



Media Resources - Media Resources/ GOV TV played a critical role in getting important COVID-related information out to the public.

KiMo – The historic KiMo Theatre received a number of upgrades during 2020's closure including new stage flooring.

ROIN



Route 66 Shop & Glow – A number of River of Lights sculptures headed to Nob Hill in December 2020 for the Route 66 Shop & Glow.



Elevation Station – The Balloon Museum's Elevation Station was completed in 2020 and is ready to welcome visitors safely.

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LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR OF ARTS & CULTURE

A New Name and a Year of Pivots

Reflecting on last year brings on a wave of adjectives surprising, unprecedented, challenging, disappointing, difficult, weird, and pivotal. 2020 was a year of extraordinary changes in our society, economy, and dayto-day lives that we will surely feel for years to come.

Despite the hardships of the year, our staff consistently rose to the challenge. Librarians, maintenance workers, zookeepers, gardeners, aquarists, curators, administrators, custodians, managers, videographers, event supervisors, and more brought their dedication, resilience, innovation, stamina, and above all, creativity to keep our city connected through arts and culture.

More than any other year, 2020 showed us that we are truly One Albuquerque.

Like so many people and organizations in 2020, we pivoted so many times to respond to changing conditions and new challenges that we could have mastered the pirouette! We temporarily closed our venues, but we focused on maintenance, repairs, fresh paint, and deep cleaning. We suspended in-person programs but quickly improved our ability to deliver digital and online content. We reopened, implementing new protocols to ensure that our staff and visitors would be safe.

Amidst all the shifts of this past year, we still made huge strides. In the pages of this report that follow, you'll see highlights that demonstrate the resilience of our people and the power of arts and culture to connect and inspire, through good times and bad.

Speaking of "arts and culture," I would be remiss not to mention our new name! We are now the Department of Arts & Culture (previously known as Cultural Services). This name more clearly communicates our mission—and makes it easier for the public to find and connect with us.



Our department name is an important umbrella for what happens in our places and spaces—the Albuquerque Museum, Casa San Ysidro, the BioPark, Balloon Museum, the libraries, KiMo Theatre, South Broadway Cultural Center, the Old Town Gazebo and Old Town Portal, the works of public art across the city, Studio 519, outdoor concerts, Summerfest, and parades—all these honor and cultivate arts and culture across our city.

I often refer to our department as a collection of collections; however, our favorite thing to collect is still community. We really look forward to SEEING our community in person as we carefully and gradually bring back our fun, safe, and oftentimes free, familyfriendly events over the coming year.

We count it as our privilege to work for you, Albuquerque, and to work alongside an incredible community of artists, cultural workers, creative entrepreneurs, and arts/cultural nonprofits. In 2020, this community demonstrated how we can all come together. It has inspired us, and we have so much optimism for the year ahead.

In partnership,

Dr. Shelle Sánchez Arts & Culture Department Director



Just to start, we acquired a new name:







The Balloon Museum updated their look

(check out their new brand).

The International District Library and Explora's X Studio broke ground in Spring 2020 and are planned to open in late 2021. We renovated, upgraded, and reopened the public access studios—now called **Studio 519.**



offered Albuquerque residents access to more than 17 million digital files (to read, view, and listen to) from home.



made it into the hands of artists, nonprofits, and performers through Public Art Urban Enhancement and other department funding, thus supporting the creative economy through a global pandemic. Prior to the pandemic, we were on track to shatter records at the Albuquerque Museum for visitation to the *Imagination Unlimited: The Jim Henson Exhibition* (because who doesn't love the Muppets!)

THE ZOO WELCOMED NEW BABIES,

WE COULDN'T HOST THE Twinkle Light Parade

(we were as heartbroken as you) but pivoted to light installations outside and inside the windows all along Central Avenue for families to enjoy while still social distancing.



including a pair of hyena cubs, seven Mexican wolf pups, a klipspringer calf, and two dozen baby turtles.

And for all these accomplishments, we have you to thank!

What keeps us running is our publicly funded budget from the citizens of Albuquerque. You (yes, you) make it happen, and we hope you enjoy this report of all we did together through this unprecedented year.





