

NEWS & NOTES

On the Road Again

After a four-year break, the Wonders on Wheels Mobile Museum is back on the road. Trained educators Jamie Brytowski, Rachel Pretlow, and Scott Green are heading to a New Mexico town near you to share the best of DCA's museums in 300 square feet of hands-on arts, culture, history, and science exhibits.



Educators Scott Green, Jamie Brytowski, and Rachel Pretlow in front of the Wonders on Wheels Mobile Museum, at a special kickoff event in Hobbs. Drone photograph courtesy of Euell Beard, UAS Tactical LLC.

The 38-foot RV is carrying exhibits to libraries and public schools throughout New Mexico.

The Mobile Museum exhibits are sourced from DCA museums. The current exhibition is from the New Mexico Museum of Natural History & Science, and in 2018, the Museum of Indian Arts and Culture will provide the next exhibition.

The Mobile Museum will serve up to 15,000 school children each year in all 33 counties of New Mexico, prioritizing elementary schools in remote and rural communities that have little or no access to museums. Hobbs, Mescalero, and Ruidoso received the van this spring; summer dates include the week of June 6 for Silver City, Deming, and Bayard; and the week of June 27 for Carlsbad, Eunice, and Jal. Contact Jamie Brytowski (505-476-1171; jamie.brytowski@state.nm.us) if you'd like to welcome the van at a library or school near you. DCA would like to thank the J. F. Maddox Foundation, the S. P. and Estelle Yates Family Foundation, the Chase Foundation, and the New Mexico Public Education Department for their generous support of this program.

Can You Dig It?

From May 15 through June 30, the Office of Archaeological Studies will be performing archaeological investigations at Coronado Historic Site. This project, entitled Dig Kuaua!, will include hand-excavation of test units throughout Kuaua Pueblo and the surrounding refuse piles (middens). It has the

potential of yielding hundreds, if not thousands, of artifacts. Architecture dating to the 1500s will also be unearthed.

Visitors can witness the dig in progress, and interact with archaeologists, by visiting Coronado Historic Site. Docents are leading hourly tours of the archaeological excavation and the painted kiva. Friends of Coronado Historic Site members are invited to participate in Dig Kuaua! To join Friends of Coronado Historic Site, fill out the form available at kuaua.com/friends/membership/ and email Dig Kuaua! coordinator Ethan Ortega to be added to the volunteer list (ethan.ortega@state.nm.us).

New Director of Museum Resources Division

David Rohr is the new director of the Museum Resources Division. He has served the Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA) for the past twelve years, and most recently held the position of creative director, managing the Creative Services Bureau. He will continue to serve as creative director for *El Palacio* magazine and to produce print designs, videos, television advertisements, and digital exhibit interactives. Prior to his time with DCA, he was a graphic designer in the web development and advertising industries and an associate designer for *Art in America* magazine. One of his most-recognized designs is the award-winning turquoise New Mexico Centennial license plate released in 2010. He has also written articles on the history of the Museum of New Mexico for *El Palacio* magazine.



Museum Resources Division (MRD) provides exhibition, graphic design, conservation, and publishing services to the four Museum of New Mexico museums and New Mexico Historic Sites. MRD includes the bureaus of Creative Services, Conservation, and Museum of New Mexico Press. Among his plans, Rohr says he intends to better publicize the division's activities and "showcase the specialized skills and expertise of its talented staff."

Honor Roll

In April, Dr. Thomas Chávez traveled to the Spanish residence of Consul General Enric Panés and his wife Bice Rineri, in Houston. There, Chávez was honored with the induction into the Orden de Isabel la Católica, in the grade of Commander, in recognition for his work in bringing closer the people of

the United States and Spain. He currently serves on the board of the New Mexico Humanities Council. Chávez served as the director of the Palace of the Governors and the executive director of the National Hispanic Cultural Center.

Also in April, ranger Ethan Ortega was honored with two of the highest achievements archaeologists and historians can receive in New Mexico: the Richard A. Bice Award for Archaeological Achievement from the Archaeological Society of New Mexico and the Edgar Lee Hewett Award for Outstanding Service to the People of New Mexico from the New Mexico Historical Society. In his three years with New Mexico Historic Sites, Ortega has worked steadily to improve Coronado Historic Site through his leadership and involvement in restructuring the Visitor Center exhibits and his ongoing research into the archaeological collections. The results of this work have been featured in several publications, including *El Palacio*. These awards are a testament to Mr. Ortega's strong work ethic and commitment to presenting high-quality scholarly research to the public.

On April 22, Jann Gilmore received the Ralph Emerson Twitchell Award for her book *Olive Rush: Finding Her Place in the Santa Fe Art Colony*, published by the Museum of New Mexico Press. The Historical Society of New Mexico bestows this award annually for an outstanding publication or significant contribution by individuals or organizations to the creative arts, as related to New Mexico history. *Olive Rush: Finding Her Place in the Santa Fe Art Colony* was excerpted in *El Palacio's* winter 2017 issue "Dust Jacket" (<http://elpalacio.org/articles/winter16/dustjacket.pdf>).

Sophie Hunter, featured in "In It Together" (page 36) was awarded the Kress Conservation Fellowship by the Foundation of the American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works on behalf of the Samuel H. Kress Foundation. This fellowship provides institutions support for hosting recent post-graduate students of art conservation, so that they can continue to develop and refine their skills under the mentorship of experienced conservators, while conducting a research project that will benefit the institution.

Hunter will be focusing on the conservation and analysis of subsections of the Museum of Indian Arts and Culture's (MIAC) outstanding collection of approximately 1,500 historic/ethnographic baskets and in particular, the Apache resin-coated water jar baskets. This part of the collection is in urgent need of conservation treatment, as resin coatings originally applied to waterproof the baskets are actively failing.