



Arts & Cultural Districts: *New Mexico*

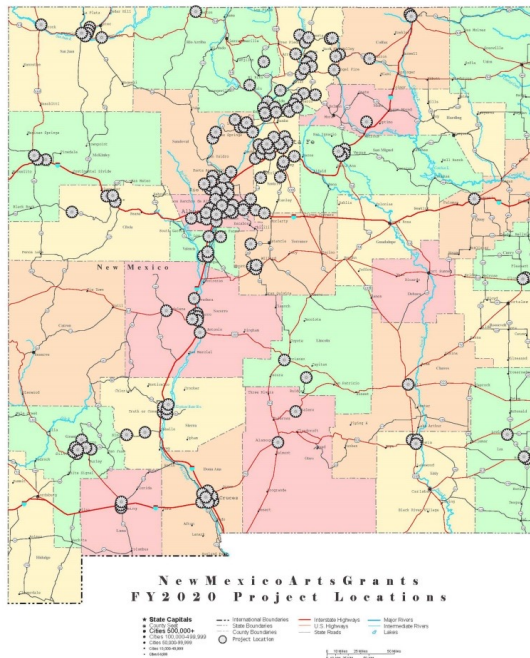


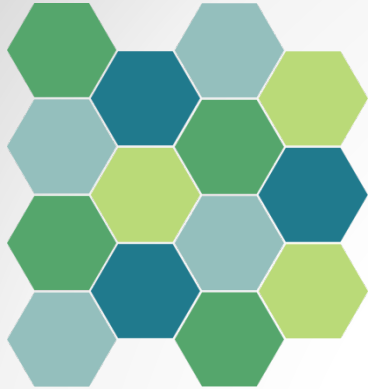
*Presentation for the Wyoming Arts Alliance's Arts
Advocacy 2021: Looking Forward – 04.08.21*



State Highlights

- 5th largest state by geography
- Only 3 cities with populations over 25,000
- Total population of 2.4 million
- Minority majority state with high Hispanic population
- Over 10% of the population are veterans
- Over 10% are Native American
- Persistent and generational poverty





ACD Program Highlights

- Began with legislation passed in 2007
- An "arranged marriage" between MainStreet and New Mexico Arts with participation by Tourism, Transportation and Historic Preservation
- 6 state authorized districts and 1 compound
- 1 municipally designated district
- 3 startup districts

The Arts & Cultural Districts

Program promotes the exceptional art and history of New Mexico while assisting communities in developing their cultural and artistic resources to create dynamic and economically vibrant districts.



Benefits

- A professional three day “ACD Resource Team” of interdisciplinary professionals involved in the creative economy provide an initial implementation plan
- An economic structural analysis of the ACD District through the UNM Bureau of Business and Economic Research
- Resources to complete a municipally adopted “ACD Cultural Economic Development Plan”
- Resources to develop a municipally adopted District Master Plan/Metropolitan Redevelopment Plan
- Semi-annual network meetings for local ACD Leaders
- State branding and marketing of the program to cultural and heritage tourists
- A doubling of state historic tax credits for eligible properties within the District
- Technical assistance through cooperating state agencies
- Use of local economic development funds for cultural facilities and organizations within the District from the Local Economic Development Act (LEDA)



The Upside

- Breaking down the barriers between the arts and economic development at the state level
- Building Creative Communities Conferences
- Historic Theaters Initiative
- MainStreet state focus now on the creative economy
- Leveraging funding at the state and local level



Some Things We've Learned

- The program must be flexible enough to handle the differences between communities
- Many communities needed help before authorization (start ups)
- An unfunded mandate has a tendency to remain unfunded
- The underfunding of the arts continues to impact how much we can do



Thank You!

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public support for the arts