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.

Our divisions and partnerships are at the center of this work. Each day, they help make our mission a reality.



Our annual report is more of an annual non-report. 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. Sure, we want to tell you about all the things we accomplished in 2020, but why not go exploring?

In the following pages, you'll not only find a sampling of all that Arts & Culture has to offer, but you'll also get some insider tips to connect with arts and culture in your city.

ABQ BIOPARK

There was a lot of planning and behindthe-scenes work in 2020 at the ABQ BioPark—for the plants, the animals, the insects, and the people who love to visit them. In 2021, you will start to see these plans come to life as construction begins in several areas.

BioPark Director Stephanie Stowell has the inside scoop.

Q: What was new in 2019?

A: "Well, I was new! Actually, I started at the BioPark in 2019 as the Associate Director of the BioPark, and in Fall 2020, I moved into the leadership position.

"Our conservation efforts continued with the arrival of some zoo babies. Our spotted hyenas Smilla and Dubu welcomed a pair of hyena cubs in April. Kawi and Ryder welcomed seven Mexican wolf pups in May. There's an adorable new face in the klipspringer exhibit—Zeelie was born to Raisin and Pogo in October. About two dozen baby turtles hatched, including Krefft's river turtles and snakenecked turtles. Both species are native to Australia. In addition, the BioPark Aquarium announced a new male river otter named Dixon. He's currently on exhibit with the females Chaos and Mayhem. And six new female Navajo churro sheep arrived at the Heritage Farm to join the male K'os."

Q: What was one of your best pandemic pivots?

A: "Our virtual field trips and the penguin livestream. Both were so popular—far beyond what we expected. It reminded us how much our community loves the BioPark and wants to stay connected. We even hosted virtual field trips for educators and classes in other states!"



2020 marked 20 years of conservation efforts to help save the Rio Grande silvery minnow, an endangered species native to New Mexico. So far, the effort has released more than 800,000 silvery minnows into the Rio Grande.

Q: So, about those penguins... They've been here for awhile, but what's new with them?

A: "Macaroni penguin pair Minnow and Jamison produced two eggs in November, and we had another pair of gentoo penguins that also produced an egg. These breeding behaviors are an excellent sign that they are making themselves at home!"

Q: What is your "don't miss" in 2021?

A: "The train at Heritage Farm! I know kids and many adults were sad to see the Zoo train leave as we made way for big new projects, but there will be a great new train and a new route coming to the BioPark in Fall 2021. Finally, there is some exciting activity starting back near the elephants. We are doing big infrastructure work on Asia, and the first phase will be opening later this year, so stay tuned!"

ALBUQUERQUE MUSEUM

There are so many great things about the Albuquerque Museum. For starters, it's far more than just a museum—it's also a community gathering place, an academic center, and a custom collection of all things 'Burque.

Albuquerque Museum Director Andrew Connors looks back on 2020 and into 2021 as the Museum continues to build a place for residents and visitors to connect art and history, past and present.

Q: What are some of your 2020 highlights?

A: "Since we could not focus on our visitors for several months, we focused on the buildings. We completed some major facility upgrades, including refinishing all wood floors, a new roof, and new drainage, and installing solar panels—all things that have improved the safety, efficiency, and aesthetics of our beautiful building and grounds. We were also able to add a full-time site manager at Casa San Ysidro, which strengthens the programs and resources at our historic house in Corrales."

Q: What was your biggest 2020 disappointment at the museum?

A: "It was disappointing to close *Imagination Unlimited: The Jim Henson Exhibition* early due to the pandemic. It was a wildly popular exhibition that was on track to break all our attendance records. It was also unfortunate that we could not have full programming and tours for 30 Americans in Fall 2020. It was a powerful and beautiful exhibition that could not get the attention it deserved."



ART FROM HOME Last year, the Albuquerque Museum created weekly family art projects, which are available online.

Q: What were your pandemic pivots?

