



NEW MEXICO SCHOOL FOR THE ARTS  
**2018 - 2019**





*"NMSA has been very transformative for me. When I went to NMSA it immediately gave me the tools...to express my views on things, to show people what I want them to see, how beautiful things can be. It set up a comfort zone for me to lay out the artistic soul in me."*

**- Veronica Toledo, NMSA Visual Artist '19**

Artwork: "Different Worlds" by Veronica Toledo

# Dear NMSA Community,

Welcome guests, fellow Trustees, sponsors, students, and justly proud families to this very, VERY special evening! Tonight, NMSA celebrates several extraordinary milestones:

- NMSA will open the doors of its brand-new campus this August to the first students who will begin and close their high school careers at the new school.
- NMSA will welcome a record-breaking 254 students.
- NMSA will launch fifth full arts major, *Creative Writing & Literature*, this August.
- The New Mexico State Legislature approved capital outlay funding of \$4,257,500 to help us build the next phase of the new campus, a cafeteria and a residential dormitory.

NMSA has a proven track record of developing and providing exceptional opportunities to youth who may otherwise not have access to them. The opening of its own campus solidifies NMSA as an important part of the educational landscape of New Mexico.

These milestones complement the honors that NMSA students has earned won over the last year:

- The Class of 2019 has received \$6.7 million in scholarships offers.
- NMSA's graduation rate is 98%!
- NMSA seniors were accepted, to many distinguished colleges and universities: Johns Hopkins University, New York University-Tisch School of the Arts, Rhode Island School of Design, University of New Mexico, the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Maryland Institute College of Art, California Institute of the Arts, New Mexico State University, Institute of American Indian Arts and St. John's College.

Over the last several years, both of us have served NMSA, its students, and its mission in different ways: Ned as Chair of the Board of Trustees, and Bill as Chair of the Governing Council. It has been our honor and privilege to serve in these capacities alongside deeply committed and generous colleagues.

NMSA's successes have always been a team effort, and they will continue to be, as the Board of Trustees, Governing Council, NMSA's devoted staff, parents, and faculty, and those incredible and talented students, together show what the power of a dream can create.



**Ned W. Bennett**  
Chair, Board of Trustees  
New Mexico School for the Arts



**Bill Beacham**  
Chair, Governing Council  
New Mexico School for the Arts

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 Paula Tackett, *Secretary*  
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# DEAR NMSA FAMILY & FRIENDS,

Welcome to *ArtSpring 2019*! We can hardly believe that in just a few weeks, after dreaming of a home for NMSA for so many years, NMSA's new campus will be welcoming its first students to their new home.

This home has been designed with our students' needs in mind: for modern classrooms, dedicated practice and rehearsal rooms, and gathering spaces that refresh the spirit and strengthen the community bonds we share.

It is with deep affection that we will look back at the old St. Francis Cathedral School and appreciate the sense of community and belonging the building fostered.

Now, we face an equally hopeful future, anchored by a beautiful campus in Santa Fe's Railyard District. NMSA, we know, will quickly become a welcome part of this community, adding to its energy and vitality.

By next year, NMSA will be on its way to fulfilling its mandated enrollment of 300 students. As we remember our opening in 2010 with 137 students, we can be very proud of how close we are now to that goal, after only nine years, thanks to the support of our generous donors.

Surely, the future will present us with new challenges, but as we look toward NMSA's tenth anniversary, we do so with faith in our strength, in the importance of our mission, and gratitude for the support of the NMSA community. We couldn't have done this without you!

We will close by wishing continued success to the 53 seniors in the Class of 2019, and by welcoming our new students, the class of 2023 as we celebrate the opening of the *new* **New Mexico School for the Arts on August 12, 2019!**



**Cindy Montoya**  
President  
New Mexico School for the Arts



**Eric Crites**  
Head of School  
New Mexico School for the Arts





# Board Spotlight

## Ned Bennett

*“Most people have a bucket list of things they wish they had done – I don’t have one. I always strived to do everything I ever wanted to do.”*

There was never a challenge too great or any objective too insurmountable for Ned Bennett. With the right combination of determination, moxie and entrepreneurial spirit, Ned has built an outstanding legacy of excellence. “Most people have a bucket list of things they wish they had done – I don’t have one. I always strived to do everything I ever wanted to do.”, he said.

Over the course of his professional life, Ned has had careers in several different fields: Education, Public Assembly, Gold Sales, and, most recently, Online Stock Brokerage. After operating a technical college in Columbus Ohio, Ned moved to the Pacific Northeast and became the Vice President of the Cape Cod Coliseum, where he presented the venue’s first concerts, hosting renowned artists: from Arthur Fiedler and the Boston Pops to Aerosmith, and George Winston. Ned went on to open the Mid-Hudson Civic Center in Poughkeepsie, New York and, among many other ventures, continued to present concerts there.

Shifting career paths, Ned then moved into gold sales, as he had always had a fascination with gold and precious metals. Following great success in that field, Ned founded his own ‘.com’ startup: Options Express. Options Express was one of the financial sector’s first 100% online, full-service stock brokerages. The website automated the management of stock portfolios, offering all the services a floor-broker provided. The company received the top star rating for four consecutive years from Barron’s ratings and, after going public, was ultimately merged with the Charles Schwab Corporation.

Ned’s interest in and support for the arts is personal as well as philosophical: he is an avid saxophonist and took lessons at Chicago’s Bloom Institute of Jazz during the complex start-up phase of Options Express. Ned would take reprieves, while working long into nights with website developers and business partners, to woodshed on his instrument and practice standards. “Music has always been an important part of my life”, he said, along with marriage.” Ned is very proud to have been married for over 40 years to artist and gallerist, Sandy Zane. The two have not only shared success as business partners, forming a 100% online art sales business – Zane Bennet Contemporary Art – but also share passions for the arts and aviation. Sandy and Ned are both excellent pilots and have been flying together, all over the country, for many years. Ned, himself, has been flying privately for over 50 years.

