



Children's Report 2023



Department of Cultural Affairs Children’s Report 2023

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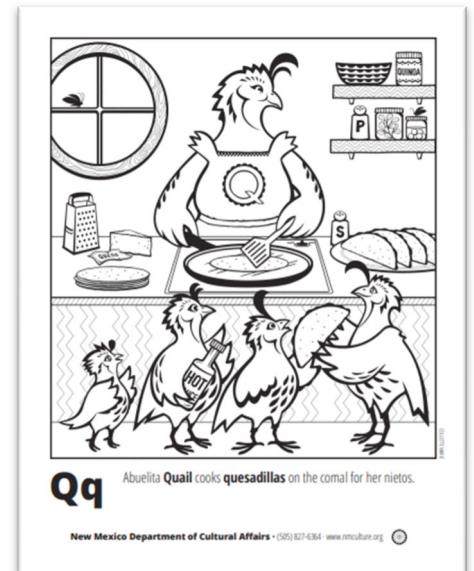
Collaborative Educational Outreach

The New Mexico Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA) is committed to working collaboratively to improve access to educational resources for families in every county of the state. The Education and Engagement Steering Committee facilitates: the creation of activity kits and coloring books to support intergenerational home learning, literacy and discovery; the DCA Invite an Educator website for teachers and librarians to connect to educators DCA museums, historic sites, and other cultural institutions; development of travelling exhibits that bring exhibits to rural communities; and online resources for students, teachers, and families.

In FY23, DCA published *A is for Artist*, an alphabet coloring book featuring the work of 27 New Mexican artists. Over 30,000 collaborative activity kits and coloring books were distributed statewide through public libraries and direct to the public. Monthly meetings with the Governor’s Commission on Disability identified needs and strategies to make cultural institutions accessible to all. Weekly community outreach meetings gave DCA staff a chance to learn more about the challenges and aspirations of the families we serve. Using principles of Universal Design for Learning, DCA prioritizes access to education for all New Mexicans regardless of reading level, language preference, or learning style.

The divisions of DCA, support educational programs, exhibits, and services, with dedicated Education staff committed to making culture, history, science, art, and literacy relevant and accessible to all New Mexicans. Below is a summary from DCA divisions of the expansive programs, educational accomplishments, success stories, and partnerships that represent our collective commitment to not only improve educational outcomes for young people, but also inspire them to explore, discover, learn, and engage with everything that makes New Mexico a wonderful place to grow up.

Learn more online at <https://dcaeducates.nmculture.org>





New Mexico Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum

Ag Wagon

Each Saturday, the New Mexico Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum holds an educational program called the “Ag Wagon” from 10 a.m. to noon. The program is created for children 4 to 8 years of age, and includes readings and an activity. Topics cover leather stamping, tin punching, greenhouses, solitary bees, careers in Ag as well as activities on a variety of crops and livestock.

Farmers Market

On the third Saturday of each month, the Ag Wagon travels downtown to the Farmers & Crafts Market of Las Cruces and has an activity for children to learn about farming and ranching. Previous activities have included life cycle of an apple tree, farm and ranch stamp art, and seasons of the year.

School tours

The museum hosts field trips from schools around Las Cruces and El Paso. In October and November, the museums provided tours to over 1,000 students. An average school tours consists of approximately 50 students which we break into about four different groups that rotate through stations. Each station has an activity based on a theme and lasts about 35 minutes. For example, during the Bidding Bonanza activity, students learn about the strengths of different breeds of cattle through a mock auction where they bid on the cattle that would go best with their ranch and customers.

Community centers/ Day cares / Recreation centers

The museum also works with other organizations for tours. Day cares, including from the New Mexico Children First Day Care, The Brilliant Bees Day Care, Best of the Southwest Day Care, and the Children’s Playhouse, visit for two-hour tours, with most bringing a lunch to eat on-site. . They choose activities to learn in interactive ways involving collaboration, speaking, and working in groups. The City of Las Cruces Parks and Recreation Youth Services also brought youth to the museum to learn about jobs that livestock have on farms, breeds of cattle, and Spanish Colonial homes.

4-H

Students attending the summer 4-H conference at New Mexico State University visited the museum to take part in a mock auction, a scavenger hunt in the Mercantile exhibit, and learn from blacksmith and spinning demonstrators. The museum also hosts hundreds of projects by students in the area during 4-H Achievement Week.

NMSU teacher program tours

Education professors from New Mexico State University (NMSU) bring future teachers to learn about incorporating museum-style activities, such as creating oral histories, into their classrooms. The NMSU students learn about how visits to the museum can supplement their unit or theme being taught in the classroom. Our education department reviews best teaching practices that we use here in the Museum, and how they can also use the strategies in their future classrooms. These strategies included using interactive cross-curricular activities to improve collaboration, speaking, and reading and writing skills.

Activity kits

Through the generous donations of Friend of the Museum and museum volunteers, 794 activity kits were distributed throughout the state that focused on wool dyeing, weaving, and a farm-in-a-glove activity. Pueblos in northern New Mexico received 444 of these kits.

Outreach events

The museum was represented at the Bureau of Land Management Archaeology Day, Gila River Festival, Southern New Mexico State Fair, All American Cowboyfest, Mountain and Valley Wool Festival, Hueco Tanks Community Fair, Poppies Festival, various agriculture events, City of Las Cruces Water Festival, and Rancho de Las Golondrinas' Fiber Festival. Over 2,378 children were served during these events.

Outreach into the schools

Outreach efforts continued in the Las Cruces Public Schools, including visits to Dona Ana Elementary, J. Paul Taylor Academy, East Picacho Elementary, Hillrise Elementary, Tombaugh Elementary, Mesa Middle School, Hermosa Heights Elementary, Mesilla Elementary, Conlee Elementary, Columbia Elementary, Cesar Chavez Elementary, and Alma de Arte High School. Through these visits 2,360 children were exposed to agricultural topics such as beef genetics, beef and dairy by-products, sheep and their fiber, and crops of the Mesilla Valley.