A: "Our Museum staff created incredible online exhibitions: *Trinity Reflections on the Bomb* and *Seven Generations of Red Power in New Mexico*. Our doors were closed for part of 2020, but we had thousands of new visitors from all over the world to our online exhibitions. We also added *Picture This!* video podcasts from the photo archives, using the skills of our digital archivist to elevate our archives and provide more virtual resources to the community."

Q: What's in store for 2021?

A: "We are excited that we will be hosting an important exhibition of self-portraits from the National Portrait Gallery featuring works by Elaine de Kooning, Fritz Scholder, Chuck Close, Louise Nevelson, and many more. Eye to I: Self-Portraits from 1900 to Today opens at Albuquerque Museum on June 12. At a time when countless "selfies" are posted on social media, it will be refreshing to see how artists have approached representation and self-depiction through portraiture."

ANDERSON ABRUZZO ALBUQUERQUE INTERNATIONAL BALLOON MUSEUM

You probably noticed there was not an Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta filling the skies in 2020—however, the Balloon Museum continued to create balloon magic inside the museum!

Fortunately for you, Balloon Museum Manager Nan Masland and her team (and some great partners and collaborators in the community) have all been working hard to create new exhibits and opportunities at the Museum.

Q: So, Nan, what did you work on during the temporary closure of the Museum?

A: "Although our doors were shuttered at the Balloon Museum for six months, we were anything but quiet during that time. We produced a <u>video series</u> to share stories about the Balloon Fiesta, with topics including the history of the Balloon Fiesta, volunteers and vendors, the Balloon Museum as the keeper of AIBF memorabilia, and chase crews and launch directors. We also took care of our building's needs. We replaced the HVAC controls (that's a major task for our large and complex building) and door seals, and we spruced up our admin office's reception area and conference room with a fresh coat of paint."

Q: What was your 2020 pandemic pivot?

A: "During the closure, we continued to offer our beloved programs online. These included Stories and Music in the Sky on Facebook Live each Wednesday, as well as our



virtual field trip program. This Fall, our virtual field trip slots were completely booked, and we've had thousands of participants on Stories and Music in the Sky!"

Q: What was new in 2020?

A: "We hired a new exhibitions curator who is working on a 'Balloon Fiesta Exhibit' celebrating 50 Balloon Fiestas and refreshing our Hall of Fame. There are new inductees each year, so we need to keep up to date! We also hired a building maintenance supervisor for the very first time."

Q: Finally, what is your "don't miss" for 2021?

A: "Don't miss the new exhibits that we worked on in 2020 (which you can see now)! Elevation Station, which is a hands-on interactive youth exhibit, In Their Words: Stories by Women on the Ground and in the Air, and our new rotating art gallery. We also have some super cool logo T-shirts you shouldn't miss."

PUBLIC ART URBAN ENHANCEMENT DIVISION

Our Public Art Urban Enhancement Division stewards over 1,000 amazing artworks across Albuquerque and provides funding for arts and cultural organizations—all across Albuquerque!

Manager Sherri Brueggemann knows all about the great talented artists and organizations who share their creativity with our city—and she works hard to get those artists and organizations the opportunities and resources they need.

Q: What was your 2020 highlight?

A: "We did everything we usually do while telecommuting 100% beginning in March 2020. And in response to the economic impact of the pandemic, we funded an additional 80 arts organizations with two extra funding rounds and purchased artwork from 100 artists through special calls for artwork."

Q: Any big news?

A: "We added \$1 million to the local creative economy from June through December 2020—which feels pretty big! In May, we funded artists through a partnership with the Tamarind Institute and announced \$300,000 in additional Urban Enhancement Trust Fund funding. In June, we announced \$135,000 for new murals (funding 11 local artists). In July, we released a special call for Spanish Market and Indian Market artists. In August, we released a call for 2D and 3D purchases from artists, and in December, we announced another \$200,000 of CARES funding for arts and cultural programs."



ENJOY PUBLIC ART FROM HOME: Check out murosabq.com and treat yourself to a DIY exploration of Albuquerque's finest murals.

Q: What was your 2020 pandemic pivot?