Ned has served as the Chair of the New Mexico School for the Arts – Art Institute Board of Trustees for the past seven years. He is “impressed by the makeup of our Board and [is] very honored just to be one of them. The sheer amount of money that we have raised demonstrates how committed our donors are to NMSA’s students.”

We extend our deepest gratitude to Ned Bennett for his dedicated service and leadership from the early days of NMSA through the completion of the Phase 1 construction project for the new campus.

# Governing Council Spotlight



## Gregory Hunt

Gregory Hunt, who serves as the Treasurer of the Governing Council of New Mexico School for the Arts, is a public service veteran, with more than 30 years of commitment to New Mexico and the Santa Fe Public Schools. Shortly after graduating in 1965 from the College of Santa Fe, Hunt began his career in accounting as the Assistant Business Manager for the College. He then moved into the public sector for the New Mexico Department of Human Services, where he served for 25 years, eventually becoming Chief of the Report Section. Later, Hunt became Budget Manager for Santa Fe Public Schools, where he worked tirelessly to advocate for school employees.

According to Hunt, NMSA co-founders Cindy Montoya and Catherine Oppenheimer reached out to him “out of the blue” to become a founding member of NMSA’s Governing Council. With only one short hiatus from the Council during his nine-year tenure, Hunt has continued to play an integral role in NMSA’s leadership.

Hunt loves to travel and is a patron of the arts in Santa Fe, attending performances at the Lensic Performing Arts Center and The Santa Fe Opera. In fact, Hunt worked as a stage hand at the Greer Garson Theatre in college and worked his way up in production management. Whether backstage or balancing books, Hunt has always strived for excellence – a quality that has distinguished his service to New Mexico School for the Arts over the years.



## Paula Tackett

***“So many talented young people weren’t able to access this kind of training before NMSA.”***

Born and raised in Albuquerque, Paula Tackett graduated with a degree in History from the University of New Mexico. After spending four years in Washington, DC, operating an experimental foreign exchange program, Tackett returned to her alma mater to earn a law degree. Afterward, Tackett worked in the Santa Fe office of the New Mexico Court of

Appeals under Judge Ramon Lopez before moving into private practice with the White Coch Kelly McCarthy Law Firm: the firm’s first female attorney.

Tackett later returned to public service, where she stayed till retiring, spending twenty-eight years working for the State of New Mexico, eventually becoming the Director of the Legislative Counsel Service.

Tackett was invited to visit New Mexico School for the Arts by former Art Institute Executive Director, Riis Gonzales. As she walked through the halls, Tackett remembers, “Those kids made my heart sing.” She promptly joined the Governing Council and went on to play a pivotal role in guiding the legislative and legal processes connected with NMSA’s growth and mission, as well as the construction of the new campus.

“What is remarkable about the school is that kids who haven’t had the opportunity for training can still get in and that we do not look at grades, only talent. I always think of this remarkable admissions story: one young woman presented a portfolio clearly demonstrating that she had training in a variety of media. One young man presented a spiral bound notebook with only hand drawings. Both of them got in.”

# BuildNMSA

The Campaign for **NEW MEXICO SCHOOL FOR THE ARTS**

It is with immense gratitude to our core group of supporters from across the nation that we are thrilled to announce: Together, We Did It!

New Mexico School for the Arts will open this August for the 2019-20 school year in its new permanent home at 500 Montezuma Ave. Moving to the Railyard solidifies our presence in the heart of New Mexico's arts and creative economy. This inflection point is as significant in the history of our State of the Arts as the schools founding. In less than a decades time, we have created a model school that is addressing the opportunity gap for New Mexico's aspiring young artists. We are reaffirming our commitment to provide access to students from across New Mexico, to the academic and artistic opportunities that will allow them to thrive and become who they were always meant to be. Now, we have built a new NMSA and a future that will persist for the next decade and decades beyond.

As we finalize construction and the private phase of the BuildNMSA Capital Campaign, we are continuing to offer 'hard hat' tours of our named spaces in order to meet our campaign goals that are within reach. You too will have an opportunity to participate in this campaign as we move into the public phase this fall!

Please connect with us, the school's co-founders, to discuss our historic campaign and to schedule your tour of our state-of-the-art facility.

**Catherine Oppenheimer**



**Co-founder**

**Cindy Montoya**



**Co-founder**



# Capital Campaign Donors

*Our deepest gratitude to all of our generous donors, without whom, this would not have been possible!*

Anonymous  
Anonymous  
Tom Ageson  
Richard A. & Kathy Abeles  
Cindy Aloï and Irwin Sugarman  
Tom Appelquest & Charles Newman  
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David & Catherine Skinner  
Mary Slone & Andrew Wallerstein  
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Sheryl and David Sorbaro  
Slate Stern  
Sulica Fund  
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Carl & Marilyn Thoma  
Sherry Thompson & David Miller  
Garrett Thornburg  
Barrett Toan & Polly O'Brien  
Jill Cooper Udall & Senator Tom Udall  
Christina Magliocco & Douglas Von Oiste  
Douglas Wyatt & Dianna Edwards  
Nancy Zeckendorf  
Mary Zemon

Images courtesy of Lake Flato Architects

# Dance

## 9<sup>th</sup>

Olivia Green  
Lily Grogan  
Taylor Johnson-French  
Alexa Maas  
Aleshanee Nikita  
Diego Nunez-Montes  
Mara Rapson  
Lucia Rosen  
Nico Turner

