

table of CONTENTS



- 3 Letter from the Director
- 4 Our Places & Programs (AKA cool stuff)
- 5 Map
- 6 Fun Facts
- 7 ABQ BioPark
- 8 Albuquerque Museum
- 9 Anderson Abruzzo Albuquerque International Balloon Museum
- 10 CABQ Media
- 11 Community Events
- 12 Public Art | Urban Enhancement
- 13 The Public Library Albuquerque/Bernalillo County
- 14 Key Arts and Culture Initiatives
- 15 Spotlight On Mayor's Creative Youth Corps
- 16 Budget and Impact

from the DIRECTOR



The Department of Arts & Culture is filled with cherished spaces, compelling (and fun) events, learning opportunities, and talented staff. Throughout 2022, I witnessed our city's residents enjoying moments of beauty in our museums and gardens; quiet spaces of reflection in galleries, libraries and ponds; and community connections at live performances and with public art. I would need dozens of pages to share all the amazing work and programs that our staff, volunteers, and partners achieved across our department in 2022. Here we offer you a few highlights, and I extend an invitation to you to visit the websites of these amazing cultural institutions to see what they are doing – and then find time to visit one these cherished public spaces to find your moments of beauty, reflection, learning and connection!

Shelle Sanchez, Ph.D.

Director of Arts & Culture

City of Albuquerque

our places & PROGRAMS



The City of Albuquerque Department of Arts & Culture celebrates Albuquerque's unique arts, history, and culture and provides services, entertainment, programs, and collections that improve literacy, economic vitality, and quality of life across our city.

That's our mission. In short, we like to say that we have a lot of cool stuff and do a lot of cool things!

Cool stuff in our collections range from A to Z – more specifically, from anthologies to zebras. We do cool things ranging from hosting toddler story times to hosting international touring art exhibits. It's all in a day's work for our team.

Our seven divisions and dozens of partnerships with arts and cultural organizations across the city are at the center of this work. Each day, they make our mission a reality. And they make our jobs cool!

We hope that alongside providing an overview of where your tax dollars have been put to work, this report will help you explore these wonderful community resources for yourself.

Come experience something cool!











