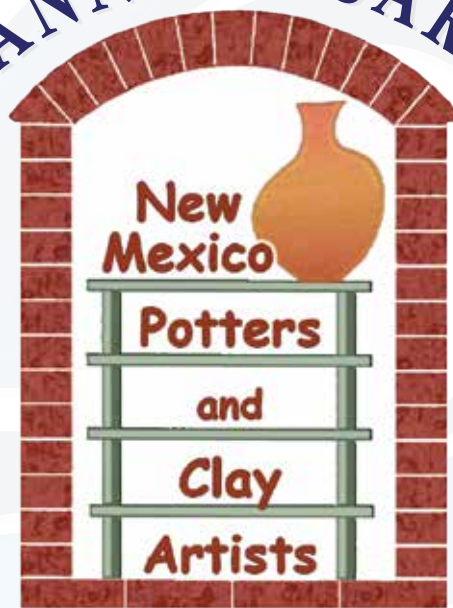


# 50th

## ANNIVERSARY



**We call ourselves NMPCA - New Mexico Potters and Clay Artists.**

The goals of the New Mexico Potters and Clay Artists are to promote excellence and creativity in the clay arts, and to further their understanding and appreciation throughout New Mexico. To support these goals, we foster educational programs, arrange exhibition opportunities, and provide a communication forum for the exchange of ideas, information and inspiration.

# 2024 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

# Agenda

<b>Welcome Call to Order - Andrea Pichaida</b>	<b>01</b>
<b>Minutes 2023 Annual Meeting - Charlotte Ownby</b>	<b>02</b>
<b>Financial Organization - Cate McClain</b>	<b>04</b>
<b>Membership - Merlene Reed Walker</b>	<b>06</b>
<b>Armstrong Grant - Michael Thornton</b>	<b>07</b>
<b>Judy Nelson-Moore Ghost Ranch Scholarship</b>	<b>07</b>
<b>Tributes - Jenna Ritter</b>	<b>08</b>
<b>Elections - Charlotte Ownby</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Ghost Ranch Workshop - Michael Thornton</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Celebration of Clay - Leonard Baca</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Clay Connections - Sheila Miller</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Sunport Ceramic Show Case - Sara D'Aessandro</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>eNews - Sara D'Aessandro</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Slip Trail &amp; Clay Studio Tour - Cirrelda Snider-Bryan</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Social Media - Leonard Baca</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Albuquerque Empty Bowls - Cirrelda Snider-Bryan</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>President Message - Andrea Pichaida</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>New Business - Andrea Pichaida</b>	
<b>Adjourn - Andrea Pichaida</b>	

# Welcome

Welcome to the NMPCA Annual Meeting, we thank you for attending. We hope this will be educational and informative of what we've done this past year. Members of the board will give reports of what they've done this year. Complete details are in this document if you have any questions please ask.

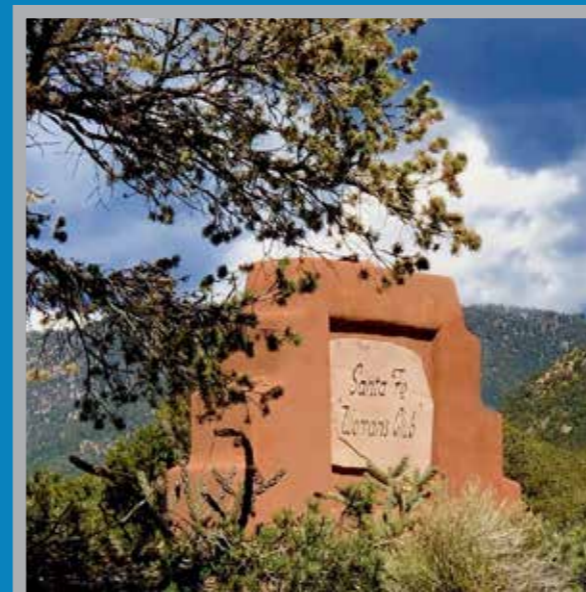
Andrea Pichaida  
President



February  
24th  
2024



## OUR HOST - The Santa Fe Woman's Club & Library Association



We would like to thank the Santa Fe Women's Club and the coordinator, Vanessa Lubinski, for the beautiful venue for our 2024 annual meeting.

### NMPCA Membership

We invite you to become a member if you are not already. Regular membership is \$25 a year, Studio Tour membership is \$40 a year, Student membership is \$10 a year, and a Student Studio Tour membership is \$25 a year.

# Minutes 2023 Annual Meeting

Charlotte Ownby,  
Secretary

Annual Membership Meeting Saturday, February 18, 2023 Albuquerque Highland Senior Center (prepared by Charlotte Ownby, Secretary)

(NOTE: Since a detailed handout of the information to be presented was made available to all participants prior to the meeting and shared on the screen during the meeting, these minutes are a SUMMARY only.)

**Call to Order** - Andrea Pichaida, Andrea Pichaida called the meeting to order. By the end of the meeting there were 54 members attending. (SEE LIST at the end of these minutes.) Andrea welcomed everyone and gave a brief overview of the meeting agenda. Minutes of the 2022 Annual Meeting - all voted to approve.

**Treasurer's Report** - Judy Nelson-Moore Judy reviewed the Profit and Loss statement and the Balance Sheet as of December 31, 2022, and indicated that this is an operating budget, and does not include projects like Celebration of Clay or the Ghost Ranch Workshop, which are budgeted separately. The Treasurer's Report was approved.

**Membership Report** - Merlene Walker Mo reviewed the Membership Report. We have 204 active members.

**Tribute to Judy and Luisa** - There was a very nice recognition of the service of two retiring Board Members.

**Armstrong Grant** - Michael Thornton. Michael reported that the Bill Armstrong Grant for 2022 was given to (see details on agenda).

**Ghost Ranch Workshop** - Michael Thornton Michael stated that the Workshop for 2022 (August 19, 20, 21) was a "New Mexico Connections," with local artists Luisa Baldinger and Judy Nelson-Moore (Terra Sigillata), Yuriy Luzov (Polymer Clay), Merlene Walker (Precious Metal Clay), and Cirrelda Snider-Bryan (Stains



and Oxides in Clay). The workshop went very well. Michael indicated that the 2023 workshop will be on ... Michael also informed us that we will try to hold a Volunteer Camp this year (2023) on May 19th and 20th. Unforeseen circumstances kept us from actually having a "V-Camp" this year, however.

**Celebration of Clay** - Andrea Pichaida Andrea reviewed the Celebration of Clay 2022, which was held at the Taos Ceramics Center during June 18 - July 23. It was entitled, "Uplifted." It was announced that Celebration of Clay 2023 would be held at Gallery Hózhó in Albuquerque, October 6 - November 19, 2023.