AgXplorer

New Mexico Ag in the Classroom and the Dona Ana County Extension Service partnered with the museum to organize the AgXplorer event. A total of 729 fourth grade students from southern New Mexico visited stations at the museum focused on plant fibers, wool, gristmills, chile, and blacksmithing. The museum also partnered with these organizations to provide a STEM Career Day for 383 middle schoolers from across the state, including northern New Mexico.

Cowboy Days School Day

In March, the museum organized the first school day to kick off Cowboy Days 2023, by partnering with local community organizations to provide 22 educational stations for 309 students in kindergarten through fifth grade. Participating groups included Ag in the Classroom, Asombro Institute, Dona Ana County Extension Service, Back Country Horsemen, Southwest Dairy, and City of Las Cruces Library and Museums.

Blessing of the Fields

Las Cruces Catholic School students played a large role in the museum's annual Blessing of the Fields event. All the students in the school took part in the procession around the museum's 47-acre campus. Tortugas Pueblo and the Diocese of Las Cruces are also partners in this event that celebrates a historical tradition in the Mesilla Valley.

Fiber art activities

The museum offered a series of fiber art lessons at J. Paul Taylor Academy, East Picacho Elementary, Dona Ana Elementary, and Hillrise Elementary. Middle school students from J. Paul Taylor Academy tried felting, spinning, and weaving over the course of several weeks. The elementary students experienced spinning and weaving as well as learned about the Museum's sheep. A total of 584 students learned about New Mexico's fiber heritage with a hands-on activity during several classroom visits.

Learn more online at <https://www.nmfarmandranchmuseum.org/programs-and-education>



New Mexico Historic Sites

During the 2023 school year, New Mexico Historic Sites engaged 7,765 children on-site and 3,775 children off-site in a variety of educational activities focused on history, archaeology, and much more.

Building with Dirt

This program from Fort Selden Historic Site introduces students of all ages to the art of building with adobe. They learn what adobe is, what it is used for, and how it has been used in New Mexico for centuries. The program teaches children what the primary ingredients in adobe bricks and plaster are, how to make adobe bricks, and why it is still used in New Mexico today. The hands-on demonstration uses mini adobe molds (approx. 1/5"x2.5") to allow students to make their own adobe bricks. Depending on the length of time provided by the program, these bricks can then be used to build a mini adobe building alongside their classmates. If there is not enough time to build a mini building, students can take home the bricks they made. This is the most requested program for school-aged children both for on-site programming and off-site programming at Fort Selden Historic Site.

Pecos River Walk Trail Project

Bosque Redondo Memorial at the Fort Sumner Historic Site sponsored the Pecos River Walk Trail Project for local youth. The six-month project consisted of a nature trail with eight hand-painted benches and an interpretive audio tour. The trail improvements were made possible through a combination of local and national collaborations. At the local level, six students and their teacher from Fort Sumner High School Art Department designed a series of benches for the trail, featuring paintings of local flora that the Diné and Ndé interred on the reservation would have relied on, and staff produced an audio tour to complement the trail's interpretation. Golden Artist Colors of New York provided the paint for the benches, and Raw Materials Art Supplies of Los Angeles, donated tools. The Friends of Bosque Redondo also purchased materials. The audio tour, which provides context and history about the flora painted on the benches, was produced by staff.

Old Lincoln Days

At Old Lincoln Days at the Lincoln Historic Site, children were able to use wire stamps, paint, and cow hide print fabric to create their own brands. While these dried they were also able to create Rag Dolls using fabric, yarn, and two cotton balls. Approximately 60 kids from participated throughout the weekend, and many took kits to make dolls at home later. These grab-and-go rag doll bags are going to be used in future library visits and lectures.

Easter Egg Hunt at Fort Stanton

Over 500 children from the surrounding communities of Capitan and Ruidoso attended an Easter Egg Hunt held at Fort Stanton Historic Site. Staff were on hand to help kids enjoy their day hunting the parade grounds for treat filled eggs and to get their photo taken with the Easter Bunny.

New Mexico Outdoor Pass Summer Camp

Ten children from Alcalde, Dixon, Espanola, and Los Alamos participated in the first annual camp at Los Luceros Historic Site during the last week of June. Children who attended the New Mexico Outdoor Pass Summer Camp learned how to identify different bird species, catch aquatic macro-invertebrates, find animal tracks, use a fishing pole, and more. The goal of the camp was to connect the natural landscape to the cultural and historic landscape of Los Luceros. Instructional Coordinator, Rebecca Ward, partnered with Pajarito Environmental Education Center educator Beth Sanchez to create and run the 5-day summer camp.

Jemez Flute Demonstration

On May 3rd, 2023, Instructional Coordinator Marlon Magdalena was invited to the Jemez Valley High School to give a flute demonstration and performance on indigenous flutes found in North America to approximately 200 students ranging from 5th grade to 12th grade. He presented on the significance and importance of flute music and music in general to Jemez people as well as its importance to other indigenous people. This is an ongoing relationship between Jemez Historic Site and Jemez Valley School Public Schools. The school has also taken their children to Jemez Historic Site where staff gave a tour in both the Jemez and English languages because Jemez Valley Public Schools has both students from the surrounding communities as well as students from the Pueblo of Jemez.

Learn more online at <https://nmhistoricsites.org/virtual-classroom>



New Mexico History Museum

The New Mexico History Museum developed a host of innovative educational programs in collaboration with several organizations. Working closely with Indian Education Specialists and Humanities Specialist at the New Mexico Public Education Department, teacher toolkits were developed on subjects including “Miguel Trujillo and Native American Voting Rights.” Trujillo was a member of Isleta Pueblo and the plaintiff in *Trujillo v. Garley*, a landmark court case which led to removal of a constitutional requirement that blocked Native Americans in New Mexico from voting.

