



The Mansardian™

The Quarterly Publication of the Silver City Museum



Crowds gather at the intersection of Broadway and Bullard to hang rodeo banners in June 1940. Once hosted across various Grant County communities, the rodeo remains one of Silver City's most cherished summer traditions that continues to bring the community together each year (From the Silver City Museum Archive).

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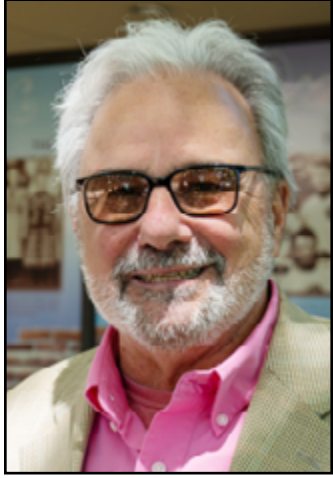


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Director's Desk

Variety is the spice of life. The same can be said for “diversity,” and say, how noble a concept is “equality.” It may sound lofty, but I believe our essential task at the Silver City Museum is to fully and equally represent and embrace our community, with all its quirks, strengths, and complexities.



Bart Roselli

This summer there will be another effort on your museum's part to celebrate, examine, and enjoy the diversity of Grant County. We are coming off a very successful launch of our exhibition celebrating the often underrepresented accomplishments of women. “Healers and Heroines: Women and the Shaping of Local Health Care” is beginning to fill some of the gaps in the historical record. And as with most explorations of our past,

it is an ongoing project. For instance, after a wonderful public program last quarter, we realized that the stories of midwives had not found their way into the project. Thanks to retired nurse-midwife Gail Stamler, our curator Javier Murrufo and exhibit manager Tom Oberg will be adding that piece to our exhibit to be even more comprehensive.

Additionally, our “Nuestra Voz: The Chihuahua Hill Story” reinstall has now become a more lasting part of the stories we tell about Grant County. We'll also take our show “off campus” and into the main streets of our community when we join in the celebration of Fiesta Latina, Silver City CLAY Festival, and Cobre Schools Summerfest. We're also proud to have recently participated in a national gathering of museum professionals in Los Angeles at the Annual Conference of the American Alliance of Museums. Our engagement in these events continues to extend and deepen our community connections.

Speaking of national news. With the uncertainty created by recent federal funding policies, I would be remiss if I didn't thank

the New Mexico Humanities Council for its support of our work. Without that federal and state funding, along with the steady backing of town manager Alex Brown, we would not have been able to complete our “Nuestra Voz” reinstall project. The New Mexico Humanities Council has been particularly hard hit by the ceasing of federal support. If you'd like to help or learn more, visit NMHumanities.org to help bolster efforts to celebrate New Mexico's diverse history and culture.

We celebrate recent accomplishments and extend thanks to loyal supporters who gave during Give Grandly and through our partners such as WILL, LULAC, and the Gila Community Foundation. Thank you all. Without your support Silver City would be a lot less spirited.

Sincerely and with hope,

Advancing Our Mission Through Research, Recognition, and Reach

By: **Brittany Beers,**
Community Engagement Manager

The Silver City Museum's community-centered approach continues to flourish this quarter, yielding both local impact and national recognition for our collaborative work. Our survey initiative at Western New Mexico University has successfully reached over 280 participants, providing valuable insights into community needs and expectations while simultaneously offering a roadmap for our future programming and engagement strategies.

We are pleased to report that this year's Give Grandly campaign was met with earnest and enthusiastic community support, securing vital funding that continues to sustain us. Thank you to each and all who donated! These resources empower us to extend our reach while maintaining the quality programming that reflects our dedication to exemplary service.

The museum's dedication to community-responsive practice recently garnered national attention when our work was acknowledged by American Alliance of Museums' President & CEO, Marilyn Jackson. When a national organization that champions equitable and impactful museums recognizes our small institution's efforts at a conference of 5,000 museum professionals, one can't help but smile because it affirms that our commitment to connecting people, fostering learning, and nurturing museum excellence resonates beyond our local context.