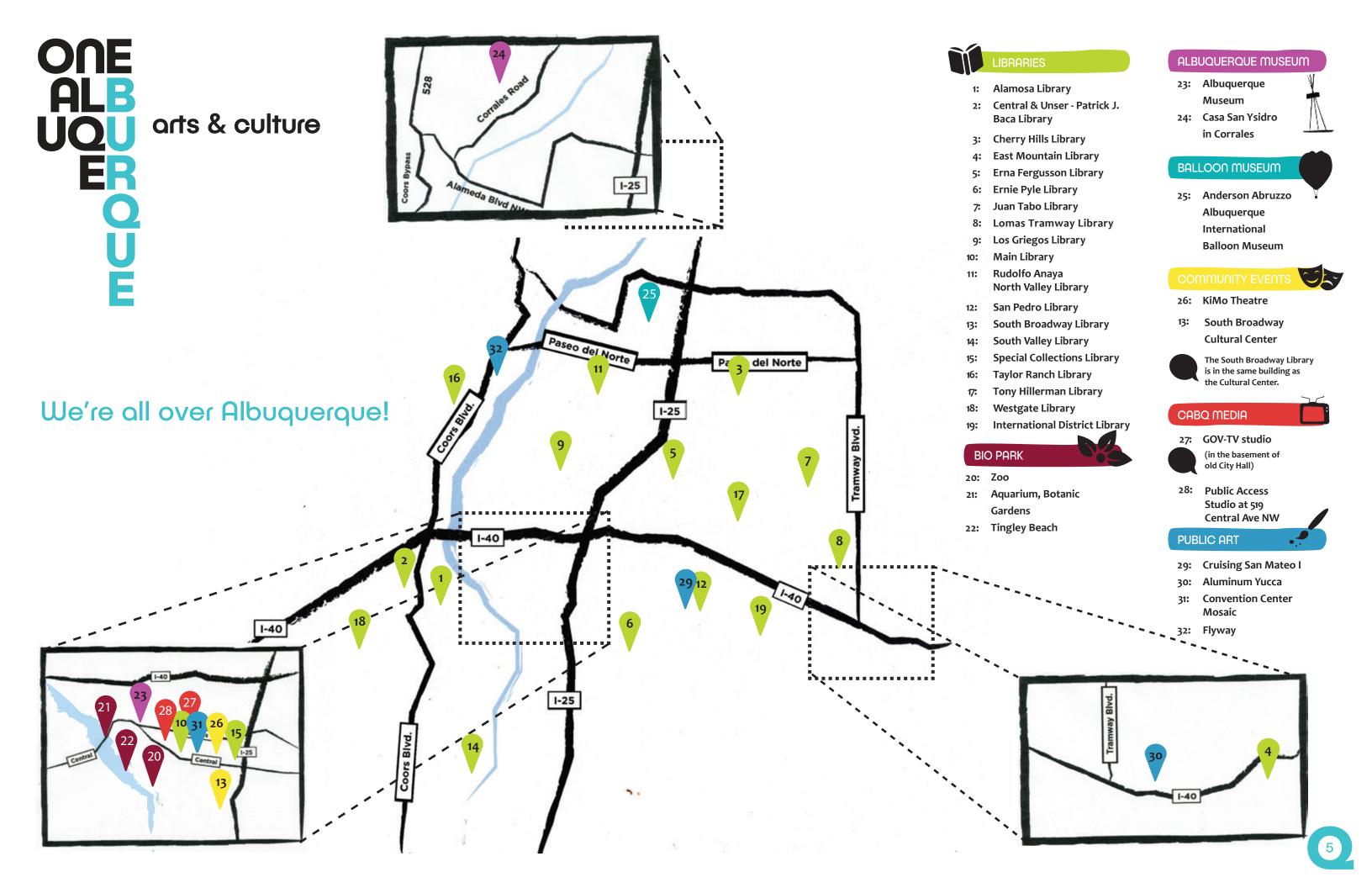














- The ABQ BioPark raised 50,000 endangered Rio Grande silvery minnows in 2022 to be released back into the river this winter.
- Hot air balloonists lingo lesson: balloonists never say "blow up" a balloon, instead they say
 "inflate."
- Each large scale community event such as Freedom Fourth and Twinkle Light Parade is coordinated by a team of only four to five people who plan all the details and execute the event. Small but mighty!
- Out of a small office and studio on the north side of City Hall, CABQ Media is the distribution hub for four television channels that broadcast and live stream to multiple websites 24/7/365.
- Part of the Albuquerque Museum's programming is a 19th century building in Corrales turned into a plazuela-style rancho to house an exuberant collection of New Mexico vernacular art.
- The Public Art program has purchased 56 works of art from high school students over the past 15 years during the annual APS Metro Youth Art Show held each spring. The total value of those 56 works is \$15,550 for an average of about \$275 per student.
- The Ernie Pyle Library was the first branch opened in 1950 but it is also a National Landmark—like the Georgia O'Keefe House, the Acoma Pueblo, the Trinity Site, and the San Francisco de Asís Mission Church in Ranchos de Taos.
- Many participants in the Mayor's Creative Youth Corps are circus artists. More specifically...
 clowns!





ABQ BioPark

Stephanie Stowell, director of the ABQ BioPark, walks us through 2022, where they've been and where they are headed this year.

Oh, baby! In 2022, the BioPark welcomed many new animals, including two lorikeet chicks named Zuzu and Petals, a baby orangutan named Bulan, and baby gorilla, Mashika. And what could be cooler than a penguin chick? Gentoo penguins Digit and Killian hatched a healthy - and rapidly growing! - chick in November. The young penguin is thriving and growing adult feathers and learning to swim.

We've been collaborating with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service to save a species that is on the brink of extinction: the Sacramento Mountains checkerspot butterfly which is found only in a small part of New Mexico and, sadly, rapidly losing its habitat. The BioPark collected two pairs from the wild who laid eggs that hatched 150 caterpillars. Under the care of the BioPark's entomologists, this next generation of butterflies will help build the checkerspot population while maintaining genetic diversity.