The History Museum’s new educational activities are aligned with both permanent and rotating exhibitions and the New Mexico Social Studies State Standards for grades K-12. As we expand our digital campus, the activities will be made available on our website as a pre- and post-visit activity or accompaniment to online virtual tours. Onsite experiences range from self-guided tours to programs facilitated by museum educators. Professional development opportunities are being created for educators statewide and enhanced methods to engage students in a social studies curriculum.

Hochberg Early Childhood Education Academy

The *Hochberg Early Childhood Education Academy*, named in honor of benefactors Stephen and Jane Hochberg, offers museum visits and educational programs to Head Start and Santa Fe Public Schools (SFPS) preschoolers and their families. Since 2015, over 3,400 preschool aged children have benefitted from these fieldtrips to the museum. Students from, Presbyterian Medical Services Head Start, United Way of Santa Fe County PreK, SFPS PreK, and First Presbyterian Child Development Center have explored and engaged in hands-on history. The program will begin again in the fall of 2023. Additionally, the education team collaborated with the Santa Fe Community College’s Early Childhood Center of Excellence to support their Early Education Certificate Program. This collaboration will provide opportunities for those seeking certification in Early Childhood Education to earn service hours toward their practicum.

Native American Artisans Portal Youth Program

In July and December of 2023, the Native American Artisans Portal Youth Program held shows at the museum to showcase the arts and crafts of Native artists. The Native artists range in ages 5 to 17 years old. Over 75 children have participated in these shows. They sell their hand-made, traditional arts and crafts that have been passed down from their parents or grandparents. The youth shows foster development of young artists and provide an opportunity for them to build

confidence and communication skills as they interact with the public in discussion of their art. Children who participate in the youth show often go on to become members of the Portal Program and leaders as members of the Portal Committee.

Learn more online at <https://www.nmhistorymuseum.org/education>



New Mexico Museum of Art

Partners in Education

During 2023 school year the New Mexico Museum of Art (MOA) prioritized expanding in person children and family programs, school centered programming, developing new community partnerships, and increasing our geographical reach. Two examples of this work include a partnership with ArtSmart, a Santa Fe based art education non-profit and the development of the Humanities Project. ArtSmart and MOA partnered during the Spring 2023 semester to develop in-person classroom-based arts education that tied back to the collection and exhibitions.

One of the goals of the collaboration is to develop relationships with communities throughout northern New Mexico and south of Santa Fe. Hernandez Elementary School, in Rio Arriba County, which serves 80 students in grades K – 6, was selected as a pilot program participant. MOA worked in partnership with ArtSmart teaching artists to deliver a range of in-class lessons connecting to exhibitions. Additionally, Educators conducted their own in-school classes for each student and arranged tours for the entire school.

Humanities Project

The New Mexico Museum of Art has also been developing educational resource to help connect New Mexicans with our collection. The Humanities Project is an outgrowth of an older resource called New Mexico Art Tells New Mexico History that explored the history of our state through the art in the collection. The Humanities Project goes beyond the subject of history to utilize subjects such as social studies, economics, and literature to explore artwork from the collection and vice versa. The target audience for this resource is K-12 students and teachers in New Mexico. To help ensure that the final product would be of the greatest use possible for New Mexico classrooms, MOA assembled a five-member advisory panel consisting of teachers from Albuquerque, Aztec, Clovis, Santa Fe, and Farmington. The subject areas of the advisory panel teachers includes Art History, English, Social Studies, and Literature. The panel reviewed materials, gave teacher perspectives that have shaped our thoughts on this project, suggested lists of topics, and reviewed initial mockups of the Humanities Project website. The prototype of the new resource was presented at the annual PLUNGE conference in Santa Fe in June to over 30 teachers from the Albuquerque and Santa Fe area. Attendees applauded many of the features recommended by the panel such as an emphasis on content, a focus on primary sources over prepared lessons plans, the ability for teachers to curate collections of content for future use by them and their students.

Learn more online at <https://www.nmartmuseum.org/discover>



**MUSEUM OF
INDIAN ARTS + CULTURE**

Museum of Indian Arts & Culture/Laboratory of Anthropology

The Museum of Indian Arts & Culture/Laboratory of Anthropology (MIAC/LOA) serves to educate the public about the diverse Indigenous peoples of the greater Southwest. The MIAC Education Program has been supported through grants and the generosity of donors and private funding. In FY23, MIAC served 2,104 children on and off site, hosted 27 public schools and 9 tribal schools, and served 1,023 preschool and K-12 students on site. Marita Hinds (Tesuque Pueblo), joined the team as Head of Education and Programs. Hinds has focused on building the school tours program, attracting docent volunteer corps, and establishing regularly scheduled programs to attract visitor participation. There is an a search to hire a Head of Family and School Programs to focus attention on outreach to teachers, build relationships with tribal school partners, and create programing opportunities for group visits with younger audiences.

Here, Now and Always

In July 2023, MIAC reopened the core permanent exhibition *Here, Now and Always*. This creates new opportunities to engage audiences with themes that are specific to the history and cultures of Indigenous people, as well as universal to all people: Cycles, Ancestors, Home, Community and Home, Trade and Exchange, Language and Song, Arts, and Survival and Resilience. MIAC partners with the Museum of International Folk Art (MOIFA) to host school groups that plan field trips to Museum Hill so that students can receive more focused attention in smaller tour groups.

The Classroom

MIAC hosts hands-on activities in a devoted classroom, providing instruction and all materials to complete an art project. These making activities are created to stimulate interest in the current exhibitions and reinforce learning, but also to be fun for all ages. The classroom has become a central focus for our monthly Sunday Fun Day, scheduled on the first Sunday of every month when museum admission is offered free to all New Mexico residents. When the exhibition *Down Home: Anthony Lovato* opened on the first weekend of May, we used the classroom to introduce audiences to jewelry making. Lovato is a master tufa caster—a highly technical process to cast metal. Knowing the technique to be very specialized, MIAC offered art making activities that focused on his imagery and materials. We created age-appropriate projects fun for anyone wanting to be creative. Audiences are especially excited to learn new techniques and have the supplies on hand in a making space.