On May 13, another milestone was marked with the launch of our enhanced website feature for the “Nuestra Voz” exhibit. Visitors to silvercitymuseum.org can now explore four years of research under the “On Exhibit

Now” section, including video interviews, oral histories from Chihuahua Hill residents, and archived photographs that bring our community's heritage directly to the public. Additionally, beginning on August 15, our Collections team will unveil publicly accessible finding aids under the “Collections” tab, opening our archives to curious minds, professional researchers, and historians alike.

The broadening footprint of our community research continues to expand, with an executive producer from PBS reaching out to interview our team about the Chihuahua Hill History Project and how it has inspired similar initiatives throughout New Mexico. Simultaneously, and in direct response to our “Healers & Heroines” exhibit and programming, yours truly is collaborating with Dr. Kimberly Petrovic, Associate Dean of WNMU's School of Nursing and Kinesiology, on a series of articles for the New Mexico Nurses Association's official publication, “The New Mexico Nurse.” We'll be exploring the history of health care and how medical professionals can engage with museums to share knowledge and inspire future generations—reaching an audience of over 25,000 certified nurses statewide.

As summer approaches, we invite you to tune in to PBS in June, explore our enhanced website, visit nmna.nursingnetwork.com, and join us for our upcoming events to witness your generous support transforming into meaningful community impact.

The Mansardian

Editor: Brittany Beers
Layout: Tom Oberg

The Mansardian™ newsletter is a quarterly publication of the Silver City Museum. It is named after the *mansard* roof, a hallmark of French Second Empire architecture, characterized by its four-sided gambrel design with steep lower slopes. Constructed in 1881 by H.B. Ailman, the Silver City Museum features this distinctive architectural design.

The Silver City Museum

312 West Broadway
Silver City, NM 88061

Hours: Tue – Fri: 9 am – 4:30 pm

Sat & Sun: 10 am – 4 pm

(575) 597-0221

silvercitymuseum.org



From Mining History to Neighborhood Heritage: Museum Unveils New Permanent Exhibition

By: Tom Oberg,
Exhibitions Projects Manager

Museum staff has completed an exciting new installation. We have replaced the Mining Office exhibit with a permanent exhibit of “Nuestra Voz: The Chihuahua Hill Story.” Former director Susan Berry notes that this gallery first opened in 1967, along with the museum itself. Members of the museum board had been contacted by the Phelps Dodge Corporation. They were told that they were welcome to sort through and retrieve objects in “old” Tyrone before the company dismantled the town to start open-pit mining. Initially, this exhibit presented a broad view of life in old Tyrone that included objects from the hospital, the bank, and corporate offices. A pump organ from a small chapel in the town was also included. Most of us are familiar with the exhibit that took on its new form in 1989 when it was redesigned as a turn-of-the-century mining office to coincide with the opening of a mining exhibit in an adjacent gallery.

Located on the second floor of the Ailman house, this gallery offers visitors a view of a portion of the Chihuahua Hill neighborhood

as well as La Capilla from its southern window. Our exhibits team has developed several ways of delivering the exhibition to our visitors. With the first exhibition, we used QR codes, a gallery guide, and video monitors to convey more information than just using text panels and photographs on the gallery wall. For this permanent exhibition, we have updated the gallery guide, videos, and QR codes, along with a comprehensive website component at silvercitymuseum.org that features oral histories and makes over four years of research accessible to the public.

More than 600 hours of oral histories reflecting the lived experiences of both past and present residents of the neighborhood have been logged by curator Javier Marrufo. “Nuestra Voz: The Chihuahua Hill Story” represents a living history. Museum staff views this exhibit as part



Greg “Greg” Jaurequi (1933-1992), founder of El Grito Head Start (1969), with his four children and their burro on Chihuahua Hill circa 1970. His vision for early childhood education has supported families for over 50 years.

of a larger telling of that history, never an end. Moving forward, we will continue to revise the exhibition to bring to light stories that have yet to be heard by the public, develop educational programming related to the exhibit, and continue to ask our visitors to participate in this project by sharing their own histories. If you would like to share your story with the Silver City Museum, call Javier Marrufo at 575-597-0229 or email curator@silvercitymuseum.org.