**Clay Connections** - Sheila Miller

**Board Elections 2023** - Leonard Leonard reported on the status of Board members at his time. Two members will be leaving the Board: Judy Nelson-Moore and Luisa Baldinger. Sara D'Alessandro has indicated her desire to remain on the Board for a second term. Cate McClain has been nominated as a member of the Board by the Nominating Committee. A motion was made to elect the Board as follows: The slate includes Andrea Pichaida, Charlotte Ownby, Sara D'Alessandro, Cirrelda Snider-Bryan, Leonard Baca, Michael Thornton, Merlene Walker, Sheila Miller and Cate McClain. The Nominating Committee consists of: Michael Thornton, Chair, Leonard Baca and Charlotte Ownby. The motion was seconded; all voted in favor of the motion.

**eNews** - Sara D'Alessandro

**The Slip Trail** - Cirrelda Snider-Bryan She indicated that as editor, her goal is to publish a minimum of 6 articles per year. She will also include "Meet the Member" articles, and she has already selected 3 new members for interview - look for the interviews. There will also be one interview a year with interesting people in our clay community, outside of the membership.

**Social Media** - Leonard Baca Leonard presented some data from our Social Media outlets for 2022 (details in the Handout on the website). The use of both Facebook and Instagram were highly effective in getting our message out to the public. The Facebook Page Reach was 16,073, the highest was during the Celebration of Clay. The Instagram reach was 1,974 again

highest during the CoC. Leonard encourages members to use hashtags such as #NMPCA, #NewMexicoArt, and during the Celebration of Clay, use #celebrationofclay. Social Media makes a BIG difference!!

**Clay Forward** - Judy Nelson-Moore reported that we raised \$8,500 from 130 donors.

**New Initiatives** - Sara D'Alessandro - see Report

**President's Message** - Andrea Pichaida Andrea gave her report as President. The full report can be accessed online at nmpotters.org.

**New Business**

**Adjournment** at: 2:30 pm

## Attendees at the NMPCA Annual Meeting on February 18, 2023. (Total is 54)

Andrea Pichaida  
Barbara Pontius  
Barbara Campbell  
Brant Palley  
Carolyn Siegel  
Cate McClain  
Charlotte Ownby  
Christiane Couvert  
Christine Evans  
Cirrelda Snider-Bryan  
Dan Michael  
Debi Smith  
Georgia Epstein  
Graciela Tome  
Jack Roberts  
Jacquita Beddo  
Joey Serim  
Josh Tambunga  
Judy Nelson-Moore

Jules Epstein  
Karin Bergh Hall  
Karla Kline  
Kathryne Cyman  
Kristina Read Tambunga  
Lee Akins  
Leonard Baca  
Lois Olcott Price  
Luisa Baldinger  
Marianne Potts  
Marina Rabinowitz  
Mary Sharp Davis  
Mary Barron  
Mary Donato  
Melissa Alexander  
Merlene Walker  
Michael Thornton  
Mike Beddo  
Okjoo Lee

Penne Roberts  
Ray Ivatt  
Rebecca Bisbing  
Robert King  
Sara D'Alessandro  
Serit Kotowski  
Sharon Brush  
Sheila Miller  
Sheryl Zacharia  
Steve Blakely  
Sue Halpern  
Sue Baum  
Susan Tucker  
Suzanne Newman Fricke  
Timothy Knight

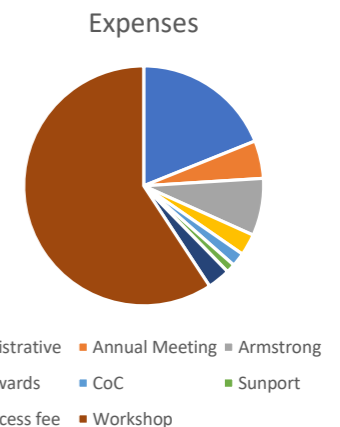
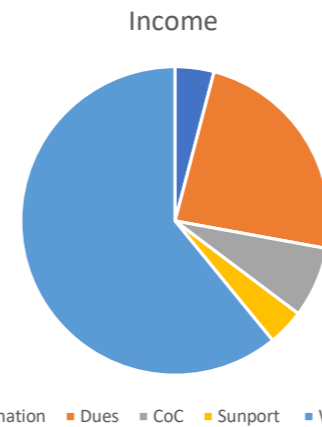
# Organization Financial

Cate McClain,  
Treasurer

## Profit & Loss

January - December 2023 (cash Basis)

INCOME	
Uncategorized	100.00
Donations	
Clay Forward	219.00
CoC donation	200.00
Judy Nelson-Moore GR Scholarship	575.00
<b>TOTAL Donations</b>	<b>994.00</b>
Dues	5,795.00
Exhibition income	
CoC income	
CoC entry fee	1,370.00
CoC Task Fee	435.00
<b>TOTAL CoC income</b>	<b>1,805.00</b>
Sunport Exhibition Income	
Sunport Entry Fee	930.00
<b>TOTAL Sunport Exhibition Income</b>	<b>930.00</b>
<b>TOTAL Exhibition income</b>	<b>2,735.00</b>
Workshop Income	14,841.04
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>24,465.04</b>
EXPENSES	
Admin Expenses	416.92
Accounting Software	194.67
Misc.	12.19
PO Box	194.00
Storage Rental	2,400.00
Website	1,512.00
Zoom	160.40
<b>TOTAL Admin Expenses</b>	<b>4,890.18</b>
Annual Mtg	1,318.31
Armstrong Award	2,000.00
Donations Out	
Donation Expense	107.90
Ghost Ranch Donation	8,540.00
<b>TOTAL Donations Out</b>	<b>8,647.90</b>
Exhibition Expenses	
CoC awards	750.00
CoC expenses	479.62
Sunport	310.06
<b>TOTAL Exhibition Expenses</b>	<b>1,539.68</b>
Fees & Charges	
Credit Card Processing	791.70
<b>TOTAL Fees &amp; Charges</b>	<b>791.70</b>
Workshop	
Ghost Ranch	15,328.47
<b>TOTAL Workshop</b>	<b>15,328.47</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>34,516.24</b>
<b>OVERALL TOTAL</b>	<b>-10,051.20</b>



### Explanation for 2023 Negative Ending Balance

In 2022, \$8323.01 in Clay Forward donations were raised in support of the Ghost Ranch pottery studio and were logged as 2022 income. The actual donation to Ghost Ranch (\$8540, which included \$219 raised in 2023) was made in January 2023 and, therefore, registered as an expense for 2023. The 2022 income offset by the 2023 expense resulted in much of the negative balance for 2023. Other factors contributing to the additional deficit were an almost \$500 over expenditure on the 2023 Ghost Ranch Workshop and the NMPCA board's decision to cover the administrative cost of storing the pedestals, \$2400/yr, which was space that had previously been donated. Both exhibitions, Sunport and Celebration of Clay, ended the year with positive balances, \$620 and \$575 respectively, offsetting part of the pedestal storage expense. The board is beginning discussions on our current fee schedule for various events, with the goal of ending 2024 with a zero or positive balance.

