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2018/2019

Charles MacKay, Former General Director of the Santa Fe Opera
2018 marked Charles MacKay’s 10th and final season as General Director of The Santa Fe Opera and the culmination of his extraordinary 50-year career, a trajectory that took him from orchestra “pit boy” to impresario. Charles started his career at The Santa Fe Opera in 1968, working in several administrative and artistic capacities until 1978 when he went to work for the Spoleto Festival USA and Festival of Two Worlds. In 1985 he became Executive Director, then General Director of Opera Theatre of Saint Louis until returning in 2008 to The Santa Fe Opera as General Director. Only the third General Director in Santa Fe Opera history, Charles leaves The Santa Fe Opera an important legacy to build upon, including improved infrastructure and enhanced front-of-house facilities; administrative buildings, beautiful grounds, Information Technology, and rehearsal facilities; increased net assets from $61 to $120 million, and an increased operating budget from $17 million to $24 million. He oversaw the strengthening of education and community programs serving over 50,000 people annually. All in all, Charles passed on an institution whose annual economic impact to the region is approximately $250 million.

Myra Krien, International Performer, Choreographer, and Educator
Marie Romero Cash was born into a Santa Fe family of sculptors, tinsmiths, retablo painters, and colcha stitchers. Her parents, National Endowment for the Arts fellowship recipients Emilio and Senaida Romero helped revive the traditions of hammered-tin work and stitchery. Like her parents and siblings Marie has done much to foster Santa Fe's Spanish cultural heritage through her art, books, lectures, home altars and santos. Her sculpted works of amazing color, joy and variety can be found in many museums and private collections, including the Smithsonian, The Museum of Spanish Colonial Art, The Museum of International Folk Art, The Albuquerque Museum, The Gene Autry Museum, and the Vatican Collections among others. As a Santera she has the distinction of being commissioned to paint fifteen Stations of the Cross at the Cathedral Basilica of St. Francis of Assisi here in Santa Fe, where her work has been viewed by thousands of residents and visitors. Marie’s work graces many other historic New Mexican churches, including Santa Maria de La Paz Church in Santa Fe, St. John's Episcopal Church in Albuquerque, and churches in El Rito, Ojo Caliente, Espanola, Arroyo Hondo, and in San Luis and Pueblo, Colorado.

Marie Romero Cash, Santera, Lecturer and Author
Myra Krien has been a stalwart contributor to the performing arts in Santa Fe for almost two decades. In addition to dancing and choreographing internationally, she is a gifted teacher and dedicated mentor. Her dance includes traditional Egyptian to classical tribal and contemporary fusion forms, with a strong emphasis on Flamenco and East Indian dance. She has brought numerous nationally recognized dancers and musicians to the City as guest artists in Mosaic Dance Company’s major annual performance making our arts scene richer and more diverse. As the granddaughter of Zen philosopher Alan Watts, Myra has found so many ways to stretch her mind, spirit and heart to ignite the unique powers of dance for many. She has used her art to create an extraordinary program: SEEDs (Self-esteem, Empowerment and Education through Dance) which has benefitted hundreds of Santa Fe’s teen girls from ages 13 - 18. Through the SEEDs program, Myra offers more than dance. Students learn how to sew a costume, balance a checkbook, and ultimately become leaders themselves by performing, leading initiatives, and teaching others. Myra, along with her invited guest speakers and teachers help these young women leave as radiant, empowered artists, proving that The Arts have the power to transform.
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The Santa Fe Artist Medical Fund
Created in February 1998 at the Santa Fe Community Foundation by five Santa Feans who had seen too many artists in our city suffer deep hardship as a result of having no or inadequate health insurance. These five concerned residents included Garrett Thornburg, John Silver, Linda J.T. Jamison, McCreery Jordan, and Armand Lara. Opened with an initial gift of $6,816, the fund has since provided nearly a quarter million dollars in emergency funds for artists facing health crises. In a city such as ours, where the arts thrive and drive so much of our tourism economy, it might be easy to miss how many artists — even those deemed “successful” — may face financial hardships due to a lack of adequate health insurance or the lack of rainy day resources to deal with an unexpected health crisis. Even a handful of our most well-known and collectible artists have sought support from the Fund when circumstances became dire. The fact that there is an emergency fund to tap into has literally saved lives and helped avert financial ruin.

Peyton Ellis, Melissa Engestrom Youth Artist Award
Peyton Ellis has a deep commitment to music, community, and social justice. Through her leadership and hard work within The Convergence Project, a Santa Fe based youth-led community program engaging teens through the arts, Peyton assists in projects that create opportunities for young performing artists, writers and entrepreneurs from numerous schools in Santa Fe and the state. She has recruited adult mentors willing to volunteer their time to help with projects, like the Oasis Music Festival (now in its fourth year), black light parties at Meow Wolf, and master classes at NDI-NM among others. Peyton uses her powerful singing voice in the name of social causes, such as performances at Santa Fe Pride events and at the Roundhouse in the name of children separated from their families during immigration.

2017

Entreflamenco
Entreflamenco was founded in 1998 in Madrid, Spain. Since 2011, the company has been serving Santa Fe with dance performances and educational programs. Founding director, Maestro Antonio Granjero, is a native of Jerez de la Frontera, the birthplace of a rich flamenco song and dance tradition. Granjero shares his leadership of Entreflamenco with dance educator and professional artist, Estefani Ramirez. Having spent years as a touring company, Entreflamenco now resides in Santa Fe, where the company serves the community through the Santa Fe School of Flamenco and the performance venue, El Flamenco. The company presents more than 90 performances throughout the year. In addition to teaching and performing, Entreflamenco provides performances for a variety of charitable events as well as operating an outreach flamenco program offering classes free of charge to children ages 7 to 12.

Lowrider Summer
Lowrider Summer was a groundbreaking collaboration between cultural institutions, artists, lowriders, poets and community. Two museum exhibits, “Con Cariño: Artists Inspired by Lowriders” at the New Mexico Museum of Art and “Lowriders, Hoppers, and Hot Roads: Car Culture of Northern New Mexico” at the New Mexico History Museum, served as centerpieces for a summer of lowrider culture in Santa Fe. A highlight of Lowrider Summer was “Lowrider Day on the Plaza,” when more than 100 lowrider cars cruised from Fort Marcy to the
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Plaza where they were on display throughout the day. The event included “hopper” demonstrations, awards, music and free admission to both museums. Additional public programs included designing and painting miniature cars, lessons on the science of motion, airbrush demonstrations and a residency by Justin Favela to create a piñata-style lowrider for the Museum of Art exhibit. Lowrider Summer highlighted under-represented artists who form the foundation of lowrider culture. It honored their cultural and artistic contributions to New Mexico, while expanding the audience for lowrider culture.

George RR Martin
Best known for, “A Song of Ice and Fire,” George R.R. Martin is a fantasy, horror and science fiction author as well as a screenwriter and television producer. Martin’s early career was spent as a VISTA volunteer at the Cook County Legal Assistance Foundation, directing chess tournaments and teaching at Clarke College. In 1979, Martin moved to Santa Fe and dedicated himself to writing full time. Over the past 40 years, Martin has authored numerous short stories, novellas and novels. He is most widely known for “A Song of Ice and Fire,” the fantasy series upon which HBO's Emmy Award-winning, “Game of Thrones” is based. Martin has numerous awards and nominations to his credit, including Hugo, Nebula, Bram Stroker, and Primetime Emmy awards. As a resident of Santa Fe for nearly 40 years, Martin has invested generously in causes and initiatives of personal interest, including Wild Spirit Wolf Sanctuary and the Food Depot of Santa Fe. In 2013, he purchased the Jean Cocteau Cinema, completely restoring the facility, including its original 35 mm capability as well as installing digital projection and sound. The Cinema has hosted many local events. A year later, he purchased the vacant Silva Lanes Bowling Alley, leasing it to Meow Wolf for the Meow Wolf Art Complex and the “The House of Eternal Return” exhibition. He later invested significantly in the endeavor as well. Soon thereafter, Martin purchased and renovated the former Desert Academy site and converted it into Dragonstone Studios to provide studio space for local artists. Internationally known, Martin has ensured the benefits of his success reach his fellow artists in the community.

N Scott Momaday
N. Scott Momaday is a Kiowa novelist, short storywriter, essayist and poet. Momaday grew up in Arizona where his mother and father were teachers. His experiences there provided him an understanding of his father's Kiowa traditions, as well as those of the Navajo, Apache and Pueblo people as well. Upon graduating high school, Momaday attended the University of New Mexico where he received a Bachelor of Arts in English. He went on to receive a Ph.D. from Stanford University in English Literature. He has published more than a dozen books of folklore, poetry, novels, memoirs and children’s books. His 1968 novel, “House Made of Dawn,” led to a breakthrough of Native American literature in American mainstream. The novel received the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction in 1969. Momaday has taught at numerous prestigious universities throughout the United States and in Moscow, Russia. He is a tenured professor at the University of Santa Barbara, University of California Berkeley, Stanford University and the University of Arizona.

Georgia O'Keeffe Museum
Now in its 20th year, the Georgia O’Keeffe Museum preserves, presents and advances the artistic legacy of Georgia O’Keeffe and Modernism through innovative public engagement, education and research. The Museum opened to the public in July 1997, eleven years after the death of its namesake artist. In addition to the main gallery site, the Museum maintains a research center and library, an education annex, O’Keeffe’s two historic homes and studios in northern New Mexico, and a variety of collections related to O’Keeffe and modern art. The Georgia O’Keeffe Museum Research center opened in July 2001 and is dedicated to the study of American Modernism. In 2006, the Museum took responsibility for the care and preservation of O’Keeffe’s
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home and studio in Abiquiú. The Museum also cares for O’Keeffe’s first home at Ghost Ranch. Educational programs at the Museum serve more than 7,100 students and adults per year through a variety of workshops, lectures, conversations and classroom activities. This public outreach promotes scholarship and community dialogue, connects kids with creative possibilities and encourages visitors’ exploration of O’Keeffe’s work and life, as well as their own artistic pursuits.

