



Las Cruces Arts & Cultural District Newsletter

June 2021

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

A Study in Water and Acequias

Water is a potent theme for us this month. We have some in our part of the Rio Grande this year, but it is only expected to be for this one month, June. So, plan accordingly if you irrigate or if you use the river or the acequias as inspiration for your art.

Speaking of acequias, the Acequia Madre very rarely has water in it these days, but it was a critical piece in Las Cruces being located where it was one hundred and seventy-three years ago. It still forms the western boundary of our Las Cruces Arts and Cultural District, even though only two short stretches of that life giving feature are still visible and not covered.

One project I hope we can eventually start and complete will be to establish two small parks along the sections of the Acequia Madre that are still exposed, with the nearby sections that are covered at least marked to highlight what that irrigation ditch meant to this community in its early years. Our culture here, for hundreds if not thousands of years, has centered on the presence of water. Our art has often followed suit.

On Monday, June 21, we will celebrate our second Make Music Day, and it is looking like it may be a whole different event from what was possible last year. Water is still expected to be in the river at that point and probably in some of the acequias and ditches, possibly making it a backdrop to some of our performances. Regardless, we invite people to enjoy the wide range of musical expression that will be available that day.

Representatives for each of the classical “elements” (water, earth, fire, and air) would seem to be in evidence this June. From them, our culture, and our art we look to enhance our special district to greet our guests, inform ourselves, and inspire the art and culture of the future.

-Greg Smith, ACD Chair



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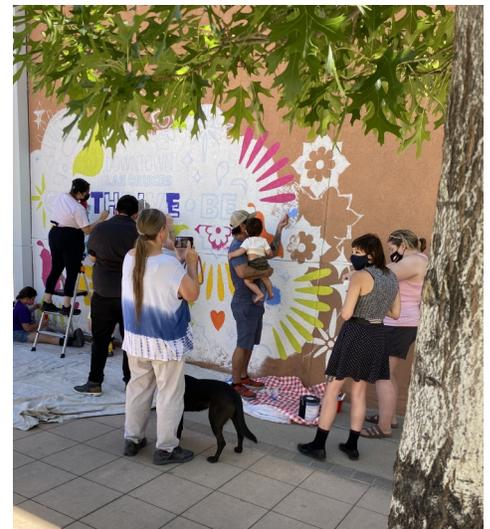
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New Mural Alert! Go•Thrive•Be

Downtown Las Cruces Partnership (DLCP) in collaboration with NMCO Media will be painting a new, featured mural on Main Street in downtown Las Cruces. The new mural will be created to introduce a creative campaign for DLCP. The objective of the campaign is to reintroduce downtown Las Cruces to residents and elevate tourism in the district. The campaign is called, “Go•Thrive•Be Downtown Las Cruces” and includes brightly illustrated artwork featuring quail, patterns, and floral accents. The campaign will also include a commercial and an updated website to be released in the near future. NMCO Media Graphic Designer and muralist, Dana Apodaca said, “The concept of the work was to celebrate the classic New Mexican style we see in daily life, in a way that is fresh, colorful, and exciting--kind of a reflection of what is happening in downtown Las Cruces right now. It’s a reinvigoration of life with new energy, new businesses, new attractions for tourists.”

The mural is painted on the west side of the Insta-Copy Imaging wall at 318 North Main Street. Insta-Copy has supported DLCP with other artistic endeavors as they have offered their wall for the “Color Me Cruces” mural which was painted by Ballew and Atom Bomb Studio owners, Anahy Nunez and “Xombi,” Aaron Valenzuela.



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Tell Us What You Really Think!

It's Downtown Las Cruces Partnership and the Las Cruces Arts and Cultural District want to know about your experiences this year. 2020 was one for the books, and your insights will provide us with valuable information that will impact our programs and projects moving forward.

In Las Cruces, we say "downtown" to mean a lot of things. For the purposes of this survey, the boundaries of downtown are Alameda, Amador, Mesquite, and Spruce. Thank you so much for taking the time to answer this survey. If you would like to enter the drawing for a \$25 downtown gift card, please select this option at the end.



The survey closes Tuesday, June 15th.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/GLCRLHB>

Celebrating Pride Month with Senator Carrie Hamblen, D38



"On June 2nd, 2020, I became the first openly queer person to run for a seat representing southern New Mexico. As an out lesbian for MANY years, living my truth, being able to speak in support of my LGBTQ+ siblings who couldn't speak up because of soooo many things, has always been an honor.