## Balance Sheet

As of January 1, 2024

	TOTAL
<b>ASSETS</b>	
Current Assets	
Bank Accounts	
Wells Fargo Checking	23,038.25
Wells Fargo Savings	0.00
<b>Total Bank Accounts</b>	<b>\$23,038.25</b>
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>\$23,038.25</b>
Other Assets	\$0.00
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$23,038.25</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</b>	
Liabilities, (clay forward donations in 2022, distributed Jan 2023)	\$8323.01
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$8323.01</b>
Equity	
Opening Balance Equity	
Retained Earnings	\$14,715.24
Net Income	
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>\$23,038.25</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</b>	<b>\$23,038.25</b>

# Membership

*Merlene (Mo) Walker,  
Board Member*

Current Active	2021	2022	2023
Regular Members	102	130	179
Studio Tour Members	65	63	81
Student Members	5	5	20
Lifetime Members	3	3	5
Courtesy Members	3	3	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>204</b>	<b>288</b>

# Armstrong Grant

*Michael Thornton,  
Vice President  
Armstrong Grant Coordinator*

**NMPCA awards annual grants to promote education in the ceramic arts, named after founding member Bill Armstrong.**



This year two organizations answered the call for proposals for NMPCA's Bill Armstrong Grant.

After due consideration and site visits to meet the applicants, the board voted unanimously to approve both proposals.

Congratulations to Art Smart NM, and Thrive Community School, both of Santa Fe, on your worthy projects!

Art Smart's project is helping to fund an artist residency, which brings artist Jarrett West to instruct students in art. The grant will impact 60 2nd and 3rd grade students at Sweeny Elementary School. The grant will fund necessary materials, tools and support for this project to include travel for field trips, and the construction of a permanent outdoor installation.

The project at Thrive Community School will benefit 250 K-7th students by providing materials and tools needed for ceramics lessons. Students will participate in exhibitions planned to share their artwork at the Georgia O'Keeffe Museum, and the International Folk Art Museum.

NMPCA is proud to support these projects, as it fulfills our mission to promote education in the ceramic art.

# NMPCA BOARD



President  
Andrea Pichaida



Vice President  
Michael Thornton



Secretary  
Charlotte Ownby



Treasurer  
Cate McClain



Board Member  
Cirrelda  
Snider-Bryan



Board Member  
Jenna Ritter



Board Member  
Sara D'Aessandro



Board Member  
Leonard Baca



Board Member  
Sheila Miller



Board Member  
Merlene Walker

# Judy Nelson-Moore Ghost Ranch Scholarship

\$575.00 was raised in 2023 and we offer this scholarship to attendees of the Ghost Ranch workshop. To make a donation to this fund, write a check and indicate it is for the "Ghost Ranch Scholarship" or check out our new page on the web site. The scholarship fund, is named after longtime board member Judy Nelson-Moore. Designated to help either ceramic students or other clay artists in need, you can find more info by visiting this page on the website:

<https://www.nmpotters.org/Judy-Nelson-Moore-Ghost-Ranch-Scholarship>



# Andrea Pichaida

Andrea your light shines on us all, you have given us so much. When I first saw one of your pieces in the Sunport Show, I thought to myself I need to know that artist. I have gotten to know your work and how it reflects your personality. You bring to us your energy and it flows throughout the organization. You will be dearly missed. **-Leonard Baca**

I think I met Andrea at Santa Fe Clay. Andrea was reluctant when I first began talking to her about being on the board. She was, then and continues to be, such a ray of sunshine with a practical approach to tackle any endeavor. **-Jacquita Beddo**

Andrea: You served us well as board President. Thanks for your leadership and positive spirit! **-Michael Thornton**



Andrea ... It has been a pleasure serving on the NMPCA board under Andrea's leadership. She is an amazingly gifted and passionate ceramic artist who has been committed to the growth and success of the NMPCA. She has led the board with kindness, humor and an openness to differing ideas while building consensus. Thanks, Andrea, for being so generous with your time! **-Cate McClain**

Andrea - Got my first big taste of volunteering, learning from you how to post to social media for CoC. You were pushing for us to use Instagram! Four years later, I cherish that call where you keyed me in to all the steps, and shared so much of yourself. That's what you do so well, share yourself in the kindest way, whether it's articles for Slip Trail topics, noticing out loud people's contributions, or laughing off mistakes, you show up time and time again for NMPCA. Your style of leadership has embedded meaningful connections for all of us. And your artful slab constructions keep showing what forms are possible. Grateful for all! **-Cirrelda Snider-Bryan**

Andrea Pichaida has been a warm and approachable NMPCA President, a real asset to the group and her sunniness will be missed by me. Hopefully she won't be too far away from us. **-Sara Lee D'Alessandro**

Andrea and I arrived on the Board at the same time. When she was elected President; I was elected Secretary. We have worked closely since then. I appreciate Andrea's enthusiasm, warmth, kindness, friendship, and sense of humor. But what I appreciate most is her dedication to the NMPCA and the Board. She undertook a difficult job as President, and she did it very well!! In addition, she has made a huge, valuable contribution to our CoC exhibits; she is a truly a wiz at organizing and setting them up. Thank You so much! I will miss you, Andrea, and I hope we have not seen the last of you!! Enjoy your family time.

**-Charlotte Ownby**

Andrea has the most gracious and kind communication, combined with an accurate assessment of situations and a discerning eye for strengths and weaknesses. This has made her a superior board president. Aside from the board, Andrea's work as a sculptor is beautiful, exciting, and inspirational. I look forward to seeing your artistic efforts continue to ascend and your reputation as an artist grow. I also look forward to a long friendship with you. **-Judy Nelson-Moore**

Andrea - Your enthusiasm and love for NMPCA is clear in your commitment over these years. Your leadership is inspiring! **-Jenna Ritter**

My tribute for Andrea ... It has been a delight to have the privilege to work with Andrea this last year. She has the warmth and patience that is needed for working with a new board member such as me. Her guidance has been helpful and kind at each Board meeting. I look forward to her continued participation in the coming years. But will miss her smiling face at our Board meetings. **-Mo Walker**

I have only known Andrea as NMPCA Board president since my time on the board and I think she has left huge shoes to fill in her time in this position. She leads with a constant smile and good spirit and is efficient in her role as president and the many additional roles she fills. She will be missed very much by me for her warmth and wonderful generosity she shares so willingly and easily. Thank you, Andrea, for making my introduction to NMPCA so easy and pleasant! **-Sheila Miller**

# Charlotte Ownby

Charlotte you are a dear friend, warm and comforting, you keep us on track. I love the way I can razz you, joke with you and how sweet it is to have your spirit all around us. We all need someone to ground us and you are that for me. I go with you on all your excursions, I enjoy seeing the energy it brings you. **-Leonard Baca**