Sandy Zane

Sandy Zane is the owner of form & concept and Zane Bennett Contemporary Arts with her husband, Ned Bennett. These galleries reflect her commitment to supporting artists of all ages, media and levels of professional experience. Her team frequently travels throughout the country to attend art fairs, while cultivating a strong online presence. A pioneer of internet sales, she is a visionary entrepreneur who forges into new art realms as well as economies. This spirit and tenacity ensures that her artists, and the Santa Fe art community, have a robust national and international audience. In addition to her professional work, Zane consistently creates and supports organizations and programs that provide opportunities for young people and emerging artists. For years, she has donated the use of Red Dot Gallery as an experiential classroom for students of Santa Fe Community College’s Gallery Management program. She serves on the boards of Creative Santa Fe and Creative Startups. Zane is a prolific philanthropist, donating resources and her own expertise to organizations including the New Mexico School for the Arts, New Mexico Museum Foundation and numerous other Santa Fe area educational and arts organizations. Zane is an accomplished artist herself who has exhibited her prints and paintings in solo and group exhibitions in New York and New Mexico. In 2012, Zane was the Remarkable Woman Honoree of the New Mexico Committee of the National Museum of Women in the Arts.

Max Manzaneres, Melissa Engestrom Youth Artist Award

Max Manzaneres is a singer, dancer, actor and entertainer who began at age 5 joining his dad, musician David Manzanares, on stage with the Latin band, Manzanares for Spanish Market. Throughout his life, he has been surrounded by music of all genres, from Latin, rock, country, jazz, classical, hip hop and R&B, as well as the traditional New Mexican music. Manzanares plays both trumpet and piano. He has formed his own band, The Max Pack, that performs jazz, classic tunes and Broadway. Manzanares has participated in the National Dance Institute of New Mexico since 4th grade, performing with all of their teams. He has also studied and performed at the Boston Conservatory in Boston and the Broadway Dance center in New York. He is an A Honor Roll student with a 4.3 GPA. He has participated in the Santa Fe Youth Leadership Program and attended the National Student Leadership Conference at Harvard University. He is a member of the National Honor Society and the National Society of High School Scholars. Max and The Max Pack have performed at a variety of community events for organizations such as The Burning of Zozobra, Community Days, keep Santa Fe Beautiful and the Boys & Girl’s Club Gala among others. He is currently working on a CD.

2016

Francisco Benitez

Francisco Benitez was raised in New Mexico, New York, and Spain. He studied at St. John’s College, the Art Students League in New York City and University of New Mexico. His work is on permanent display at the New Mexico State Legislature’s public art collection, as well as at the National Hispanic Culture Center and the Conseil Général de l’Aveyron in France.
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Leanne Devane & Amy Summa
Fine Arts Coordinators for the Santa Fe Public Schools
Leanne DeVane has been the Music Education Coordinator for Santa Fe Public Schools since 2008. She taught elementary music and choir on the Navajo Reservation in Fort Defiance, Arizona for two years, followed by eight years of elementary music and choral teaching at Ramirez Thomas and Sweeney elementary schools in Santa Fe. Under her leadership, SFPS’ music education programs have quadrupled in size and scope, reaching nearly 3800 students in elective programs in band, choir, guitar, and string orchestra.

Amy Summa has been the Arts Education Coordinator for the Santa Fe Public Schools since 2005. In 2012 she was awarded the Art Education Advocacy Award by the NM Art Educators Association. She strives to bring a well-rounded, arts rich education to Santa Fe's public school students. To this end she has collaborated with many of Santa Fe’s arts institutions and artists, as well as worked to expand teachers' ability to use art as a tool to teach all subjects.

Irene Hofmann
Irene Hofmann is SITE Santa Fe’s Phillips Director and Chief Curator. She joined SITE in October 2010 after serving as Executive Director and Curator of the Contemporary Museum in Baltimore for five years. Under Hofmann’s leadership, SITE announced a reimagined biennial exhibition series entitled SITElines: New Perspectives on Art of the Americas and launched a major capital campaign to expand its facility. She has held positions at the Orange County Museum of Art; Cranbrook Art Museum; the Art Institute of Chicago; the Walker Art Center, and the New Museum of Contemporary Art.

Arlo Namingha
From an early age Arlo Namingha was creating art in different mediums and settled primarily on sculpture. He comes from a long line of artisans in his family, including his great-great-grandmother, famed potter Nampeyo, and his father, painter Dan Namingha. Arlo’s work has been shown in exhibits in many places including Santa Fe, New York, Monaco and Japan. Namingha has always believed in giving back to his community through his art, and has donated several of his works to various nonprofit organizations.

New Mexico School for the Arts
Founded in 2010, the purpose of NMSA’s dual arts and academic education is to ensure that youth for whom art is a core expression of identity can receive quality arts and academic preparation for success. Since inception, NMSA has served students from 62 distinct New Mexico communities and is under increasing pressure to expand. Acquiring the former Sanbusco Market complex in Santa Fe’s Railyard District will allow NMSA to build a permanent campus and increase enrollment. The 44 seniors in the class of 2015 received $5.4 million in scholarships and financial assistance from schools like the Rhode Island School of Design, New York University-Tisch School of the Arts, the School of the Chicago Art Institute, University of Pennsylvania, Smith College, and the University of New Mexico.

Zeke Farrell, Melissa Engestrom Youth Artist Award
Zeke is an outstanding performer, teaching artist and youth leader. Now 17, he has been participating in Wise Fool programs and performances for the last three years, starting with the breakdance crew 3HC and then expanding into more circus skills such as partner acrobatics, juggling, still walking and bicycle acrobatics. He has performed in several acts during Wise Fool’s annual Circus Luminous at The Lensic. Zeke excelled at the
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physical arts and has become a teacher in Wise Fool’s afterschool youth programs. He is a great role model for younger students and also assists with adult classes.

2015

Aspen Santa Fe Ballet
Performing Arts
Aspen Santa Fe Ballet was created in 1998 through a unique co-venture of The Aspen Ballet Company and the Santa Fe Festival Ballet. This professional, classically-trained company of eleven dancers is known nationally for developing new choreography, educating young people in dance, nurturing relationships with emerging choreographers, and a commitment to international cultural offerings that include Flamenco and Ballet Folklorica.

JoAnn Balzer
Philanthropy in the Arts
JoAnn Balzer is a community arts advocate who brings 30 years of experience to groups including Creative Santa Fe, International Folk Art Alliance, Institute of American Indian Arts, Lensic Performing Arts Center, Museum of New Mexico Foundation, New Mexico Arts, New Mexico Film Museum, and New Mexico Women in the Arts. Balzer and her husband Bob’s collection of international folk and Native American art is one of the most important in the country.

Arthur Lopez
Artist
Born and raised in Santa Fe, Arthur López proudly works in the New Mexican santero style, using centuries-old methods to create contemporary work that has been exhibited throughout the southwest, the United States, and more recently worldwide, including Japan and Germany. As a curator, he has promoted the work of New Mexican artists, and as an educator he is devoted to mentoring a younger generation’s artistic expression.

Michael McGarrity
Literary Arts
Michael McGarrity is a best-selling author who began his writing career in 1996 when he left his job as a Santa Fe County deputy sheriff. His novels are known for their depiction of New Mexico culture and landscapes, giving readers a true sense of the Southwest. “The Last Ranch,” the final book in his historical Kerney family trilogy and is expected next June, and his dedication to education is evident in his work to set up Creative Writing Scholarships at UNM, SFCC and IAIA.

Richard Snider
Arts Education
Richard Snider is an accomplished musician and teacher who changed lives at Leah Harvey and BF Young Middle Schools, Santa Fe, Capital, and St. Michael’s High Schools, the New Mexico School for the Arts and the SFPS Summer Band Program. As the Youth Philharmonic Conductor with the Santa Fe Youth Symphony
Gabriella Ottersberg Enriquez
Melissa Engestrom Youth Artist Award Recommended Nominee
Gabriella Ottersberg Enriquez is a Santa Fe native who attended Academy for Technology and the Classics for middle school before graduating from the New Mexico School for the Arts. In the fall, she will attend Oklahoma City University where she will major in music with a double emphasis in vocal operatic performance and musical theater. Ottersberg Enriquez is accomplished in musical theatre and opera as well as a talented dancer and actor. Throughout her school years, Ottersberg Enriquez has participated in numerous out of school activities including the National Dance Institute of New Mexico, Rosie O’Donnell’s Theatre Kids Program, Rockette’s Summer Intensive at Radio City Music Hall, Oklahoma City University Summer Music Program and the New Mexico Music Educators Association All-State Festival. She has maintained a 4.15 grade point average while undertaking honors and advanced placement courses.

2014
George Ancona
Literary Arts
George Ancona is an award-winning photographer, illustrator and author with more than 110 books to his credit. Ancona has published books for young readers on a range of subjects including history, food, dance, art, festivals, family, nature, Native Americans, poetry, science, song and play. A first generation Mexican-American, Ancona has endeavored to learn about his Mayan heritage and take his own childhood experience to Spanish-speaking children. He celebrates the Spanish-language world through his books covering topic such as piñata makers, Day of the Dead celebrations in Mexico and Cuba, and celebrations of heritage in Santa Fe. In his book, It’s Our Garden, Ancona photographed students, teachers and community members at Acequia Madre Elementary School creating, planting and harvesting their school garden. His forthcoming book, Can I Help, is about kids making a difference in their communities through volunteerism. In addition to photographing, illustrating and writing books, Ancona maintains a busy schedule speaking to teachers and local school groups, reading from his works in libraries and participating in conferences around the world. He is the recipient of numerous awards including: Pura Belpre Award Author Honor Book (2011); Americans Award Commended Book (2008), Children’s Book Council, Notable Children’s Books in Social Studies (1997); Outstanding Science Trade Book for Children (1194); and Parents Choice, Texas Library Association Blue Bonnet Award (1994).

Lawrence Fodor
Artist
An accomplished painter, Lawrence Fodor has been producing and exhibiting work locally, regionally and nationally for more than three decades. His work has been featured in numerous group shows, solo exhibits and publications. In addition to his own artistic output, Fodor is a noteworthy gallerist, curator and community supporter. As Director of Peyton Wright Gallery, Fodor nurtured talented emerging artists and promoted their work nationally and internationally. At Peyton Wright Gallery, Fodor also established a solid reputation for his installations, curation and professional integrity. Fodor continues to share his curatorial talents with the community, bringing his critical eye and discerning aesthetics to successful exhibits that both promote local artists and engage the community in exciting new ways. Generous with both his time and talent, Fodor supports local nonprofits by providing artwork for auctions, volunteering his time and ideas, and helping to
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create connections through his personal and professional networks. A list of some of the organizations he has supported over the years include Santa Fe Art Institute, SITE Santa Fe, IMPACT New Mexico, Santa Fe Performing Arts School and Company, Center for Contemporary Arts, Fine Arts for Children and Teens, and Santa Fe Community College. Fodor has a Bachelor of Fine Arts in drawing and printmaking from the Otis Art Institute in Los Angeles, CA. He has studied and researched around the world including in Argentina, Patagonia, Costa Rica, Nepal, France, Germany and Italy.