Arts Alive!

MIAC collaborates in Arts Alive!, a summer program on Museum Hill hosted by the Santa Fe Botanical Garden, Wheelwright Museum of the American Indian, and MOIFA. Over the course of weeks, each venue presents multiple days of activities—free of charge—to family audiences. MIAC also partners with the New Mexico State Library’s Tribal Libraries Program to host summer activities for Native youth. In FY23, tribal communities were still closed due to concerns for community health. MIAC created take away projects that were distributed to libraries where programing could be managed locally. This project has been supported by the financial generosity of a private foundation since 2017.

Learn more online at <https://indianartsandculture.org/education>



MUSEUM OF INTERNATIONAL FOLK ART

Museum of International Folk Art

In FY 23 the Museum of International Folk Art (MOIFA) served 23,192 youth and adults (12,716 on-site and 10,476 off-site) through its various education, community outreach, and public programs

Family Mornings at Folk Art

This January through July early childhood education program focuses on pre-literacy and literacy skills, building cultural empathy, and creating a welcoming environment for parents and young children. We continue to build our family audiences who return for other family friendly public programs.

School Field Trips/Tours: Guided & Self-Guided

Educators and docents lead New Mexico school children on guided tours and provide educational materials for self-guided groups, serving local school children who might not otherwise be able to come to the museum, is a priority. We secured bus funding from our foundation for schools that do not have bus funding.

Make and Take

Docents manage an art cart with do it yourself art projects, all-ages coloring sheets, and self-guided treasure hunts weekly on Sunday afternoons. Families feel welcome and receive art and gallery activities for their children.

Public Programs

We offered 31 on-site public programs ranging from folk artist-led workshops and demonstrations, to lectures, films, music, theatrical performances and popular public annual celebrations such as Day of the Dead and Lunar New Year.

Community Outreach Programs

We partnered again this year with *Cooking with Kids* (CWK) to create folk art lessons to complement the cooking lessons for students and to provide hands-on arts training for the CWK instructors. CWK serves over 5,000 children in 7 Rio Arriba County schools and 13 Santa Fe County schools. Our bilingual educator also continued to collaborate with Gerard's House staff to co-lead art therapy sessions and summer camp sessions for children and adults. Gerard's House serves primarily Spanish speaking families experiencing loss due to death or deportation of family members. We also collaborated with a new partner, Axle Mobile Art Space this past year to bring a Cartoneria (Mexican papier Mache) exhibit and workshops to schools and community organizations in Santa Fe, Espanola, and Albuquerque. In this way, we serve schools and communities who do not have easy access to visiting the museum in person and providing them with free education/ art activities.

Folk Art to Go School Partnership Program

We partnered with art teachers at El Camino Real Academy (PreK-8th grade) and Mandela International Magnet Schools (7th-12th grade) in Santa Fe, and Abiquiu Elementary school in the Española School District to provide a 6-week deep dive into a particular form of folk art. Educators co-create curriculum with partner teachers and MOIFA provides a Folk Artist residency for each school. Student art showcases/exhibits are held at the school or at MOIFA. Through this program



students gain deeper knowledge and appreciation of folk art through interactions with living, local folk artists, and a customized curriculum.

Folk Art to Go Art Kits

Educators created over 270 kits for underserved communities including Embudo, Abiquiu, Hatch, Velarde, Mora Valley, Española, Albuquerque, and Southside Santa Fe, again serving schools and communities who do not have easy access to visiting the museum in person and providing them with free education/ art activities.

Learn more online at <https://www.internationalfolkart.org/learn>



New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science

The New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science (NMMNH&S) based Family Science initiatives include a variety of onsite and outreach programming. This year Educators reached over 15,000 family members through in-person targeted educational programming, over 30,000 kids in the Naturalist Center, and many additional thousands more through online videos and digital content.

Sandia Mountain Natural History Center

In addition to the museum-based programming, the Sandia Mountain Natural History Center (SMNHC), located in Cedar Crest, reached over 15,000 students, teachers and chaperones across the state with ecology-based programs throughout the FY 2023. Through in person, programming reached students in San Juan, Bernalillo, Sandoval, Colfax, Valencia, Torrance, and Grant counties. In 19 other counties, SMNHC filmed ecology YouTube videos to instill a sense of place and pride for students from across the state. This work was done through partnerships with Albuquerque Public Schools, New Mexico

State Parks, New Mexico Outdoor Recreation Division, Whitfield Wildlife Conservation Area, and the US Forest Service.

Onsite Family Programs

Onsite programs included the return of sensory friendly hours during Relaxed Nights to serve broader audiences, a full range of “winter break” family days that covered a variety of STEAM topics, public rock and mineral identification days with Mineral Mondays, our museum-based summer teen program Junior Docents, special Family Days that linked to our exhibits or to exciting science-in-the-news, and many others. In addition, this year we offered new programming including “Science Fiction or Fact?” which are nights that feature a film and Q&A by science experts, mineral and fossil themed talks to compliment Mineral Mondays, and hybrid lecture opportunities for volunteers and the public.

In addition, we hosted several special Family Days and public observatory viewing included with admission and linked to science-in-the-news, such as the James Webb telescope and the Mars rover mission. During these Family Days we provided tables and activities that shared space science educational materials - including information sheets about the Perseverance Mission and Mars, coloring sheets, a headband to cut out and take home, word searches and puzzles created by our museum exhibit’s graphic artists, and 4 hands-on activities invented by educators and scientists employed at the museum. Guests had the opportunity to create unique memories by walking on our 15ft by 22ft Mars floor image that shows the surface of Jezero Crater at true scale. For the Mars Day alone, held on May 5th, we welcomed 13 Mars Mission planners and scientists from the Jet Propulsion Lab, and we supported 554 students, 30 teachers and over 300 visiting families and friends.

