

# SHAPING THE FUTURE

## Messengers of Healing Winds Foundation Launches Public Campaign

by Carmella Padilla

*A \$1 million gift for the New Mexico History Museum from Messengers of Healing Winds Foundation kicked off the public phase of the Museum of New Mexico Foundation's \$22 million Shape the Future endowment and capital campaign to benefit the Museum of New Mexico.*

The gift, announced at the Foundation's August 2 annual meeting, is the largest ever made in New Mexico by the Santa Fe-based Messengers of Healing Winds Foundation. The funds will help build exhibitions at the new 95,000-square-foot history museum, currently under construction on Lincoln Avenue. The museum is expected to open in 2009.

Andrea Waitt Carlton, founder and president of Messengers of Healing Winds Foundation, says the history museum's goal—of representing the wide-ranging experiences and perspectives of all New Mexicans through its exhibitions and collections—is part of what inspired her organization to make such a major investment in the project.



“The history of New Mexico is just as important as its future, and we understand that by giving this much, we can make a difference in the lives of many New Mexicans,” Waitt Carlton says. “Too often people don’t know their own personal history, but they need to know where they came from and what their great-grandfather did because it shapes how they believe. The history museum will teach us all a lot about New Mexico and each other that we haven’t known before.”

Adjacent to the centuries-old Palace of the Governors, which has served as the state history museum since 1909, the

Andrea Waitt Carlton and Steve Rasmussen of Messengers of Healing Winds Foundation, with author David McCullough (center). McCullough was in Santa Fe last winter to give a talk to benefit the Palace of the Governors. Photo by Don J. Usner.



Photo: Cheron Bayna

Steve Rasmussen, executive director of Messengers of Healing Winds Foundation (seated, left) presents a check from Messengers of Healing Winds to Shape the Future campaign chair Eileen Wells and Foundation Executive Director Tom Aageson.

New Mexico History Museum will anchor a cultural complex that includes a restored Palace of the Governors, the Fray Angelico Chávez History Library and Photo Archives, and the Palace Press. As the repository for the state’s historic patrimony—including more than 800,000 artifacts, historical documents, photographs, and books representing key periods in New Mexico history—the new museum will stand as the largest cultural investment ever made in historic downtown Santa Fe.

“This gift also reflects our foundation’s civic-mindedness in helping move Santa Fe forward,” Waitt Carlton says. “I like doing new things that haven’t been done before. I like the design of the building and the exhibits. I think the museum will be an exciting new destination that every age will love.”

The history museum is the cornerstone of the Foundation’s \$22 million Shape the Future campaign, which is aimed at supporting endowment and capital projects for cultural initiatives

and growth at the Foundation-affiliated institutions: the New Mexico History Museum/Palace of the Governors, New Mexico Museum of Art, Museum of International Folk Art, Museum of Indian Arts and Culture/Laboratory of Anthropology, six state monuments, and the Office of Archaeological Studies.

As of early August, the campaign had raised more than \$16 million in private funding, including \$3.25 million designated for the history museum. The total private fundraising goal for history museum exhibitions is \$6.5 million. The history museum also has received significant public funding for construction, including \$21 million in state funds and \$15 million in federal funds.

Foundation trustee Eileen Wells, chair of the Shape the Future campaign, notes that the Messengers of Healing Winds Foundation’s \$1 million gift is the largest cash gift to date for the history museum. She adds that the gift presents the perfect opportunity to take the campaign public and give other private donors the chance to invest in our state’s cultural heritage.

“The Foundation has been working closely with our partners at the Museum of New Mexico and the Department of Cultural Affairs to secure the endowment and capital funds that will allow us to serve the important needs of our cultural institutions today and in the future,” Wells says. “Thanks to Messengers of Healing Winds Foundation and others, we are pleased and grateful that things are going well. We are now reaching out to private donors who want to help our institutions achieve even greater excellence and success.”



Photo: Cheron Bayna

Exhibit designer Patrick Gallagher of Gallagher & Associates presents plans for the new history museum. Gallagher & Associates has worked with museums and institutions nationwide, including the Smithsonian Institution, Jamestown Settlement at Williamsburg, Va., and the International Spy Museum in Washington, D.C., among many others.

Messengers of Healing Winds Foundation Executive Director Steve Rasmussen adds that the foundation's gift will become even more valuable when it encourages other private donors to support the state's cultural institutions through the Shape the Future campaign.

"We always want to make the most of our gifts to the community. If our \$1 million can be transformed into \$3 million or \$4 million through the generosity of others, we'll know we've made a significant impact," Rasmussen says.

Shape the Future is the largest campaign ever undertaken by the Museum of New Mexico Foundation on behalf of its affiliated institutions. Successful recent campaigns include Milner Plaza on Museum Hill; the Neutrogena Wing at the Museum of International Folk Art; the Amy Rose Bloch Wing, Living Traditions Education Center, and Masterpiece Gallery at the Museum of Indian Arts and Culture; and the Fray Angelico Chávez History Library at the Palace of the Governors. ■

For information on how to give to the Shape the Future campaign, contact Development Director Colleen Kelly at 982-6366, ext. 107, or [colleenk@museumfoundation.org](mailto:colleenk@museumfoundation.org).

## Messengers of Healing Winds FOUNDATION

Messengers of Healing Winds Foundation is a Santa Fe-based foundation whose primary focus is to support environmental, animal dignity, and select fine arts, education, and social service projects. The foundation's area of service encompasses New Mexico, northwest Iowa, South Dakota, and southern Florida.

Messengers of Healing Winds' previous support for the Foundation's Shape the Future endowment and capital campaign includes a \$75,000 capacity-building grant in October 2004. The grant's purpose was to assess and expand the Foundation's ability to raise major gifts through the campaign. (Other funders also helped support this initiative.) As a show of confidence in the Foundation's work, Messengers of Healing Winds also was one of the first major campaign donors, providing a very generous \$300,000 endowment gift.

Architectural rendering of the New Mexico History Museum, as seen from the Palace of the Governors' courtyard. Courtesy Gallagher & Associates.