## 10<sup>th</sup>

Christina Bishop  
Flynn Ericson  
Isabella Fletcher  
Romy Gates  
Giovanna Kalangis  
Magdalena Salazar  
Emma Singleton

## 11<sup>th</sup>

Than Povi Ahhaitty Martinez  
Kierra Holmes  
Magnolia Matishak  
Mina Radfarr  
Yovanie Rodriguez

## 12<sup>th</sup>

Violet Briggs  
Maya Forte



## Guest Artist Visits

**Robyn Mineko-Williams**, Choreographer, Hubbard Street Dance Company

**Jodi Melnick**, Award-winning Dancer/ Choreographer

**Nadeeya GK**, International Master Teacher

**Andrew Asnes**, Paul Taylor Dance Company Alumni

**Cecily Cambell**, Trisha Brown Company

**Erica Fischbach**, Director, Colorado Ballet Academy

**Robyn Mineko-Williams**, Hubbard Street Dance Company



# Music

## Guest Artist Visits

- Eddie Daniels**, GRAMMY Award-winning Recording Artist
- Dave Grusin**, Oscar-winning Composer
- Kristen Ditlow**, UNM, Assistant Professor, Vocal Coaching
- Ingela Onstad**, Stage Fright Workshop
- Robin Giebelhausen**, UNM, Assistant Professor, Music Education
- Texas Tech University Faculty Ensemble**

9<sup>th</sup>

- Paloma Bryant
- Claire Christensen
- Elena Gonzales
- Kenai Hall
- Madelyn Kingston
- Maya Landess
- Elvis Marin
- Anun McCormack
- Sydney Muller
- Fae Ordaz
- Lucia Ortiz
- Benjamin Rollins
- Jalena Rubin
- Caleb Schawel
- Lexington Smith
- Erin Stucky

11<sup>th</sup>

- Ahmad Ali
- Chantel Beals
- Gideon Buchleiter
- Isaiah Chinana
- Carson Denney
- Hannah Gaudet
- Audrey Green
- Dylan Krell
- Nicholas Ottersberg
- Shondalee Perez
- Angelique Reagan
- Kyle Roberts
- Kienna Rodriguez
- Emma Viani

10<sup>th</sup>

- Manuel Barradas
- Trevor Bass
- Matthias Bowie
- Gavin Cahill
- Daniel Cornelius
- Conrado Espinoza
- Othello Gamboa
- Lynette Gassner
- Samatha Gurule
- Jermaine Herrera
- Ethan Kelley
- Anna Lewis
- Elijah Maas
- Rio Manzanares
- Dominic Martinez
- Jasper Miller
- Deanna Overby
- Manouk Paglayan
- Elsa Sanchez-Tolentino
- Jeremiah Vigil

12<sup>th</sup>

- Adly Bencomo
- Lily Cabrera
- Zachary Dukeminier
- Adam Griffo
- Mason Heitz
- Miles Horne
- Phoebe Jackson
- Occam Kelly
- Graves
- Ruby Miller
- Finley Miller
- Josie Millington
- Marissa Myers
- Nicole Romero
- Molly Rosenshein
- Anna Stucky
- Sonya Well-Off-Man
- Weston Winkler

Photos: © InSightPhoto.com

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# Theatre

9<sup>th</sup>

Jordan Boylan  
Tulah Dillman Stanford  
Leo Henry  
Jordan Howe  
Dakota Jackson Fisk  
Asha Jagers  
Mylie Jones  
Satya Kutsko  
Nikolai Lucero  
Chet Maclellan  
William McGuinness  
Hana O'Brien Ishikawa  
Isa Bella Thomas  
Kevin Urquijo Gonzales

11<sup>th</sup>

Brooke Bauer  
Jayden Chavez  
Joshua Dannenberg  
Ethan Desangles  
Cassius Hall  
Cole Manske  
Hope Orange  
Luca Pacheco  
Benjamin Rountree  
Adrienne Rugg  
Cierra Schreck  
Joshua Schultze  
Reina Selvage  
Corrina Shoemaker  
Shure  
Jessica Silverman  
Clara Spray  
Baby True



10<sup>th</sup>

Jackson Budoff  
Zoe Colfax  
Semilla Freeman  
Chloe Goodman  
Nalu Gruschkus  
Rowan Jansens  
Jaxon Maloney  
Celia Moser  
Kyriana "Atlas" Owen  
Teara Padilla  
Ian Saverin  
Lucy Shattuck  
Phoenix Shayne  
Mattigan Warrior

12<sup>th</sup>

Lauren Amos  
Camille Cooper  
Willa Edwards  
Sylka Feliciano  
Gillian Garcia  
John Helfrich  
Adensunset Levy  
Kara McGee-Russell  
Wyatt Mortenson  
Carmen Moses  
Maki Omori  
Rachel Pearson  
Malaya Peixinho  
John Snyder  
Chaim Spaner  
Avonlea Ward



## Guest Artist Visits

**June Ballinger**, Actress / Playwright, *Once In, Never Out*

**Deborah Brevoort**, Playwright, *The Women of Lockerbie*

**Danny Rubin**, Screenwriter, *Groundhog Day*

**Julian Sands**, Actor

**Dale Dunn**, Playwright, *Just Say It Theatre*

**Caryl Farkus**, International Shakespeare Center

# Visual Arts

## Guest Artist Visits

- Curtis Tawlst Santiago**, SITE Santa Fe Guest Artist,  
*Diorama Workshop & Exhibition*
- Brandon Gunn**, Education Director,  
*Tamarind Printers Lithography*
- Luanne Redeye**, Santa Fe Art Institute, *Exhibition Collaborator*
- Neal Ambrose-Smith**, IAIA, *Printmaking Workshop*
- Nick Chiarella**, Meow Wolf Artist
- Kathleen McCloud and Rick Yashimoto**, *Axle Contemporary*