While on the Senate floor, wearing my rainbow mask, showed so many queer folks throughout the state that there is a place for all of us, especially at the level of creating policy and law for our residents. When I spoke about bodily autonomy during the debate of SB10, repealing the anti-abortion law from 1969, I talked about how important this was to the LGBTQ+ community. When I spoke up about the importance of gathering data at the state level for LGBTQ communities, I heard from community members about how important that was to determine what resources were needed.

There are so many other times where representing, along with my freshman Senate colleague Leo Jaramillo, that we knew the impact of our presence there...not only to our constituents, our LGBTQ+ siblings, and the state, but also to the larger meaning that our voices matter. "

-an excerpt taken with permission from Sen. Hamblen's Facebook page



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Make Music Day 2021 Coming to the ACD

In celebration of International Make Music Day, which takes place June 21 every year, a variety of local organizations are set to host live concerts throughout the city that will feature local musicians, music demonstrations and music-themed giveaways. The celebration will incorporate live demonstrations and performances as well as an online component.

The live performances will kick off at Klein Park, 155 Mesquite St, at 11am featuring regional performers until about 1pm. As part of the performance, there will also be mariachi music and educational demonstrations. Attendees are encouraged to bring a picnic lunch, water, and lawn chairs or a blanket.

Later in the day, the Plaza de Las Cruces, 100 N. Main Street, will host a showcase of local bands of varying genres which will perform on the main stage from 6:30pm to 9:30 p.m. Attendees are encouraged to bring water, lawn chairs, and umbrellas for shade.

For the most up-to-date schedule or to get involved in the events, visit: makemusicday.org/lascruces or follow the group's Facebook page at facebook.com/makemusicalascruces

All live events will follow the most current Covid-Safe Practices and state and local restrictions including mask-wearing for those who are not fully-vaccinated.

New Exhibits at the Doña Ana Arts Council



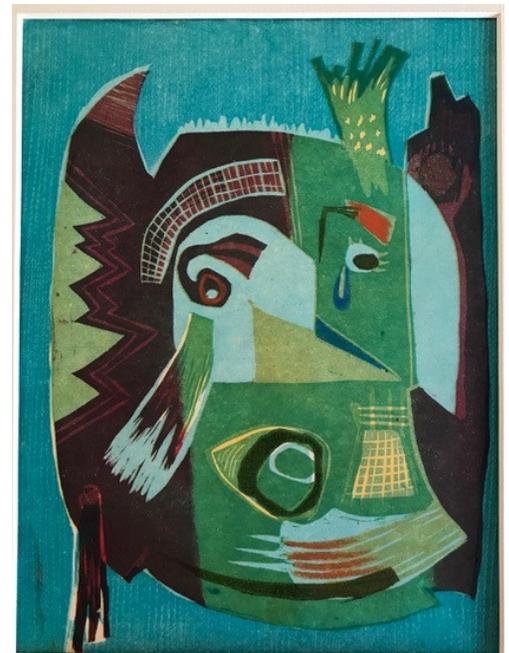
"Spring Symphony"

Wayne Suggs

June's gallery exhibits include Wayne Suggs Photography and Relief Prints from Noel Sandino in the Staszewski Library.

Location: 250 W. Amador Ave,
88005

Hours: 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. Monday
through Friday, with extended
hours on the *Second Satur-
day* each month from 12 noon to
5 p.m.



"Mask"

Noel Sandino



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Announcements! Announcements! Announcements!

Comment/Concern Tool Coming Soon!

Have you ever wanted to share your downtown experience or ask a question, but didn't know where to start? Downtown Las Cruces Partnership and the Las Cruces Arts and Cultural District want to be your first point of contact. If we can't help you- we'll connect you to someone who can. Beginning in June, DLCP and the LCACD will be launching a tool to help emerging/new businesses, established businesses, residents, and visitors communicate their, needs, comments, and concerns. Formatted as a short survey, this resource will better help us respond to the needs of our downtown community.

ACD Webpage is Live!

Through the diligent efforts of the ACDCC design committee's collaboration with NMCO, the ACD's new webpage is live. As part of the DLCP website, the ACD webpage is a great resource to learn about the history of the district, see examples of public art, review past and current projects, and explore the ACD's goals and vision. To check out the webpage, visit <https://downtownlascruces.org/las-cruces-arts->

Year One of Artists in Residence Concludes in June



This year, the Artists in Residence Program featured six artists who lived/worked in the district. When conceived in May 2020, the project was envisioned to be a series of single artist shows, culminating in a collaborative exhibit. However, with the ever-changing public health orders of the fall and winter of 2020 and 2021, through the resilience and flexibility of our artists, a new video format was introduced. This change turned out to be a boon of the program, giving each artist three videos to use to promote themselves and their businesses, and allowing DLCP and the ACD to promote each widely through social media and the DLCP website. The last series of videos will be published in late June.

