation of city-wide/multi-partner events that promote tourism in Santa Fe.
- Assess existing grant programs in terms of relevance and impact; refine program to increase access and benefit.
- Establish the Literary Arts Program taskforce to identify ways that collaborative literary programs can occur throughout the city to build upon the success of the Poet Laureate Program.
- Identify partnership opportunities to increase access to micro-loans for the creative industry, entrepreneurs and businesses.
- Engage Economic Development Division to explore areas of possible collaborative opportunities.
- Through international networks (UNESCO Creative Cities/Sister Cities) leverage opportunities to connect local artists with global audiences via exchanges, exhibits and visits.
- Create a City of Santa Fe "Summer Youth Cultural Passport" program to encourage visits to cultural institutions.
- Prototype online content marketing program to create a centralized hub for the promotion of arts and cultural events via grantee-generated content.
- Develop and implement a comprehensive marketing and promotion plan for the Arts Commission to increase knowledge of and participation in programs and services.
- Create targeted marketing plan for the Community Gallery to increase visibility of local art to visitors.
- Develop engagement strategies to position the Community Gallery as a social/educational hub for the arts through increased outreach, lectures, workshops, trainings, school gatherings, readings and other community-related events.
- Examine current public art best practices; assess community needs; develop action recommendations for development of a more dynamic public art program.

# What's a Priority?

- Mission-driven/Vision-aligned
- Provides a Framework
- Timeliness
- Funding
- Capacity
- Achievable

## Policy Priorities

- Convene a Cultural Affairs Advisory Committee to provide input for sustaining and developing Santa Fe's cultural assets. (Cultural Plan Advisory Group)
- Assess existing grant programs in terms of relevance and impact; refine program to increase access and benefit. (Funding Policy)
- Examine current public art best practices; assess community needs; develop action recommendations for development of a more dynamic public art program. (Art in Public Places)

## Program Priorities

- Develop and implement a comprehensive marketing and promotion plan for the Arts Commission to increase knowledge of and participation in programs and services.  
(Marketing Committee)
- Strengthen existing artist professional development needs by surveying and assessing the needs of artists; convening service providers to map existing services; developing mechanisms for connecting artists to services.  
(Gallery Advisory Group)
- Create a City of Santa Fe “Summer Youth Cultural Passport” program to encourage visits to cultural institutions.  
(Arts Education)

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## **Artists Walk of Fame Criteria**

- 1. Deceased**
- 2. Made notable and publicly recognized contributions to the visual, literary or performing arts.**
- 3. Have a recognized prominence in the field of activity.**
- 4. Spent considerable time in New Mexico and is clearly identified with New Mexico.**
- 5. If a historical figure, the name must figure in the authoritative books chronicling his/her time.**
- 6. If a contemporary figure, their passing must have been recorded in the national press.**

**Adopted by the Art in Public Places Committee  
December 7, 1998**

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR SUBMISSION FOR ARTIST WALK OF FAME PROPOSAL**

**Items to include in the Artist Walk of Fame Proposal**

**Bio for the nominee.**

**What is their connection to Santa Fe?**

**Why are they being nominated for this honor?**

**What type of cost share can the nominator provide?**

ARTIST WALK OF FAME PLAQUES IN FRONT OF THE MUSEUM OF ARTS

Bakos, Joseph	Painter	1891-1977
Balink, Henry C.	Painter	1882-1963
Baumann, Gustave	Painter	1881-1971
Cassidy, Gerald P.	Painter	1869-1934
Davey, Randall	Painter	1887-1964
Ellis, Fremont F.	Painter	1897-1985
Henderson, William P.	Painter	1877-1943
Hulings, Clark	Painter	1922-
Mruk, Wladyslaw R.	Painter	1885-1942
Nash, Willard	Painter	1898-1943
O'Keeffe, Georgia	Painter	1887-
Rodriguez, Eliseo J.	Painter	1915-
Sharp, Joseph Henry	Painter	1859-1953
Shuster, Will	Painter	1893-1969
Steinke, Bettina	Painter	1913-
Stiha, Vladan	Painter	1908-
Van Soelen, Theodore	Painter	1890-1964
Vierra, Carlos	Painter	1876-1937

Wallace, Lew	Writer	1827-1905
La Farge, Oliver	Writer	1901-1963
Cather, Willa	Writer	1876-1947