Programs and Events

Fiesta Latina

Saturday June 7 | 12:00pm – 4:00pm

Sunday June 8 | 11:30am – 2:30pm

Western New Mexico University

Join us for WNMU’s beloved annual Fiesta Latina event, where our veteran education programs manager and Aldo Leopold founder Deb James will lead engaging children’s activities throughout the day. Experience the excitement of traditional games including *Huachas* (also known as washer pitching—a skill game with historical roots where players toss washers toward a target) and *Lotería* (Mexican bingo), with regular games and prizes for winners. This family-friendly celebration shares our region’s cultural heritage through interactive play, connecting participants to traditions that have been enjoyed across generations in southwestern New Mexico.



41st Annual Ice Cream Social

Friday July 4 | 11:00am - 3:00pm

Silver City Museum

A cherished Silver City tradition for four decades, the Ice Cream Social stands as one of our community’s most anticipated summer gatherings, drawing generations of families to celebrate both Independence Day and our shared local traditions. Enjoy performances by talented local musicians while exploring food and craft vendors and indulging in popcorn,

ice cream, sodas, and the famous cake walk. This free-admission celebration offers family activities for all ages in our charming shady courtyard and provides the perfect opportunity to visit our latest exhibits and browse The Museum Store. As the museum’s signature annual event, this festivity has evolved into an essential cultural touchstone—where newcomers are welcomed, old friends reconnect, and the connection within our community is strengthened through music, food, and shared experiences.

Silver City CLAY Festival

Saturday July 19 | 10:00am – 3:00pm

Silver City Museum Annex

The Silver City Museum Annex transforms into a celebration of artistic heritage during this year’s annual CLAY Festival featuring award-winning author Charmayne Samuelson and master potter Oralia Lopez. Founded in 2011, the CLAY Festival celebrates the traditions of clay, mud, and earth as the common ground of New Mexico’s cultural identity, bringing together artists, collectors, educators, and families. Visitors can experience Samuelson’s presentations on her stunning bilingual book “Mata Ortiz Poetry of the Clay: Pottery, Poems, Artists” at 10am, 1pm, and 2pm, while witnessing second-generation master potter Oralia Lopez demonstrate her world-renowned



painting techniques throughout the day. This exceptional opportunity to engage with Mata Ortiz pottery traditions includes book signings and the chance to purchase authentic pottery directly from these celebrated artists, connecting our community to the living artistic legacy that bridges cultures across the US-Mexico border.

Cobre Schools Summerfest

Saturday July 26 | 9:00am – 1:00pm

Cobre High School

1300 Tom Foy Blvd, Bayard, NM

The Cobre School Summerfest transforms Cobre High into a community hub, featuring a car show hosted by Estilo Car Club and Norman Castrillo alongside practical resources to help students start the school year prepared. This essential community event welcomes families from throughout the region, not just Bayard, and provides free school supplies, backpacks, clothing, and complimentary haircuts and physicals for students. Silver City Museum staff will be on hand throughout the day, sharing information about upcoming educational programming for the 2025-26 school year and creating connections with teachers, parents, and students interested in enriching their learning through museum activities and resources.



Preserving Our Shared Heritage: The Power of Community Knowledge

By: Javier Marrufo, Curator

In January of 2022, I made a cold call to someone requesting an interview for the Chihuahua Hill History Project. The



Javier Marrufo

prospective participant's name was Fred Fernandez, a cousin of an individual I had spoken with earlier in the week who insisted I contact Fred as well. Quietly waiting as the phone rang unanswered, I recited my pitch for the project in my head.

"Hello, I'm looking for Fred Fernandez. I got this number from a cousin of his. I'm calling about an oral history project from the Silver City Museum. The Chihuahua Hill History Project is an opportunity to share community stories that haven't been heard before. We want to make an honest representation of the community."

This pitch addresses a common question people ask of collections: Why? Why do you want to hear from me? Why are you asking about my great-grandma? Why do you want this old basket? As institutions that rely on community donations to build collections, this is one of the most frequently asked questions in the museum world.



