



2023 Review – Let’s Celebrate & Stabilize

First of all, if you are reading this, **you are invited to a celebration on Saturday, December 2**, at the Sala in Questa (2331 Hwy 522). It will be a thank you to our amazing artists and participants, organizers, volunteers, generous supporters, and fans of Questa Creative Council events and projects. From 4:30 to 8:30 pm, local favorites Chris and Rodney Arellano and High Desert Acoustic Duo will provide music. There will be a raffle, prizes, and snacks and drinks too. Won’t you join us?

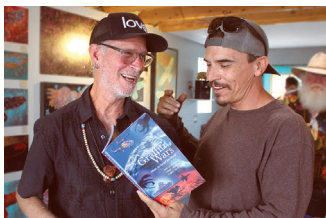


Secondly, we wish this letter to be an honest view of our status, accomplishments, goals, and needs, for you: a supporter of the QCC.

In 2023 we put on a successful new event in summer, the Questa Quick-Draw. We also expanded existing projects, such as the Art-for-All workshops at the Cisneros Youth and Family Center, and strengthened our signature project, the Questa Art Tour, now in its eighth year! (Bigger and more important for the community each time!)



In our previous year, we had made the strategic decision to use some savings to strengthen our core structure, having grown beyond the scope of our founding volunteers. In hiring Sierra Hedberg, **our first executive director**, a new level of community interface, collaboration, and vision is unfolding.



A survey by New Mexico Arts reports that funding for core support is the number one concern across the creative non-profit world. Most grants are for direct program expenses, despite the need for solid foundations. Non-profits who succeed despite this challenge have a large body of volunteers, something we lack. But, a small group here in Questa has done wonders. **Now, we will need to stabilize, and continue to grow and serve.**

Providing arts and culture activities **for local youth** is a priority for us: sharing the skills and experience of our network of artists. is important Our director is making new inroads in collaborative planning with Questa schools and supporters. Stay tuned for programs to develop in the (near, we hope!) future.

A fresh goal of ours is to procure a physical location to display local art, at a **cooperative gallery!** This will enable support for artists beyond our annual events, and add to the appeal of our downtown.

Many arts councils in small towns provide this, though they are either in more prosperous locales or enjoy angel investors to cover the rent and utilities. This is a worthy dream for our community.

Again this year, we received funding from New Mexico Arts, Taos Community Foundation, Chevron, and the resumed Taos County Lodgers Tax Grant. (This grant was paused due to the pandemic, and our budget suffered!) We also received funds from the LOR Foundation and the Questa Economic Development Fund.

Financial overview for 2023*

Total Funding, All Sources: \$44,881

Total Expenses, Admin. and Projects: \$44,721

Estimated In-Kind/Volunteer Hours: \$40,000

** find more detailed information in our Annual Report at QuestaCreative.org*

Our grants do not cover all our needs. Without your donations and volunteer hours we could not exist. Not only do your contributions provide crucial funding, they illustrate community support that justifies our grant applications. Your funds also balance matching grants and enable QCC projects to proceed as we await reimbursement-grant awards.

We need \$10,000 more per year to stabilize our successes and grow our programs.

Membership levels start at just \$10 per year. You can easily join or donate on our website, QuestaCreative.org, or use the enclosed envelope to send a check. If each member made a slightly larger donation this year, we would see a substantial increase in our funding right away.

And whether you are an enthusiastic newcomer or a Questa founding-family member, we'd love you to join us for the occasional chore, seasonal event prep, or more. Computer skills are a plus! Every small task you might do will take the burden off our few, over-extended volunteers.

The QCC board has been diverse since our founding. We are the most diverse board of any arts council in the state, actually! This mix of older and younger, male and female, local and new residents, is crucial in our ability to respond to economic and cultural desires for Questa.

Our non-profit has accomplished much, and envisions so much more.

So, let's celebrate! We hope to see you at the community open house on Saturday, December 2, and please bring a friend!

Contact and support us at:

Questa Creative Council, PO Box 1025, Questa NM 87556 • (575) 586-5658

QuestaCreativeCouncil@gmail.com

www.QuestaCreative.org

Facebook: @Questa Creative Council

YouTube: @Questa Creative Council