Offsite Family Programs

Offsite Family Events were held, often in partnership with local libraries, in many communities including Belen (Valencia Co), Santa Fe, (Santa Fe Co), Rio Rancho, (Sandoval Co), Farmington, (San Juan Co), Anton Chico (Guadalupe Co), Hobbs (Lea Co.), Magdalena and Socorro (Socorro Co.), and Acoma Pueblo (Cibola Co.). In addition, the Education Department brought activity tables to events held by other organizations, such as Electric Playhouse, Rio Grande Nature Center, and our sister DCA organizations. Just over 3,000 children were served by these events.

Space Science

We are proud of our Space Science programming which provided stellar information throughout the state by offering Star Parties, portable Planetarium shows, and information and activity tables at offsite outreach. Outreach events included schools, SMNHC, Whitfield Wildlife Center, and the Placitas Library. We received a grant through the Smithsonian to participate in a nationwide Smithsonian “Sally’s Day” programming which included a Family Day and an evening with New Mexico women space scientists as part of a public viewing of “Hidden Figures”.

Science in the Summer

The NMMNH&S is a National Network partner of the “GSK – Science in the Summer” program through The Franklin Institute. The goal of this program is to increase children’s value of and confidence in doing science and pursuing STEM careers, especially for children from backgrounds currently underrepresented in STEM fields. In this 3rd year of the partnership, we sought and received increased funding to serve 800 students (600+ students served each of the past 2 summers). This summer the program theme is “Be a Physicist!” Partners include STEM Santa Fe, Farmington Boys and Girls clubs, Magdalena Science Club, New Mexico Trails Girl Scouts, Native American Community Academy, Jemez Valley, and tribal libraries.

Learn more online at nmnaturalhistory.org/education



New Mexico Museum of Space History

At the New Mexico Museum of Space History, education outreach is – whether onsite or offsite – a high priority. The Education Department team, under the umbrella of Rocketeer Academy, has spent much of the last year revamping and upgrading programs to better reflect the changing world around us. At the same time, programs have continued with outreach numbers for FY 23 exceeding 12,800 students. These programs include onsite classes where students participate in hands-on STEM activities like model rocket building and launching, learning about the forces of motion and gravity by launching eggs that have been carefully secured by the students (will your Eggstronaut survive?), the very popular portable planetarium shows, museum tours, and overnight sleep-ins, to name a few.



This past spring, museum educators collaborated with half a dozen regional school districts on a downlink with the International Space Station astronauts. Each school district chose a group of students to submit questions about living and working on station, which were then sent to astronauts Steve Bowen and Frank Rubio who answered the questions live onboard the station. During the new school year, educators are following up with those schools and students, reinforcing the excitement in STEM generated by the activity.

Over the winter holidays and spring break, educators held onsite programs for visiting children to encourage STEM engagement. “Holiday on the Hill” was the winter break program that had kids using a catapult to launch “presents” into a chimney, learning basic physics principles at the same time. The spring break activities were stretched over a three-week period to reach visitors and their children coming in from different school districts across the region. These programs included learning the fundamentals of rocketry using air rockets, learning about astronomy through star parties and solar viewing, and even an “Introduction to 3D Printing” class. There was also an occasional, and extremely popular, trash can launch!

Another focus is outreach presentations to regional and statewide school districts, civic organizations, and other groups that highlight the team’s flexibility and ability to cater to different needs in the classroom. These are designed to reach school administrators and teachers with a sampling of different programs the department offers - each of the offered programs can be tailored to meet the exact needs of the teacher whether it’s a kindergarten class or high school seniors. The goal of the education department is to light the spark of science discovery in classrooms across New Mexico and West Texas.

Educators also create social media videos on a variety of topics. From the history of space exploration to monthly night sky guides, and homemade science experiments, these social media videos help drive interest in the museum, education programs, and science in general.

Learn more online at <https://www.nmspacemuseum.org/rocketeer-academy>



Feb 23 Portable Planetarium – Centennial 2 – Centennial High School in Las Cruces invited museum educators and others to join them for a day of science exploration. This photo shows three portable planetariums set up and ready for students in the gymnasium.



Jan 23 Earth Science 4 – Strutting our astronaut stuff at the Round House during Earth Science Day! Museum Educators frequently don a space suit and make the day of visitors at the museum, but they have also been known to travel far and wide!



April 23 – Sleepover in Space – Multi-colored water rockets awaiting the moment of truth. These rockets were created during a sleep over at the museum. The basics of rocketry along with a build and launch activity are integral parts of the sleepover. Of course, having your own “night at the museum” is cool too!



Eggstronaut disaster! – A student from Mescalero High School discovers that her Eggstronaut did not make the cut!



National Hispanic Cultural Center

The National Hispanic Cultural Center developed an educational pedagogy for lifelong learners in FY 23 that consists of four pillars: Inquiry-based Learning, Culturally Responsive, Bilingual, and Learner-Centered with a horizontal cross pillar of Universal Design for Learning which promotes accessibility and equity for all learners.

Learner experiences for all ages from infancy through seniors, including intergenerational programs, are facilitated through dialogue and interactive, hands-on activities that are focused on a set of cross-programmatic Big Ideas/Key Concepts:

- Identity and Culture
- Traditions, History, and Language
- Place, Movement, and Diasporas
- New Narratives
- Exchange of Ideas and Technology
- Materials, Process, and Meaning
- Spirituality, Belief, and Community



The Center provides a wide range of inclusive and accessible learning experiences for all ages through the Visual Arts/Museum, Performing Arts, Education, and History & Literary Arts Programs through inclusive learning strategies based on this pedagogical foundation.

We focus on lifelong learning for intergenerational visitors that is rooted in community and culture. Every youth program is aligned with the mission to preserve, promote, and advance understanding of Hispanic culture, arts, and humanities.

Early Childhood Programming



In Fall of 2022 the Center launched early childhood programming which supports the “cradle-to-career” education initiative by fostering a curiosity for learning through the arts for our youngest learners. Over 300 infants/toddlers and their caregivers attended these programs during from July 2022 to June 2023.