Martinez, Maria	Potter	1886-1980
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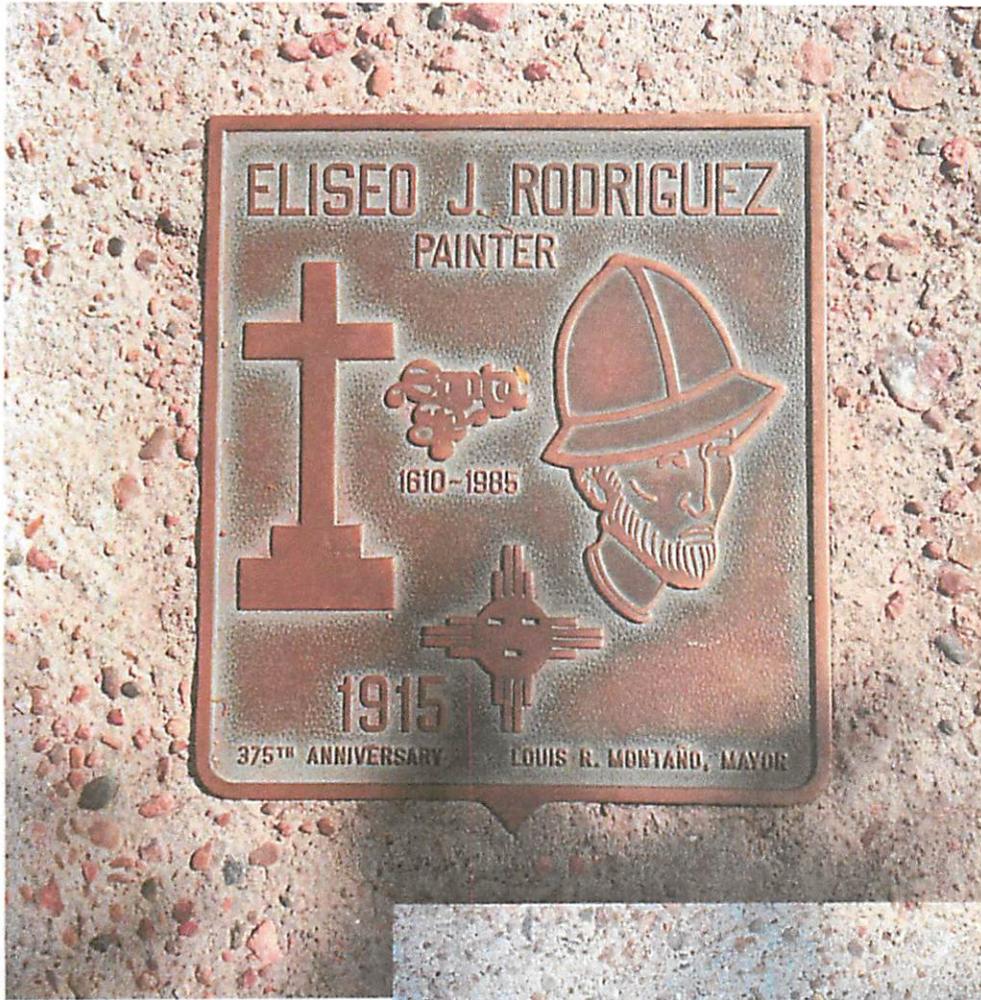
Houser, Allan	Sculptor	1914-1994
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Porter, Eliot	Photographer	1901-1990
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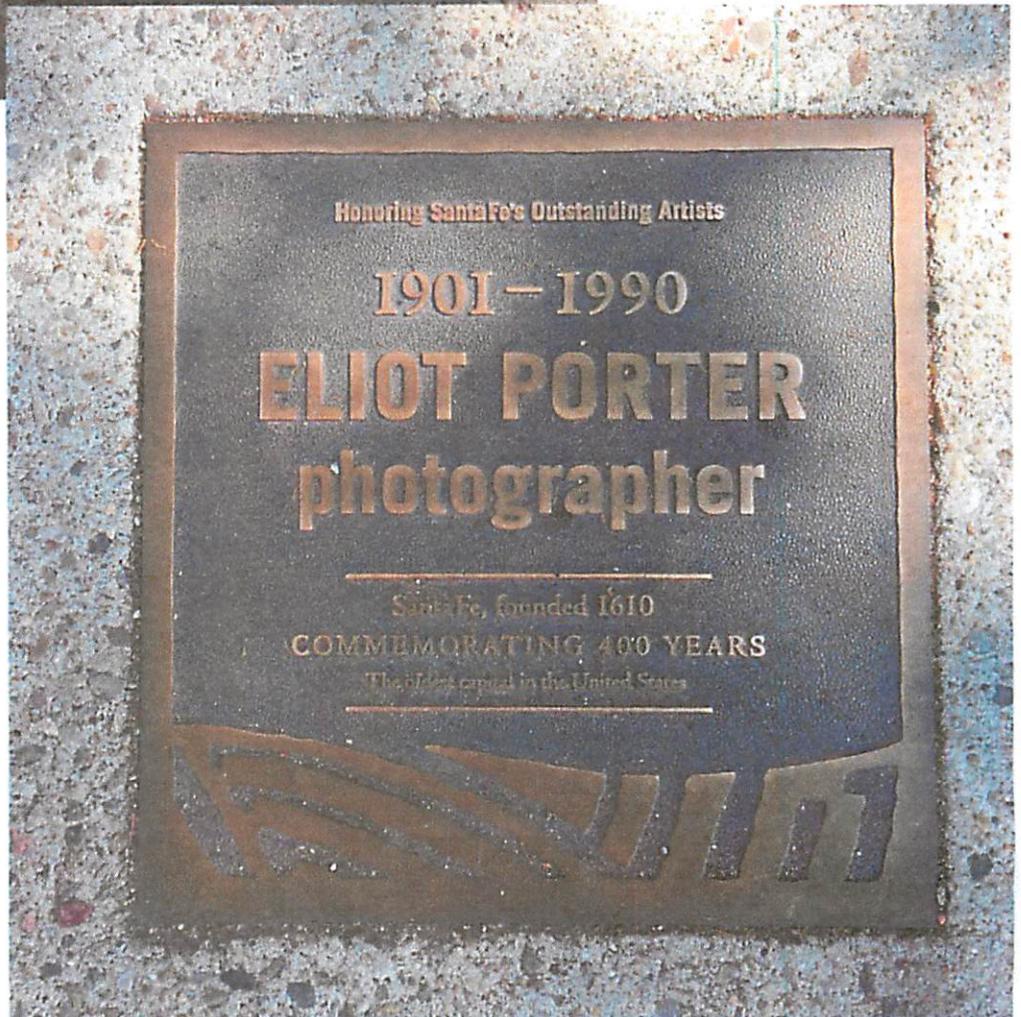
ELIOT PORTER  
1901-1990  
photographer

