

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Eric Vasquez, Executive Director
eric@riograndenha.org
Mailing: P.O. Box 610, Española, NM 87532
Physical: 101 Calle de las Españolas 87532
505.753.7273

Northern Rio Grande National Heritage Area Announces a Summer of Immersive Cultural Workshops

Española, New Mexico, April 30th, 2024—The Northern Rio Grande National Heritage Area (NRGNHA) invites the community to a summer of enriching artistic workshops at the Los Luceros Historic Site. Explore the art and culture of northern New Mexico through hands-on experiences in retablo painting, fresco creation, and straw applique. These workshops provide an environment to develop your skills and deeply connect with the region's history and traditions.

Retablo Painting and Capilla Exploration – May 18th, 10 am - 3 pm

- Experience the spiritual and artistic tradition of Northern New Mexico with a tour of the Capilla at Los Luceros, showcasing Clare Villa's collection of Retablos. Renowned Santero Joseph Ascensión López, master of Spanish Colonial Art, will lead participants in creating their own retablo pieces.

Fresco Painting in the Historic Hacienda – June 15th, 10 am - 3 pm

- Under the guidance of Gabriela Silva, attendees will create fresco artworks using ancient techniques. This class encourages personal expression and honors the legacy of 18th-century artistry.

Straw Applique Craftsmanship – July 27th, 10 am - 3 pm

- This workshop, led by Gabriela Silva, allows participants to express their artistic flair by creating intricate designs using straw—a practice rooted in historical art forms unique to New Mexico.

"These workshops preserve and share the unique cultural fabric of our area," said Eric Vasquez, Executive Director of the NRGNHA. "Participants will leave with a strong appreciation for our combined heritage and a hands-on experience that connects them to generations of artistic expression in Northern New Mexico."

Those interested in participating in these unique workshops should contact Conner Tharp at conner@riograndenha.org. Each workshop is designed to accommodate a maximum of 15 students to ensure a personalized and comprehensive learning experience.

ABOUT THE NRGNHA

The NRGNHA, established by Congress in 2006, has been at the forefront of cultural preservation and environmental stewardship within the Northern Rio Grande corridor. By facilitating these grants, the NRGNHA continues to foster a sense of unity and purpose in

maintaining the unique character and traditions of Northern New Mexico. For more information about the NRGNHA and its grantees, please visit www.riograndenha.org.