9<sup>th</sup>

Helayna Bell  
Elena Bunker Ruiz  
Hailey Chanler  
Cruz Davis-Martinez  
Sarah Garcia  
Skyler t  
Annabella Hill  
Skyler Hraber  
Brooke Lucero  
Zoe Pennebaker  
Alexis Pittis  
Aidan Salldin-Lachance  
RC Santistevan  
Camilo Sisneros  
Elizabeth "Eren" Talavera  
Clara West

11<sup>th</sup>

Fisher Benson  
Andrea Bruno  
Geneva Curry  
Annabelle Fitzharris  
Max Grabowsky  
Lavina Gray  
Quinnlyn Jonas  
Avis Kerns  
Quin Kueffner  
Sean Montoya  
Pacca Palmer  
Oliver Selvage  
Elizabeth Smith  
Veronica Toledo

10<sup>th</sup>

Macaila Armijo  
Zane Demmon  
Lesly Esparza  
Felix Gelvin  
Kace Ice-Johnson  
Kathryn Ice-Johnson  
Madeline Ingram  
Desiree Lopez  
Macy Loy  
Tiana Padilla  
Fernando Pizano  
Artemisio Romero y Carver  
Veronica Silva  
Alexis Tapia

12<sup>th</sup>

Yulissa Almeida  
Jorge Cobos  
Rosalie Davis  
Jasmine DeLeon  
Charlotte Eveleth  
Emma Goodman  
Ligaia Meyer  
Sophia Monasterio  
Ava Moser  
Antonio Ortega  
Simona Rael  
Emily Segura Maze  
Molly Veasart  
Ella Wise  
Fallon Wrede



Photos: © Nicholas Cueto

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# Creative Writing & Literature

## CW&L launched as a full major!

We are delighted to announce the addition of a new Creative Writing and Literature (CW&L) curriculum at New Mexico School for the Arts (NMSA). CW&L is the first new arts major to be added to NMSA's arts training program since it opened in 2010 with its original four disciplines, Music, Dance, Theater, and Visual Arts.

On May 3, 2019, the first auditions were held for students seeking admission to NMSA as Creative Writing and Literature majors; twenty students were selected and will begin their studies as CW&L majors in August 2019 – just as the new NMSA campus opens!

Thanks to the generosity of Stephen and Jane Hochberg, this summer NMSA will for the second consecutive year present the Hochberg Summer Creative Writing Workshop. The workshops are an important outreach and adjunct part of NMSA's new creative writing program – they are critical to recruitment for, and awareness of the availability of the new curriculum. In 2018, the Hochberg Workshops reached dozens of young students from Santa Fe, Albuquerque, Carlsbad, Taos, and El Rito.

The new Creative Writing and Literature curriculum owes its inception to the leadership, commitment, and generosity of the late NMSA Trustee, Alicia Metcalf Miller, and Dee Ann McIntyre and the McIntyre Foundation; it was McIntyre who arranged the collaboration between NMSA and the legendary Iowa Writer's Workshop at the University of Iowa at Bloomington. It is due to these supporters that NMSA can now offer aspiring young writers the same in-depth training and mentoring as it does to its performing and visual artists.

### Invaluable Partners:

Institute of American Indian Arts & The Lannan Foundation



In 2012, NMSA began partnering with Institute of American Indian Arts (IAIA), a collaboration that was instrumental in the evolution of school's creative writing program. Through this dual-credit program, NMSA students were able to take classes at IAIA and earn a Creative Writing Minor credit. This nurtured several outstanding young writers as the full curriculum was developed. We are grateful to Dr. Martin for his generosity in sharing IAIA's outstanding teachers with NMSA, and for including NMSA students in his commitment to higher learning for all New Mexico youth.

We could not have maintained the Creative Writing Minor at NMSA without the help of The Lannan Foundation: their years of support for the Minor allowed NMSA to dedicate resources to students passionate about creative writing as we sought funding to launch the full Creative Writing and Literature curriculum.

We are delighted to welcome two recent supporters of the Creative Writing and Literature curriculum at NMSA: The Fullwood Foundation and The Stranahan Foundation.

# Scholarships & Awards

Yes - they've done it again! The NMSA Class of 2019 has received over **\$6.7 million** in scholarship offers. This marks the third year in a row that scholarship offers for our students reached or exceeded the \$6 million mark. Our student's updated four-year graduation rate is now **98%**. Below is a comprehensive acceptance list of colleges, universities and post-secondary arts training programs. Our community is incredibly proud, and we wish the Class of 2019 continued success as they embark on the next stage of their education and training.

American University  
Arizona State University  
Ballet Chicago  
Bard College  
Barnard College  
Berklee College of Music  
Boston University  
California Institute of the Arts  
California State University, Long Beach  
California State University, East Bay  
Central New Mexico Community College  
Columbia College, Chicago  
Crimson Guitar Luthier School  
DigiPen Institute of Technology  
Emerson College  
Evergreen State College, The  
Fort Lewis College  
Hamilton College  
Hampshire College  
Harvey Mudd College  
Institute of American Indian Arts  
Johns Hopkins University  
Kalamazoo College  
Kenyon College  
Lasell College  
Lawrence University  
Lewis and Clark College  
Linfield College  
Loyola Marymount University  
Lynn University  
Macalester College  
Maryland Institute College of Art  
Massachusetts College of Art and Design  
Millikin University