1901-1990  
ELIOT PORTER  
photographer  
SUNSHINE STATE UNIVERSITY  
GREENSBORO, NC



17 7/16 " x 18 10/16"

Historical Size



18.5 x 17.5 in 2008

## Commemorative Plaque Nomination for Laura Gilpin, Photographer

In an article entitled, "Why I Live in New Mexico," Laura Gilpin wrote that in her New Mexican home she could feel "the deep roots of long past centuries." She continued, "Once this is embedded in one's consciousness, other parts of the country seem shallow by comparison. Here one has time to think, to give time to the ripening of expression. To me this all adds up to a richer life, a life where essentials are cast aside, and the genuine has a chance to emerge." Gilpin understood and acknowledged that Santa Fe, her New Mexican home, blessed her with the inspiration and freedom to grow into one of the great American photographers.

Laura Gilpin was born on April 22, 1891, in Austin Bluffs, Colorado, and spent her childhood in and around Colorado Springs. Gilpin received her first Brownie camera in 1903 for her twelfth birthday; and for Christmas that year, she received a developing tank. She took the little camera with her on a trip to the Louisiana Purchase Exposition in St. Louis in 1904. Her special duty at the Exposition was to act as a guide and interpreter for her mother's best friend and Gilpin's namesake, Laura Perry who was blind. For almost six weeks, the two friends visited the fair with young Laura describing all that she saw. According to her biographer Martha Sandweiss, Gilpin said that this experience was the beginning of her close analysis of visual stimuli and ultimately led to her serious interest in photography.

Gilpin was formally educated at a private school on the East Coast and studied at the Clarence White School of Photography in New York. While in New York, she discussed her work with the notable woman photographer Gertrude Kasebier, who became a trusted friend and mentor. Although she had lifelong friends and beloved relatives in New England and Virginia, the American Southwest always called to her. Until World War II, she lived and worked in Colorado Springs where she earned a living through portraiture, commercial work, and lantern slide presentations. One of her most successful business ventures was printing postcards of her photographs of the Southwest which she sold through the Fred Harvey Co. in the La Fonda Hotel in Santa Fe. In 1942, Gilpin went to work for Boeing Aircraft in Wichita, Kansas, as a department photographer, and, even here, she remained creative, and produced one of the great wartime photographs of the B-29.

