

NEW MEXICO HISTORY MUSEUM

Telling the People's Stories

It took a village. For nearly 20 years, dedicated museum supporters from all over New Mexico have been addressing concerns about the lack of adequate storage for the state's historic treasures and the ailing infrastructure of the beloved 400-year-old Palace of the Governors.

In the course of that endeavor, they envisioned a bold concept: transform the Palace of the Governors—the venerable structure on the Santa Fe Plaza that has honorably served as New Mexico's state history museum since 1909—into a world-class complex with new galleries, state-of-the-art collections facilities and public programs, while preserving it as one of the state's most significant architectural artifacts.



The New Mexico History Museum is that place.

Creating the New Mexico History Museum was far more than putting up a new building and filling it with collections. From the very beginning, it's been about creating a community that extends beyond museum walls to the farthest reaches of New Mexico and even beyond state borders. Our talented staff spent months visiting New Mexicans—from Farmington to Las Cruces, at Pueblo communities and on the Navajo and Apache reservations, in rural areas and downtown commercial centers—to understand what New Mexicans believe are their most important stories. They told us they wanted to hear about the homesteaders as well as the artists, the famous political figures and the men and women who have lived here for centuries, and newer arrivals who came to raise their families and make New Mexico home.

"I've learned that while history is a collective cultural experience, it's also an individual experience."

Educators, curators, conservators and designers sifted through artifacts, documents, maps, photographs and oral histories to refine an engaging story line to express New Mexico's rich history. Our exhibition design partners Gallagher & Associates and Second Story then turned these concepts into an extraordinary, immersive exhibition—far different from a typical history museum. Architectural collaborators Conron & Woods Architects, NCA Architects and SaylorGregg Architects, as well as the many New Mexico construction teams managed by Sarcon Construction and Thos. S. Byrne, Ltd., have brought pride to the craftsmanship in the building now taking shape.

Our curatorial exhibition, design and construction teams have traveled our state—living with, listening to and learning from New Mexico's people. We feel that's one of our most important contributions to creating a New Mexico History Museum for all New Mexicans.

Join us for the New Mexico History Museum's Grand Opening on Memorial Day Weekend 2009. We invite you to become part of New Mexico's story.

Dr. Frances Levine
Director
New Mexico History Museum