I met Charlotte at a Ghost Ranch workshop and found a lovely warm artist willing to share and to learn. I really enjoyed spending time with her from that first meeting. We chatted about the NMPCA and I already knew she would be a marvelous asset to the organization. Later, on the board of the NMPCA, she could always be counted on to cheerfully and effectively get things done no matter what the task. **-Jacquita Beddo**

Charlotte Ownby's approach to NMPCA Board meetings has been no nonsense, often keeping us on track when we strayed off topic. Her excellent recording of the minutes will be missed by me and anyone who likes to check on what the Board is up to by going on our website and reading. I will miss her humor, her attention to detail and her appreciation of good red wine. **-Sara Lee D'Alessandro**

Charlotte ... I first met Charlotte when she called welcoming me to the NMPCA. We quickly connected over our similar backgrounds in universities, teaching and research, as well as love for clay. As I've gotten to know her, I've been impressed with her friendliness, her attention to detail and her persistence. Thanks, Charlotte, for, as secretary, making order out of our lengthy board discussions. I'll miss your delightful laugh! **-Cate McClain**

Charlotte - How lucky our organization has been to experience your unique mixture of enthusiasm, work ethic, practicality, experience with boards and university science departments, and familiarity with many pottery techniques and instructors. Looking forward to seeing you at Empty Bowls, and glad we won't have to stop swapping bird stories! **-Cirrelda Snider-Bryan**

My tribute to Charlotte ... I met Charlotte for the first time at a Ghost Ranch workshop and immediately liked her as a person and appreciated her talent as a ceramic artist. I have admired her positive attitude and dedication to NMPCA and her hard work on the Board. Hard to imagine our meetings without her and Andrea being there to keep us on target. She will be missed at our Board meetings for sure. **-Mo Walker**

Charlotte: Thank you for an admirable job as board Secretary. The board will miss you! **-Michael Thornton**

Charlotte's superior organizing skills, her experience with working with groups, and her ability to bring joy to every encounter have been a tremendous asset to the board of the NMPCA. I have loved working with Charlotte on the board and on committees, and I love to see her creations in every show where she comes up with something new and exciting. Looking forward to playing with you in the future, Charlotte! Thanks for all you have done on the board and thanks for being a friend. **-Judy Nelson-Moore**

Charlotte - I am grateful to have been able to share a few months with you on the NMPCA board and appreciate your nomination of me. Your support provides a foundation for me to move into my new position with confidence. **-Jenna Ritter**

Charlotte Ownby - The first time I met Charlotte in person was at the 2022 Celebration of Clay at the Taos Ceramic Center. She greeted me with a huge hug as if we had known each other and been friends for years. No pretenses and that is how it has been since. I will miss not only her extreme efficiency in her secretary duties but also seeing her on our monthly zoom meetings and her lovely smile. You will be missed Charlotte and many thanks for all you have done for NMPCA! **-Sheila Miller**

For Charlotte: I enjoyed getting to know you as a board member as well as a friend. I sincerely appreciate your dedicated and committed work, especially your tough role as secretary, keeping us on track and within the bylaws. Your science background in academia is most appreciated. And your passion for your unique trips that you then shared with us through your amazing pictures of little and amazing creatures like frogs, birds, snakes. You are one of a kind. Thank you, my friend. With gratitude - **Andrea Pichaida**



# Mo Walker (aka Merlene)

Mo: Thanks for your commitment to the NMPCA as the membership director and your support of so many other board activities. Your energy is amazing and I hope as you find more time for yourself, that energy continues to grow. **-Cate McClain**

Dear Mo, I first met you maybe at Ghost Ranch or maybe at an annual membership meeting. What I can remember is that I couldn't understand a word you said and you probably didn't understand any of mine. But short after I became to know your playful personality, your love for life and your big smile and your willingness to share your experiences and to jump onto new challenges. Thank you for being you! Hope to keep in contact for many more years. **-Andrea Pichaida**



Mo - We joined the board of NMPCA about the same time, and got to know you working closely on the Clay Forward fundraiser. I relate so much to your use of texture on clay vessels in combination with plants! I will miss your voice filled with humanity and joy on the NMPCA Board, and look forward to visiting you in your studio! **-Cirrelda Snider-Bryan**

Mo: To lose your enthusiasm and ideas from the board is a great loss. I hope you will still be an active contributing member. **-Judy Nelson-Moore**

Merlene, your Texas charm added a lovely panache to our board meetings which will be missed by me. I wish you good fortune in your upcoming year. **-Sara Lee D'Alessandro**

Mo - Your creative approach to building membership and your savvy for reaching out into the community to meet the needs of NMPCA demonstrates what bringing personal strengths to a board position is all about. **-Jenna Ritter**

I first became acquainted with Mo during the 2022 Ghost Ranch Workshop, where she gave an excellent presentation on precious metal clay jewelry. Mo's enthusiasm, knowledge and warm, engaging approach to teaching is amazing. Since then, on the Board and at the 2023 Ghost Ranch Workshop, I learned that Mo is focused on helping others in many ways, but especially to explore their own creative abilities. At the Workshop, I had assessed my two naked raku pieces as ugly and a total loss. Mo, however, reminded me to "look at what they are, not at what they are not"! Thank you, Mo, for this valuable lesson, for serving the NMPCA so well and for being a friend. We will miss you terribly and hope that you come back soon! **-Charlotte Ownby**

Merlene, Sorry to see you go so soon. It was great having you on the board keeping up with Membership! **-Michael Thornton**

Merlene, "Mo" and I started on the NMPCA board at the same time and one of my first duties was by her side at the COC show in Taos where we took care of the donations for the fund raising for Ghost Ranch ceramics program with Clay Forward. I was immediately drawn to her positive outlook and joyful spirit. I will miss seeing Mo on the board and being exposed to that wonderful spirit in our meetings but am thankful for our time on the board together and that we can continue growing our friendship and clay journeys into the future. **-Sheila Miller**

I met Merlene during the pandemic, because we all wore masks it was hard to remember her. When the masks came off, I got to enjoy her lovely smile. She joined the board and was very accomplished in updating our brochure to attract new members. I will always keep her Texas accent in my heart. **-Leonard Baca**

# Elections

Charlotte Ownby,  
Board Member

## Published Candidates for the Board

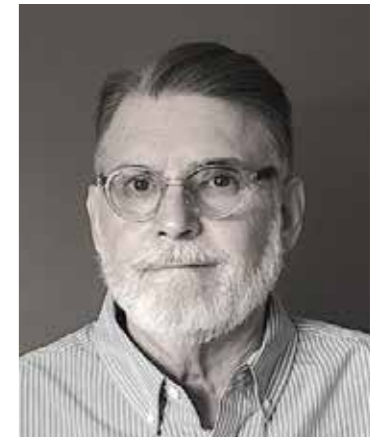
### Robert King

The high desert terrain serves as both inspiration and supply chain for most of the work produced by Robert King. Robert, a practicing physician and member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, is a self-taught potter who continuously seeks new ways to express himself primarily utilizing the various natural resources found in the surrounding landscape. Respectfully collaborating with the wild clay, rocks, minerals, sand, and trees surrounding his Galisteo, NM home and studio, he crafts pottery that expresses the organic and natural environment where these materials have rested for centuries.



