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2018 End of Year Report

QCC Mission: Questa Creative Council seeks to strengthen and sustain community enrichment and economic opportunities through arts, culture, history, and education.

QCC Vision: We will enhance opportunities to build cooperation among artists, artisans, cultural creatives and community members. We will help build a beneficial future while nurturing, sustaining or reviving traditional and contemporary creative pursuits.

The QCC was honored to contribute to the upswelling of community events and activities in the village in 2018, our first full year as a collaborative non-profit group. Thank you to all who volunteered, attended, supported, and contributed to QCC events and projects this past year! The combined activities and projects (see individual project summaries and images) drew over 950 participants to enjoy Questa this last year. About 550 of these folks were from outside the village. These visitors sought cafes and lodging, bought gas and coffee, discovered our National Monument, and learned about the unique heritage of our area. Many promised to return with family and friends. We got good feedback from local attendees as well!

Membership and Projects

The Questa Creative Council could not have achieved any of this without our much-appreciated members who donated their time and/or funds. We currently have 55+ members. Membership starts at \$10 (with subsequent membership tiers of \$25, \$50, \$100, \$200 and beyond with associated benefits) and supports QCC general operation and projects:

- Questa History & Community Trail
- NeoRio: Outdoor Contemporary Art Celebration
- Wild Rivers Plein Air Festival
- Questa Studio Arts Tour
- Questa Chamber Music Series

Board and Committees



The QCC board is a small team of diverse and dedicated residents, who have worked very hard this first year to establish the organization, many of whom have also run its main projects. The QCC board is currently Roger Harrington (Co-Chair), Peggy Trigg (Co-Chair), Joan Young (Treasurer), Alberta Bouyer (Secretary), Flavio Cisceros, Kate Cisneros, Claire Cote, Jeannie Masters, and Martha Shepp (board members). The board meets monthly and committees (executive, media, membership, grants and

individual projects) hold additional meetings as needed. We are very grateful for members who have recently joined some of these committees! *We are actively recruiting additional volunteers to help on these committees.*

In this, our first year, we have been on a steep learning curve. With the combined efforts of legal filings, writing and managing new grants, event management, and bookkeeping, the QCC team experienced a sense of overwhelm and exhaustion and felt the need for constructive introspection. An end-of-season Board Retreat was held in October to provide reflection time on the accomplishments of our first year, discuss deeper issues of approach and protocol, of how to prevent burnout, and how to formulate strategies for improvement moving forward. Some changes are being implemented; the need for introspection and discussion is ongoing!

Finances

The QCC's total income was \$47,704 and total expenditures equalled \$38,929. As well as membership dues and donations, the QCC received small grants from NM Arts, Taos County Lodgers Tax, Chevron Grants for Good, Questa Economic Development Fund, as well as project-specific grants from the MAE Foundation, The Northern Rio Grande National Heritage Area, and the National Park Service. Project leaders also worked diligently to secure project specific business sponsorships and donations. In Kind time and donated goods and services for 2018 equal approximately \$91,053. **Income, expenses and in kind contributions are broken down by projects as follows (more details available upon request):**

Project/Focus	Income	Expenses	In-Kind
QCC General Operating	\$7,093	\$1,908	\$15,332
Questa History & Community Trail	\$11,788	\$11,378	\$33,937
NeoRio 2018	\$11,690	\$10,339	\$15,000
Wild Rivers Plein Air Festival	\$12,793	\$11,743	\$17,000
Questa Studio Arts Tour	\$3,710	\$3,091	\$7,334
Questa Chamber Music Series	\$630	\$470	\$2,450
Totals	\$47,704	\$38,929	\$91,053

It's your QCC!

The QCC was formed to provide the Questa area with a nonprofit whose focus is arts, culture and creative pursuits, emphasizing collaboration, leadership, education and service. As we reach for larger funding opportunities and expand our programming and projects, we need more volunteers to join the team to fill a variety of roles; from clerical chores to getting involved in helping with individual events and projects. If you would like to actively strengthen our community through a focus on arts and culture, please do reach out. You can use the "Contact Us" feature on QuestaCreative.org, call (575) 586-5636, or, stop in and visit with Co-Chair, Roger Harrington, at the Art Questa Studio and Gallery on the south end of the village. You can also reach Co-Chair, Peggy Trigg at 505-974-5314. A "Join" feature on our website makes donating easy and fast.

Sneak Peak: QCC plans for 2019

In 2019 we hope to solidify best-practices, expand existing collaborations and forge new alliances. The grant committee is already hard at work applying for grants for the upcoming year. In addition to local support, we will again be applying for funding from NM Arts. We are also looking at additional avenues for fundraising, help from foundations, and donations to help us keep going. Please be in touch if you have ideas and want to help!