Fred "Freddie" Fernandez sits on his porch in this undated photo. Fernandez, whose image with his wife Margaret and grandchildren Jason, Vanessa, Stephanie, and Britney appears on the cover, shared his life stories with the museum before his passing. His contributions to the Chihuahua Hill History Project preserve his legacy for his family and demonstrate how personal histories transcend time.

The Mission Behind Our Collections

The Silver City Museum is, at its core, a regional history museum. As such, we preserve cultural heritage by collecting, documenting, and preserving the experiences of the communities that make up Grant County. What we collect comes in many forms: objects from everyday life, photographs that offer rare visual glimpses into the past, archival documents that provide precious historical data, and, most importantly, personal stories that capture the emotional and human perspective of history.

This is often the first thing I relay as I attempt to persuade people like Fred Fernandez to participate in an oral history project. Being interviewed is sometimes a daunting idea. For many people, participating in an interview is a rarity. Sometimes, I joke when speaking publicly about the Chihuahua Hill History Project, that interviews conjure anxiety because you usually only sit through one if you're trying to get a new job or are being questioned by the police. From this perspective, persuading some people is an uphill battle, but it is an easier battle if there is a reason behind it.

Community Knowledge in Action

When Fred finally answered the line, I made my appeal for him to share an oral history and was quickly met with a question I'd been asked countless times throughout the course of the project: "What are you going to use them for?"

It was then, and remains today, a great question.

Museum collections do so much more than fill our exhibits. Our collections, when accessible and representatively inclusive, provide learning opportunities for visitors, students, and researchers from all backgrounds. This sentiment is reflected in the Silver City Museum's mission, which declares that we use "authentic records of the region's multicultural past to foster informed perspectives on the present." This guiding principle helps explain the broad-strokes answer of what we do with community knowledge and stories. They help us build collections that are representative of real people, places, and experiences.

To answer the question more deeply, oral histories are cataloged, transcribed, and made accessible for many purposes. As stated before, oral histories become vital resources for education and research. For many, oral histories are the gold star primary sources that add depth and emotion to history that artifacts, photos, and documents rarely can. They are also used for the same purpose in museum exhibits. In 2023, the Silver City Museum opened its "Nuestra Voz"

exhibit. Based on oral histories from more than 80 participants, the exhibit featured more than an hour and a half of audio, stories, and experiences from the community of Chihuahua Hill.

Most people see the value in sharing stories. In my experience, most are also happy to share. Luckily for me, Fred Fernandez was both. Midway through making my case, he accepted my invitation to participate and showed up at the front door of the museum within the hour.

When Stories Transcend Time

Fred and I first sat down for an oral history interview on January 4, 2022. In an hour and a half, he regaled me with anecdotes from his childhood, conveyed his experiences with discrimination, and happily told me what my deceased family members were like when they were younger. Like every oral history I've participated in, it was a fruitful and entertaining experience.

The following week, I received a call on my office phone notifying me that Fred was at the museum wanting to talk to me again. Shaking his hand at the front door of the museum, Fred said the words every oral historian hopes to hear: "I have more to share." Fred returned to the museum two more times in the following weeks to share more of his story, memories that became unstuck after sharing the first or second time. His stories about his grandmother, Josefa Salizar, became an article in the *Mansardian* in 2023. That same year, his voice became one of the dozens included in the "Nuestra Voz" exhibit.

Fred comes to mind when thinking about the "whys" of museum work because his experience exemplifies some of the most important reasons behind our profession. It is always the hope to achieve everything laid out in this article, but more importantly, this work fulfills a deeper, more intimate purpose.

In 2024, I was told a visitor was waiting at the front of the museum, hoping to speak with me. A woman I had never met identified herself as Margaret Fernandez, Fred's wife. She explained that Fred passed away the year before, and that she remembered he had come and spoke to someone at the museum about his life. Luckily, we had hours of interviews to share with her.