We're advancing the care of geriatric elephants. Irene, a 55-year-old Asian elephant, developed a lens luxation in her left eye. The BioPark animal care team worked together with a team of 40 additional specialists to successfully conduct a first-of-its-kind surgery to remove her eye. Irene is recovering well and has resumed all her regular activities.

We think 2022 was the year of resiliency. As the human world returned to mostly normal after COVID, birds around the world were hit with a pandemic of their own. Highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) arrived in New Mexico, carried by wild migratory birds. The BioPark developed new biosecurity measures to protect the birds in its care, including covering some habitats and bringing some birds indoors.

One of the biggest stories last year was a new staff certification program that offers career advancement for zookeepers and aquarists while ensuring continued excellence in animal care and improving overall staff retention and recruitment. The ABQ BioPark Animal Care Excellence Program (ACE), was announced in August with great enthusiasm from all involved.

This year will bring exciting new exhibits to the Zoo. The first phase of Australia will feature amazing birds, including 12-inch-tall little penguins and colorful rainbow lorikeets. The long-awaited Asia exhibit will feature incredible new homes for the Zoo's orangutans, siamangs, snow leopards, Malayan tiger, and Steller's sea eagles. But first, the debut of the new electric shuttle to carry guests between the Zoo, Tingley Beach and Aquarium/Garden.



Division Highlight – Dr. Carol Bradford

Caring for zoo and aquarium animals is a normal part of Dr. Bradford's daily job. As the BioPark's senior veterinarian, Dr. Bradford's patients include everything from bugs to giraffes. She and her team care for wild animals that need help, too. Mr. Goodbar, the famous Mexican wolf, was treated at the BioPark after his leg was fractured from a gunshot wound. Dr. Bradford amputated his leg to save his life, and Dr. Goodbar was successfully released back into the wild. She also protects animals in a changing world. This year, 30 BioPark animals received COVID vaccinations, including big cats and primates.





Albuquerque Museum

Albuquerque Museum Director Andrew Connors reflects on 2022 which saw the return of students! and popular inperson guided tours and the Magic Bus program.

For the first time since March 2020, teachers at Albuquerque Public Schools, regional public school districts, and independent schools, were able to schedule in-person guided tours and hands on activities through the "Magic Bus" program sponsored by the Albuquerque Museum Foundation. The galleries and halls were enlivened by the sounds of students engaging with permanent collection and temporary exhibitions. Almost every available tour slot was quickly booked through the 2022-23 school year at both the Albuquerque Museum and Casa San Ysidro.

Museum staff, led by head curator, Josie Lopez, PhD, prepared for and completed a very successful review for reaccreditation by the American Alliance of Museums. Accreditation is a major accomplishment and increases a museum's credibility and value. Accreditation is a powerful tool to facilitate loans for touring exhibitions, such as Visions of the Hispanic World: Treasures from the Hispanic Society Museum & Library on exhibit at the Albuquerque Museum in 2019, between institutions. Only a small percentage of museums earn such a distinction and the process can take up to eight to 16 months to complete.

The most popular exhibition at the Albuquerque Museum last year was Indelible Blue: Indigo Across the Globe, curated by the museum's own staff. The exhibition explored the history, techniques, and movement of indigo, tracing the different varieties of plants back to the regions and cultures that have utilized this elusive dye for millennia. Indelible Blue included artists from around the world currently working with indigo as well as historical objects from Asia, South Asia, Africa, The Americas, and New Mexico.

In 2023, the Albuquerque Museum will open two very

important art and history exhibitions organized by the museum and both with major scholarly publications: Danny Lyon: Journey West and Dictators and the Disappeared: Democracy Lost and Restored. In addition to these in-house projects, the museum will also be hosting a major traveling exhibition O'Keeffe and Moore which compares two iconic modernist artists, Georgia O'Keeffe from the United States, and Henry Moore from Great Britain. The exhibition schedule reflects the best of home-grown projects, and the most important national traveling exhibitions.