Talia Kosh
Advocate for Artists & the Arts
Talia Kosh is the co-president and founder of New Mexico Lawyers for the Arts (NMLA), a nonprofit dedicated to providing artists and arts organizations with pro bono legal assistance. NMLA also presents educational programs for artists around the state. Topics have included copyright, artists’ rights and contracts. Through NMLA, Kosh dedicates hundreds of hours each year to providing free legal services to Santa Fe artists and organizations. In 2013, Kosh produced the first-ever Business of Music Summit to increase the business skills and savvy of local musicians. The eight-panel discussions not only educated artists, but catalyzed Santa Fe’s music community to lobby for a task force to address issues facing musicians. As an individual, Kosh acts as a legal advisor to nonprofit arts organizations. She has served on the boards of Creative Santa Fe, Warehouse 21, Intermezzo at the Santa Fe Opera, and the Global Center for Cultural Entrepreneurship. She is the chair of the Intellectual Property Section of the New Mexico Bar and member of the Governor’s Council of Film and Media Industries in New Mexico. Kosh is an Associate at The Bennett Firm in Santa Fe, with a focus on employment matters, personal injury, nonprofit and copyright law. She is a graduate of Loyola University School of Law in New Orleans, LA and also holds a Master of Laws in International Law from Washington College of Law at American University in Washington, DC.

Joanne Lefrak
Arts Education
As an artist, educator and youth advocate Joanne Lefrak has shown an exceptional commitment to the arts in her personal, professional and community life. As an artist, Lefrak has demonstrated a combination of sustained inquiry and exquisite craftsmanship. Using traditional drawing techniques on the non-traditional material of illuminated Plexiglass, she creates works based on the subtle, but inseparable, relationship between the incised line and cast shadow. Her work has been exhibited locally and nationally. Lefrak is a dedicated champion of arts education for youth. In her position as Director of Education and Outreach for SITE Santa Fe, Lefrak has implemented a myriad of public programs to engage Santa Fe’s young people. Most recently, she lead SITE Santa Fe into a partnership with the Santa Fe County Juvenile Detention Center to provide a weekly art program for incarcerated youth. As a member of the City of Santa Fe’s Children and Youth Commission, Lefrak is a voice for young people as well as an advocate for the importance of maintaining programs that inspire the next generation of local artists. Through her work on the Commission, she challenges youth programs, especially arts-based programs, to be purposeful and relevant to the community they serve. Lefrak has a Master of Fine Arts in studio art from Montclair State University in Montclair, New Jersey. She is the recipient of two professional development grants from Creative Capital (2006 and 2012).
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Jason Silverman
Film
Jason Silverman has been producing, curating and presenting films and events in New Mexico for nearly 20 years. Collectively, his programs have drawn more than 460,000 in attendance, with coverage from the New York Times, Variety, National Public Radio and the Los Angeles Times. As Director of the Cinematheque at the Center for Contemporary Arts (CCA) since 2003, Silverman oversees an ambitious program of over 2,000 screenings each year. During his tenure, he has created programming partnerships with more than 80 organizations locally, regionally, nationally and internationally which have resulted in record attendance levels. Under Silverman’s leadership, the Cinematheque’s educational programs have expanded to serve 1,000 public school students. In the coming year, Silverman will expand the Youth Partners Program to include screenings in the schools and work with teachers to incorporate film into S.T.E.A.M. curricula. Beyond his work at the CCA, Silverman has a significant body of writing, editing and professional experience including publishing more than 400 features and reviews on film and new media for Wired.com and Wired Magazine. As a film producer, he is a two-time Sundance Documentary Fellow (2011 and 2012) and a 2011 New Visions Award recipient.

Danny Cron, Melissa Engestrom Youth Artist Award
Danny Cron, recipient of the 2014 Melissa Engestrom Youth Artist Award, has demonstrated an outstanding commitment to the arts, dedication to the craft of acting, academic achievement and community service. When he was a student at the New Mexico School for the Arts (NMSA), he performed in eight productions as well as writing and directing a pair of one act plays. In addition, Cron has worked with other performing arts groups in the community such as IronWeed, The Santa Fe Playhouse, Pandemonium Productions, Warehouse 21, St. Michael’s High School and Teatro Paraguas. While still a student, Cron directed, produced and raised funds to present “Journey to X” at the Moving People Dance Space. In 2012, he was selected for a technical theatre internship at the Lensic Performing Arts Center where he learned about production. Cron is also an active theatergoer who attended 40 separate performances in his senior year at NMSA. As a student, he maintained a cumulative GPA of 3.9 and was a founding member of NMSA Honor Court. Cron currently attends Columbia College in Chicago, IL.

2013

Charmay Allred
Contributor
Charmay Allred serves on the New Mexico State Arts Commission and is a volunteer with the Santa Fe Symphony, Spanish Colonial Arts Society, Cornerstones, Wheelwright Museum, and Santa Fe Conservation Trust. She is an active Board member of the Lensic Performing Arts Center, Institute of American Indian Arts and the Museum of New Mexico Foundation—where she is a member of the Museum of New Mexico Foundation’s Founders Society for significant lifetime giving. Allred’s work to promote support for the Museum of Indian Arts & Culture and the Friends of Archaeology is legendary. She also devotes much of her time to the Santa Fe International Folk Art Market, of which she was a founding co-chair. Other organizations Allred has supported include Futures for Children, the Audubon Society, Crow Canyon Archaeological Center, and the former College of Santa Fe, where she helped start the Tony Hillerman-Michael McGarrity Creative Writing Scholarship program. Formerly, she was an English and journalism teacher as well as a medical editor and a commercial interior designer.
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Bert Dalton
Performing Arts
Bert Dalton is a jazz pianist and recording artist. Since 1998, he has been the Music Director of National Dance Institute of New Mexico (NDI-NM), working with more than 10,000 public elementary school children. Dalton is passionate about creating music and lyrics to inspire children, using music as a teaching tool in the classroom, and enriching the lives of New Mexico children through the arts. He directs the twelve-piece NDI-NM Orchestra for each performance, giving children the thrill of performing with professional live music. Originally from the Chicago area, he studied music at Northern Illinois University and developed his hard swinging jazz piano style in Chicago jazz clubs. Dalton toured extensively with his own band in the US and abroad before settling in Santa Fe in 1990. Since then, he has performed regularly with the Bert Dalton Trio, Brazil Project, Yoboso, and Chris Calloway, including 18 years at the La Fonda Hotel. Bert has over a dozen recordings to his credit as producer and performer and has been honored with eleven New Mexico Music Awards. As a performing musician, he believes in connecting and communicating with the audience while maintaining the highest musical standards. Dalton gives of his time accompanying other performers, arranging music, and private teaching. He recently produced a Dave Brubeck tribute concert to benefit preservation of the Scottish Rite Temple, has worked tirelessly with the Masonic Charity Foundation and the Bikes for Books Program.

Susan York
Arts Education
Susan York’s sculptures and drawings have been shown extensively throughout the US and Europe. Her work is in many collections including the Panza Collection, Lugano Switzerland; Lannan Foundation, Santa Fe; Frankel Foundation for Art, Pontiac, Michigan; New Mexico Museum of Art, Santa Fe; and the Museum of Albuquerque. Currently, she is the President’s Chair of the Art Department at the Santa Fe University of Art and Design, where she is also head of the sculpture program. In November, York’s work will be included in an exhibition at the Mies van der Rohe Haus in Berlin, Germany. The Unfolding Center, York’s collaboration with the poet, Arthur Sze will be published this fall by RADIUS BOOKS. Her work is represented by James Kelly Contemporary, Santa Fe, exhibitions 2d, Marfa, Texas, and Galerie Renate Bender, Munich, Germany. York has been awarded a Joan Mitchell Foundation Fellowship and the Alpert Foundation/Ucross Residency Prize. York received her MFA from the Cranbrook Academy of Art and BFA from the University of NM. She has taught at the Santa Fe University of Art and Design (previously the College of Santa Fe) since 1998.

Tom Leech
Visual Arts – Printmaking
Tom Leech is the Director of the Press at the Palace of the Governors, and has more than 35 years of experience in printing, paper-making, and related book-arts. A curator at the New Mexico History Museum since 2001, Leech has organized a number of successful exhibits, including The Saint John’s Bible, Jack Kerouac and the Writer’s Life, and Album Amicorum. With Pamela Smith, he directed the exhibit Lasting Impressions: the Private Presses of New Mexico. An advocate for the Book Arts, Leech has drawn appreciative audiences to events at the museum for lectures, readings, demonstrations and workshops featuring artists, poets, printers, scholars and musicians of national and international renown. At the Palace Press he regularly demonstrates printing and discusses its history and importance with school groups and visitors of all ages. Books and broadsides that he has printed include Jack Thorp’s Songs of the Cowboys, O’Keeffe Stories, and Word Art Poetry Portfolio. Additionally, Leech collaborates with Santa Fe’s Poets
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Laureate on fine limited editions. He is a member of the Santa Fe Book Arts Group and the Eldorado Art and Craft Association.

Cora Cliburn, Melissa Engestrom Youth Artist Award
Cora Cliburn, a senior honor student at Desert Academy, is dedicated to using the arts to promote community building and social and environmental change. Cliburn’s appreciation for the power of the arts stems from her own experience as a young artist—in visual arts, photography, and film. Her photos have been published in the Deserter and Photographer’s Forum magazines, as well as in a showing at local coffee shop. Her short films were included in the 2012 Currents Film Festival. Cliburn has a special interest in the textures, patterns, and spirit of nature, and she challenges herself to convey this. This same interest often inspires her primary work as a dancer, focused on contemporary and classical ballet and modern dance. Building on many years of training with Moving People Dance Santa Fe, she has spent summers working with artists of Alonzo King’s LINES Ballet, New York City Ballet, the San Francisco Conservatory of Dance, and Modas Dance—often on merit scholarships. Cliburn is currently performing with Moving People and Arcos Dance. As President of Desert's Outdoor Sustainability Club and a participant in 350.org leadership training, Cliburn was the lead organizer of “Climate Night: What’s Up With the Weather,” an event last spring, which featured speakers, student performers, student artwork, media, and demonstrations. She hopes to pursue a career in professional dance, while continuing to follow her wide-ranging interests.

