



2025 Year in Review – a Time of Celebration... and Concern

The past year saw so much success in our strengthening of community through the arts that it was distressing to experience the loss of much federal funding moving forward. Our founding goal was to address an important segment in the redevelopment of the Questa economy. A goal we maintain while continued growth in 2026 has become uncertain.



But amid national changes, much beauty prevailed. Our projects and events, new and old, engaged many, many local artists and art lovers this past year, providing new ways to bring art into our lives and new ways to honor Questa's unique culture.



Neighboring Red River showcased Questa artists at their **Vino in the Valley** event in June. Our artists created an Art Tour 'preview' in a big white tent in the middle of the festival. Numerous summer residents and visitors there learned of the creative community right over the hill. For many, it was an eye-opener and it broadened the audience for our local artists.



The tenth annual **Questa Art Tour** drew more attention than ever from media throughout the state with features in the Albuquerque Journal, Santa Fe New Mexican, Taos News, AAA online and New Mexico Magazine. Sales totaled \$15,000 more than last year with a shared income of over \$50,000. We had so many participating artists that we have new decisions to make to better showcase all the wonderful works and keep our downtown lively within the scenic tour route.

Spring and Fall saw renewed sessions of our **Ceramic Cafe**, an open studio / workshop held at the Questa Youth and Family Center, led by local ceramicist Anna Fuenning. All ages and abilities had fun making some truly fabulous pieces. A new kiln onsite helped this along!

New in 2025 was a long-awaited **Traditional Foods Workshop** with Flavio Cisneros. In time for the holidays, some very regional recipes were explored and Flavio demonstrated local versions of Northern Rio Grande favorites. This returned our focus to Questa culture in the absence of summer **History Trail** celebrations it's become too hot to enjoy. *(This self-guided .6m trail in the center of town is open 24/7 and dry winter days or spring and fall is the ideal time to discover its wealth of information! <https://questatrail.org/>)

Again, we assured that no **local kids** lacked for art supplies under their Christmas trees. Our annual fund drive to purchase paints, brushes, and much more was a great success. Questa Public Library hosted the distribution in December. And closing out the year, **Alumbra Holiday Market** filled with vendors very quickly in 2025, and a beautiful Saturday welcomed shoppers to discover festive crafts and unique holiday gifts.



A financial overview of 2025

Total Funding: All Sources: \$47,576 (some in reserve for '26)

Total Expenses: Administration and Projects: \$34,279

Estimated In-Kind Volunteer Hours: \$45,000

Detail

income

Individual Donations: \$5,737

Business Sponsorships: \$3,739

Grants/Foundation: \$38,100

Expenses

Questa Art Tour: \$13,236

Other projects: \$6,600

Gen'l operations: \$14,500

We reduced our administration compensation this year, although this put a strain on our volunteer board. Juggling all the chores needed to provide a stable platform for hosting our projects continues to challenge us, and continues to rein in our dreams. This is a small community with a limited number of residents able to volunteer, but nevertheless wonderful irons are in the fire for 2026 as we continue to grow and mature!

Our funders in 2025 included Taos Community Foundation, Chevron, New Mexico Arts, Taos County Lodgers Tax fund, Walmart, and the LOR Foundation.

Our grants do not cover all our needs. Without community donations and volunteer hours we could not exist. Local contributions provide crucial funding and illustrate a support that justifies our grant applications. We make donations easy. Find information on our website homepage. Questa Creative Council, a 501(c)(3).