Division Highlight - Elena Maestas

Accountant Elena Maestas has coordinated both the front desk cashiers and visitor services program for the past two years. She has done this with graciousness, efficiency, and a great enthusiasm making our visitors feel welcome and treated with respect. With an upbeat demeanor, efficiency, and creativity she also supports our museum staff through all procurement and payment procedures.





Anderson Abruzzo Albuquerque International Balloon Museum

2022 was quite a year for Nan Masland and the Balloon Museum, as the museum opened a new exhibit celebrating the Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta's® 50th anniversary, along with other exciting new things!

In 2022 we launched STEAM Nights at the Balloon Museum, a new afterhours, all ages educational program that features elements of STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, and math) as it relates to the world of ballooning and the Balloon Museum. Hundreds of folks have attended these events and made their own robots, met world famous balloon pilots, and contributed to a giant Lego mural of a hot air balloons, all while taking in the beauty of the museum in the evening.

Our milestone, the brand new permanent exhibit, Canopy of Color celebrating the 50th anniversary of Balloon Fiesta, was a tremendous hit! What started in 1972 with just 13 hot air balloons at Coronado Center has grown into the most celebrated international balloon festival in the world. This highly interactive exhibit allows visitors to take a deep dive into ballooning culture and history and learn about the magic of Balloon Fiesta all year long.

We refer to last year as "The Comeback" since people from all over the country and world came to see us after past cancellations and travel restrictions. More than half of our visitors were from out of state. During the height of the pandemic, out-of-state travel was prohibited/discouraged. Now that nationwide and international travel is encouraged, we have been able to welcome our long-distance visitors back to the Balloon Museum.

shortages, and supply chain issues last year. One major hurdle we overcame was starting a roofing project. Phase 1 of roof replacement is underway – all cladding on the building exterior is being replaced in time for Balloon Fiesta 2023!

This year, a solar annular eclipse is happening on the second Saturday of Balloon Fiesta – October 14. We are super excited to be collaborating with NASA to host a live broadcast of the event.

Although last year's weather wasn't perfect for Balloon Fiesta, that didn't slow down attendance to the Balloon Museum during the festival. Visitors stayed warm and dry while enjoying our exhibitions. They attended lectures, book signings, and we saw record attendance and even had the opportunity to host an "emergency" wedding that got rained out at Balloon Fiesta Park.



Division Highlight - Rachel Blomquist

Rachel is the Balloon Museum's registrar. She is a quiet powerhouse who catalogues the museum's collections and archives. She learned the specialized database system, TMS, and is now the museum's go-to for all collections related questions.

Like many businesses across the country we faced staffing





CABQ Media

Diego Lucero, CABQ Media manager, discusses a successful and busy 2022 and previews what's in store this year including a new look and how people can get more involved with community media.

In 2022, CABQ Media increased its commitment to providing more local content and media accessibility to the community by partnering with Katharsis Media, LLC to provide educational content for the Educational Access Channel (channel 96). In addition to providing content, we're joining Katharsis Media to provide educational training and awareness in media arts to youth and young professionals at a time when Albuquerque is quickly becoming a major hub for film production and training is vital. In partnership with Katharsis Media's existing education programs, the channel will provide opportunities for outreach and training. The program offers Internship programs, on-campus outreach programs K-12 schools, studio field trips for K-12 students, and classes and workshops.

We found ourselves "back to normal" last year, while utilizing what we learned during the "pandemic pivot" of 2020. We continue to use a lot of virtual processes that have increased our workflow and in turn has provided more services to keep city government and community media accessible to our residents. Our only challenge is having the amount of staff needed to accomplish all of what is needed to keep up with what we would like to accomplish.

We are looking forward to the rest of 2023 as we work to rebrand our program. Albuquerque Community Media will be the umbrella concept of Public Access, Government Access, and Educational Access television and streaming platforms. This rebranding will create an identity that will lead to more visibility for the content we create and create awareness in the community on how to best participate in the creation of all types of media.



Division Highlight

- Our production team!