2012

Mary Charlotte Domandi
Supporter of the Arts
Mary-Charlotte Domandi is producer and host of the Santa Fe Radio Café on KSFR 101.1, an award-winning daily talk-show program of interviews on subjects spanning politics, the environment, literature, art and science. First broadcast in 2003, the Radio Café has been voted “Best Radio Program” in Santa Fe by the readers of the Santa Fe Reporter for the past three years. Domandi and her show have been praised by National Geographic’s Santa Fe Destination Guide, while Travel and Leisure’s City Guide to Las Vegas, Phoenix and Santa Fe refers to her as a “public radio goddess.”

Domandi earned a Master of Arts in Liberal Education from St. John’s College in Santa Fe, NM, and a Bachelor of Arts cum laude in Art History from Yale University. Her studies have also included fine arts, photography and Native American Studies at the Institute of American Indian Arts. Her work earned the 2011 New Mexico Book Association’s “Book in Hand Award” for “meritorious service to the literary communities in New Mexico.” She is in demand for public presentations and appearances in Santa Fe. Her articles have been published in magazines including Aperture Magazine, and she is a blogger for the Huffington Post.

Susan Contreras
Artist
Susan Contreras was born in Mexico City to a family with a rich heritage in the arts. As a child, she experienced a pattern of travel and change that took her to Europe, Canada and finally to Santa Fe. These early experiences nurtured her talent for observation and her sense of life as surprising, dramatic and transient. Contreras later studied photography and painting, earning a Master of Fine Arts from the University of California, Santa Barbara and Bachelor of Fine Arts in fine art from the Brooks Institute.
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Her early career work as a photojournalist gave her a lasting interest in visual narrative. Like her photographs, her paintings seize an instant, implying momentous action beyond what the viewer can see. The use of masked characters has also become a mark of her work, in part because of their transformative, magical quality. Her work has been featured in both solo and group exhibitions around the country and is in a variety of permanent collections including the National Hispanic Cultural Center; The Kessler Collection, Orlando, FL; the New Mexico Museum of Art; and the Albuquerque Museum.

Jerry West
Artist
Jerry West is a second-generation New Mexico painter and printmaker whose work depicts the unique history and human diversity which make the Southwest, and in particular Santa Fe, distinctive. West’s first interest was science, and he earned a Master of Science in biology and mammalogy from the University of New Mexico and a Bachelor of Arts in biological science from Colorado State University. Soon thereafter, however, he found his passion lay in making art and has pursued it full time for more than 40 years.

West’s work has been featured in numerous group and solo exhibits, including exhibits at Munson, LewAllen and Jack Meier galleries, as well as the Center for Contemporary Arts and Governor’s Gallery. He has published six small books and been the subject of several articles. Among his most visible achievements are his mural works, including “Recuerdos y Suenos de Santa Fe,” in Santa Fe City Hall, which features local landmarks and New Mexico portraits drawn from both life and the artist’s memory.

Santa Fe Performing Arts
Arts Education
Santa Fe Performing Arts (SFPA) has been in operation since 1988. Its mission is to serve the community as a tool for education by addressing current issues, collaborating with social service organizations and teaching theater to individuals of all ages. The school of SFPA delivers comprehensive, educational programs for children and teens on-site and in outreach. The Adult Resident Company, with its emphasis on new and bilingual works, provides culturally-relevant theater that is accessible to Santa Fe’s diverse community. The Armory for the Arts Theater, SFAC’s performing arts center, offers an affordable performing arts facility and collaboration center open to other arts groups and the community at large. SFPA’s educational programming has been endorsed by the National Education Association of New Mexico, and the organization has been honored by the Santa Fe Community Foundation with an award for Outstanding Contribution to the Arts and Humanities.

Emmy Grimm, Melissa Engestrom Youth Artist Award
Emmy Grimm began studying flamenco at Maria Benitez’ Institute for Spanish Art at the age of four. By the age of ten, she was invited to join the Institute’s youth company, Flamenco’s Next Generation, eventually becoming a featured soloist with the company. Committed to passing on the history and tradition of flamenco, Grimm began teaching at the Institute’s Truchas Summer program at the age of only twelve—sometimes instructing young people several years older than she. She has continued to teach flamenco at elementary schools around northern New Mexico and serves as the main children’s instructor at the Institute for Spanish Arts.

Grimm has also established herself professionally, performing in the Theresa Cardenas Spanish Dance Theater’s 2010 production of El Pintor at the National Hispanic Cultural Center in Albuquerque, NM; at The
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Lodge at Santa Fe with the Entre Flamenco Company, under the direction of internationally-renowned flamenco artists Antonio Granjero and Estefania Ramirez; and at venues throughout Santa Fe with well-known flamenco guitarist Jose “Chuscales” Valle and dancer Mina Fajardo. She continues to pursue her craft through intensive workshops and classes around the country.

2011

Carol Anthony
Artist
Born in New York City, Carol Anthony has made Santa Fe her home for more than 25 years. Known for her serene landscape and still-life paintings and monotypes, Anthony is a dedicated artist who works daily in her studio. Anthony earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from the prestigious Rhode Island School of Design in Providence, RI. Her work has been shown in numerous group and solo exhibitions. Her most recent solo exhibition was at the Gerald Peters Gallery in Santa Fe. Pieces by Anthony are in the permanent collections of the Brooklyn Museum of Art, the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, the New Mexico Museum of Art, and the Smithsonian Institution. Anthony also has pieces in numerous private collections including those of Ali McGraw, Susan Sarandon, Carly Simon and Oprah Winfrey. In 2008, Anthony was commissioned to create a public mural in the Santa Fe Farmer’s Market Institute’s new building in the Santa Fe Railyard.

Anthony is known for her mentorship of other artists, often assisting them with professional development and presentation and pricing of their work, as well as recommending them to gallery directors. Anthony is an ardent supporter of many local nonprofits, providing them with paintings and monotypes for auctions. Some of the many organizations that have benefited from her munificence include The Santa Fe Opera, Aspen Santa Fe Ballet, Theater Grottesco, the Santa Fe Symphony, Acequia Madre Elementary and Assistance Dogs of the West.

Dorothy Massey
Literary Arts
Dorothy Massy was born on the East Coast where she grew up with a profound love of reading and music, especially opera. She was lucky enough to be hired by the Metropolitan Opera in New York City, eventually becoming Secretary to then-General Manager Sir Rudolf Bing. Together with her husband, she raised her children in northwestern Connecticut, while working with several local performing arts organizations and as a paralegal. In 1996, Massey moved to Santa Fe to take the helm of Collected Works, Santa Fe’s oldest independent bookstore, with her daughter and co-owner Mary Massey Wolf. In 2009, they moved the store to a larger location which includes a coffee bar and cafe, allowing for regular gatherings and performances. Massey has encouraged and supported poets, writers and readers with her sustained commitment to literary excellence. She has made Collected Works a center for literature and the exchange of ideas and has opened its doors to diverse nonprofits for over 150 events to date. Beyond the doors of her store, Massey is a dedicated supporter of the arts in Santa Fe. For more than a decade, she operated the book tent at the annual Spanish Market. Massey has served on numerous nonprofit boards including Shakespeare in Santa Fe, the Santa Fe Short Story Festival and the Santa Fe Desert Chorale. In 2009, she was honored by the New Mexico Book Association. Massey’s unfailing support for the arts embodies the creative spirit, energy and generosity of Santa Fe.
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Juan Siddi
Performing Arts
Juan Siddi was born in Frankfurt, Germany to an Italian-born father and Spanish-born mother. Siddi’s mother raised him with strong cultural ties to her native Barcelona. Immersion in flamenco culture, dance and performance were part of his daily life from an early age. By the age of 18, Siddi was dancing professionally. He developed a reputation as a powerful and passionate dancer, touring internationally with Compañía Flamenca Alhama, Noces de Amor and Rafael Cortés. As the principal male dancer for Compañía Flamenca Alhama, he performed for Carl Herzogin von Württemburg and His Majesty the King of Spain Juan Carlos. From 2001 until 2005, Siddi worked with The Music Ensemble of Benares’ “Kathak Meets Flamenco,” a project that explored the common roots of flamenco and Kathak, classic Indian dance and music.

In 2002, Siddi was invited by Maria Benitez to perform as a soloist in her annual summer Maria Benitez Teatro Flamenco. He continued to perform with Benitez and in 2007 became the principal male dancer and co-choreographer. Recognizing his remarkable artistry and commitment, Benitez passed the torch of flamenco in Santa Fe to Siddi and his Juan Siddi Flamenco Theatre Company in 2008 when she retired.

Under Siddi’s artistic direction, some of flamenco’s most unique and creative musicians, singers and dancers, from Spain and the United States, have brought their talents to Santa Fe for the annual summer season. Serving as a cultural ambassador for flamenco and Santa Fe, Siddi and his company have been featured in highly-regarded venues while on tour throughout the United States, Germany and the Middle East. Siddi’s commitment to preserving and further developing this unique ethnic and cultural art form has made him a much sought-after teacher who instills the passion of flamenco tradition in his students.

The Witter Bynner Foundation
Literary Arts
The Witter Bynner Foundation for Poetry has been a vital presence in the city of Santa Fe since 1972 when, through a bequest from Santa Fe poet Witter Bynner, it was founded to perpetuate the art of poetry. The Foundation promotes poetry in American culture and encourages grant proposals that expand awareness of the positive effects of poetry on society. Under the leadership of Executive Director Steve Schwartz, the Foundation provides an annual national fellowship in poetry to the Library of Congress. It also supports the translation of poetry from other languages, as well as the re-translation of poetry that merits it.

The Foundation has long provided support for projects that enliven and educate the local community. Through local grant-making, the Foundation has supported numerous city-wide poetry programs. These programs include Artworks, a program of aesthetic education and imagination in elementary schools; New Mexico Culture Net’s Poets-in-the-Schools that brings working poets into Santa Fe’s public middle and high schools; and the City of Santa Fe Poet Laureate position. The foundation has also provided for Poets-in-Residence at area schools, such as John Brandi at Monte del Sol Charter School and Joan Logghe at The Santa Fe Girl’s School. Numerous other Santa Fe arts organizations have received the Foundation’s support, including El Museo Cultural de Santa Fe, Teatro Paraguas, Warehouse 21, Santa Fe Playhouse, Santa Fe Art Institute, New Mexico Literary Arts and Santa Fe Performing Arts School & Company.