### Jorge Luis Bernal

Jorge Luis Bernal was born in Havana, raised in Jersey City and attended art school in South Florida. He received his MFA in architecture from Virginia Tech and a BFA from Florida International University in ceramics and art history. He spent most of his earlier career practicing architecture, teaching college and high school. Bernal moved to Santa Fe in 2013 and soon after started teaching workshops. He is a full-time studio artist working in clay, cold wax, and encaustic monotypes.



### Lois Olcott Price

My rewarding career as an art conservator included collection work, management of a museum department (Winterthur Museum), graduate level teaching (University of Delaware), research, consulting, and teaching in the US and abroad. Following friends and both children, we moved west to Santa Fe six years ago. The move accelerated a growing interest in clay thanks to studios like Santa Fe Clay that provided wonderful classes and an introduction to the clay community here. I now have a spare bedroom studio, a kiln in the garage and a growing circle of clay friends who inspire me.



## Nomination Committee

Michael Thornton, Chair  
Sara D'Alessandro  
Charlotte Ownby

# Ghost Ranch Workshop

*Michael Thornton,  
Vice President  
Workshop Coordinator  
Ghost Ranch Liaison*

In August 2023, the NMPCA annual workshop at Ghost Ranch featured James Watkins. Two dozen participants came together from as far afield as New York City for a weekend of demos and hands-on experience with alternative low-fire techniques.

James instructed on his saggar and fuming techniques as well as naked raku firing. His slide show lecture was a fascinating tour of his personal history and development. He also brought an impressive display of his finished work to dazzle the eye. James finished with a demo of wheel-thrown double walled vessels, after which participants tried their hand at it too.

Participants left the workshop with their own pieces showing the effects possible using these alternative firing techniques. Much thanks to James Watkins for leading the weekend's discoveries!



# Celebration of Clay

*Leonard Baca,  
Webmaster*



The 2023 Celebration of Clay was a great success. The event was held in Albuquerque, at Gallery Hózhó located in the Sawmill village.

The gallery was open six days during the week, giving us 19 sales and an overwhelming number of visitors to the gallery which gave us great exposure. The committee was able to negotiate to have the event during The Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta which helped to share ceramic arts with the community. The opening reception was well attended, we were pleased to have violinist Addie Oracion, enchant us with her music in the patio making it an extra elegant event. Because it was during the Balloon Fiesta, Hotel Chaco asked us to extend the event by having a Throwing demo one day during the week, giving us the opportunity to share with hotel guests and other young people eager to be potters.

## Committee:

Andrea Pichaida, Kathyne Cyman, Sara D'Alessandro & Leonard Baca.

## Awards:

Award Jurors were Cuba artist Sara D'Alessandro, Santa Fe artist Sheryl Zacharia and Suzanne Newman Fricke Director Gallery Hózhó, the awards went to:

- Best of Show: **Luisa Baldinger** , Double-walled Vessel
- Merit Award went to **Judy Nelson-Moore** for her Basket of Thoughts
- Merit Award went to **Brianna Rickson** for her brown and gold platter
- Merit Award went to **Greta Ruis** for her twisting sculpture
- Arita Porcelain Award went to **Richard Orlando** for his red and white tea set
- Coyote Clay Color Award went to **Andrea Hegeman** for her red vase
- People's Choice Award - **Hebe Garcia**, Viajeros



Best of Show

**Congratulations to all!** The works quality was outstanding. Suzanne and her staff were so please to have us in the gallery. The idea of having pieces that were sold removed from the show gave the artists an opportunity to bring in new works and keep the show full and vibrant.

Number of pieces in the show: 65

Number of artists: 50 artists and 2 jurors

Number of sales: 19 pieces

**Extra Thanks**  
Cirrelda Snider-Bryan and members Rob King, Lee Akins, Jenna Ritter, Jacquita Beddo, and Sharon Brush posted both Sunport & Celebration of Clay artists's images to Facebook & Instagram, with Judy Nelson-Moore resizing photos.

Stay tuned and check our eNews for information on our next Celebration of Clay Exhibition which we are hoping to take place in Santa Fe. The committee is working hard to make this happen. Cirrelda Snider-Bryan is this year's chair, committee members are Sheila Miller, Joey Serim, Charlotte Ownby, Jenna Ritter and Leonard Baca.



# Clay Connections

Sheila Miller,  
Board Member

Clay Connections is going through a transition. In the last few months there hasn't been a scheduled topic or meeting on zoom. The desire for change is deciding what would best meet the needs of a majority of our members and be of benefit to them? A contributing factor for the reformatting is low attendance at the past meetings and not reaching or not appealing to a broad group of members. The board has had some discussion on this and the desire is to strive to have an outlet that can meet greater needs and connect and engage more members and be of more interest overall. The largest attendance in the past year was for Kathyne Cyman's discussion that took place at her office at UNM and spoke on the functional form and included a spontaneous demo by one of her students who she teaches her Arita porcelain classes. This tells us that people are interested in speakers or more of an experiential or learning type of meeting. This is the direction we would like to see this move to, such as possible demos or videos of in person studio visits to reach a larger audience and capture more that interests our members. As this transitions if you would like to contribute to help guide this in a way that would be more beneficial to more members, please reach out on what you would like to see or changes that can be made.



# Sunport Ceramic SHOWCASE

Charlotte Ownby, Sara D'Alessandro, Serit Kotowski

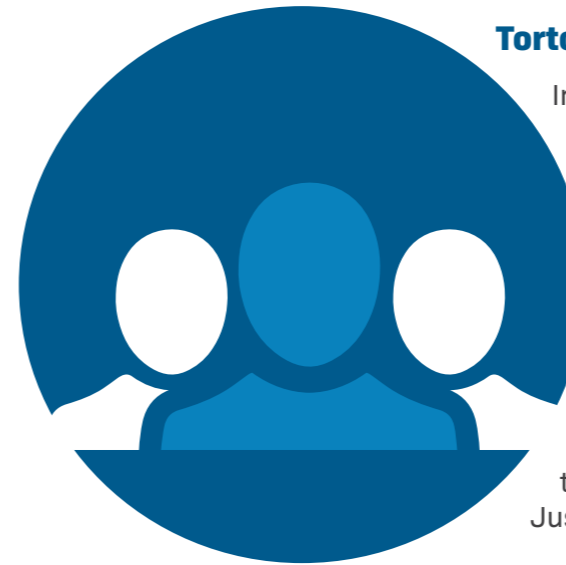


This year the Sunport Showcase was held during the month of April. Like the Show held in 2021, the purpose of this juried Show was to showcase the wide scope and great diversity of quality clay work by New Mexico ceramic artists. Mission accomplished! Limited by space, the Committee consisting of Sara D'Alessandro (Chair), Leonard Baca, Charlotte Ownby and Serit Kotowski had a tough job. However, the forty-eight pieces comprising the Show met the goal, ranging from large to small, non-functional to functional, sculptural to wheel-thrown, and abstract to realistic, from potters and clay artists across the State. This exhibit also demonstrated the wide range of subjects which New Mexico potters and clay artists express everyday in their work. In one showcase, many examples of the human form could be seen; in others various animals including fish were presented. In addition to the wide variety of subject matter, there was a wide variety of surface treatments and colors bound to appeal to anyone.