As a result of the program's success, the ACD will continue to project for a second year, keeping to the video format and adding in-person(s), in accordance with State public health mandates. To learn more about the project, visit <https://downtownlascruces.org/downtown-artists/>. To inquire about participation in the 2021-2022 program, please email assistant@dlcp.org.



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Inaugural Generations Community Writing Project a Resounding Success!

The Generations Community Writing Project culminated in a moving reading on Thursday, April 22. The event, held over Zoom, had over 35 attendees which included representatives from DLCP and the ACD Coordinating Council as well as notable members of the community including a New Mexico State Senator, the Doña Ana County Sheriff, and two City Councilors. Through the project theme of hope, the writers touched the hearts of those in attendance and brought thoughtful messages about the need for assessment, strength, and self-reflection after a turbulent 2020. Since the event, the ACD has received much praise, both in person and on social media. With 37 writers applying to be part of the project this year and the amount of community excited generated by the reading, we are excited to plan for year's event. To learn more about the project and read the works of the Outstanding Senior and Junior Writers, please visit: <https://downtownlas Cruces.org/generations-community-writing-project/>

MEET THE
Generations 2021 Writers!
COMMUNITY WRITING PROJECT

Cassie McClure
Cassie McClure is a freelance writer, fan of the Oxford comma, and drinker of tequila. She writes the nationally syndicated column "My So-Called Millennial Life."

Steve McLary
Steve McLary is a native of Indiana, an attorney, and published poet. He loves the sharp edged light of New Mexico high desert.

Angelica Rubio
Angelica writes to unleash her demons, and her pen and paper are the tools that help her attempt at being courageous enough to finally be seen, by reading her words.

Keith Whelpley
Keith Whelpley was raised in Rockford, Illinois. He came to New Mexico in 1985 to attend NMSU. He earned a journalism degree and wrote for nearly two decades before entering his family's business.

Roseanne Baca
Roseanne Baca, poet and native of Las Cruces, believes everyone has a voice and encourages others to find the power of their story through writing.

Nayeli Cuevas
Nayeli Cuevas is a film major and enjoys writing comedy dramas and poetry. She has been writing stories since kindergarten- Aspiring to write scripts.

Kim Stewart
Kim Stewart is the current Sheriff of Doña Ana County and she has written professionally for various international publications and websites. Her favorite genre is creative non-fiction.

Joshua Rex
Artist, teacher, mentor, friend. Rex works as a community consultant and coach for those who have been marginalized, misrepresented, and misunderstood.

PRESENTED BY:
Generations COMMUNITY WRITING PROJECT
DLCP

Meet the
Generations
COMMUNITY WRITING PROJECT
Panelists!

Greg Smith
As the current chair of the Arts and Cultural District Coordinating Council and executive director of the Doña Ana Arts Council, Greg is fully immersed in the many arts of our community.

Tamera Ahner
Tamera brings her zest for life to the pages of Sonoma Ranch Life & Picacho Living, along with her years of experience as a healthcare administrator & community connector.

Kelly Medina-López
Kelly Medina-López is a proud Aggie, with a Ph.D. in Rhetoric and Professional communication from NMSU. Her research focuses on Latinx and Indigenous border rhetorics and writing.

PRESENTED BY:
Generations COMMUNITY WRITING PROJECT
DLCP



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**PASOS
AJENOS**

Social Justice and
Inequalities in the
Borderlands



COMING
Jul 29-Nov 6th



Saint Joseph
& The Laborers



**EXHIBITION
NOW OPEN**
Jan 21 - Nov 6th



Upcoming Exhibitions at the NMSU Art Museum

The New Mexico State University Art Museum will kick off its Summer-Fall 2021 season with three new exhibits, “Sorry for the Mess,” “Pasos Ajenos,” and “Saint Joseph & The Laborers.”

The three exhibitions will open to the public July. 29 through November. 6 with a public opening on Thursday, July 29 5:30-7:30 p.m. through a timed ticket reservation system, allowing up to sixty people to enter in 30-minute blocks.

“Sorry for the Mess (SFTM),” featuring work by artists Justin Favela and Ramiro Gomez, originated at the Marjorie Barrick Museum of Art at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. It focuses on labor, childhood memories and life as first-generation Americans in the Southwest.

In addition to the main exhibition, in the Contemporary Gallery, the theme will be explored through another exhibit focused on social justice issues impacting the Las Cruces and El Paso Borderlands region, created by two criminal justice professors as part of NMSU’s Borderlands and Ethnic Studies program.