Our production team's day-to-day activities never look the same. Any one day can have them traveling across the city in an effort to deliver as much information as possible to the community. A typical (or atypical) day could potentially start with covering a news conference about upgrades at a community center, then transitioning to shoot interviews for upcoming documentaries, all ending with live-streaming a City Council meeting on our website and YouTube. The best part about the work is being able to tell so many vastly different and interesting stories in many ways all while providing a valuable service to the community.











Community Events

Community Events Manager Bree Ortiz looks back at 2022 as the year a familiar place celebrated a milestone and large-scale community events returned to "normal."

The Community Events Division celebrated the historic (and rumored haunted) KiMo Theatre with a birthday bash as it turned 95 years old last September. Since 1927, the historic landmark has been host to special events and joyous celebrations with big names such as Vivian Vance and Bob Odenkirk gracing the stage. Party guests were able to experience recent renovations and upgrades, while enjoying live local entertainment.

We also reopened the South Broadway Cultural Center and brought back Albuquerque Summerfest and the BioPark Music summer series to meet pre-pandemic expectations to the delight of the community. The nearly 40-year-old tradition of the lighting of the Old Town Christmas tree was in jeopardy until our department partnered with a local company to reimagine the experience and create a beautifully decorated 30-foot-tall Sequoia replica with nearly 18,000 individual LED lights which made its debut during the Old Town Holiday Stroll.

The Community Events team summed up 2022 with not so much a word, but a request – "Please stop raining on our parade." It rained during most of our events all year and we even experienced a record-breaking downpour on the day of the Twinkle Light Parade in December. But the show must go on! And they did just that. Rain or shine, as advertised.

We experienced (but overcame) other challenges last year. Each year, we work with dozens of contractors (think tents, security, and porta-potties) in planning and hosting large-scale events. We saw a change in contractors' staffing levels which was an entirely new challenge for every event and program we coordinated.

But being creative and rethinking the operations of the events led to our success.

We are looking forward to 2023, especially the Twinkle Light Parade which is our favorite event. Last year, more than 100 entries including marching bands, big box trucks, show vehicles, firetrucks, dance groups, and more than 4,000 people of all age representing local businesses, non-profit organizations, community and school groups, and families worked hard to ensure that the 2022 Twinkle Light Parade was the "twinkliest" of them all.



Division Highlight – Old Town Portal Team

The Old Town Portal Team led by James De Champlon with support from Steven Pettingill oversee the daily operations of the Old Town portal vendors. One of the tasks includes conducting a lottery to assign the vending spaces to each of the artisans. Vendors that wish to receive a space if a lottery assigned vendor doesn't show up, must arrive at the portal by 9:30 a.m. each morning to see if a space can be reassigned to them. The public typically doesn't know that the portal is run by the City or that the strict rules are controlled by an Ordinance and Rules and Regulations. The importance of regulating the portal vendors is to ensure that quality, handcrafted items are available to the public for purchase and the local artisans have a fair opportunity sell their wares.







Public Art | Urban Enhancement

Sherri Brueggemann, manager of the Public Art Urban Enhancement division, walks us through a formative 2022 and teases a huge 2023 ahead.

For Public Art Urban Enhancement, 2022 was the year of re-commitment and re-focus.

We had plenty to celebrate in 2022, including funding increase for public art and art conservation! In October, the Albuquerque City Council, by a unanimous vote, approved increasing the funds for public art and art conservation by an additional .05% - which is more than it sounds like! The ordinance change allows for the increase to take effect on the 2023 General Obligation Bond program and will yield an additional \$750,000.

The ordinance, co-sponsored by Councilors Isaac Benton, Renee Grout, and Klarissa Peña, also for the first time allows the city to use public art money for digital media and temporary installations. It could, for example, now procure pieces for special events.

We also hired our first Education and Outreach Coordinator who will support the development and implementation of a variety of educational programming and arts-based community engagement.

2023 is going to be **HUGE!** We look forward to what's to come in 2023. We will be moving into our new office space in City Hall as well as opening a new gallery, both on the first floor.