Arte Poquito

Arte Poquito is a free monthly 45-minute program for infants ages 0 months to 4 years and their caregivers that nurtures creativity and provides bilingual introductory arts experiences balanced with social interaction. Each program focuses on different aspects of Hispanic/Latine arts, including music, dance, drama, and storytelling. Instructors model the introduction to core arts concepts to infants and caregivers in a supportive environment that fosters a sense of belonging as an entry point for ongoing participation in programs.

Early Childhood Bilingual Storytime

Early Childhood Bilingual Storytime is a free monthly, 45-minute program for children 3 to 5 years old and their caregivers that offers introductory bilingual literary and arts experiences through story, music, movement, creative play, and artmaking. Each program focuses on different aspects of Hispanic/Latine heritage and culture through stories supported by music, dance, creative play, and age-appropriate art activities. Instructors model the introduction of core arts concepts to infants and caregivers in a supportive environment.

Family Programming

Día de Familia and Noche de Familia are free bilingual, multisensory family programs that feature hands-on arts activities, performances, and family film screenings for intergenerational visitors. These events feature local and regional artists and community organizations to strengthen collaborations and build connections to Hispanic/Latine culture, engagement, bilingualism, and are an opportunity for children and their extended families to spend quality time together. In FY 23, over 1600 intergenerational visitors attended these family events.





Outreach to Rural Communities Virtually and in Person

The education team partnered with local and rural schools such as Dolores Gonzales Elementary, Albuquerque Public Schools, and Los Lunas schools to model culturally responsive teaching practices for whole child learning opportunities through arts and literacy. Examples include live-streamed school performances, virtual/hybrid arts lessons, on-campus workshops and tours, and professional development featuring culturally relevant pedagogy.

Learn more online at <https://www.nhccnm.org/learn>



New Mexico Arts

Poetry Out Loud

New Mexico Arts held the State Finals of Poetry Out Loud National Recitation Contest on March 5, 2023. The event featured students from seven schools from across New Mexico including student performers, Pueblo Pojoaque Youth Hoop Dancers and Zaphica, student jazz combo from new Mexico School for the Arts. School participants from Albuquerque, Las Cruces, Montezuma, Rio Rancho, and Wagon Mound participated. More than 500 students participated in Poetry Out Loud during in-school competitions.

Rutendo Musharu, a senior at UWC-USA was named state champion at the event and she represented New Mexico at the Western Regionals portion of the Poetry Out Loud National Finals, held in Washington D.C.,

March 8-10, 2023. She advanced to the final round of regionals, placing her in the top 24 of students from 50 US states and 6 jurisdictions. Poetry Out Loud 2024 registration opens in September for New Mexico schools.

Poetry Ourselves New Mexico

New Mexico Arts offered *Poetry Ourselves New Mexico*, a student driven original poetry competition for students in grades 9-12. The Program served 37 students from eight schools, and one homeschool student to complement Poetry Out Loud Program. One non-monetary award of Creative Excellence and five awards of Creative Merit were selected by New Mexico State Poet Laureate.

Professional Development Workshops

New Mexico Arts partnered with Keshet Dance and Center for the Arts to conduct a professional development workshop for teaching artists working in New Mexico. The workshop provided a travel stipend for participants that is an equitable approach to this financial barrier for participation. Topics included strengths-based learning, classroom management, designing a cohesive class series with scaffolded learning, nurturing a positive learning environment, and the business side of arts-gig-economy. The workshop served 16 public school teachers from the Albuquerque/Santa Fe area.

Arts Learning in Community

New Mexico Arts offers two grant categories for arts education projects with K-12 school-age children: Arts Learning in Schools and Arts Learning in Community. Arts Learning in Schools supports a wide range of programs taking place in K-12 schools either during school hours or during after-school programs, that may focus on creative process arts activities, arts activities integrated into other content areas, art history, or arts education professional development. Arts Learning in Community supports arts learning for K-12 school-age children outside of a school setting. These programs focus on creative process arts activities or the development of specific artistic skills and take place in 501 (c) 3 arts organization. In FY23, New Mexico Arts invested funding in Arts Learning in Community at \$75,501 and Arts Learning in Schools at \$87,680, supporting 25 organizations in the communities of Albuquerque, Dixon, El Prado, Hobbs, Montezuma, Mountainair, Santa Fe, Socorro, Taos and Tatum.

Imagine Nature

The Art in Public Places program of New Mexico Arts commissioned 15 New Mexico artists to create black and white illustrations for the DCA activity book, "Imagine Nature." Artists were asked to respond to a selection of poems by the current New Mexico Poet Laureate Lauren Camp. The resulting activity book was printed (20,000 copies) and distributed across New Mexico for free distribution to children of all ages through DCA facilities such as museums, and historic sites, as well as public libraries through the distribution assistance of New Mexico State Library. As well, a digital copy was made available for free download from DCA's website newmexicoculture.org for educators and families to utilize to increase accessibility.

New Mexico Office of Archaeological Studies

A DIVISION OF THE NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS

New Mexico Office of Archaeological Studies

With more than three decades of experience, the New Mexico Office of Archaeological Studies' Education Outreach Program emphasizes an outreach philosophy based in human ecological perspectives in combination with a multi-sensory approach and face-to-face interaction. Grants and donations support our award-winning education program.

Hands-on Learning

The goal of our Education Outreach Program is to provide a hands-on learning experience to New Mexicans of all ages and cultural and social backgrounds by exposing communities to the rich history of human adaptation in the region. We designed our unique integrative emphasis on geography, environment, and cultural diversity to create and expand a culture of empathy between the diverse populations of New Mexico, while also strengthening the identity and sustainability of individual communities.

Surviving and Thriving

Our program operates under the belief that an understanding of human history founded in ecological, social, and economic principles provides the best preparation for future generations forced to adapt to circumstances outside of their prior experiences or imagination. Offerings collectively themed "Surviving and Thriving: A History of Adaptation in New Mexico," include a traveling tabletop museum, demonstrations and workshops, and resources for teachers—including curriculum content and educator support.