Milwaukee Institute of Art and Design  
New Mexico State University  
New School, The  
New York University, Tisch School Of The Arts  
Northern Arizona University  
Oberlin College and Conservatory  
Occidental College  
Oklahoma City University  
Oregon State  
Pace University  
Prescott College  
Reed College  
Rhode Island School of Design  
Santa Fe Community College  
Sarah Lawrence College  
School of the Art Institute of Chicago  
Southwestern University  
St. Edward's University  
St. John's College  
Stella Adler School of Acting  
Texas Technical University  
University of Colorado, Boulder  
University of Colorado, Colorado Springs  
University of Denver  
University of Minnesota  
University of Missouri  
University of New Mexico  
University of New Orleans  
University of Oregon  
University of Portland  
University of Puget Sound  
University of San Francisco  
University of Southern California  
Western Washington University

# Congratulations NMSA



**Occam Kelly Graves**  
Valedictorian

Occam studies music, specifically the newly-created Composition Curriculum at NMSA. He says, "I enjoy this track because it allows me to engage my creative thinking as I explore the almost limitless bounds of what music is." Occam is a part of NMSA's robotics team, who won first place at Robowave this year. Occam also recently received The Supercomputing Challenge Award - a year-long project which focused on solving a mathematical, scientific, or engineering problem, using computing languages and algorithms. Next fall he plans to attend Harvey Mudd College in Claremont, CA, where he will study biology.

*"I enjoy the affable and sincere students and teachers at NMSA, as well as the flexibility of the academic courses, and the emphasis of these courses' importance - despite this school's focus being on the arts."*



**Marissa Myers**  
Salutatorian

Marissa studies vocal music, and feels it's one of the most genuine, empathetic art forms because it allows one to convey emotions and experiences on a personal level. She has been a Sustainability Club member for two years, which installed recycling at NMSA and celebrated Earth Week by cleaning the river. This past year she also helped organize a fundraiser with fellow students for their spring show, preparing repertoire, food, decorations, and advertising. Additionally, she participated in the production of "Once Upon A Mattress" as Queen Aggravain. She will attend UNM next fall, where she was accepted into the honors program.

*"I love how small and connected our school is. Our teachers encourage us to communicate with each other as equals. We are able to have really meaningful conversations about what it means to be an artist, and a part of modern-day society. Overall, I just love the people here. Having been given the opportunity to learn and grow in my art form has been is so important to my journey and who I am now."*



**Antonio Ortega**  
Davis Scholar

Antonio studies Visual Arts and enjoys it because it pushes him to look at things with a creative mind set. He feels it can be stressful but relaxing at the same time. Antonio plans to attend Denver University, with a full scholarship through the Davis New Mexico Scholarship.

*"I have been an artist all my life, and NMSA has helped me continue my family's artistic legacy. There is such a wide variety of people here, with amazing skills and different characteristics, which drive me to be the best me I can be."*



# Student Scholars!

Phoebe studies Violin Performance in the Music Department. As she describes it, "Studying performance gives me the opportunity to practice presenting something I'm passionate about in front of an audience." She's been a part of the Santa Fe Youth Symphony since the 8th grade and believes it provides a sense of community to young musicians, as well as offering access larger ensemble music. She plans to attend St. John's College, at the Santa Fe campus.

***"I appreciate the community of young artists that NMSA fosters, and the encouragement that is available for those looking to pursue their goals."***



**Phoebe Jackson**  
Miller Scholar

Zev came into NMSA to study Theatre and is now also pursuing a minor in Creative Writing. "I have always loved telling stories, and theatre was a way to reach out to an audience and bring them into new worlds." He is the Co-President of the Queer Straight Alliance, which strives to create a safe and welcoming environment for LGBTQ+ students. He plans to go to St. John's College in Annapolis, Maryland to study interdisciplinary liberal arts.

***"NMSA has given me the chance to learn and challenge myself in a community that both wants, and needs, to do the same. That's what I love about NMSA, how much everyone cares about what they do, and how willing they are to help others to learn and grow alongside them."***



**Chaim Zev Spaner**  
Miller Scholar

Semilla was born in a tiny community called Mimbres, right outside of Silver City, NM. She studies theatre at NMSA and enjoys that it continuously pushes her out of her comfort zone. She is working with the Student Advocacy Union - a group with a goal of bettering their community by providing students with information. Semilla is currently working with a local immigration attorney and will soon be going into schools to teach immigrants rights.

***"My favorite aspect of NMSA is that the entire student body wants to be here."***



**Semilla Freeman**  
Simon Scholar

Elsa was not originally accepted into NMSA, however, this did not diffuse her passion. She kept honing her skills in art and academia. As the saying goes: failure builds character. Elsa states, "I grew from that experience and am a better person for that 'no' and the 'yes' that followed". Next fall will mark her Junior year as an NMSA music major vocalist. She continues to pursue her own growth, both academically, and artistically.

***"What I like most about NMSA is the person that I have become here. Not only have I learned from my academic classes, the teachers and staff, but most importantly, I have learned about myself. I have learned how much potential I have, and that I can truly be something great in this world."***



**Elsa Sanchez**  
Simon Scholar

# Alumna Spotlight



## Isabella Aldana, *Dance Alumna '14*

In less than one month, Isabella will be graduating from Smith College (Northampton, MA), as a first-generation college student! She will be moving to the Texas Rio Grande Valley to begin her career as a middle school math teacher.

Isabella was a dance major and creative writing minor at NMSA. She continues to take a variety of dance classes from ballet to Sevillians – and has even had the opportunity to teach a few dance classes herself. Isabella states that dance will always be her one true love because it allows the intersectionality of her identities to harmonize. She chose the creative writing minor for a similar reason - because it allows her story to remain, even after she is done “performing”.