Division Highlight – Matt Carter

Matt Carter is our **Public Art Collection** Manager responsible for maintenance. He coordinates the maintenance and conservation of the Albuquerque Public Art Collection that currently has more than 1,500 individual works of art comprised of indoor 2-diminsional art, outdoor sculptures, and murals. In 2022 Matt completed the restoration of three major murals, managed the ongoing maintenance/ cleaning of more than 200 outdoor sculptures and murals, plus relocated/ installed roughly 300 artworks into City facilities (City Hall, Public libraries, **Albuquerque Convention** Center, and Family and **Senior Community** Centers).





Public Library – Albuquerque/Bernalillo County

Public Library Director Dean Smith raves about an EXPANSIVE 2022, including a new location, and what he looks forward to this year.

The Public Library opened its nineteenth branch in July of last year in the city's International District! The brand 25,000-square-foot facility features materials for all ages and abilities. The Renaluz Juarez Children's Room houses materials for birth to 6th grade along with five reading nooks and a storytelling tower. Three rooms were supported by the Freedman Foundation: the Young Adult Room offers collections, space and programming for ages 13 to 18, the Reading Room is most used by college students needing a space for quiet study, and the fireplace Lounge enjoyed by all ages for reading or simply watching pedestrian and vehicle traffic pass by on Route 66! There are 3 study rooms for groups of up to 4, a conference room for up to 10, two activity rooms each holding up to 50, and a community room that can seat 150. The Jewel Community Room includes a wood floor as a nod to the Caravan East, which formerly occupied the site. And the International District Library staff are very pleased that the main Adult Reading Room is named in honor of former City Councilor Rey Garduño.

Last year, we also opened the Ken Sanchez Community Room at Taylor Ranch Library. Taylor Ranch is one of the busiest branches for families with young children. Now there is a dedicated space for story times, escape rooms, book discussions, and local neighborhood meetings!

2022 marked the first year that the Public Library had more than one million e-books borrowed from our major source of digital materials, OverDrive!

Poets in the Libraries, a two year project of Albuquerque poet laureate Mary Oishi, was completed with a video

from each location, a book with over 100 poets published, and a celebration at the new International District Library. We refer to 2022 as the Year of Resilience. We are here, trying to take care of ourselves, our colleagues and customers, and we are cautiously positive about the future.

The Public Library is in the process of switching over to a new Integrated Library Software product and will have that completed by July of this year. Customers will experience a much improved search engine, cleaner catalog, and enhancements like text messaging for notices.



Division Highlight – Our drivers, Matt Williams and Phil Johnson!

With 19 locations across a service area of more than 1,000 square miles, there are a lot of books and other materials that need to be moved around the city and county to fulfill 370,000 hold requests for starters. Plus there are about a half million donations to be picked up as well as basic supplies like toner cartridges and toilet paper to be delivered. Two drivers manage to do all of this covering 80 miles each, six days a week!

key arts and culture INITIATIVES



In addition to the work of its seven divisions, the Department of Arts & Culture supports the creative economy through a number of endeavors and special programs, City Council-directed and non-recurring contracts, youth initiatives, and more. Here are just a few examples:

In 2022, the Department of Arts & Culture was selected to serve as a Cultural Hub for the Artists At Work initiative in partnership with THE OFFICE performing arts + film. For local artists where selected through on open call to participate in this workforce resilience program designed to support the rebuilding of healthy communities through artistic civic engagement. Conceived as a public/private partnership, the program provides a salary, plus full health benefits and professional development resources directly to participating artists; provide financial support to participating local cultural organizations; and connect both to the work of local social impact initiatives in areas such as child welfare, food and housing security, antiracism, physical and mental health, justice reform, sustainable and equitable development, environmental justice and climate resiliency, and immigration. It is designed to impact the whole ecosystem of a community.

The Mayor's Creative Youth Corps is a professional development, six-week paid summer mentorship program for youth interested in arts-based leadership opportunities. Interested rising high school juniors, seniors and recent graduates living in the Albuquerque metro area are eligible to apply. The Mayor's Creative Youth Corps provides Albuquerque's creative youth a safe and meaningful opportunity to develop their skills, build a professional network, and prepare for the future. Over the last three summers, more than 80 local youth have participated in the MCYC. Each participant is assigned to a different community partner or host site and works closely with a mentor or a team of mentors to develop skills in the creative sector. Projects have included designing and printing

original t-shirts; supporting summer programming for young children; painting murals; creating and editing videos; and preparing for festivals and events across Albuquerque.