The year 1945 was pivotal in world history. Fatigued by the Great Depression and losses of family and friends during World War II, many people struck out for new beginnings. Gilpin was among them. She endured the deaths of her father in 1943, her brother in 1945, and the devastating illness of her dearest friend, Elizabeth Forester. But even at this troubled time, she had an idea for a book in which she would explore the course and the people of the Rio Grande from its headwaters in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains to its outflow into the Gulf of Mexico. From the "Upper Rio Grande, August 5, 1945" she wrote to fellow photographer Willard Morgan that her "final permanent anchor . . . just might be Santa Fe." And so it was.

When she moved to Santa Fe in the fall of 1945, Gilpin rented an apartment and began her work as a professional photographer. In time she was able to move her lifelong friend and companion, Elizabeth Forester, to Santa Fe, and they shared a home at 409 Camino del Monte Sol. They lived here happily for the rest of their lives.

Gilpin had a small studio and darkroom in Santa Fe. Much of her commercial work consisted of family portraits and wedding albums. She often provided fellow artists, such as Maria Martinez, Georgia O'Keeffe, or Pablita Valarde, photographs to use in brochures of their work or for their exhibitions. She created photo layouts for local business advertisements. One of the most interesting of these commercial endeavors was creating murals from her Southwestern photographs and then using the murals as backdrops for merchandise, such as turquoise jewelry and pottery, in local store windows. Her photographs of snowy cacti or treasured santos were favorite subjects for Christmas cards. Her work frequently appeared in *Arizona Highways* and *New Mexico Magazine*. As her photographs began to be published in national and international magazines, journals, reference books, and textbooks, she brought Santa Fe and the American Southwest and its people to the attention of the world. In time, a market grew for Gilpin's exquisite silver and platinum prints, and she was recognized as one of America's great photographers.

Her great professional love was producing a photographic essay of a region of the American Southwest and publishing it with text and photographs. Her life often consisted of a few weeks of studio work and then packing her large format camera into her ancient automobile and heading into the Sangre de Christos to photograph the headwaters of the Rio Grande on the chance that there was adequate snow-melt to cause the waters to rise. Sometimes she camped on the Navajo reservation quietly photographing its elegant people. Later, in her seventies, she might be found hanging out of a light plane to snap Spider Woman Rock in Canyon de Chelly. And she always treasured returning to the warmth of her Santa Fe home. Gilpin ultimately wrote four books: *The Pueblos: A Camera Chronicle* (1941), *Temples of the Yucatan: A Camera Chronicle of Chichen Itza* (1948), *The Rio Grande: River of Destiny* (1949), and *The Enduring Navaho* (1968). At the time of her death, a book on Canyon de Chelly was well underway.

The artists and scholars of the Southwest were her friends and neighbors. She photographed fellow artists and their work, including Oscar E. Berninghaus, Gustave Baumann, John Gaw Meem, Georgia O'Keeffe, Alfred Girard, Rebecca James, and Maria and Julian Martinez. She wrote a memorial honoring Popovi Da and assisted his widow Anita after his death. She photographed relics and "digs" for archaeologists Jesse Nusbaum and Sylvanus Morley. And she entertained out-of-town friends such as Virginia and Ansel Adams and Margaret and Nathaniel Owings.

Her home attracted students and amateur photographers who sought out her expertise. The eminent photographic historian and teacher Beaumont Newhall once made a film of Gilpin in her kitchen explaining the platinum printing process to show his students at the University of New Mexico in Santa Fe. Sometimes graduate students and visiting writers wanted her to reminisce about people whom she had known earlier, such as Mary Jane Colter. Her correspondence abounds with letters from budding photographers and visitors thanking her for her time and graciousness.

Laura Gilpin was an enthusiastic supporter of the arts in Santa Fe. She and John Gaw Meem worked tirelessly for the Indian Arts Fund and, in 1961, saw the Fund's collection safely housed at the Museum of New Mexico. Gilpin also delighted in festivals and celebrations of the city. She entered the Christmas light contests, and her home was on the Rodeo Garden Tour. She was invited to design the first program for the Santa Fe Opera and her photograph *Snow Coral 1924* was selected for posters for the Santa Fe Concert Association in the 1979-80 season. In 1980, as

a tribute to Gilpin, ¡Festival! Santa Fe featured her silver print *Storm over La Bajada* as its poster design.

Gilpin's selfless dedication to her art, to her community and its people, and to the native peoples of the Southwest earned her many awards and accolades. She received honorary doctorates from St. John's University, the University of New Mexico, and Colorado College. In 1967, she became an honorary life member of the Board of Governors of the School of American Research in Santa Fe. She was awarded the degree of Honorary Master of Photography by the Professional Photographers of America, Inc. For her book *The Enduring Navaho* she was awarded the Governor of New Mexico's Award for Service to the Arts in 1974. She received a Guggenheim Fellowship to support her work documenting Navajo life in Canyon de Chelly, and a photograph of Gilpin graces the Navajo Nation Museum in Window Rock.