Santa Fe Indian School Spoken Word Team, Melissa Engestrom Youth Artist Award
The Santa Fe Indian School Spoken Word Program and Team were founded by Timothy McLaughlin in 2002. The Team performs regularly at local venues as well as nationally and internationally. The Team hosts the bi
Mayor’s Awards for Excellence in the Arts
Past Recipients

annual Arts Fest events on the Indian School campus, featuring student performances of poetry and other art forms. Locally, the Team has performed at the Native Roots and Rhythms Concerts at Paolo Soleri Amphitheater, on the Santa Fe Plaza stage during the annual Indian Market, at the grand opening of the New Mexico History Museum, for the Santa Fe 400th Anniversary Commemoration Opening Ceremonies and for elementary school students attending the PASS Poetry Performance at the Lensic Performing Arts Center. The Team has received numerous awards including Poetry Out Loud National Contest New Mexico State Champion, Brave New Voices National Youth Poetry Slam Festival and the Santa Fe New Mexican “10 Who Made a Difference.” Travel is an integral component of the program and the Team has traveled to San Francisco; Washington, DC; Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania.

The Program empowers students to create original poetry—which incorporates Native languages and philosophies—and then perform that poetry for diverse audiences. The Program is a creative outlet for students interested in writing. Team members must take the Santa Fe Indian School’s creative writing course to train in fundamental writing skills and develop their creative vision and voice. This work contributes to the School’s overall mission of developing future leaders for Native communities as team members practice the skills of thinking, writing, cooperating and presenting.

2010
Santa Fe New Music
Performing Arts
Santa Fe New Music was founded in 2000 by Artistic director John Kennedy, as a venue to advocate for new classical music as a living art form. Through the years, Santa Fe New Music has continued to offer musical events and educational programs of the highest artistic quality to a wide sector of the public in a broad range of formats. Their exciting programming has encompassed and shown collaboration through live productions of classic composers ranging from John Cage’s Euopera4 in 2000, to 2009’s Youth Opera The Language of the Birds by John Kennedy. Collaborations with other art and community organizations include Theaterwork, the Georgia O’Keeffe Museum, The Santa Fe Opera, the Santa Fe Children’s Museum, SITE Santa Fe, the Santa Fe Desert Chorale, Santa Fe High School, Turquoise Trail Elementary School and the Santa Fe Conservation Trust. Kennedy is a dynamic and energetic figure in American music, recognized for his leadership and expertise in the music of our time.

Santa Fe Children’s Museum
Arts Organization
Santa Fe Children’s Museum has made significant contributions to the arts in Santa Fe by providing creative opportunities for children and their families since 1985. Over the years, the Museum has offered families thousands of opportunities to explore the arts together, encouraging the integration of arts as a regular part of their family life. Through their educational approach, the Museum has continued to bring high quality experiences to the community by encouraging exploration through music, writing, theater as well as visual arts. Local artists are hired and trained to provide programs for a wide range of ages using the Museum’s philosophy of open-ended exploration and freedom of choice. The Museum continues to support local artists, artisans and musicians by providing free outreach to a variety of events ranging from Santa Fe Community Days to the River Festival, Sustainable Santa Fe Awards, The New Mexico Young Father’s Project Father’s Day event as the Railyard and the 400 Birthday Celebration.
Mayor’s Awards for Excellence in the Arts
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Darren Vigil Gray
Artist
Darren Vigil Gray’s work as a painter transcends cultural, regional and geographical inspiration. Beginning with his teenage years at the Institute for American Indian Art, Gray’s imagery has proven to be a unique approach to imaginative expression, communicating to the viewer in a powerful and personal way. His first mentor was the great Kiowa/Caddo painter T.C. Cannon who encouraged his students to “create their own mythology.” Other influences include Fritz Scholder, and Abstract Expressionists such as Willem de Kooning, Jackson Pollock, Elmer Bischoff, David Park, and Richard Diebenkorn. Gray’s nature as an artist and humanist have contributed to his vibrant presence in the larger Santa Fe community for over thirty-five years.

Dr. Linda Raney
Music
Dr. Linda Raney’s leadership and unassuming nature can be directly credited to her profound influence and contributions to the musical art scene in Santa Fe. Since moving to Santa Fe in 1985, Raney has served as Director of Music at St. Bede’s Episcopal Church; Director of the Albuquerque Women’s Ensemble for two seasons; and choral director and instructor of voice and music theory at Santa Fe Community College. A list of her professional positions includes 20 years as Music Director of the Santa Fe Women’s Ensemble, 23 years as Music Director and Organist at the historic First Presbyterian Church in Santa Fe and 13 years as Choir Director of the Santa Fe Symphony Chorus. Under Raney’s leadership, the Santa Fe Women’s Ensemble has represented Santa Fe and New Mexico while receiving international recognition. Raney holds a B.A., Master of Music in Organ Performance and church Music, and Doctorate of Music in Organ Music and Religious Studies from Indiana University. Advanced studies include Merulo Conservatory, Parma, Italy and Southern Methodist University. In the 2008-2009 performance year, Raney coordinated the participation of the Santa Fe Women’s Ensemble with the Santa Fe Symphony Chorus and brass for a free concert at the St. Francis Cathedral Basilica. She also played a key role in including the Women’s Ensemble and the Santa Fe Men’s Camarata with the Symphony Orchestra and Chorus for their presentation of Verdi’s Requiem.

Miriam Sagan
Literary Arts
Miriam Sagan has been deeply involved in Santa Fe’s literary community since her arrival in Santa Fe in 1984. Founder and Director of the Creative Writing Program at Santa Fe Community College, Sagan is considered a leader in literary art education and is responsible for a flourishing program at the college which offers a mix of fiction, memoir and poetry classes each semester. The program recently added a mentorship and publishing internship. Sagan has taught in various museums in Santa Fe including the Palace of the Governors, Museum of International Folk Art, and the Children’s Museum. A poet, writer and artist herself, she can be credited with a long list of publications including a collection from UNM Press – “Map of the Lost” and “Roadtrips to the Moon” both collaborations with photographer Teresa Neptune.

Kinsey Spude, Melissa Engestrom Youth Artist Award
Kinsey Spude is a bright, talented young professional whose aspirations include attending an art design college and a career in animation. Known for her dynamic spirit and leadership qualities, she will be a senior at Desert Academy this year. Spude’s commitment to the arts is reflected in her role as founding member and President of the Animation Club. Her unique devotion to quality and achievement of the highest aesthetic outcome resulted in her 2009 film “Veteran’s” winning second place at the National Geographic All-Roads High
Mayor’s Awards for Excellence in the Arts
Past Recipients

School Film Award. In the spring of 2010, Spude produced a film for the Santa Fe Horse Shelter that debuted at their annual fund raising event.

2009

Santa Fe Art Institute
Contemporary Arts
The Santa Fe Art Institute is an independent educational non-profit organization founded in 1985 by Pony Ault and noted architect artist William Lumpkins. Since the arrival of Director Diane Karp in 2001, SFAI’s mission has been to explore the intersections of contemporary art and society while enlivening public discourse on art through four key programs: artist lecture and master class workshop series; residencies for artists and writers; exhibitions; and educational programming in the schools and community. In 2001, the Institute’s Residency Program was launched in response to the tragic events of September 11, 2001 with the creation of the Emergency Relief Residency Program. This program provided living and studio space to more than 130 New York-based artists displaced from their homes in the aftermath of 9/11. In 2005, the Institute reinstated the Emergency Relief Residency and again opened its doors to more than 40 Gulf Coast artists and writers who were affected by the devastation of the hurricanes Katrina and Rita. The Institute is committed to programs that nurture artists and enhance and promote the arts as an essential element of American culture and society. The Institute provides education and outreach through programs in Santa Fe’s public middle schools, charter schools, the emergency youth shelter and youth detention centers.

Chrissie Orr
Dedication to Community Arts
Chrissie Orr Chrissie Orr was born in Scotland and attended the Edinburgh College of Art. Once a circus performer throughout Europe and a muralist in Corsica, Orr continued to develop her skills as an artist in unconventional ways through her involvement in community-based projects located in Australia, Iran, Turkey, Europe, Mexico and America. Orr is the founder of the nationally acclaimed Teen Project in Santa Fe, New Mexico, now known as Warehouse 21, where her vision and skills were recognized by both the United States Congress and the National Endowment for the Arts. She has lectured internationally on her work involving the Bridge Project which addressed issues on the border between El Paso, US, and Juarez, Mexico. In 2006, Chrissie was the artist in residence at the Grand Central Art Center in Santa Ana, California, where she designed portable urban, edible gardens. She recently completed an installation project entitled El Otro Lado: the Other Side, dedicated to the diverse community of Santa Fe. She continues her passion of working as an artist in the community.

Elias Rivera
Contributions to Visual Arts
Elias Rivera was born in New York City. In 1982, he moved to Santa Fe and quickly established himself as an internationally acclaimed painter. In his paintings, Rivera explores the colorful costumes and street life of the native populations of Santa Fe, New Mexico; Guatemala, Mexico and Peru. He has earned widespread recognition for a New Mexico series of paintings entitled “Under the Portal,” and international recognition for his Guatemala Series. Over the years, his generosity has supported many Santa Fe non-profits through the donation of dozens of paintings. In 2004, Rivera received the Governor’s Award for Excellence in the Arts and in 2005 he was named the Artist of the Year by the Santa Fe Rotary Foundation. Rivera’s works have been exhibited at the New Mexico Museum of Art, the National Hispanic Cultural Center, the Albuquerque Museum,
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the American Academy and Institute for Arts and Letters, the Nevada Institute of Contemporary Art, the Center for Contemporary Art, the Brooklyn Museum, the National Academy, the Northrup Gallery and the University of Minnesota.

Mara & Charles Robinson
Philanthropy in the Arts
Mara and Charles Robinson have lived in Santa Fe for nearly 40 years. The couple’s vision and philanthropic impact have dramatically affected many of Santa Fe’s major non-profit organizations, including the Museum of New Mexico Foundation, The Santa Fe Opera, National Dance Institute of New Mexico, Lensic Performing Arts Center, El Rancho de las Golondrinas, Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival, Aspen Santa Fe Ballet, the Wheelwright Museum and St. John’s College. The Robinsons’ support for these organizations has created ongoing opportunities benefitting children, adults, residents and visitors, while contributing significantly to the establishment of Santa Fe as a world-class art destination. Mara Robinson, a former opera singer and founder of her own opera company in the 1950s, is responsible for bringing many new talented voices to The Santa Fe Opera’s apprentice training program while Charles Robinson, an entrepreneur and former State Department official, continues to be a visionary, along side his wife, in support of the non-profit world.