Her experience at NMSA has taught her how to be intentional in all outlets of her life, and the value of time management. The diverse curriculum at NMSA prepared her for her liberal arts educating by having exposed her to a variety of instructors and teaching styles. She has a great fondness for the community she found at NMSA and will always be grateful for being a part of it. Lastly, Isabella states she will never forget Dr. Seagraves coined phrase after every class, “Be safe, make good choices, and wash your hands.”

## Welcome Incoming Students!

### DANCE

Sophie Biderman  
Lorelei Brown  
Barbara Garcia  
Elena Garcia  
Nehemiah Garcia  
Jadie Gonzales

Kwanieva Lopez  
Jaeda Panagos  
Lucy Lee Saint Chiles  
Cricket Tiger  
Mina Waters  
Sydney Bowles

### MUSIC

Evia Alexander  
Santiago Aragon  
Aidan Arner  
Grace Bransford  
Brooke Edwards  
Sarah Fergus  
Sofia Hart  
Tyler Krell  
Lilian Leyba  
Katjanna Luján  
Elliot Markwardt  
Tristen Martinez

Annika Santor  
Mateo Sellers  
Samantha Thorsted  
Dash Turner Maestas  
Joshua Waltman  
Corey Lowrey  
Erlan Marquez  
Stella Odai  
Avalon Perry  
Amelia Thieman  
Arwyn Vernold

# Faculty Spotlight



**Cecile Hemez, Director of Operations & Registrar**

*"I want the best for the youth, I want them exposed to the best of everything. As long as you provide them with beautiful art, they will do great things."*

Cecile Hemez has served as the Director of Operations and Registrar for the New Mexico School for the Arts since 2011. Born and raised in France, Hemez has spent the last 20 years in northern New Mexico, and, last summer, became a United States citizen. She has a background in statistics and social science and received her master's degree in geography from the University of Colorado at Boulder.

Family and community are incredibly important to Hemez: "Putting down roots and creating stability is something that is built over many years and takes commitment." She has three children, lives in and commutes from Los Alamos. "I am very motivated to come to work every day. I have a great job: I am there to facilitate and make life better for our school community." Not only has Hemez been a vital part of NMSA's growth, in turn, that work has given her a strong sense of being rooted here: "I feel very inspired by our faculty, staff, and students, intellectually and emotionally."

Hemez grew up in a family that "really valued the arts," and experienced first-hand how the arts can break down barriers and bring people together. Hemez carried her family experiences to America with her and cultivated the same values in her children.

## **THEATRE**

Paulina Ball  
Maisy Duncan  
Olivia Forrest  
Stephanie Gabaldon-Griego  
Carmen Gallegos  
Kira Hook  
Merrick Kohn  
Isaac Lopez  
Zoe McDonald  
Olivia Nichols

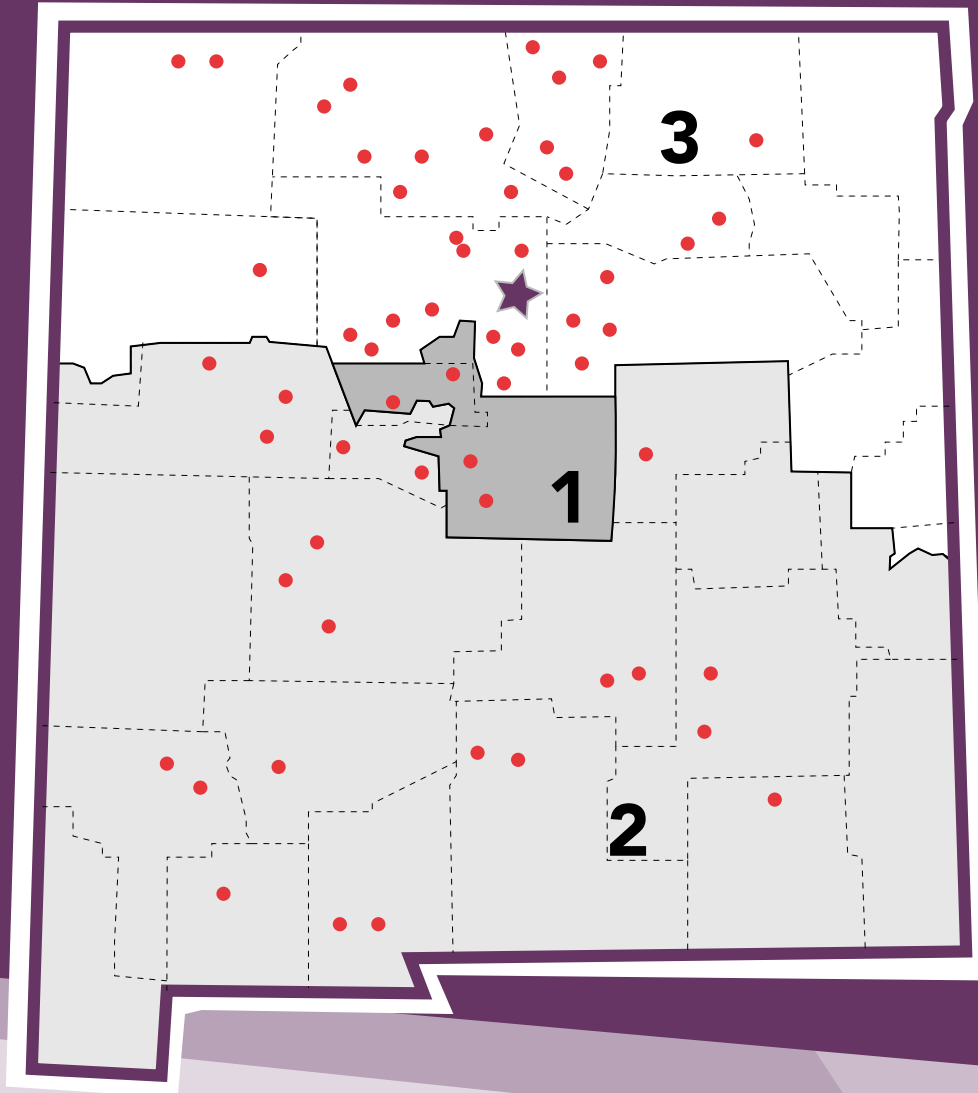
Lila Quezada  
Ezra Ratigan  
Clare Rogers  
Kailani Rossi Parente  
Carly Tario  
Ava Valentine  
Elissa Wechsler  
Gardner Yadzinski  
Joaquin Pope  
Aidan Sullivan

