



NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF  
**CULTURAL AFFAIRS**

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**Artists and Art Contributors Named for  
2013 Governor's Awards for Excellence in the Arts**  
*Awards Program New Mexico's Highest Artistic Honor*

**SANTA FE** – Governor Susana Martinez and the New Mexico Arts Commission have announced the seven artists and art supporters who will be recipients of the 2013 Governor's Awards for Excellence in the Arts.

“New Mexico's culture is anchored by our rich history of beautiful artwork and creativity,” said Governor Martinez. “The talented artists and dedicated art supporters recognized as 2013 Governor's Arts Awards honorees enrich the quality of life all New Mexicans enjoy.”

The 2013 Governor's Arts Awards recipients are: **Edward Gonzales** of Rio Rancho, Painter and Printmaker; **Darren Vigil Gray** of Santa Fe, Painter; **Jenny Vincent** of Taos, Musician; **Jim Wagner** of Taos, Painter/furniture maker; **Frank Willett** of Santa Fe, Ceramics/Potter; **Aria Finch** of Roswell – Major Contributor to the Arts; and the **Mimbres Region Arts Council of Silver City** – Major Contributor to the Arts.

The 2013 Governor's Arts Awards ceremonies will be held on Friday, September 27<sup>th</sup> at 5:15p.m. at the St. Francis Auditorium in the New Mexico Museum of Art in Santa Fe. The ceremony is preceded by an afternoon reception and exhibition opening, 3:30 – 4:30 p.m., in the Governor's Gallery, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, State Capitol. Both the awards ceremony and gallery reception are free and open to the public.

This year marks the 40<sup>th</sup> annual celebration of the Governor's Arts Awards, which were established in 1974 by Governor Bruce King and First Lady Alice King to celebrate the extensive roles – both economic and cultural – that artists, craftspeople and arts supporters play in the life of New Mexico. A diverse and noteworthy list of painters, weavers, sculptors, dancers, musicians, storytellers, poets, actors, playwrights and potters have been honored by the governor's arts awards, New Mexico's most prestigious arts awards. Past awardees include: Maria Martinez, Tony Abeyta, Glenna Goodacre, Tony Hillerman, Georgia O'Keeffe, Patrick Oliphant, N. Scott Momaday, Tammy Garcia, Catherine Oppenheimer, and Robert Redford.

Nominations for the awards are invited each year from arts groups and interested New Mexicans. All nominations are reviewed by a committee of the New Mexico Arts Commission, which sends its recommendations to the full Commission and to the Governor. The 2013 Awards Selection Committee members were: New Mexico Arts Commission Chair Sherry Davis of Santa Fe; Arts Commissioners Charmay Allred of Santa Fe; JoAnn Balzer of Santa Fe; David Hinske of Taos; John Rohovec of Silver City; and Glenn Cutter of Mesilla (nonvoting), and Chuck Zimmer, manager of the state public art program for New Mexico Arts. Loie Fecteau, executive director of New Mexico Arts, served on the committee in a nonvoting capacity.

**The following are brief profiles of the 2013 Governor's Arts Awardees:**

**Edward Gonzales**, painter, is regarded as one of New Mexico's most popular and beloved artists. An award winning author and children's book illustrator, with an Albuquerque Public School named for him, Gonzales has made a significant contribution to education and the artistic representation of Hispanic culture through his art. Gonzales was the first chairman of the annual Contemporary Hispanic Market in Santa Fe which began in 1989 and in 1992 led the initiative championed by the Organization of Hispanic Artists to create a Hispanic arts building at the New Mexico State Fair Grounds. Gonzales' art has been exhibited throughout New Mexico and is represented in permanent collections at the National Hispanic Cultural Center, Albuquerque Museum of History and Art, New Mexico Museum of Art, and the University of New Mexico Fine Art Print Collection. "Reading...was critical to my becoming an artist," Gonzales has said. "The art world was very distant from the one I live in. But books made the art world real and

attainable for me.” As a result, Gonzales has painted to emphasize the importance of literacy, education, and family. In 2006, Gonzales served as the National Education Association’s New Mexico honorary chair for ‘Read Across America’ and was recognized by the American Association for Hispanics in Higher Education with the “Outstanding Latino Cultural Arts Award.”

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