In reference to our teacher training program, which we based on the Bureau of Land Management's Project Archaeology Curriculum, one Española Public Schools teacher said, "I can absolutely use all six lessons. Specifically, lessons 4 and 5 (Inferences and Observations), [that] I feel will be most likely used immediately."

We gear our Education Outreach Program toward multi-generational families and groups ranging from toddlers to grandparents, though we present some programming in classrooms of single-aged students, primarily late elementary to middle school aged. Over the past year (FY23), we provided educational services to 6,621 individuals, of which 1,982 were children and 4,639 were adults.

Geographic Reach

A goal is to reach people from across the state. This year we partnered with 29 different agencies including national monuments and parks, Native tribes, schools, museums, and libraries. Our programming reached 12 of the 33 New Mexico counties including Santa Fe, San Miguel, Torrance, McKinley, Doña Ana, Los Alamos, Sandoval, Bernalillo, San Juan, Mora, Rio Arriba, and Socorro. We also made our programming available to children, families, and tribal elders in Colorado, Oklahoma, and Utah.

Specifically, programs reached children and their families at the following places: Pecos National Historic Monument, Salinas Pueblo Missions National Monument, Bandelier National Monument, El Morro National Monument, the Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge, Bears Ears National Monument, Edge of the Cedars State Park and Museum, Comanche Nation, Santa Clara Pueblo, Ysleta del Sur Pueblo, Southern Ute Cultural Center, Native American Community Academy, Santa Fe Indian School, Mora Elementary School, the Amy Biehl Community School, Santa Fe Academy for Technology and the Classics, Hot Springs High School in Truth or Consequences, Northern New Mexico College, Abilene Christian University, Museum of International Folk Art, Museum of Natural History and Science, Museum of Indian Arts and Culture, Crow Canyon Archaeological Center, Vista Grande Public Library in Eldorado, New Mexico State Library locations, Bureau of Land

Management offices, Nature Niños, and Future Focused Education. Southwest Seminars also incorporated our programming into presentations, and it appeared on the nationally syndicated Children’s Hour public radio program.

One Native American Community Academy teacher had this to say about our programming, “With our ongoing [NACA STEAM] research efforts, the [OAS is] a great collaboration to [...] have students thinking outside the box and seed ideas for them to develop and refine their research-based interest and wonder.”

Interns

Last year, OAS’s Education Outreach Program partnered with Future Focused Education to offer our first-ever paid internship for teens and young adults aged 16 to 24. Three students, aged 17, 18, and 21, participated. During their internship, these young people participate in the day-to-day of the office, including attending staff meetings and giving a briefing on their work, have assigned tasks and responsibilities, and engage with our educators to learn how to replicate ancient lifeways skills for use in our education outreach programming.

In the words of one intern, “Every day or almost every day, I am doing something new or different [...] Being able to face problems and find effective solutions quickly is really helpful and important. [...] The more I help out, the more I contribute to the amazing discoveries. [...] It’s always a victory to me when I learn something new or complete a project. [...] Here at the OAS, we are like a close family, [...] I love it here.”

Learn more online at <https://www.nmarchaeology.org/education-outreach.html>



New Mexico State Library

Summer Reading Program

The New Mexico State Library supports summer reading programs across New Mexico as a member state of the Collaborative Summer Library Program, a national nonprofit that works to assist library staff in offering robust summer programming to their communities. Summer Reading Programs build excitement about reading and library use, enhance community, and create opportunities for families to share library experiences.



In 2022, 70 New Mexico public libraries offered almost 2,000 summer reading events – with over 23,000 registered participants and over 50,000 program attendees of all ages. In program surveys, parents and caregivers overwhelmingly report that library summer reading programs increase children’s enjoyment of reading, skill and amount of reading, and use of their local public library. We continue to gather the final data for the 2023 programs, but a sampling of responses gathered so far demonstrates the impact to families: “We live in the country and the kids get so excited to participate and interact with other kids in a fun, safe, cool environment.”

| JULY 2023 | | | | | | | NEW MEXICO STATE LIBRARY | PublicLibrary |
|--|--|--|---|---|--|---|--------------------------|---|
| Daily literacy-building activities to share with your child. | | | | | | | www.nmsl.org | Supporting public libraries throughout New Mexico |
| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY | | |
| 1 PLAYING Play items. Set up a store with your child's toys, take turns being the check-out clerk and the shopper. | 2 TALKING Talk about trees. Draw a tree and underneath, write down things that happen during the day. Draw a snowflake if things that happen at night. | 3 SINGING Sing a song with movement, like "BINGO". (Which are on the back.) | 4 COUNTING Talk about stars. Draw small boxes and large boxes. Ask your child to count the small boxes. | 5 READING Look at the cover of a book before reading it. Point out the book's title and say "The name of this book is..." | 6 WRITING Write a short message and turn it to your child's show. Read it together when your child reads it. | 7 WRITING Play "Follow the Leader" outside. Take turns being the leader. | | |
| 8 TALKING Use a fruit or vegetable your child loves. Talk about how it looks, tastes, smells, feels. Where does it grow? Where do you purchase it? | 9 SINGING Play music with a beat tempo as you pick up and put away toys. What can pick up the most toys? | 10 COUNTING Compare amounts. How many wheels does a car have? How many buttons does a shirt have? | 11 READING Use your voice as you read. Use different expressions to help your child learn about feelings. | 12 WRITING Draw the outline of your child's hand on a piece of paper. Write the date and have your child "sign" the drawing. Save it. | 13 PLAYING Play the letter day game. Look for things that begin with the first letter of your child's name. | 14 TALKING Take a walk outside. Talk about all you see. Talk about the weather and how it is different than in winter. | | |
| 15 SINGING Sing or write "Mary Had a Little Lamb". (Words are on the back.) | 16 COUNTING Count how many facts you see today. Keep a list. Note location, color, sounds. At the end of the day look at your list and discuss. | 17 READING After reading a book together have a conversation. Talk about your favorite parts. | 18 WRITING Help your child draw a picture of a summer activity. Have your child "sign" the picture. | 19 PLAYING Use water to "paint" on the sidewalk. Watch it evaporate. | 20 TALKING At bedtime talk about when various animals sleep at night. | 21 SINGING Play "Twinkle Twinkle Little Star" while dancing to music. When the music stops, everyone has to freeze. | | |
| 22 COUNTING Use a piece of string to measure things. | 23 READING Read a book about summer. | 24 WRITING Ask your child to dictate a letter to a special person. Show how to address an envelope and add a stamp. Then mail the letter together. | 25 PLAYING Play "Kiss Me." (Who bigger than your hand and who is smaller. What are? We are about.) | 26 TALKING Talk about things you do in the morning. Then you do in the afternoon and things you do at night. | 27 SINGING Play "The Hokey Choo" Clap, stomp, or beat a drum and have your child repeat the notes. | 28 COUNTING Create a grocery list with your child. Together, look at what you have and decide what you will need to purchase. | | |
| 29 READING Point out words everywhere you go today. | 30 WRITING Spend time drawing together. | | | | | | | |