Thanks to the many volunteers who helped in setting up and taking down the show as well as getting the word out about it, this Show was a tremendous success. We received many positive comments from the public about the Show, especially about the astonishing diversity of clay work being shown. Although sale of the work was not a priority of the Show, members did have sales; a bonus. Due to the success of the Show, NMPCA has booked another show with an extended period of time. The next Sunport Showcase is scheduled for October and November 2025. As you all know from the Celebration of Clay at the Hózhó Gallery this year, Albuquerque is a very popular tourist destination in those months with visitors coming to Albuquerque for the Balloon Fiesta and the Thanksgiving holidays. Be sure to look for more information in the eNews letter in the late winter and spring of 2025!

# eNews

Sara Lee D'Alessandro,  
eNews editor



## Tortoise or Hare?

In 2020 I returned to the Board and volunteered to be the eNews Editor to take some of the load off of Judy Nelson-Moore, who seemed to be one person carrying too much of NMPCA responsibilities. She never complained. It is a frequent occurrence with people who are responsible and accomplished that others let them do the work. And, at times no one could wrestle that work away from them. There are dangers in this: too many eggs in one basket, burnout of the responsible person, one person acquiring central control, a growing feeling in the organization that it is run by "insiders". None of this happens from mal intent but is a natural tendency which must be constantly held at bay. I committed to do the eNews as best I could, and I would limit my contribution to that. Just a little history so you know from where I am coming.

I like doing the eNews! It is a nice counterpoint to studio work. However, any member with computer skills and with a different idea of how the eNews should be approached and with a willingness to do it, let me know. I won't be doing this forever and it takes time for a new person to learn the ropes.

You have a willing volunteer eNews Editor with limited computer skills, with a love of words, with dicey spelling and grammar and with an idea of how the eNews should function and appear. It has big potential for the exchange of ideas and offer a means of communication to the membership, even in distant places. I am interested in facilitating information exchange but would like to keep this little forum open for deeper explorations, not to become another bulletin board. I am trying to structure its appearance for visual clarity and to be easy to read without any unnecessary frippery.

**Submissions to the eNews follow certain guidelines: no images taken as screenshots or images of announcements (no matter how compelling their designs are). Send images as jpg as attachments in your email to the eNews@nmpotters.org. Send your text in the body of the email with indications of the Start and End of the message. Make certain your text is accurate and be in length of around three paragraphs. When show announcements are thrown my way, frequently the text cannot easily transfer to my platform without my retyping the information and this, believe me, is a chance you don't want to take with your information! All submissions will go through the eNews format process.**

When the Webmaster took over the eNews for four weeks he made liberal use of the LINK, something I have been avoiding in the past. Links are fast but superficial communication. I will be adding links going forward since it was pointed out to me that many run their communications from their phones.

The Enews was indispensable during Covid. It can provide some connection across this big state but should not, cannot, replace the rewards of personal interaction. I hope the direction of the NMPCA going forward includes more person-to-person events. The Tortoise or the Hare? Fast and Shallow. We must not become a culture with the attention span of the gnat.

[enews@nmpotters.org](mailto:enews@nmpotters.org)  
[www.nmpotters.org/enews](http://www.nmpotters.org/enews)

# Slip Trail & Clay Studio Tour

*Cirrelda Snider-Bryan,  
The Slip Trail editor*



When I joined the board in November of 2021, being finally fully retired from teaching career, I saw the vacancy for the Slip Trail editor, and realized I would be happy doing that. I had a blog of my own, and I had done extensive online writing to publicize my Natural History Museum programs in my daily life as a museum educator. I was in the groove as well after having volunteered with NM Potters social media posting for annual Celebration of Clay exhibits, being trained by Andrea Pichaida for that job in the spring of 2020. Posting content online for others who love clay is a fun way to acquaint myself with the membership – from the photos of their pieces to their personal statements, these artists become well-known to me. It's a pleasing job to coordinate online postings in either the Slip Trail or the realm of Facebook and Instagram.

## Slip Trail

Three big interviews this year! Jim Kempes, Barbara Campbell, Judy Nelson-Moore. Goal of Slip Trail collecting history for the organization is being fulfilled somewhat.

Newest articles include “James Watkins at Ghost Ranch 2023,” “Armstrong Grant 2023,” “Who Was Bill Armstrong” were posted in the last month.

The first article of last year proved to be prophetic – Jan Archey of the PGLC sharing her organization’s Empty Bowls 30-year history and recent blow-out totals. Her information helped us establish the reenactment of this popular worldwide fundraiser in Albuquerque after a 9 year hiatus.

As promised, there was also an Interview a Member – longtime member Judith Richey was interviewed. Your input is always welcome. Thanks for sharing your ideas with me via email [Sliptrail@nmpotters.org](mailto:Sliptrail@nmpotters.org).

## Clay Studio Tour to Social Media

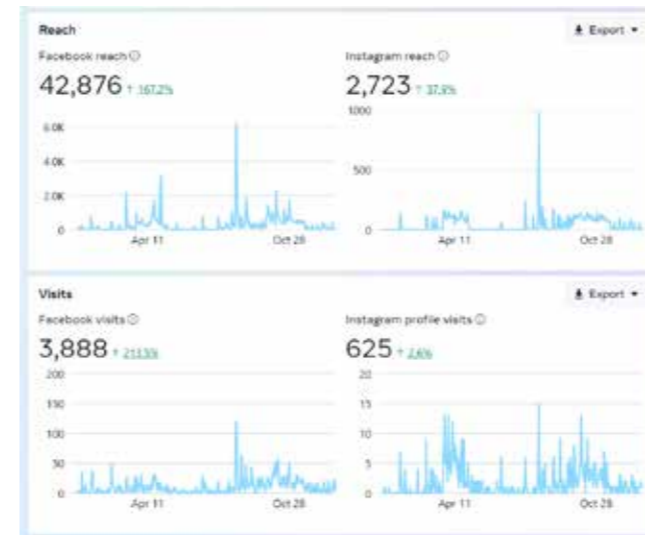
A “No-Brainer” idea to publish member’s studio tour pages to social media was started in the summer of 2023. Leonard Baca created the great frame, and each month he selects the photo to accompany each artist for that month. I choose the section of text from the page to be posted, and share with the artist member for approval. All of the current studio tour artists are now scheduled through June of 2024. Members who have requested new pages come after that. What is still being decided is whether to repost again each year. This action brings attention to a longstanding benefit of being a member, which was initially started by Judy Nelson-Moore when she was beginning our website. Posting links and Information about our members on social media has sparked members to join and update their clay studio tour page. If you don’t have a Clay Studio Tour page, but want one, visit here for directions: <https://www.nmpotters.org/studio-tour-instructions>.