A: ""We pushed all our processes, public records, and public meetings fully into the digital world, and we upgraded our online application systems. Now it is easier for artists and organizations to apply for opportunities. We embraced 100% digital contracts, which means artists and organizations can get to work on projects faster. And we made a huge amount of information available and searchable online—from 40 years of Arts Board meeting minutes to the organizations that have received Urban Enhancement Trust Fund contracts over the past 35 years (and so much more)."

COMMUNITY EVENTS DIVISION

The Community Events team, led by Manager Bree Ortiz, makes great things happen all over town from the KiMo Theatre and South Broadway Cultural Center to the Rail Yards and Old Town Plaza.

Chances are you've been to (and enjoyed) one of the many events Bree and her team have put on. And chances are (like us) you were sad to miss those events in 2020. 2020 was a very different year for the Community Events team without Albuquerque Summerfests, the Twinkle Light Parade, BioPark concerts, Freedom 4th, performances at the historic KiMo Theatre, free concerts in Old Town, and so much more.

Q: How did your team do the pandemic pivot?

A: "The Community Events team was able to turn many of our events and programs into virtual experiences. We worked with One Albuquerque Media to fund artists and creatives to create programming to air on public access channels. We also streamed some of that programming live through Facebook and YouTube.

"We developed the <u>Albuquerque Drive-Through Grab</u> <u>& Go Series</u> to support local artisans, makers, and businesses, helping them connect with clients while keeping everyone safe. We also moved our special event permitting 100% online to assist citizens with permits for programs and events in accordance with the public health orders." THE TWINKLE LIGHT PARADE
IN DECEMBER IS MAGICAL!





We hope to get to see you in person this year!

Q: What do you think brought the most smiles last year?

A: "Since we could not hold the Twinkle Light Parade, we worked with (and funded) artists, Nob Hill businesses, and the NM BioPark Society to organize the Nob Hill Shop & Glow. People really responded to the light installations outside and inside the windows along Central Avenue. It was a fun and free offering for our community in December!"

Q: What did you do while theaters were closed and public gatherings were cancelled?

A: "Facility maintenance! In healthy times, there is not enough downtime to easily perform all the maintenance on equipment, buildings, and spaces. The closures provided the opportunity to improve and update our venues, which will be impactful for the community, performers, and staff when we reopen. Just to name a few, we installed new lighting systems in the Old Town Gazebo and ABQ BioPark Botanic Garden, updated the shutters, box office, and dressing rooms at the KiMo, and built a new air wall at South Broadway Cultural Center.

"We also pitched in on the One Albuquerque efforts. Multiple members of the Community Events team helped with COVID-related community support throughout 2020, including acting as managers on duty for COVID quarantine hotels, assisting Senior Affairs in packing dry pantry items for seniors, and working at the Emergency Operations Center."

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THE PUBLIC LIBRARY ALBUQUERQUE AND BERNALILLO COUNTY

Through 18 public libraries—and number 19 opening in 2021!— Albuquerque residents have access to a treasure trove of information and entertainment, for *free*.

Our libraries have offered a wealth of online resources for years—and that was especially important in 2020. Library Director Dean P. Smith fills us in on the importance of libraries during a pandemic.

Q: What is the word for the Public Library in 2020?

A: "DIGITAL! That may be the word for a lot of people in 2020. Fortunately, for decades public libraries have offered online information and databases as well as downloadable books, magazines, music, and movies. This meant that many of our resources and services were already available to the public through the internet when we had to temporarily close our doors. Even our programming went digital, including Lomas Tramway Library residents Fritz & Zelda, who made their citywide debut.

"The use of the library's online resources increased by over 38% with over 1.4 million digital books and audiobooks borrowed in 2020. Our libraries recognized the need to support our readers who were staying at home so increased our existing collections of e-books, e-audiobooks, online newspapers and magazines, and streaming music and videos. Two popular examples were <u>Hoopla</u> and <u>U.S. Major Daily Newspapers.</u>"

Q: Providing information is central to the Public Library—what did that look like in 2020?

Audio books and e-books are free with your

library card! Using Hoopla or Libby from the app store gains you free access to millions of titles!