“The summer reading program helps keep my son engaged in learning and socializing while out of school. We live in a very rural area and it is difficult to find engaging activities when school is not in session.”

“They have more desire to read and go to the library to get more books.”

“We all started reading more and my boys started understanding more when I read to them.”

“We are grateful for this program and how much it promotes reading in our own community.”

“My child loves attending. This summer reading program has impacted my child to have less screen time and expand his vocabulary and understanding of letter sounds, spelling and word recognition.”

NMSL provides statewide workshops to library staff, as well as robust online resources, to assist in planning and implementing their summer reading programs.

Early Literacy Calendar: For 2023, the New Mexico State Library made available an Early Literacy Calendar (in English and Spanish) for all public libraries to distribute to patrons based on the Every Child Ready to Read framework for literacy skills. These calendars give caregivers daily skill-building activities, plus rhymes, songs, and booklists to help their child get ready to read. We have had overwhelmingly positive response to the calendar which has been accessed online by libraries over 1100 times since January 2023.



Circulating Kits: The New Mexico State Library offers 19 free circulating kits to public libraries to expand their programming in STEAM concepts.

These hands-on, professionally developed experiences allow youth to explore their interests in science, technology, engineering, art, and math. Traveling bilingual book walks and exhibits allow libraries to share educational opportunities within their communities. A new online reservation system allows libraries to view and reserve our offerings in real time, to assist in long-term planning.



Learn more online at <https://nmstatelibrary.org/services-for-new-mexico-libraries/summer-reading>



Wonders on Wheels Mobile Museum

The *Wonders on Wheels* (WoW) mobile museum rolled into FY23 with a busy schedule of educational programming for underserved schools, libraries, and community events all over the state. In FY23, the WoW program delivered in-person programming to 8,606 children in all 33 counties in New Mexico. From July to November of 2022, the WoW RV continued to tour with *iMusica Buena! Celebrating the Music of New Mexico*, an exhibit designed by the Museum of International Folk Art (MOIFA).

iMusica Buena!

With stunning photography and fun musical instruments, this exhibit explored the rich diversity of musical traditions in New Mexico. WoW educators designed lessons highlighting the emergence of music among indigenous peoples, the arrival of Hispano musical traditions, and more recent developments of cowboy music, mariachi, and New Mexico-style flamenco. Along with curriculum-based lessons on the



RV, children explored the mechanics of sound at our craft table by making their own shakers with plastic Easter eggs and a variety of household materials.

In November, this exhibit was de-installed from the RV to allow for the installation of a new exhibit. Given that *¡Musica Buena!* had been such an educational success, the WoW supervisor worked with MOIFA educators to design an innovative new trunk program to take this exhibit to schools within our day range of travel. Essential objects were packed into a large rolling trunk and transported by car, along with several visual panels from the exhibit. Combining 45-minute lessons with hands-on exploration, this program provided educational programming to 1,131 children in eighteen schools. On the heels of such success, the WoW team plans to expand this new trunk program in FY24.

Gustave Baumann: Hand of an Artist, Heart of New Mexico

In March 2023, the WoW RV began touring with *Gustave Baumann: Hand of an Artist, Heart of New Mexico*, an exhibit designed and installed by the New Mexico Museum of Art featuring Baumann's woodblock prints and marionettes. Through this exhibit, WoW educators teach children about how art is produced, shared, and comprehended by diverse audiences. At the marionette station, they learn how marionettes are constructed to mimic human anatomy, and they experiment with making marionettes perform specific actions. At the craft table outside the RV, children receive an art lesson on Baumann's complex process of printmaking, and they make their own woodblock prints using replicas of Baumann's own blocks.



Partnerships and Poetry

Throughout FY23, *Wonders on Wheels* continued to partner with community groups and other state agencies as well as schools and libraries. In September 2022, WoW worked with Queen Bee Music and Embudo Valley Library to develop a special visit to Dixon. Children toured the RV and made shakers at the craft table, but also learned how to play the ukelele! In May 2023, WoW worked with New Mexico Arts and the New Mexico State Poet Laureate, Lauren Camp, to develop a program teaching children how to create poetry based on works of art (ekphrastic poetry). With Lauren Camp as special guest educator, the WoW poetry program was presented at six New Mexico libraries.

The *Wonders on Wheels* team continued to collaborate with DCA educators in working groups to develop learning materials, activity kits, and travelling exhibits. In the activity kits group, WoW educators helped to create the *A is for Artist* coloring book. Aimed at fostering early childhood literacy, the coloring book is a multilingual alphabet coloring book featuring artwork from artists across New Mexico. In addition, WoW educators worked collaboratively to develop travelling exhibits and helped to create over 250 activity kits sent out statewide.

Learn more online at <https://www.newmexicoculture.org/museum-resources/wonders-on-wheels>