Ellen Zieselman
Arts Education
Ellen Zieselman has been a Curator of Education at the New Mexico Museum of Art for over 20 years, where she has continued to train and direct over 80 volunteer docents at any given time. Through her extensive knowledge of art history, she has made art come alive for both young and old by creating a “junior docents” program for young people and by teaching art history for Renesan, a lifelong-learning organization for seniors. Zieselman is also the Director of Youth Programs at Temple Beth Shalom where she coordinates trips for teens to local museums and initiates conversations and debates surrounding art. She has coordinated conferences for Southwest Art History Council and New Mexico Association for the Education of Young, and given numerous presentations at the New Mexico State Conference for Art Educators, connecting hundreds of teachers with museum sites. Zieselman writes for several publications including El Palacio and Tumbleweeds. She has also written and co-authored several books about art and literature in New Mexico including The Hand-Carved Marionettes of Gustave Baumann, Taos Artists and their Patrons and The Founding of the Taos Art Colony.

Sarah Livingston, Melissa Engestrom Youth Artist Award
Sarah Livingston is a talented and dedicated performer who has become an invaluable asset to both Eldorado Children and Teen Players and Santa Fe High School’s performing arts department. Currently a senior at Santa Fe High School, she has a powerful voice, great diction, graceful movement, and an abundance of charisma. Livingston’s commitment to the arts is reflected in her roles as President of the Poetry Club and Thespian Club, her involvement with Warehouse 21’s “Lyrical Starfleet” poetry club and her devotion to her temple’s youth group as Social Action Vice President. Her pursuits have included: fund raising for malaria prevention in Africa; aide for India’s orphans; global sustainability and feeding the hungry in Santa Fe.
Mayor’s Awards for Excellence in the Arts
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2008

The Santa Fe Symphony
The Santa Fe Symphony Orchestra and Chorus was founded in 1984 and is soon to celebrate its’ 25th year anniversary. Led by Founder and General Director Greg Heltman, with Steven Smith as Music Director and Dr. Linda Raney as Chorus Director, the Santa Fe Symphony Orchestra and Chorus is comprised of 60-80 professional instrumentalists from Northern New Mexico and 40-60 semi-professional singers. In the late 1980s the SFSO was heard nationally on National Public Radio’s Performance Today and on WQXR in New York City. The Symphony’s contributions include collaborations with Kitchen Angels, La Otra Puerta, the Guadalupe Historic Foundation, The Palace of the Governors, Habitat for Humanity and many others. In 2007 the Santa Fe Symphony Orchestra and Chorus received a silver award and in 2008, a gold, from the League of America Orchestras for their outreach providing no-costs concerts for public, parochial and Native American grade school children at the Lensic Performing Arts

ARTsmart
Arts Education
ARTsmart was founded in 1993 by the Santa Fe Gallery Association who saw the need for art supplies in public elementary schools. Based on the belief that “every child’s academic, social and emotional success depends on keeping the arts an integral part of school curricula” and under the leadership of Helen Cline and others, ARTsmart raised $8,000 their first year. This year ARTsmart raised $160,000, donating $80,000 to public schools and $60,000 to establish a general and scholarship endowment to ensure ARTsmart’s continued commitment to arts education in schools. The core ARTsmart fundraiser is ARTFeast, a four day weekend event in February with a gala dinner as a key component.

Judith Espinar
Folk Arts
Judith Espinar, is the Co-founder and Artistic Director of the International Folk Art Market. As the Market’s Artistic Director, a volunteer position, Judy is widely recognized for being the person responsible for the Market’s explosive success. In 2005 Santa Fe was named a UNESCO (United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization) Creative City designation, named largely because of the International Folk Ark Market. This year the Market brought in over 22,000 visitors to Santa Fe with revenues exceeding $1,000,000 with 114 participating artisans traveling from over 40 nations.

Juliet Myers
Arts Education
Juliet Myers, SITE Santa Fe’s Direct of Education and Public Programs, has been a passionate advocate of visual arts education and hands-on art-making experiences for young people since the 1960s. In 1990, Myers co-founded, with Rosanne Kadis, Fine Arts for Children & Teens (FACT), an organization that provides quality visual arts education to young people, ages 8-18, regardless of family income. In 2003, Myers was hired as the Director of Education & Public Programs at SITE Santa Fe to create and implement education programs for elementary, middle, and high school students, as well as college students and adults.

Arlen Asher
Music
Arlen Asher, has inspired hundreds of young people with his love of music. At the age of 79, he is still actively performing and hosting his own jazz radio show. Arlen moved to New Mexico in 1958, with his wife and two
Mayor’s Awards for Excellence in the Arts
Past Recipients

sons to pursue a career as a producer-announcer for KNME-TV, KOB-TV and KHFM-radio. In the 1970’s Arlen and guitarist Bob Brown formed a group which became the basis for two jazz TV programs for KNME. In the 1990’s Arlen joined three pivotal jazz ensembles which would chart the course of his playing career for the next two decades: The Jazz Chamber Ensemble, Crosscurrents, and Straight Up. In 1997 and 2002, Arlen recorded two albums with Straight Up, the latter of which received three “MIC” Awards. A humble jazzman, he has taught for over sixteen years as a Santa Fe School Band teacher, who dedicated his life to sharing the love and warmth that is in his music.

2007

Santa Fe Community Orchestra
Music
The Santa Fe Community Orchestra, led by conductor and artistic director Oliver Prezant, has been providing performances to music lovers and school children in Santa Fe for twenty-five years. The orchestra consists of a wide range of members from the community, including teachers, lawyers, business people, gallery owners, employees and board members of non-profit organizations, artists, retired professional musicians, college students, Los Alamos National Laboratory scientists and employees, and others. Members of the orchestra show an enormous love and commitment to the arts through their dedication to the orchestra. Performances are varied and adventurous with a repertoire featuring soloists and instrumentalists from the community. All concerts and special events are presented to the public free of charge. The orchestra is supported by annual dues from its members, donations from audience members and a few private foundations. This year marks the orchestra’s twenty-fifth anniversary season.

The Lannan Foundation
Contributor to the Arts
The Lannan Foundation, founded in 1986, is deeply committed to promoting artistic creativity, public awareness of the arts, and the cause of human rights and cultural freedom. Under the leadership of Santa Fe resident and President J. Patrick Lannan, Jr., the Foundation has created an extensive network of support in the areas of literature, the visual arts, indigenous communities, and cultural freedom. Through its’ Literary Awards and Fellowship Program the Foundation has given 161 poets and writers more than $11 million. The Foundation funds the popular Readings & Conversations program at the Lensic with participants constituting a veritable “Who’s Who” of national and international writing including Nobel Prize winners Czeslaw Milosz, Derek Walcott, Seamus Heaney, Nadine Gordimer, and Wole Soyikna. In 1999 the Lannan Foundation established the Lannan Prize for Cultural Freedom in order “to recognize people whose extraordinary and courageous work celebrates the human right to freedom of imagination, inquiry and expression.” In 2003 the Lannan Foundation established the Lannan Fellowship in American and foreign communities to contemplate, reflect, write and study. Locally and nationally, the Foundation continues to foster cultural freedom through the arts.

Eileen Wells
Contributor to the Arts
Eileen Wells, Santa Fe resident Eileen Wells has made a significant cultural, educational and economic impact on art institutions and audiences in Santa Fe through her profound love of the arts and dedication to the community. She is a tireless arts patron, activist and volunteer. Ms. Wells’ leadership, vision and inspiration have benefited nonprofit public and private organizations in areas as diverse as fundraising, exhibitions, education, collections acquisitions, public programming and more. Ms. Wells’ strong sense of nonprofit policy
Mayor’s Awards for Excellence in the Arts
Past Recipients

and stewardship has led to longtime service as a director, advisory director and committee member on many of the city’s arts-and-cultural boards. She currently serves as a director of the Museum of New Mexico Foundation and as an advisory director of the Museum of Spanish Colonial Art. Past board appointments include the Wheelwright Museum of the American Indian, Institute of American Arts, Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival, New Mexico Committee of the National Museum of Women in the Arts, Santa Fe Stages and others.

Bob Martin
Dedication to the Arts
Bob Martin, General Manager of the Lensic, has shown an outstanding contribution to the arts and the community by his dedication in preserving and strengthening “Art in the Heart” of Santa Fe at the Lensic. Through his community-minded leadership, he has established a gathering place which hosts an innovative and unique artistic blend of cultural events, fostering partnerships, collaborations and sponsorships through which diverse cultures are brought together. The Lannan Foundation, Santa Fe Youth Symphony, Santa Fe Opera, Very Special Arts, Pro Musica, Concert Association, Spanish Colonial Arts Society, Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival and Aspen Santa Fe Ballet are just some of the arts organizations that have collaborated with the Lensic. Mr. Martin launched a community sponsorship program providing professional and technical support to dozens of organizations in the community, including New Mexico Women in the Arts, Santa Fe Cares, New Mexico Women’s Foundation, Santa Fe Public Schools and Warehouse 21. Through his devotion to children and youth, he initiated an educational partnership with local school systems to strengthen the role of arts in education and develop young audiences. The Lensic’s success demonstrates the strong impact of Mr. Martin’s leadership as a leader in the arts and is an enduring testament to his accomplishments.

Andrea Bacigalupa
Artist
Andrea Bacigalupa, writer, artist, sculptor and gallery owner has been a resident and owner of one of the oldest studio/galleries on Canyon Road. Mr. Bacigalupa is the founder of the Santa Fe/Sorrento Sister City Association and writes and edits the Santa Fe/Sorrento Sister City Association monthly newsletter. He has written columns for both The New Mexican and the Santa Fe Reporter, many of which found their way into anthologies and memoirs. Mr. Bacigalupa is the author of 13 books. A good and Perfect Gift published in 1978 was adapted for film. Mr. Bacigalupa served as a consultant on the project adaptation and the film was shot in Truchas, New Mexico. In 1980 Mr. Bacigalupa won the first City of Santa Fe Art in Public Places competition with his bronze statue of Saint Francis and the Prairie Dog which currently stands in front of City Hall. At 80 years old, he continues his dedication to literature and graphic arts.