Encounters like this remind us that although our time in this world is finite, our stories endure. Oral histories are some of the most relatable and emotionally powerful elements we can collect. They transcend age, ethnicity, gender, or any other background, and root themselves in something we all share—the human experience. Therefore, museums are also spaces to build meaningful connections among communities. Collections provide another way to honor those who came before, to remember those we've lost, and to ensure their voices, their stories, are shared for as long as there is a Silver City Museum.

Engaging the Next Generation: Museum Education Program Thrives

By: Deb James,
Education Program Manager

Once students returned to their classrooms after spring break in March, the museum's education program shifted into high gear. In preparation for visits from the fourth-grade classes from Silver Schools, Wade Stone from the Future Forge Makerspace used their laser cutter to fabricate puppets and backdrops for the shadow puppet workshop. After assembling the sets and puppets, several volunteers took on the additional role of puppeteers during student field trips. We so appreciate all this wonderful help.

Zoey Cronin's first-grade class from Bayard Elementary visited the museum in April to play some old-fashioned yard games such as hoop rolling, nine pins, washers, horseshoes, and cornhole. Inside the museum, students participated in the scavenger hunt featured in the "Healers and Heroines" exhibit.

In that same month, seven fourth-grade classes visited the museum to participate in both the anti-bullying-themed shadow puppet workshop and the kids' activities that are set up in the current main exhibit.

Volunteer View

Volunteers Treasure Their Role as Community Ambassadors

By: Mary Stone, Volunteer Manager

As summer arrives, our museum is buzzing with activity, and it's all made possible by our amazing volunteers. Your dedication is the heart of our museum—thank you! We're looking forward to a packed season of events, programs, and new exhibits.

If you're interested in getting involved this summer, we have several opportunities from collections and education to visitor services. Many volunteers treasure their role as community ambassadors. As volunteer Jennifer Six describes it, "You get to be an ambassador for the community and hear visitors' own stories about how and why they are here."

This season, we're excited to debut new aspects of our revamped volunteer program, including training sessions and opportunities to help with our signature July 4 Ice Cream Social. Volunteers can also participate in local events such as Fiesta Latina and Silver City CLAY Festival. Summer is a great time to connect and get involved. The social benefits are pretty great too. Longtime volunteer Jan White, who has served the museum for more than 10 years, shares, "I have made several very good friends, met people from all over the world, and belong to a wonderful group, such fun!"

To sign up or learn more about volunteering, contact me, Mary Stone, at 575-592-0226 or volunteer@silvercitymuseum.org.

Under the tutelage of language arts teacher Ashley Sandberg at Snell Middle School, students were guided on the art and science of taking oral histories. Each student identified someone in their family or community about whom they wished to learn more and recorded their interviews. Seven of those oral histories were presented at Snell's "Red Carpet Event" on May 12. These presentations included performances for students and staff during the day and a special evening event for parents and those featured in the interviews.

The museum would like to thank the U.S. History teachers whose classes participated in our Ethnic, Culture, and Identity Studies unit. Much gratitude to Robert Benfield from the Cobre District, and Molly Gibson and Pete Rankin from Aldo Leopold Charter School. Many thanks to my mentors for developing this unit of study: Renee Provencio, Javier Marrufo, Ashley Smith, and Dr. Doug Dinwiddie. My gratitude also extends to Jennifer Lepisko from



Drawing on more than four decades of educational experience, Deb James has dramatically revitalized the museum's field trip program, bringing record numbers of schoolchildren through its doors this past year, significantly surpassing historical attendance figures.

Aldo Leopold and Ashley Sandberg from Snell Middle School for the thoughtful participation by their students in the eighth-grade oral history unit.

The museum's education program will continue to engage even more classes from local schools in both units during the coming school year. Students, teachers, and I share the belief that the path toward fairness, compassion, and equity in Grant County rests in the capable hands of our youth.

The Magic of Mata Ortiz Pottery

By: Melody Collins, Store Manager

In the small village of Mata Ortiz, located 100 miles south of the New Mexico border in Chihuahua, Mexico, one of the world's finest handmade ceramic traditions thrives. This sophisticated art movement emerged in the 1970s through the vision of Juan Quezada (1940-2022), who discovered pre-Hispanic pottery fragments near the ancient ruins of Paquimé during his youth.