## **VISUAL ARTS**

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Arian Bencomo  
Ginamarie Como-Mosconi  
Zacharius Concha  
Ellie Donovan  
Asya Earnest  
Samuel Johnston  
Erin Hunter Kennemore  
Siri Aadi Khalsa

Claudia Marin  
Faith Martinez  
Celina Palomino  
Kayo Schudy  
Ella Seckler  
Genesi Sedillo  
Isabel Somma  
Samantha Trujillo  
Koryn Wagener

# Our students come from all across the state!



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 Truchas  
 Valdez  
 Velarde  
 White Rock

# Residential Student Spotlight



## Veronica Toledo, Visual Arts '19



Veronica Toledo is an NMSA residential dormitory student who commutes from the Navajo reservation in Farmington, NM. She views art as a way of healing and a means of expressing ideas. Veronica feels that it is important to show others who she is, and the world she is trying to build, through her works. Veronica feels NMSA has helped her better express herself and allows her the freedom to be who she really is.

Coming to NMSA and living in the dorm was a significant transition for Veronica, who transferred from a private Native American school. She believes that she was "immediately given tools to jot down her ideas and express her own views." This, she says, "helped lay the foundation for [her] to grow [her] artistic soul."

In five years, Veronica sees herself advancing her Native American people, and helping them acquire resources they don't currently have access to. She would like to be a lawyer, and become a voice "for the people that cannot speak for themselves"

Artwork: "Mixed Knowledge" by Veronica Toledo



# Giving the Gift of Opportunity



*"Dancing helped me believe I could be someone – NMSA helped me become someone."*  
– Alejandra Avila,  
Dance Alumna '04

**Talent does not exist by itself. Talent exists because of opportunity.** – Joel Fan, American pianist

Because of YOU, New Mexico's student-artists are accomplishing their dreams, and developing into leaders of their communities. Through your support of NMSA's artistic, residency and outreach programs, you are ensuring New Mexico's only arts-focused, statewide public high school is serving youth statewide, and leading the critical intersection of arts and opportunity.

NMSA's educational approach, to offer a rigorous academic curriculum alongside mastery arts training in Music, Dance, Theater, Visual Arts – and soon Creative Writing and Literature – has made the school one of the most successful in the state, and a potential model for other schools.

In less than a decade, NMSA has achieved a graduation rate of 98%, obtained seven consecutive *A Grades* from the New Mexico Public Education Department, was designated as a U.S. Department of Education National Blue Ribbon School for its success in closing the achievement gap, and built a 21st century campus to almost double its current student capacity of 214 students, from 29 New Mexico communities.

As a public school, the majority of public funding is allocated to support NMSA's outstanding academic curriculum, leaving a funding gap of \$2+ million to be raised each year for the mastery arts training curriculum – which provides each student with 2,000 hours of art training every year alongside residential dormitory opportunities and community outreach. At NMSA, academics and arts stand in equal importance, and a student's opportunity to succeed exists because of contributors like you.

## Ways YOU can create opportunity for NMSA students:

**Give to NMSA's Annual Fund**, and provide funding for the core details of a mastery arts education.

**Join NMSA's Circle of the Arts**, and annually provide foundational scholarships to support NMSA student-artists. Membership also offers annual donor benefits!

**Join NMSA's Legacy Society**, and ensure the future of NMSA through your estate planning.

**Give to NMSA's Endowment Fund**, and provide operational security and sustainability to NMSA.

*For information on these giving opportunities, please contact Director of Advancement, Aline Harris-Ellis at [aline.ellis@nmsa-ai.org](mailto:aline.ellis@nmsa-ai.org) or 505.216.7888 ext. 407*

# Circle of the Arts

**Circle of the Arts is an annual membership group that brings together friends of NMSA who are dedicated to supporting an unparalleled educational opportunity for creative young artists from throughout the state of New Mexico.**

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Anonymous  
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Anne H. Bass  
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Karen & Steve Berkowitz  
Brian Birk  
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Nancy Blaugrund  
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Mary Zemon

# Take a Bow! Donor Honor Roll

NMSA is grateful for our supporters! All contributions made to fund our annual programming and special initiatives are recognized from April 1, 2018 to April 18, 2019. Please know that we have made every effort to present an accurate list of our cherished supporters, and welcome corrections.

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# Legacy Spotlight

## Edwina & Charles Milner



Long-time Board Trustee, Edwina Milner, and her husband, Charles Milner, come from humble beginnings. Edwina, born into the Chickasaw Nation during the Great Depression and daughter of an oil driller, moved so often that by the time she left high school she had attended 25 schools. Over the years, out of 25 schools, only one art class was offered – “Music Appreciation”.

Edwina still recalls how deep an impression that one music class made on her, despite sensing that her own artistic calling was in the visual arts. Charles, for his part, obtained an M.S. in Petroleum Engineering, and went on to form a consulting firm for independent oil companies. He and Edwina eventually moved to New Mexico, where they were able to focus their attention on causes close to their hearts – education and the arts.