2006
Museum of NM Foundation
Contributor to the Arts

Santa Fe Desert Chorale
Music

Theater Grottesco
Performing Arts
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Jackie M
Community Involvement

Dan Namingha
Artist

Gabriel Ismael Gonzales
Melissa Engestrom Youth Artist Award

2005

The Santa Fe Opera
Leadership in Performing Arts
The Santa Fe Opera, founded by John Crosby, is nearing its 50th Anniversary. On July 3rd, 1957, the first performance at the Santa Fe Opera, Mr. Crosby conducted Puccini’s Madame Butterfly. This open-air theater is now considered by many, as the most important summer festival in the United States and one of the few in the world presenting opera in repertory. Dedicated to education, the Opera currently has 12 different outreach and education programs that have served children and adults throughout New Mexico. Among the learning opportunities are the unique Pueblo Opera Program, the Student Produced Opera program, Community Concerts, the annual springtime Apprentice Regional Tour, Youth Night at the Opera, Backstage Tours, and Backstage Pass, to name a few. The New Mexico Business Journal estimated The Santa Fe Opera’s economic impact at $150 million annually.

TheaterWork
Innovation in Theater
Theaterwork is a Santa Fe theater company whose mission is to further the performing arts through the production of community-based projects. In the past nine years, the theater has collaborated with The Children’s Museum, The Santa Fe Symphony, Santa Fe New Music and Santa Fe Stages and many others. Staff has worked with local schools, a Native American group home for troubled youth, the Armand Hammer United World College, and the College of Santa Fe (The Renesan course for Senior Citizens). Theaterwork has placed an emphasis on supporting and encouraging the work of local theater workers – local actors, directors, technicians and designers work on all the productions. In addition to the plays, Theaterwork has opened its doors to local playwrights and poets. Theaterwork has been presenting plays in Santa Fe for nine seasons and has produced 71 full stage plays (two Zarzuelas in Spanish). In 2004, Theaterwork presented Lorca in a Green Dress, a new work by Nilo Cruz. At the theater’s invitation, Mr. Cruz, a Cuban born, Pulitzer prize winning playwright, came to Santa Fe for the production and gave a free talk to the community.

Yolanda Griego
Folk Arts
Yolando Griego, a native of New Mexico, worked as a nurse in Santa for many years before taking up the art of straw appliqué. Over the past several years, her work has been highly recognized in Santa Fe and Northern New Mexico at the Traditional Spanish Market, New Mexico State Fair, and Feria Artística in Albuquerque. Yolanda has been a mentor to others by teaching the same methods, history and values of the traditional art form that she, herself, learned from her mother. Yolanda’s art work is currently included in the Spanish Colonial Arts Museum collection.
Mayor’s Awards for Excellence in the Arts
Past Recipients

Siegfried Halus  
*Dedication to the Visual Arts*

Siegfried Halus, of Austrian-Romanian descent, came to the United States in 1951 and eventually made his way to New Mexico in 1989. After earning a BFA through a combined program at the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts and the University of Pennsylvania in 1966 and an MFA from the University of Hartford, CT in 1982, Siegfried Halus enjoyed a successful commercial career with editorial and photojournalistic work before dedicating himself to a career as a Professor of Fine Arts. Through his leadership and dedication, SFCC has put into place a state-of-the-art Fine Arts Facility that offers a curriculum of 81 courses in fine arts and 39 in the performing arts. Under his direction, the fine arts facility has been designed to include 28 individual studio spaces for arts students and an art gallery that offers exhibition space.

Connie Tsosie Gaussoin  
*Catalyst for Arts Education*

Connie Tsosie Gaussoin has been a volunteer for the Pueblo Opera Program (POP) for twenty-five years. In her second tenure as chair of POP, she has been the “go-to” person for the pueblos and reservations of New Mexico, connecting them with organizations, activities and opportunities in the performing and visual arts in northern New Mexico. Connie’s commitment to POP and participating children and their families inspired her to organize similar programs for the Aspen/Santa Fe Ballet, Pueblo Ballet Program, and the Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival. She has served on the State Fair Commission and currently serves on the New Mexico Film Museum Board, the Southwestern Association for Indian Arts (SWAIA) Board, and is in her second term on the board of the directors of The Santa Fe Opera.

Anita Zamora  
*Melissa Engestrom Youth Artist Award*

Anita Zamora, who is 13 1/2 years old, has been involved with the Santa Fe Children’s Museum since she was seven. A committed student of piano and literature, she has been published in numerous local and international publications. Anita’s art has been published twice in “Anime” magazine and she was a featured artist in New Mexico’s Rural Electric Cooperatives “Enchantment” periodical. She frequently participates in outreach programs at the Santa Fe Children’s Museum and volunteers on a weekly basis as an art and exhibit facilitator.

2004

Joey Chavez  
*Performing Arts Education*

Mr. Chavez will be honored for his outstanding work with drama students at Santa Fe High School.

Rick Fisher  
*Dedication to the Visual Arts*

Mr. Fisher, a professor at the College of Santa Fe, will be honored for his work as a sculptor and an educator of artists, and various projects including The Sculpture Project.

Tom Maguire
Mayor’s Awards for Excellence in the Arts
Past Recipients

Community Involvement
Mr. Maguire will be honored for his dedication to the arts community, as exhibited by his wide-ranging work in the arts as a volunteer, musician and arts administrator.

Edwina Hawley Milner
Contributor to the Arts
Mrs. Milner will be honored for the leadership she has shown as a volunteer and board member, and as a donor, making a difference for the arts in Santa Fe.

Andrea Fellows Walters
Arts Education
Ms. Walters will be honored for her excellent work over the past ten years as the Santa Fe Opera’s founding Director of Education and Community Programs.

Wheelwright Museum
Arts Organization
The 67-year-old Wheelwright Museum of the American Indian will be honored for its long history of producing educational exhibits of Native American art and presenting community programs.

2003

John Berkenfield
Community Involvement

Eleanor Eisenmenger
Contribution to Music

Adelaido “Lalo” Griego
Folk Arts

Donald A. Meyer
Dedication to the Arts

National Dance Institute of NM
Youth Arts Organization

Nate Masse
Melissa Engestrom Youth Artist Award
Mayor’s Awards for Excellence in the Arts
Past Recipients

2002

Chris Abeyta
Music & Literature
Mr. Abeyta is a poet, musician, performer, teacher, and former Arts Commissioner whose unselfish deeds have gone unnoticed for years. With his numerous talents he has been a great role model for the youth in Santa Fe as well as surrounding areas.

Stuart Ashman
Arts Administration
Mr. Ashman’s numerous accomplishments include directing the Open Hands Art with Elders Program, the Governor’s Gallery and the Museum of Fine Arts. He has recently been involved in the renovation of the Museum of Spanish Colonial Arts’ historic John Gaw Meem designed home, and the $7 million campaign he led to create exhibition space, collection space and a range of educational facilities and visitor amenities.

Linda Durham
Contemporary Arts Advancement
Ms. Durham established one of the first major contemporary art galleries on Canyon Road. She has been a tireless promoter of New Mexico art and artists for the last twenty-four years. She is responsible for helping many artists to start their careers.

Outside In
Arts Organization
This community-based non-profit organization continues to uplift the lives of people in this community through live performances, presentations and workshops to people confined to shelters, residential treatment facilities, nursing homes and day care programs, correctional facilities and any other institutions or human service programs where people would not have access to the arts.

Frank Willett
Ceramic Arts
Mr. Willett has made a significant impact on ceramic art in Santa Fe for more than 30 years. His commitment to his art has been demonstrated in his personal artistic achievements and in the success of the many artists he has encouraged.

Jacob Subotnick
Melissa Engestrom Youth Artist Award.
Mr. Sabotnick, a student at Santa Fe Prep, set up a studio for digital recording and editing at his home and researched the most cost effective way for local youth bands to produce CD’s. He is a talented musician who has produced concerts and CD’s to the benefit of Warehouse 21.
Mayor’s Awards for Excellence in the Arts
Past Recipients

2001

Guadalupe Historic Foundation
Cultural Preservation
Guadalupe Historic Foundation is a non-profit corporation whose purpose is to preserve, repair, maintain and operate the Santuario de Guadalupe and to preserve and interpret Hispanic culture and history in the Southwest. The role of the foundation is to open culture doors and offer other organizations the Santuario as a community building and to give locals as well as visitors a taste of the Hispanic and art cultures of the southwest.

Sam Leyba
Outstanding Individual
Sam Leyba is a person who has dedicated most of his life to the arts, especially in influencing and guiding the youth of this community. His tireless efforts are generally marked by service to or on behalf of others. He is director of youth programs for Esperanza Shelter and assists youth through the arts directing them away from substance abuse and other social problems.

Mariano Romero
Lifetime Dedication to the Arts
Mariano Romero is a lifelong musician of American and Latin dance music. As a young musician, he was taught the Spanish Colonial dance numbers by the older musicians and is one of those rare musicians that knows this particular type of music. Mr. Romero has been instrumental in the teaching of New Mexico colonial dances to the children in the Santa Fe Public Schools.

David Scheinbaum
Visual Arts
David Scheinbaum is a renowned photographer and professor at the College of Santa Fe Marion Center for Photographic Arts. He is deeply committed to his students, young and old alike and to sharing his great passion for the language of photographic print with them. Mr. Scheinbaum, although modest about his achievements, was instrumental in bringing to Santa Fe the Sebastiao Salgado exhibit so that the people of Santa Fe could impart in the important message of Salgado’s work.

John Weckesser
Performing Arts
John Weckesser is a tremendously talented individual who has made great contributions to the College of Santa Fe Performing Arts Department as well as to the diverse and lively arts scene in Santa Fe. Under the mentorship of Greer Garson, he learned to give back and never give up on a dream. Over the past 30 years at the Greer Garson Theatre, he has instilled the same message to his students. His devotion to the arts, and visionary management style have made him an inspiration to his students who under his guidance are motivated to a higher level of achievement.

Nancy & William Zeckendorf
Contributors to the Arts
Mayor’s Awards for Excellence in the Arts
Past Recipients

Sharlena Santiago, Melissa Engestrom Youth Artist Award
Sharlena Santiago is a member of the Theater Residency Project (TRP) which provides at-risk youth with the opportunity to use theater as a means to solve problems, enhance self-esteem and become valued members of their community. As a member of the TRP, Ms. Santiago is an actor, a technician, a set carpenter and mentor to the newest members. She represents the best of qualities in someone so young and pursuing an acting career.