Through years of experimentation with local materials and firing techniques, Quezada developed the distinctive Mata Ortiz style characterized by exceptionally thin walls, precise symmetry, and intricate painted designs. His innovations transformed a community facing economic decline into a renowned artistic center.

Join us at the museum annex for the Silver City CLAY Festival on July 19, featuring master potter Oralia Lopez, who will demonstrate the traditional techniques that distinguish Mata Ortiz pottery. "The mixing of the clay is different. The process for the form is different because it's not using a wheel. The clay and the mineral pigment are from the area," explains Lopez, a second-generation artist from Mata Ortiz who employs methods established by Quezada.

Award-winning and best-selling author Charmayne Samuelson will present her new bilingual book, "Mata Ortiz Poetry of the Clay: Pottery, Poems, Artists," showcasing 24 contemporary potters alongside original poetry. Presentations will be held at 10 am, 1 pm, and 2 pm, with pottery demonstrations throughout the day.

Books will be available for signing, and authentic Mata Ortiz pottery can be purchased at the event or anytime in our Museum Store, where we proudly support this extraordinary artistic tradition.



Master potter Oralia Lopez of Mata Ortiz, Chihuahua demonstrates the signature Mata Ortiz style of painting.

Cataloging Community History: Archiving the Lime Family Collection

By: Jonathan Wooster

Silver City, New Mexico, is home to many stories that have shaped its rich and diverse community, including the notable contributions of the Lime family. The Lime Collection, an extensive archive containing over 37 boxes of family photographs, correspondence, and business records, offers a detailed look into the life of this Chinese American family and documents their significant contributions to the community's history.

The Lime family's story begins in 1913, when 14-year-old M.F. Lime, who would become the family patriarch, arrived in New Mexico. Over the next two decades, he established himself as a prominent businessman in Silver City. In 1934, M.F. Lime married Sue Lew, and together they built a family that would become a cornerstone of the local community. They raised six children: James (Jimmie), Jacqueline (Jackie), Richard (Dickie), Donna, Olive, and Geoffrey Nathan.

The Limes were well known for their two restaurants in Silver City: the Manhattan Café, which operated from the 1930s to 1952, and the Chef Grill, which became a staple of the town's dining scene from 1952 to 1976. The Manhattan Café was a gathering place for locals, offering not only delicious meals but also a sense of comfort and family hospitality. The Chef Grill continued the family's tradition of serving delectable Chinese food to the people of Silver City and New Mexico, further solidifying the Lime family's place in the hearts of locals.



Treasures from the Lime Family Collection include a May 22, 1957 letter from Jackie to her parents describing a "slight cold" caught from her suite mate and requesting permission for a friend to visit Silver. The family photo (circa 1950) captures the Lime family (back) Donna, Dickie, Jackie, James, and Olive; (front) M.F., Nathan, and Sue. The final photograph depicts Sue, Donna, James, Jackie, and Dickie in front of the family home.

Beyond their successful restaurant businesses, the Lime family also contributed to the maintenance and preservation of the Chinese gardens located just outside Silver City. Their efforts highlighted the broader Chinese presence throughout Grant County and established connections with Chinese families in Deming.

The bulk of the collection consists of correspondence between family members, particularly between the siblings and their parents. While the archive includes people from both the Lew and Lime families, it primarily focuses on the six Lime siblings and their parents, M.F. and Sue. A unique

component of the collection is a small section related to Dickie's passing, which is placed at the end of the complete collection.

This collection, while not comprehensive, provides valuable insight into the family's long history in Silver City and their involvement in various community events. It includes only those items donated by Joan Chin and Ileen Lime. The archiving of the Lime Family Collection was made possible by a grant from the New Mexico Historical Records Advisory Board (NMHRAB), successfully secured by registrar and collections manager, Ashley Smith.