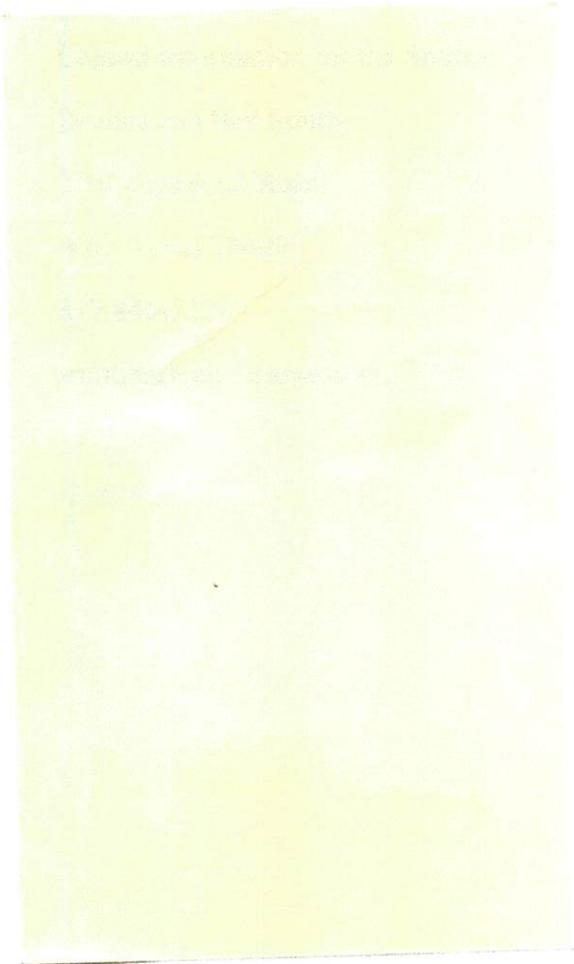
Laura Gilpin died in Santa Fe at the age of 88 on November 30, 1979. Her memorial service was held at the School of American Research. Her biographer Martha Sandweiss recalls that the room was filled with fellow photographers, Navajo and Pueblo friends, and neighbors from across the community. Her eulogy was from the Navajo Nightway ceremonial:

In Beauty (happily) I walk  
With Beauty before me I walk  
With Beauty behind me I walk  
With Beauty above me I walk  
With Beauty all around me I walk  
It is finished in Beauty.

A few days later, photographer William Clift wrote in *The Santa Fe Reporter*, "To many of us, she was as generous and loyal friend as one could wish for. For Santa Fe, as a whole, a lovely presence that was felt and treasured for a generation is gone."

We must not lose the heritage and vision of the artists of the past. Today, approaching the doorway of the New Mexico Museum of Art in Santa Fe, visitors pause to read plaques bearing the names of the photographers, painters, writers, and architects honored by the city and the museum. Laura Gilpin, because of her body of distinguished work, her gifted evocation of the landscape and people of the American Southwest, and, more especially, her love for the city of Santa Fe, is truly a member of this esteemed assembly. Please honor her with a commemorative plaque in the Artist Walk of Fame.

Celebrating Laura Gilpin and Santa Fe, the city she loved, Deanna and Ben Smith pledge a donation of five thousand dollars in support of a plaque on the Artist Walk of Fame commemorating Laura Gilpin and her life's work.



**City of Santa Fe Arts Commission  
Community Gallery Exhibit Theme Proposal for “Banned”**

Controversial ideas in literature may be contradicting a societal norm, questioning the authority of government or simply titillating readers through provocative storytelling. In all cases, these works of art are “ahead of their time” and often become the zeitgeist for cultural change. Approximately 30 artists will be asked to select a “banned book” and address either its content or specific role in changing ideas about government, society, or sexuality. Is the pen mightier than the sword?

**Workshops-**

A local writer/professor lectures on banned literature.

Readings from banned books.

A “book club” that addresses a single banned book (in partnership with the Library).

A book arts workshop that designs book covers for selected banned books.

**Possible artists-**

Arthur Lopez

Bobbe Besold

Joy Campbell

Marie Romero Cash

Siddiq Khan

Marion Martinez

Max Lehman

Erin Currier

Gail Rieke

Dee Ann Wagner

Geoffrey Gorman

Bob Haozous

Sallyann Paschall

Diane Rolnick

Shawn Turung

Lauren Camp

Joe Buffalo Nickles

Patricia Pearce

Donna Ruff

Kathleen McCloud

Janet O’Neal