[sliptrail@nmpotters.org](mailto:sliptrail@nmpotters.org)    The Slip Trail    <https://www.nmpotters.org/TheSlipTrail>

# Social Media

*Leonard Baca,  
Webmaster*

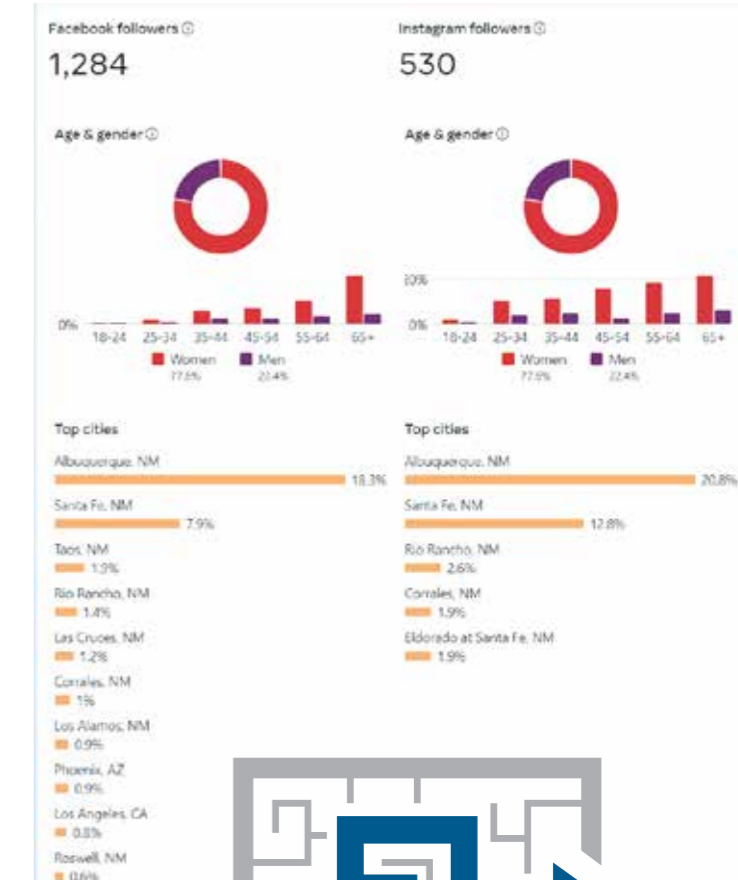
## Results



	2022	2023
Facebook	16,073	42,876
Instagram	1,974	2,723

	2022	2023
Facebook	1,120	1,284
Instagram	439	530

## Audience



## Website [NMPotters.org](https://www.nmpotters.org)

Total Visits	9,400
Top pages	
Main Pages	6,800
Studio Tour	1,952
C of Clay 2023	1,641
Workshop	1,310
C of Clay 2019	1,086



# Albuquerque Empty Bowls

*Cirrelda Snider-Bryan,  
The Slip Trail Editor*

**\$20,000 raised - 623 bowls donated  
100,000 meals that can go to families in need**

## Albuquerque Empty Bowls



A group

of 7 members of our organization followed the call of new community member Fay Chazin-Seidelman to reinstate the potters to soup kitchen/food pantry, famous international fundraiser Empty Bowls. If you attended last year's Annual Meeting, we had the sign-up sheet which was given to Fay and the ball started rolling soon after.

Melissa Alexander, Leonard Baca, Fay Chazin-Seidelman, Mary Donato, Brant Palley, Penne Roberts, Cirrelda Snider-Bryan met twice a month for 6 months and got all the jobs done – biggest ones being new beneficiary, venue, potters' donations of bowls, volunteers, and the solicitation of food donations for the lunch. Melissa secured the venue of St. John's United Methodist. They have the perfect set up of a fully-stocked and staffed kitchen, serving their own meals both weekly as well as their popular Fish Fry on all the Fridays of Lent. The team pursued the new beneficiary Storehouse New Mexico after searching and interviewing many candidates over many weeks. Each committee member solicited different bread, soup, and cookie donors. Volunteers were solicited – with over a dozen coming from our organization. All the preparation for the big day came off with a bang as we exceeded our hopes and had close to 500 attendees. We had enough donated soup with leftovers at the end of the day. Now we have experience to add to our planning, and this next year will be built off our very successful 2023.

Our crowning achievement this first year back was involvement of over 150 potters, donating over double our goal of 300 bowls to a whopping 623 bowls. The steering committee members started handing out flyer made by Melissa to potters at markets, Leonard shared on the NMPCA website, Sara shared on eNews, Brant talked it up at NM Clay with customers, and we all emailed our potter cohorts. The word was out. Steve Ferrin, pottery teacher at South Valley Multipurpose Senior Center got on board early on, with his students creating over 90 bowls.

St. John's offered us their open date of September 28, 2024 for this year's Empty Bowls. We snatched it up. We hope you will put that date on your calendar and start thinking what new glaze combos and bowl shapes will be part of your donations this year.



**Albuquerque Empty Bowls**  
BENEFITTING THE STOREHOUSE NEW MEXICO  
ST. JOHN'S UNITED METHODIST 10/28/23

- Thank you, Potters!**
- Burque Throwdown** Julio Fernandez, Tamara Righettini, Dennis Maetta, Michelle Burford, Penina Ballen, Anne Schmauss, Jennifer Singletary, Jenn Richmond, Marissa Mora, Kelly Hogeland, Shane Silva, Alice Fritz, Anikita Joshi, Alex Robles, Oliver May
- CNM** Julianne Harvey (Instructor), Fay Chazin-Seidelman, Helen Rossier, Kimberly Koltz, Desirée Beltran, Amy Sollars, Shari Shaffer, Christiane Couvert, Dai Nguyen, Nancy Rutland, Chris Cheliv Ramsay Lofton
- Coyote Clay** Alice Sloan, Mary Gonzales, Claudia Bender, Rin Gabel, Nancy Orlando, T Carson, Lynn Eby, Catherine Alleva, Maura B Carla Wineback
- Creativity Warehouse** Andrea Mar Miller, Bet Lee, David Teeters, Eric Sutor Kuykendall, James Park, Jessica Seibert, Karen Baldwin, Karen Shane, Kathy Ship Conley, Laura Merrill, Mallory Kucala, V Nat Talley, Pat Wildsmith, Priscilla Marc Whitecotton, Regina Sanchez, Rosalie Stephanie Baness, Tommie Kuykendall
- New Mexico Clay** Claire Lisse Maura Fowler, Andrea Mason
- Penne Roberts' Pottery** Brant Palley, Hilton Hein, Brianna Hesch, Mary Sharp Day Campbell, Meta Weber, Kay Reynolds
- Pot Hollow South** J.B. Bryan, P Jacob, Cirrelda Snider-Bryan
- Thesaurus Studio** Claire Lissance

# President's Message

Its already 2024! I can't believe it has been a year since we met in Albuquerque last February for this same occasion, our Annual Membership Meeting in which after three years we were able to meet in person. What a wonderful and uplifting reunion it was, so well attended, so lively, so heartwarming.

