

Building a Vigorous Las Cruces Arts Scene

As you may recall, some arts groups, galleries and artists have been working with my small business class from NMSU and the *Talking Stick Institute* the last semester (Aug to Dec 2007) to get things moving so that Las Cruces steps into its place as a vital arts community in New Mexico. Ruth Drayer, Virginia Romero, and Trina Dunbar have continued working on the subject this semester. Apr 3rd, we met with the mayor to present a proposal for ***Las Cruces Arts & Cultural Affairs Commission***. On April 21 we presented the proposal to the Mayor and the City Council. On May 2nd we met with incoming leaders of art service organizations. Now is the time to let your councilors know that you support the initiative. **PLEASE keep the torch lit!**

Contact your council members and ask for their support of ***Building a Las Cruces Arts Scene Identity, with funding, the Las Cruces Arts & Cultural Affairs Commission, and destination where art buyers come and buy.*** See sample websites we want online at <http://talkingstick.info>

District 1 - Miguel Silva; miguel.silva@las-cruces.org ; 575-541-2066

District 2 - Dolores Connor; dconnor@las-cruces.org ; 575 541-2066

District 3 - Dolores Archuleta; darchuleta@las-cruces.org ; 575-541-2066

District 4 - Nathan P. Small; nsmall@las-cruces.org ; 575 541-2066

District 5 - Gil Jones; gjones@las-cruces.org; 575 541-2066

District 6 - Sharon Thomas ; 575 541-2066

Contact: David Boje, Ph.D. dboje@peaceaware.com 575-532-1693 4700 Dunn Dr. Las Cruces, NM 88011 if you have input on the Commission Proposal.

Executive Summary of Proposal

*We are proposing to work with the Mayor's Office and Councilors to leverage the resources in place to increase the visibility of the Las Cruces Arts Scene identity by forming a **Las Cruces Arts & Cultural Affairs Commission**. The aim is to be an 'idea incubator', to create an infrastructure to develop the economic potential of art (its unique history & culture), the artists in the area, and to market Las Cruces as an arts destination. The *Commission* is not one more arts organization. It supports the existing ones. Although Las Cruces is under the shadow of Santa Fe and Taos, it has half-billion dollar potential that is not being realized economically. The intent is to support all arts service organizations, galleries, and museums. This means supporting all painters, sculptors, weavers, poets, writers, musicians, singers, dancers, drama, chefs, etc. as well as galleries, studios, museums, performance theatres that display and/or sell the art.*

MISSION: *Las Cruces Arts & Cultural Affairs Commission* is forming to bring Arts Organizations together with stakeholders (City + Education + Chambers of Commerce) to market City & Region as an Arts & Culture Destination.

VISION: *Las Cruces Arts & Cultural Affairs Commission* intends to build a ½ billion-dollar arts industry within five years.

THE ENTIRE REPORT & A 4 PAGE SUMMARY ARE ONLINE AT

<http://talkinstick.info>