Edwina and Charles know from their own lives how important it is for New Mexico’s youth to acquire the basic skills that serve as a foundation for great futures. “New Mexico is one of the poorest states,” Edwina acknowledged. “Education is what will bring the state up – we are thrilled with [NMSA’s] effectiveness.” They admire NMSA’s willingness to admit students with a wide range of skill sets in each discipline, and its insistence on complete equality between the academic and arts curricula.

Charles and Edwina agree that after a lifetime of working hard and investing in their companies, they now have the privilege of investing in the long-term future of New Mexico. They also know that it is consistent and stable funding that allows successful models – like NMSA – to seed, establish, and sustain programs that work.

The NMSA Legacy Program was created to offer a channel for supporters who, like Charles and Edwina, want to ensure that NMSA continues to grow and impact the futures of New Mexico’s youth, which is why they are thrilled to include the school in their estate planning.

*If you would like information about how to participate in this long-term form of support for causes you love, please contact:*

*Cindy Montoya, President  
New Mexico School for the Arts – Art Institute  
cindy.montoya@nmsa-ai.org or (505) 216.7888, ext. 410*

## Parent Association

Thank you to all parents who volunteer time on the behalf of their student(s) and for the general welfare of NMSA.

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**Music**, Gary Bass

**Theatre**, Leilani Maloney

**Visual Arts**, Merridith Ingram

We thank the NMSA Parent Association and their leadership, who demonstrate the heartfelt community that shows up for our students each and every day. Through their time, talents and dedication, they provide irreplaceable support to our students, teachers, parents and staff.

*"We must never forget that art is not a form of propaganda; it is a form of truth."*

*- John F. Kennedy*

New Mexico School for the Arts Parent Association is proud to help our student artists, faculty and staff find their truth.



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***We extend our gratitude and appreciation to the 2019 ArtSpring Gala Committee. Our gala would not be possible without their commitment, creativity and unwavering support of our students and school. BRAVO and thank you!!***

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*Art* is not what **you see**,  
but what **you make**  
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## Administration

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*Head of School*
- Joey Chavez**  
*Director of Arts*
- Chelamia Quintana**  
*Assistant Principal*
- Cecile Hemez**  
*Registrar-Director of Operations*
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*Special Education Instructional Assistant*
- Brandy Avila**  
*School Clerk/Front Office*
- Ruben Desangles**  
*Information Technology Manager*
- Mikiko Ellis**  
*Bilingual High School Counselor*
- Gregory Gutin**  
*Clinical Counselor*
- Denise Hinson**  
*Curriculum Support Specialist*
- Stephanie Kirchoffer**  
*School Secretary*
- Gayle McGuiness**  
*Assistant Business Manager*

## Dance

- John Selya**  
*Chair, Dance Department*
- Sheila Rozann**  
*Classical Ballet Instructor*
- Kevin Ward**  
*Accompanist*

## Academic Faculty

- Chasity Anderson**  
*Teacher for the Visually Impaired*
- Jennifer Black**  
*Science Teacher*
- James Durnin**  
*English Teacher, 504 Coordinator*
- Xinrong Li**  
*Math Teacher*
- Kim Martinez**  
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*Spanish Teacher*
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*Special Education Coordinator*
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- Bernadette Peña**  
*Student Wellness Teacher, Gifted Coordinator*
- Dr. Roxanne Seagraves**  
*History Teacher*
- Geron Spray**  
*English Teacher*
- Music**
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*Chair, Music Department*
- Allegra Askew**  
*Viola Instructor*
- Elizabeth Baker**  
*Violin Instructor*
- Darci Balkom**  
*Vocal Division Coordinator*
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*Guitar Instructor*
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*Piano Instructor*
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*String Instructor*
- Jennifer Kuchar**  
*Vocal Instructor*
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*Winds Instructor, Music Fundamentals II*
- Orlando Madrid**  
*Jazz Division & Production Coordinator*
- Jan McDonald**  
*Trumpet Instructor*

- Jesse Parker**  
*Percussion Instructor,  
Music Fundamentals I*
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## Theatre

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*Visual Arts Instructor*
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*Visual Arts Instructor*

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Department*
- Karima Alavi**  
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- Bodera Joe**  
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- Lloyd Wilton**  
*Residential Assistant*
- Andrea Quintana**  
*Residential Assistant*

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*Facilities Manager*
- Ismael Martinez**  
*Facilities Assistant*

# Faculty Spotlight

## Jacob Sisneros, *Visual Arts Faculty*

*"I think that NMSA is one of the best things to hit Santa Fe and the state as a concept and a school."*

Jacob Sisneros was born and raised in the Atrisco neighborhood of Albuquerque's South Valley. He began his studies in Art and Architecture at the University of New Mexico and then graduated with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Industrial Design from the Rhode Island School of Design. After graduation, Sisneros moved to New York City to teach as the studio manager for the Tim Rollins and Kids of Survival project, an arts collaborative workshop in the South Bronx working with at-risk youth in junior high school and high school.



After several years in New York, Sisneros moved back to New Mexico, where he started his own residential design/build general contracting company, which he operated successfully for 12 years. In 2008, Sisneros transitioned into film art direction and set design, working on many television and movie projects, including the critically-acclaimed series, Longmire. Sisneros, eventually, left his successful career in film art to return to his passion for teaching, and joined the Visual Arts faculty at NMSA, where he has been ever since.

Sisneros believes that, "The acknowledgment of our work by the community is proof that we are doing great things. The support from our Department Chairs and administration is incredible: they empower staff to develop the curriculum and engage with artists in our community. This allows me to be excited about where I teach and to do my best work in the classroom."



Photos: Top - © Sean Johnson; Bottom - Karina Hean



# THE WORLD IS BUT A CANVAS TO OUR IMAGINATION

–Henry David Thoreau

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