As I approach the last day as President of the NMPCA, having taken this responsibility with deep humility and gratitude, and making a promise to give it my all, I found it was a steep learning curve, and at times challenging, but most of all immensely rewarding.



Allow me to share with you how I became part of the NMPCA. One day in 2016, I received a phone call from a NMPCA board member inviting me to apply to the Albuquerque Sunport Show. They had seen my work in other shows and exhibits and thought It would be a good opportunity for me. Well, I could not refuse this nice invitation, so fast forward six years ago when I joined the Board, first as a learning member (boy did I learn), later serving and chairing on different committees, and then 3 years as President. This was possible only because of the encouraging support of an entire team, a group of fine, smart, caring, passionate and dedicated friends and clay buddies that trusted me to take on such a role. I can't thank them and each of you enough!

## What does the NMPCA take on every year?

This organization takes on annually many different events and initiatives. Some of these are yearly events and some other ones come as needed, as opportunity calls, or as special invitations.

Today each Board Member and Committee Member has already presented their yearly report. Here is a short overlook:

## The way we communicate, connect and share:

- Clay Connections:** A inspiring monthly online get together that takes us to see, understand, discover, learn, and connect in a very personal way and space.
- eNews:** A weekly newsletter that tells us what is going on, what to look for, and what to share.

**Slip Trail Blog:** More in depth articles, new and old in which you can also interact in a meaningful way.

**Website:** [nmpotters.org](http://nmpotters.org). Here you can find anything you need to know about the organization, events, and opportunities.

**Social Media:** A way to share with clay and art lovers, to have a presence in the clay community, Instagram: [nmpca.com](https://www.instagram.com/nmpca.com); Facebook: New Mexico Potters and Clay Artists.

**Ghost Ranch Workshop:** A three-day getaway to work, share, learn, interact, and play with your peers in a secluded and mystical space. The way to show what we create:

**Celebration of Clay:** Is our yearly all members' non-juried exhibit.

**Albuquerque Sunport Showcase:** A juried show that highlights ceramic art in New Mexico to the large number of travelers that come through our largest NM airport.  
A way to give back:

**Bill Armstrong Grant:** The NMPCA annual fund was established in memory of our late distinguished member, Bill Armstrong. This grant assists with ceramics education programs or a ceramic art project.

**Albuquerque Empty Bowls:** Is an event of local potters, who had a fund-raiser to benefit for Storehouse NM. Donations of 623 bowls made by NM potters, a lot of our members participated.

A big heartfelt shout out goes to our dedicated Board Members for all their accomplishments of this past year. They have been the brains, engine and hearts completely dedicated to the many hats they gracefully wear. None of this would happen without them.

## Armstrong Grant Art Smart New Mexico Sweeney Elementary School

Jarrett West

**THANK YOU:** Michael Thornton, Charlotte Ownby, Cate McClain, Leonard Baca, Merlene Mo Walker, Sara D'Alessandro, Cirrelda Snider-Bryan, Sheila Miller, and Jenna Ritter.

Thanks to all our members, for participating and volunteering in all our diverse events and for being part of our NMPCA family. Without you there wouldn't be an NMPCA!

I'm so grateful for having had the opportunity to work with all of you, for the friendship forged, for the great memories, for the successes we have enjoyed and also for the challenges we endured together. It only makes us bigger and better. I'm stepping down now and am certain that you will be going on with the same passion and drive. It has been a privilege to serve as your President!

Stay tuned for what is coming in 2024...  
With Gratitude,  
Andrea Pichaida



## Armstrong Grant Thrive Community School

Special Thank You to NMPCA!

Thrive Community School is a new public charter school in Santa Fe, NM. This is the first year that a new visual arts program has been implemented. We are truly grateful for the funding that NMPCA has provided through the Bill Armstrong Grant. I was able to start a new ceramics program at my school. The ceramic art supplies that I was able to purchase through the grant funding materials range from clay to paints to clay tools, aprons, art show materials, and much more! I was able to organize and host an art exhibit at the Museum of International Folk Art, featuring the students' ceramic artworks (slab vases, folk art hearts, and hand shape bowls). The art show will be on display from February 12-16, and the art opening is on February 17.

All of my art students have been able to create one-of-a-kind heart magnets this month (February). My students are planning to share their creativity and give heart magnets to their friends and family throughout this month. My students have created hundreds of clay heart magnets. The remaining heart magnets will be part of a Valentine's fundraiser at our school, in order to raise money for the ceramics art program. I would like to eventually purchase a slab roller for our program..

During the Spring months, I have organized art lessons to continue creating pottery (coil pottery, slab, and sculpture projects). I am planning to organize a Spring art show at our school in April/May featuring my art students' clay creations. I am thankful and am acknowledging NMPCA in our upcoming art show flyers that will also be posted on our school Facebook page, and a thank you page for NMPCA in our school yearbook. I am also planning to send out an arts newsletter this semester to all of our school families, and am happy to include and give special thanks to NMPCA for providing us with a wonderful ceramics program. I plan to share the NMPCA website link with our school families. I would also like to thank NMPCA member, Merlene Reed Walker, for donating rollers, and clay tools for my students. We greatly appreciate it!

With Gratitude, Amber Paz-Csibi



### Committees

- Armstrong Grant
- Celebration of Clay
- Clay Studio Tour
- Enews
- The Slip Trail
- Membership
- Clay Connections
- Sunport Ceramics Showcase
- Website
- Workshops



### How to Help

- Article Writing
- Education Classes
- Gallery Tours
- How to Demos
- Member Exhibitions
- Photography
- Private Member Studio Tour
- Scholarships
- Volunteering
- Web Education



### Clay Studio Tour

The Clay Studio Tour is an opportunity for you as a member to have presence on the web to build your name and brand. Consider being part of the process. You will learn new skills, and expand our community's knowledge and exposure to ceramics.





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