A: "Libraries helped the City of Albuquerque get critical information to the public by creating and highlighting important resources on the Library website, including <u>Stay</u> <u>at Home Resources</u>, <u>COVID-19 Help</u>, <u>ABQtodo Teach This</u> <u>From Home</u>, and a front page link to information about free public internet access.

Q: What was the most popular digital book or service in 2020?

A: "Downloaded e-books and e-audiobooks from OverDrive reached a record 949,975 in 2020. Next year we'll hit one million!"

Q: What are you looking forward to in 2021?

A: "The opening of the International District Library late in the year. We were able to have <u>an imaginative</u> <u>and modified ground-breaking</u> in May 2020, and the community excitement and support for this project was wonderful to see!"





MEDIA RESOURCES

Media Resources covers everything from government meetings to local features, documentaries, and educational shows—and they were IN DEMAND and ON DEMAND during 2020!

We had a quick chat in the editing room with Media Resources Manager Diego Lucero, who leads an energetic technical staff focused on keeping Albuquerque citizens informed from the comfort of their own couches and phones—especially important work during a pandemic.

Q: Media seemed pretty popular in 2020—was that true for One Albuquerque Media, too?

A: "2020 required the services of Media Resources more than ever. GOV-TV became a primary source of COVID-related information from the Mayor's office. Whether it was news briefings, town halls, or PSAs, Media Resources assisted with the production and delivery of communications from all corners of City government.

"GOV-TV has always supported public video access for the City Council, County Commission, and a handful of other board meetings. Our role grew tremendously in 2020. All public meetings moved to videoconferencing, and Media Resources was able to connect just about every local board and commission meeting with living rooms and computers all over Albuquerque.

"Media Resources also became a valued partner with community organizations that pivoted their annual events and celebrations to virtual formats. Media Resources supported the production and distribution of those programs to a wider audience through online streaming."



The Cripublic Studio anyourece

The City's brand-new public access studio, **Studio 519**, is free for anyone to use after receiving training.

> GET READY TO SIT IN A DIRECTOR'S CHAIR AND YELL "ACTION!"

Q: Any big news from 2020 to share?

A: "YES! We have a new public access studio, called Studio 519, with new capabilities and new approaches! It is a fully equipped broadcast studio with two fully lit customization sets. There is no cost to the public to use the space, but producers are required to attend an orientation. Future plans for the space include how-to training sessions on directing multi-camera shows, managing lighting, audio, and camera operation, and production and on-location work.

"In late Spring 2020, One Albuquerque Media also upgraded broadcast and streaming capabilities for press conferences, public meetings, and events. As a result, news media outlets regularly used GOV-TV video for their own coverage and news programs—making it easier to get government information out to the public.

"We also established OTT (Over-The-Top TV)/Video on Demand so that public access channel programs can stream via Apple TV, Roku, etc. (but you can still find them on Comcast, YouTube, and Facebook)."

KEY INSIGHTS

♥ YOUTH MENTORSHIP ■ AND PAID PROFESSIONAL INTERNSHIPS

We sat down with Department Director Dr. Shelle Sanchez to get an update on the Arts & Culture Department's youth initiatives and other paid (yes, paid!) professional internships.

Q: What programs most inspire you

A: "Truly, there are inspiring public programs and professional work happening in every corner of our Department—it is an incredible place for youth and young adults to learn. Over the past three years, we have significantly increased our commitment to youth and family programs in general, and specifically to paid internship opportunities for high school and college students."

Q: Why are paid internships important?

A: "We are committed to increasing racial diversity and gender equity in our Department and in the arts and culture sphere. Paid internships for youth are an essential part of making this happen. While many unpaid opportunities for youth offer great experience, they leave out students from lower-income backgrounds who may have to prioritize paid work to supplement family income or to pay for their own expenses. Because income and race are too often linked, this means BIPOC youth are disproportionately affected. We have committed to offering paid internships to provide diverse students with important professional training and skills to help build their resumes and the references they need to land their next opportunity for advancement."

Q: What types of paid internship opportunities are there in the Arts & Culture Department?