2000

La Sociedad Folklorica
Cultural Preservation
La Sociedad Folklorica is a non-profit organization made up of 45 volunteer members dedicated to preserving, teaching, and encouraging the appreciation of the Northern New Mexico Spanish ancestors’ language, culture, folklore, foods, dances, music songs, religious traditions, clothing, methods of entertainment, etc.

Monica Sosaya Halford
Traditional Arts
Monica Sosaya Halford is an accomplished artist who promotes New Mexico through her traditional work with colcha stitch and retablos. Ms. Sosaya Halford is not only an artist, but a teacher of these art forms, ensuring that these traditional Spanish Colonial Arts are not lost so that other generations can enjoy, learn and pass on to other generations.

Greg Heltman
Music
Greg Heltman is a professional musician, teacher and administrator. He founded the Santa Fe Symphony 16 years ago and is the current General Director. With his hard work and great optimism he has made it what it is today. Additionally, many Santa Fe school children have benefitted from Heltman’s work as a music teacher and volunteer in the schools. His tireless efforts liven up community gatherings and his music brings happiness to many people in Santa Fe. He has also been general director of the Santa Fe Concert Band since 1984, bringing music to many community settings.

Michael & Marianne O'Shaughnessy
Contributors to the Arts
Michael & Marianne O'Shaughnessy have greatly contributed to a wide variety of art projects, greatly impacting the quality of life Santa Feans enjoy. They have demonstrated their commitment to the cultural diversity of New Mexico through their generous contributions to arts organizations and individuals in our community.

Ron Pokrasso
Visual Arts
Ron Pokrasso is a master print maker. He is well known for his classes and workshops nationally, as well as internationally. His passion, commitment, vision, kindness, humanity, and creativity are qualities he gladly shares. His reputation for excellence gives great credit to Santa Fe.
Mayor’s Awards for Excellence in the Arts
Past Recipients

Ana Gallegos y Reinhardt
Catalyst for Arts Education
Ana Gallegos y Reinhardt is the executive director for Warehouse 21 and has been involved in arts programming for children and youth for 7 years. At Warehouse 21, Ms. Gallegos y Reinhardt is constantly updating her knowledge of teen culture, community resources, available funding, political climate, and sometimes auto mechanics and plumbing. Her daily initiative creates many opportunities for teens to get involved with each other, their talent, their mentors and their community.

Eliot Gray Fisher
Melissa Engstrom Youth Artist Award
Eliot Gray Fisher is a student at Santa Fe Preparatory School. He has excelled in his work in the arts as a budding composer, musician, and performer. He is taking private voice lessons and learning the art of composition and piano playing. Along with his many fine qualities, Mr. Fisher has also done community service and many performances.

1999

Charlene Cerny
Arts Administration
Charlene Cerny recently retired from the Museum of International Folk Art where she was Director for 15 years and has worked 26 years total at the museum. She has made significant contributions to the arts and cultural life of Santa Fe. Her love of folk art and deep appreciation for the cultures that create and use it have guided her in helping the Museum of International Folk Art become a leader in the presentation of traditional arts. As Director, Ms. Cerny oversaw the development of the Hispanic Heritage Wing, which opened in 1989 as a dedicated site for important collections of Spanish Colonial and contemporary Hispano art in traditional styles. Recently, she assisted in the new open collection storage area, known as Lloyd’s Treasure Chest, which allows visitors to explore art forms close-up and behind the scenes, making collections more accessible to the public. Ms. Cerny’s commitment to arts in education is evident through the on-going outreach programs she oversaw at the Museum.

Fine Arts for Children & Teens
Arts Education
Fine Arts for Children and Teens (FACT) offers programs in outstanding arts education for children and teens. Entering into its tenth year, FACT is steadily growing and continues to serve school students and teachers.

FACT offers visual arts programming to a broad cross section of Santa Fe youth through two programs. They offer after school workshops for children and teen ages 8-18 and currently have an ARTreach program in which they take visual arts workshops to local schools. FACT consistently and on a long-term basis offers children and teens the opportunity to make art and empower themselves through the process. They have created a positive multi-cultural environment where differences are viewed as assets. Their outstanding arts education programs offer secure studio environments where children, teens and classroom teachers integrate the visual arts into their life experiences.
Mayor’s Awards for Excellence in the Arts
Past Recipients

Dr. James Fries
Catalyst for Arts Education
Dr. James Fries is being honored for his role as a catalyst for arts education. Dr. Fries was named President of The College of Santa Fe in 1987. Under Dr. Fries’ leadership, The College of Santa Fe has established an excellent reputation for its art, music and film departments, which have expanded significantly. As President, he instituted a master plan for the campus and raised over $26 million to establish new campus facilities, including the Garson Communications Center and Studios in 1990 and the Driscoll Fitness Center in 1992. This year also marked completion of the $12.6 million Visual Arts Center, including the Anne and John Marion Center for Photographic Arts, the Thaw Art History Center, Tipton Hall and Tishman Hall, and a new home for the Santa Fe Art Institute.

La Sociedad Colonial Española de Santa Fe
Cultural Preservation
La Sociedad Colonial Española de Santa Fe is being honored for cultural preservation. This organization is dedicated to preserving the social customs with which people in Northern New Mexico have entertained themselves for centuries. The organization is comprised of people ranging in age from 30 years to 80 years. They focus on the preservation of songs, games, storytelling, jokes, rhymes, riddles, sayings and dances. Since 1948, the members of La Sociedad Colonial Española de Santa Fe share a common passion for keeping their cultural practices alive. Since their formation, the members have been performing for the Santa Fe Fiestas and many church and community events. They are often called upon to perform for senior citizen homes and centers as well as special functions in our area. As part of their preservation efforts, La Sociedad Colonial Española de Santa Fe teaches dances in the Santa Fe Public Schools. The organization will be traveling to Spain this October with Mayor Delgado and other organizations as part of a Sister City Association cultural and humanities exchange with the city of Santa Fe de la Vega Granada.

Eliseo & Paula Rodriguez
Traditional Arts
Eliseo and Paula Rodriguez are being honored for traditional arts. In the early 1970’s, the Rodriguezes took their talents to the Spanish Market where they were the first artists to exhibit in straw appliqué. Mr. Rodriguez was a painter, selling his work at the Native Market, when he was hired by the Federal Art Project in 1936. He painted New Mexico landscapes and scenes for this division of the Works Progress Administration and in 1936-1937, he was asked to try straw appliqué. Mr. and Mrs. Rodriguez worked together to revive the art form. Their work began to be sought after by museums such as the Smithsonian Institution, the Millicent Rogers Museum, the Museum of International Folk Art, the Albuquerque Museum and many collections throughout the world. By the 1980’s, the Rodriguezes had become permanent fixtures at the Spanish Market winning several awards and much recognition for their straw creations. They helped to reintroduce the art of straw appliqué, which will continue to be an art form of simple beauty.

Lauryn Bomse, Melissa Engestrom Youth Artist Award
Lauryn Bomse, winner of the Melissa Engestrom Youth Artist Award began her musical career seven years ago by learning to play the piano. Ms. Bomse is currently a sophomore at Santa Fe Prep. As well as being passionate about piano playing, she is also an accomplished visual artist, singer and dancer. In 1996, Ms. Bomse won third place in a New Mexico Composition Contest. In 1998, she won first place in the same competition with a two-piano piece called “Secret”. Because she is so passionate about music, she is considering it as a career. As well as participating in a community program where she performed weekly for young school children, she has performed in several master classes in Santa Fe.
Mayor’s Awards for Excellence in the Arts
Past Recipients

1998
Sallie Bingham
Contributions to the Arts

Dr. Thomas E. Chavez
Cultural Preservation

Arlene Cisneros Sena
Traditional Hispanic Arts

Barbara Gonzales
Traditional & Contemporary Pueblo Pottery

Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival
Performing Arts

Santa Fe Youth Symphony
Melissa Engestrom Youth Artist Award

1997
David Bradley
Visual Arts

Richard L. Cook
Arts Education

William M. Field
Graphic Arts

Larry Ogan
Advocate for Artists & the Arts

Anne & John Marion
Burnett Foundation
Contributions to the Arts

Megan Elizabeth Duwyenie
Melissa Engestrom Youth Artist Award

1996
Fred Cisneros
Graphic Arts
Mayor’s Awards for Excellence in the Arts
Past Recipients

John Crosby
Performing Arts

Ernest J. Martinez
Visual Arts – Painting

Carmella Padilla
Literary Arts

Eugene V. & Clare E. Thaw
Thaw Charitable Trust
Contributions to the Arts

Bo & Miller Lopez
Melissa Engestrom Youth Artist Award

1995
Ron Adams
Visual Arts – Printmaking

Maria Benitez
Performing Arts

Charles M. Carrillo
Folk Art

Gary Myers
Arts Education

Ramona Sakiestewa
Visual Arts – Textiles

1994
Center for Contemporary Arts
Teen Project
Community Contributions

Nicholas Gonzales, Sr.
Cultural Preservation

Bud Redding
Contributions to the Arts

Sam Scott
Visual Arts
Mayor’s Awards for Excellence in the Arts
Past Recipients

Myrtle Stedman
Visual & Literary Arts

1993
El Rancho de las Golondrinas
Cultural Preservation

Allan Houser
Visual Arts

Ramón José López
Folk Arts

Joan & Gifford Phillips
Major Contributors to the Arts

Pedro Ribera Ortega
Cultural Preservation

1992
Fray Angelico Chavez
Cultural Preservation

Eldorado Hotel
Corporate Support of the Arts

Inst. of American Indian Arts
Arts Organization

Jinx Junkin
Theatre

Lloyd Kiva New
Arts Education

1991
Robert Bluestone
Music

Hispanic Heritage Wing of the Museum of Intl. Folk Art
Outstanding Arts Organization

John Jimenez
Arts Education
Mayor’s Awards for Excellence in the Arts
Past Recipients

Denise Kusel
Major Contributions to the Arts

Miranda Masocco Levy
Major Contributions to the Arts

Frederico Vigil
Visual Arts

Robert Wingert
Music

SPECIAL AWARD CATEGORIES

2005
Wise Fool New Mexico
Emerging Arts Organization

2004
Santa Fe International Folk Art Market
Outstanding New Initiative

2003
Jesse Kohn
Emerging Artist

2001
Frank Erpelding-Chacón
Emerging Artist

1999
Cruz López
Emerging Artist

1998
James Cordova
Emerging Artist

1997
David Nabor Lucero
Emerging Artist

1996
Lawrence Baca
Emerging Artist

Bo & Miller Lopez
Youth Artists