Save these dates:

Wild Rivers Plein Air Festival, July 16-21, 2019

Questa Studio Arts Tour August 17-18, 2019

NeoRio September 21, 2019

2018 QCC Project Reports

National Trails Day, Questa History Walk – June 2, 2018



The Questa History & Community Trail was introduced to the community for National Trails Day. Questa's own Flavio Cisneros led over 50 people on this first guided walk. Half of those attending were from Questa and the rest came from further afield. Feedback from participants provided valuable input for planning final signs. Members on this project team are currently seeking funds to create long-lasting metal frameworks and improved sign faces. The National Park Service is still working with the QCC's team, the Village, and members of St. Anthony's Parish to plan the trail development. Some of this future work will be physical trail

building, and some of it roadway marking. Flavio led a second walk on the opening day of the Questa Studio Arts Tour and all attendees were non-locals, they quite enjoyed learning more about Questa. QuestaTrail.org

Gathering Memory: Object, Photo and Story Workshop – July 8, 2018



The Questa History & Community Trail project also hosted this community event at the VFW Hall, led by native son (and nationally-recognized historian) Estevan Rael-Galvez, with over 90 guests attending. Over half of those were from Questa. They participated by bringing in photos and mementoes that brought forward a host of shared stories. There is ongoing participation in sharing Questa stories, by working with one of the LEAP team to record your memories and scan your photos to post on the QuestaStories.org website.

Wild Rivers Plein Air Festival - July 17-22, 2018



The sublime beauty of our area was expressed by the over 60 artists from all around the US (even 2 from Canada!) who participated in the 3rd Annual Wild Rivers Plein Air Festival. Artists painted within a 20-mile radius of Questa, attended instructional demonstrations at Questa Youth Center, and painted St. Anthony's Church for the special event, "Paint the Church" day. The 6-day festival ended with an Artist Quick draw event, a reception, and the display and sale of paintings at the Brass Rail Theater in Red River. The 221 participants and friends helped our

economy by staying overnight and frequenting our shops and restaurants. WildRiversPleinAir.com

Questa Studio Arts Tour - August 18-19, 2018



The 3rd Annual Questa Studio Arts tour, *Where Artistic Traditions Meet* had up to 40 participating artists this year, and drew at least 300 visitors to our beautiful area, who also stopped in Questa for food, coffee, and overnight lodgings. Two new artist hubs in the Sunshine Valley and El Rito and four new stops in Questa at La Sala, Cosas Hermosas, Questa Stained Glass Studio and Questa Quilters Guild expanded offerings. Approximately one third of visitors were from a 15-mile radius of our village, and the other two-thirds were from New Mexico and surrounding states. QuestaArtsTour.com

NeoRio 2018: Roots ~ Raices



It was beautiful weather on Saturday, Sept. 15, at Wild Rivers as over 250 people arrived to explore the theme “Roots ~ Raices!” at LEAP’s 10th anniversary contemporary art celebration. Art installations included a “wall” of rooted willows, innovative backpack kits for “short adventures in place,” and root words flapping in the breeze; hands-on activities were for all ages, notably a booth in homage to the lowly beet. Participants were captivated by impassioned young poets at the Poetry & Music Salon, a bountiful locally sourced (and served) feast, soulful tunes, and informative artist talks at dusk. Approximately one third of the visitors hailed from within a 15-mile radius of our village, and the other two-thirds were from New Mexico and surrounding states. *LEAPsite.org*

Street Banners



This past fall, the QCC has partnered with the Questa Economic Development Fund (QEDF) to develop banners that hang from street light poles in the Village. The subject of the first set exhibits the beautiful hand-painted retablos in St. Anthony’s historic Church. The other two sets of banners will display our local artists and craftspersons and a third set will show historic photos of our village. We hope the retablos will be up on lamp posts for all to see very soon.

Welcome Signs

The QCC has partnered with the QEDF to develop 3 “Welcome to Questa” signs to be installed on the main roads as one drives into Questa. This past fall the QCC solicited ideas and concepts from the public, and 37 entries were received, full of inventive designs ideas. Currently, we are narrowing down and fine tuning the designs. They will then be presented to the village and the public for final comment. After decisions have been made, the signs will go into fabrication mode.

Questa Chamber Music Series



The first in this 3-part series of classical music concerts was held on Saturday, September 1. Taos cellist Rebecca Caron, violinist Andrea Gore, and Questeño pianist Martha Shepp played works of Haydn, Glinka, Brahms, and Clara Schumann at the building under renovation which will host music and expressive arts, as well as a yoga studio: La Sala Questa, at 2331 Hwy 522. There were 20 in the audience in the small room that currently houses a beautiful grand piano, which will be in the larger space once renovation is complete. The second concert was on Thursday, November 29 and featured international virtuoso violinist Odin Rathnam, Canadian cellist Morag Northey, and local string player Suzanne Schwartz and drew over 25 people. A third concert is planned for early spring of 2019.