“Pasos Ajenos: Social Justice and Inequalities in the Borderlands,” created by Dulcinea Lara, director of the Borderlands and Ethnic Studies program and fellow criminal justice associate professor Nicholas Natividad, will be on display from July. 29 through Nov 6 in the Bunny Conlon Modern and Contemporary Art Gallery. The exhibit designer is local artist Daniel Aguilera. Aguilera is an Exhibits Fabricator at the Farm and Ranch Heritage Museum in Las Cruces.

“Saint Joseph & The Laborers” is a separate exhibition taking place in the Margie and Bobby Rankin Retablo Gallery on view now through November 6 , which delves into the role of the laborer through the lens of Mexican retablo imagery.

To learn more about these exhibits and other upcoming events, visit <https://uam.nmsu.edu/>.

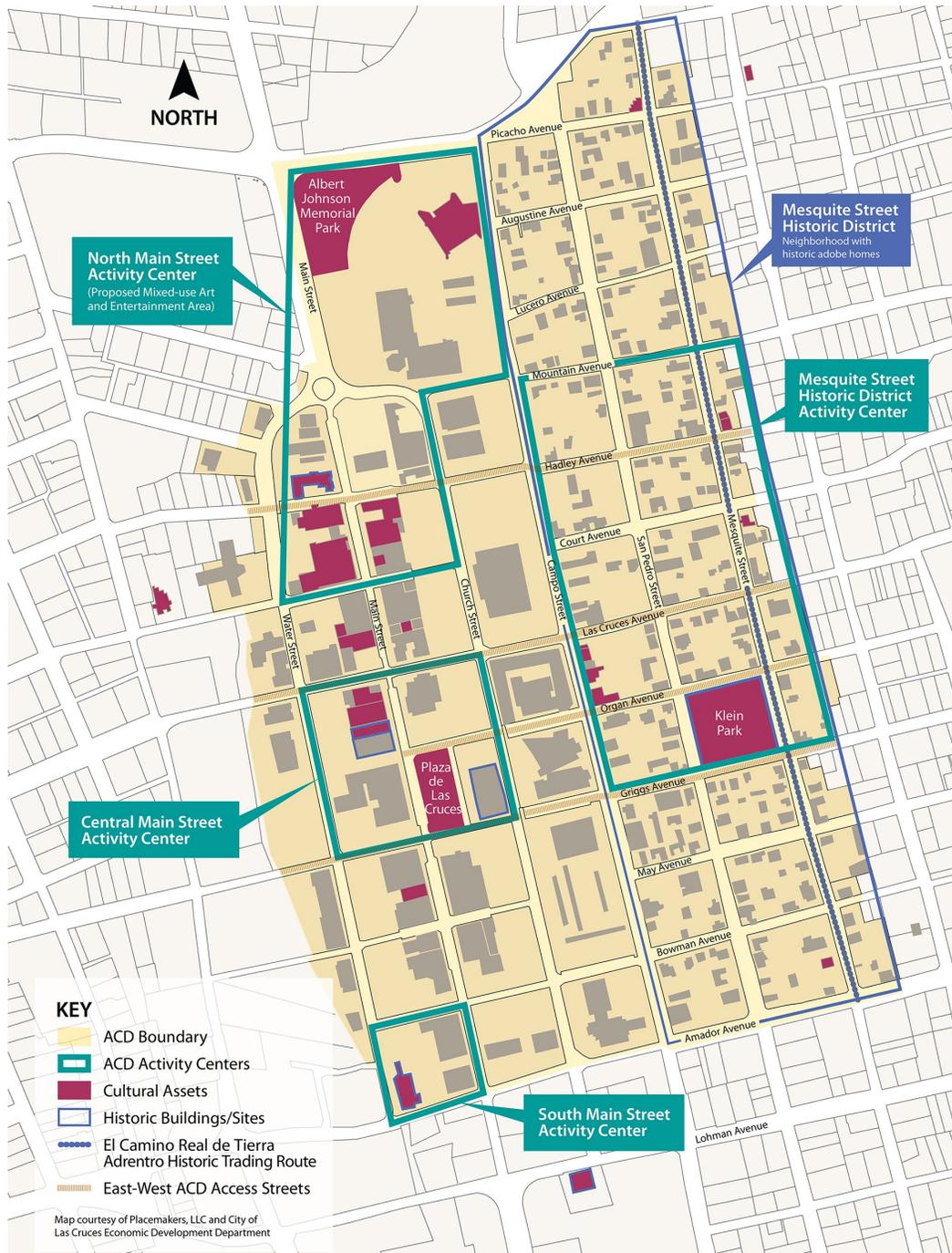


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LAS CRUCES ARTS & CULTURAL DISTRICT MAP



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