



Photo by Kirk Gittings. © 2013 Kirk Gittings Photography

City of Albuquerque Public Art Program group photo of 28 participants out of over 50 staff and contractors, 80 Arts Board members and 550 Artists.

A-ARTIST, B-ARTS BOARD MEMBER, C-CONTRACT STAFF, S-CITY STAFF

BACK ROW: NAN MASLAND-C, TONY DELLA FLORA-C, MICHAEL SEMSCH-A, JAMES DIETSCH-A, KAREN KUEHN-A,
HARRY KINNEY SCULPTURE BY REYNALDO RIVERA, ANGUS MACPHERSON-A&B, ROBERT WILSON-A

MIDDLE ROW: DAVE DEKKER-A, CORINNE THEVENET-B, GLENN HOHNSTREITER-B, CAROLYN ROBBINS SIEGEL-B, JEN NORTHUP-C, KAREN YANK-A, BARBARA GROTHUS-A&B,
SHERRI BRUEGGEMANN-S, REGINA CHAVEZ-S, PATSY CATLETT-B&C, WENDY CREEL-C, DEBI DODGE-B, DAN FULLER-S, SUZANNA KEARNY-S

FRONT ROW: JOAN WEISSMAN-A, FRANK MCCULLOCH-A&B, BARBARA LOHBECK-B, TAMMY WILKERSONHILL-FISHER-B, MATT CARTER-S, BRENDAN PICKER-S,
PORTRAIT OF GORDON CHURCH-S BY LEO NEUFELD, AND STEVE BORBAS-A&B

City of Albuquerque

Public Art Urban Enhancement Program

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Beautifying public spaces is what this office is all about.

Since the establishment of the first Arts Board by Mayor Harry Kinney and the adoption of the "Art in Public Places" ordinance by Mayor David Rusk in 1978, the staff of the Public Art Program has succeeded at bringing original works of art to public spaces for the enjoyment of Albuquerqueans and visitors alike.

The program has led to the placement of over 800 pieces of unique art into at least 100 city-owned buildings, parks, trails and other locations. As the 15th oldest percent for art program in the United States out of about 350, taking a tour of public art in Albuquerque is like flipping through the pages in an artistic encyclopedia.

"The collection has a good example of most everything," Program Director Sherri Brueggemann says, "from traditional colcha embroidery and watercolors to handmade ceramic tile and large-scale bronze figures, such as the Harry Kinney sculpture on Civic Plaza!"

Albuquerqueans agree that the program is a good use of public

funding, which falls under the management of Cultural Services Department, along with the city's libraries, museums, the KiMo Theatre, the ABQ BioPark, and Special Events. According to a recent study, 90 percent of community members approve of the program's function and the one percent of the city's capital budget devoted to art.

"The art is there for free for everybody, and with over 800 pieces of unique art, there is certainly something there for everybody's tastes," she says.

But the program wouldn't be possible without the help of Albuquerqueans, which run the gamut from elected officials, city staff and volunteers to committee members, artists and community supporters who built the program into what it is today—something Brueggemann is thankful for.

"The process of selecting a site, choosing an artist and helping to install a one-of-a-kind artwork is a thrilling part of all of our jobs and roles," Brueggemann says. "Every project is different, every time."