

# Urban Enhancement Trust Fund (UETF)

The Urban Enhancement Trust Fund (UETF) is a public endowment created by the Albuquerque City Council in 1983 to fund projects designed to enrich the cultural environment of Albuquerque. In 2004, the City Council amended the ordinance to provide that all funds available from the endowment should be directed to cultural projects. The ordinance also provides for an eleven-member citizens' committee that is responsible for establishing guidelines and recommending a program of projects to be funded.

UETF is a two-year program with planning, application, review, and selection process accomplished simultaneously with the City's General Obligation Program / Decade Plan process. Unlike the G.O. Bond Program which requires voters' approval, the UETF projects receive final approval from the City Council.

## **Policy**

Proposals for projects must be submitted by non-profit, tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organizations. The organization must be dedicated to enhancing Albuquerque's cultural vitality in the area of visual art, music, theater, dance, history, literature or multidisciplinary activities accessible to Albuquerque's citizens. All projects should advance the Albuquerque Cultural Plan, support the city's cultural goals of the Performance Plan, and have a favorable economic or cultural impact on the city. All provisions of the "anti-donation" clause of the constitution of the state of New Mexico apply.

## **2010 - 2011 Planning Process and Program Criteria**

Fifty-six applications were received on May 30, 2008. The applications were reviewed, evaluated and rated by city staff and by the UETF Committee. Each proposed project was evaluated based on the following criteria: Quality of Project including quality of the organization, artists and key personnel; Quality of Impact on Community including relation to one or more of the city's Cultural Goals as described in the Cultural Plan and the Performance Plan; and fiscal considerations for the proposed projects. The UETF committee met in August to discuss each application, to tabulate the ratings and the funds requested in relation to funds available, to ensure broad diversity in terms of art forms and audiences/participants to be served, and to develop the final UETF Program for recommendation to the Mayor.

The 2010-2011 UETF Program proposes funding of \$887,892 to 41 organizations that will sponsor projects to serve approximately one million people during the two-year cycle. Included in the program are many forms of both traditional and innovative dance, music, theater, digital media productions, festivals, educational workshops, and visual art exhibitions.