A: "We have a number of opportunities spanning different disciplines and professional fields. Each Summer, we host the Mayor's Creative Youth Corps for high school students or recent high school grads. We also have internships for college students looking to develop their professional paths in our Public Art Program, ABQ BioPark Aquatic Conservation Facility, Community Outreach office, Ancestral Lands Youth Corps partnership, and soon, the Book Corps at the Library."



Arts and culture institutions across the country are making bold changes to ensure diversity, equity, and inclusion. Deputy Director Hakim Bellamy took some time to talk about how the Arts and Culture Department is engaged in transformation across leadership, programming, and collections.

Q: The Arts & Culture Department recently conducted an informal diversity audit of all its divisions, ranging from which artists are represented in our permanent collections to who is working within the Department. What did you learn, and what is next?

A: "We've been examining diversity, equity, inclusion, and community representation in our past and present commitments and actions. This is not unique to Albuquerque—cultural institutions and municipal governments nationwide are taking an honest look at these systemic, multigenerational challenges and implementing bold changes where needed moving forward. Thankfully, we started this work on day one with Mayor Tim Keller's administration, and our focus has continued to strengthen over the past year."

Q: What initiatives are happening inside the Department?

A: "We have been engaging in staff training (especially across leadership and management) and offering professional development opportunities, intentionally supporting BIPOC staff and women in their career advancement. We have also improved the processes and protocols in our hiring efforts to ensure equity remains at the center.

"In the community, we have been expanding the breadth of support and opportunities we bring to creatives—like the Tipping Points for Creatives and Buy Local initiatives and through that expansion, we deliberately seek contracts and collaboration with BIPOC individuals and organizations to broaden representation and perspectives at the tables that guide our work.

"We've also been in a deep dive process to look into our collections and identify areas where we need to address imbalances through specific initiatives and targeted efforts."

Q: Arts & Culture led last year's Race, History, & Healing Project. What can you say about that?

A: "The Race, History & Healing Project was launched in response to community concerns about the Juan de Oñate statue on the grounds of the Albuquerque Museum. We embarked on a months-long, community-centered process to create a space for difficult dialogues about our shared history and to establish recommendations for the future of the statue.

"This process involved 10 project facilitators, 241 community members who attended online dialogue sessions, 1,200 citizens who completed a public survey, and more than 100 participants in in-depth phone interviews."



Deputy Director Brandon Gibson shares a little about our partnerships and impact in the community, including a popular stop for families with big plans for the future.

Q: What is happening with our partners at Explora?

A: "We have had a terrific public–private partnership with Explora for 20 years. Despite being closed for the majority of 2020, Explora's staff continued to provide ongoing and exciting STEAM virtual programming to the community. They were also able to break ground on the new X Studio, a teen center where teens can explore, hang out, and discover pathways to their future. Look for the opening in Fall 2021!"

Q: What other partnership and impact stories do we have to share in 2020?

A: "While 2020 looked a little different, we continued to collaborate with artists and nonprofits to support the local creative sector. This year our contracts with local presenters, creatives, artists, and performers totaled more than \$250,000. We also administered more than \$1 million in city contracts to arts and culture nonprofits through the annual budget (that is on top of the funds issued through the Urban Enhancement Trust Fund). These funds supported accessible, affordable, and diverse arts and cultural programming for the residents of Albuquerque. Lastly, we are the fiscal agent for local arts and cultural nonprofits that receive funding through the New Mexico State Legislature.

"Those are just some of the contributions! The City of Albuquerque as a whole does so much more. You can see the full impact in the <u>1st Annual State of</u> <u>Partnerships Report."</u>

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BioPark	\$14,542,000	35%	Strategic Support (admin)	\$1,437,296	3%
Public Library Albuquerque and Bernalillo County	\$12,516,000	30%	Sponsored Events and Partnerships	\$1,234,000	3%
Albuquerque Museum	\$3,760,000	9%	Media Resources	\$966,704	2%
Community Events Division (Special Events, KiMo, SBCC, Old Town Events, Railyards)	\$2,837,000	7%	Youth Initiatives	\$335,000	1%
Anderson Abruzzo Albuquerque International Balloon Museum	\$1,689,000	4%	Public Art/Urban Enhancement	\$ 327,000	1%
Explora	\$1,446,000	4 %			