Partners

Silver City's Approach to Lifelong Learning

By: Tom Hester

WILL's origin story says that Patty Reed, whose North Carolina mother belonged to a lifelong learning program funded

by Osher. As an enthusiastic supporter of education and school board member, Patty thought that Silver City deserved just such a program. She and a group of her friends set about to persuade Western New Mexico University to provide space.

What Patty created was unlike the typical Osher model. Rather than relying on retired professors lecturing to behemoth

classes, Patty's WILL declared that Silver City had crowds of talented presenters willing to share their knowledge in smaller venues.

From the beginning, a quarter century ago, the volunteer presenters, together with those to whom they spoke, enriched their lives, learning in community:

- A retired U.S. diplomat who motored Henry Kissinger around the Near East
- A former assistant to a heart transplant surgeon in Europe
- A cook who began making tamales at age 9
- An all-star high school history teacher emeritus able to lead rapt audiences from Bach to McCartney.

This spring, WILLites can register for their summer courses. Having paid for access to a selection of about 150 courses a year, they can now explore an expedition searching for wild cats in Mongolia, a class on the Harvey House, a tour of the Harvey House Museum in Belen, a history of radio, and an opportunity to get to know Navajo weavers and learn about their art. With a summer's choice of around 30 courses, WILL members and the volunteer facilitators embrace the motto that has come to identify lifelong learning in Silver City: "Join for your brain. Stay for your heart. Volunteer for a long life." Visit <https://will.community> to register.



June

Fiesta Latina

Saturday June 7

12:00pm – 4:00pm

Sunday June 8

11:30am – 2:30pm

Western New Mexico University

Join Silver



City Museum's

Education

Programs

Manager Deb James as she leads engaging children's activities.

Huachas and *Lotería* will be

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prizes offered for winners.

July

41st Annual Ice Cream Social

Friday July 4

11:00am - 3:00pm

Silver City Museum

A cherished Silver City tradition

for four decades, the Ice Cream

Social stands as one of our

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summer gatherings, drawing

generations of families to

celebrate both Independence

Day and our shared local

traditions. Enjoy performances

by talented local musicians

while exploring food and

craft vendors and indulging in

popcorn, ice cream, sodas, and

the famous cake walk. This

free-admission celebration

offers family activities for all

ages in our charming shady

courtyard and provides the

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latest exhibits and browse The

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Silver City CLAY Festival

Saturday July 19

10:00am – 3:00pm

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“Mata Ortiz Poetry of the Clay:

Pottery, Poems, Artists” at 10am,

1pm, and 2pm, while witnessing

second-generation master potter

Oralia Lopez demonstrate

her world-renowned painting

techniques throughout the day.



Your Support Brings Grant County's History to Life

Every donation to the Silver City Museum strengthens our community's connection to its unique heritage.

In the past year, your generous contributions have directly supported:

Compelling Exhibits

Healers & Heroines: Women and the Shaping of Local Health Care, Arte Chicano 2025 featuring Jesse Ochoa,

Nuestra Voz: The Chihuahua Hill Story

Sharing Knowledge Beyond Our Walls

Presented at Hispanic Heritage Month at Eastern New Mexico University, Featured at LULAC Southern Regional Conference

Presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Folklore Society,

Participated in the American Alliance of Museums Annual Meeting

Community Impact

Over 10,000 people served through exhibits, events, and programs, Nearly 5,000 hours contributed by dedicated volunteers,

Hosted more than 500 children through interactive field trips

Coming Soon

Our comprehensive history book, “Unpacking Silver City,” is nearing completion!

As a museum supporter, your donations can be made out to Silver City Museum and mailed to 312 W Broadway, Silver City, NM 88061.

Your support helps keep this region's heritage alive and accessible to all visitors.

Thank you!

Visit silvercitymuseum.org to keep your museum thriving!



The Mansardian

The Silver City Museum

312 West Broadway

Silver City, NM 88061

The 2024/2025 Mansardian is underwritten by Liz Mikols in memory of her husband Joe Schindler.

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Cobre Schools Summerfest

Saturday July 26

9:00am – 1:00pm

Cobre High School

This essential community

event welcomes families from

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