The **Creative Bravos Awards** are dedicated to recognizing and honoring work that makes a significant impact on the lives of residents, neighborhoods, and/or communities. The awards are given annually to individuals, youths, teams, events, programs, organizations and businesses that celebrate the breadth of creative work that exists in the city. The immense and incredible history that the Creative Bravos Awards hold proves that Albuquerque's art community and creative economy has a far-reaching, undeniably positive influence on our city. Over nearly 40 years, the Creative Bravos have celebrated the works and accomplishments of hundreds of local artists and supporters.

CityMakers brings Albuquerque artists - and their creativity - into the public sector to support and develop projects that positively impact and inspire the community. In 2022, the inaugural trio of CityMakers ended their terms by completing their respective projects ranging from dance/movement workshop residencies, to staging a public art project at a skate park, to highlighting champions of anti-violence in Albuquerque.

In 2022, the Department of Arts & Culture administered more than \$1.5 million in contracts to more than 100 local arts and culture organizations.





SPOTLIGHT On – Mayor's Creative Youth Corp (MCYC)

Diana Delgado, the department's community engagement coordinator and MCYC mentor, sums of a formidable year for the program.

2022 was the first year the MCYC was able to function fully in person. Program coordinators, host sites, and mentors fully took advantage of the opportunity by creating multiple options for the group to meet together for both for professional development sessions and extracurricular activities such as attending art openings and Pride Parade. 2022 was also the first year the cohort was able to deliver their end-of-program presentation live at the Albuquerque Museum.

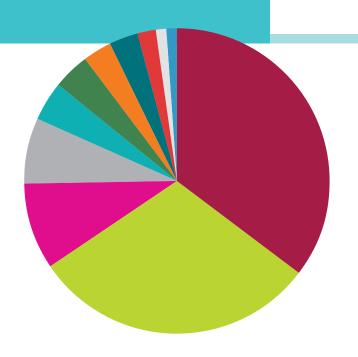
For the MCYC, 2022 was the year of "leaning back in." To many, 2022 felt like the first year youth participants were able to feel safe enough to start leaning back in. We found that many young people still have a lot of anxiety when it comes to in-person activities, and during the summer of 2022, it felt like they were finally able to step outside of their comfort zone. They got to learn new skills and participate in many large events including the 2022 Creative Bravos Awards Ceremony and Mayor Keller's 2022 State of the City.

One of the most challenging things for us was acquiring the materials needed for various projects under tights timelines. We overcame this by not getting trapped in the box of "there's only one way to get this done." By trusting in the work we were doing and the folks involved in the project gave us what we needed to make or visions realities. Being crafty, sharing skills, and learning how to see mundane objects as artistic materials is one of the biggest takeaways from last summer.

We look forward to continuing to build relationships with community partners to create an environment for Albuquerque's creative youth to be able to be brave, fail without judgment, and explore their passions. We will find new ways to include youth voices in the decisions being made at City Hall that have direct impact on their daily lives, and to continuing to build more pathways to opportunities and resources for youth.

budget and IMPACT





Total FY 2022
Operating Budget
\$46,030,000

ABQ BioPark	\$15,946,000	35%	Explora	\$1,804,000	3%
Public Library Albuquerque and Bernalillo County	\$14 , 506 , 000	32%	Sponsored Events and Partnerships	\$1,593,000	3%
Albuquerque Museum	\$3,728,000	9%	CABQ Media	\$919,000	2%
Community Events Division (Special Events, KiMo, SBCC, Old Town Events, Railyards)	\$2,700,000	6%	Public Art/Urban Enhancement	\$ 629,000	1%
Strategic Support (admin)	\$2,073,328	5%	Youth Initiatives	\$335,000	1%
Anderson Abruzzo Albuquerque International Balloon Museum	\$1,583,000	3%			