

Giving Back

JERRY RICHARDSON MAKES A DIFFERENCE WITH AN ESTATE GIFT

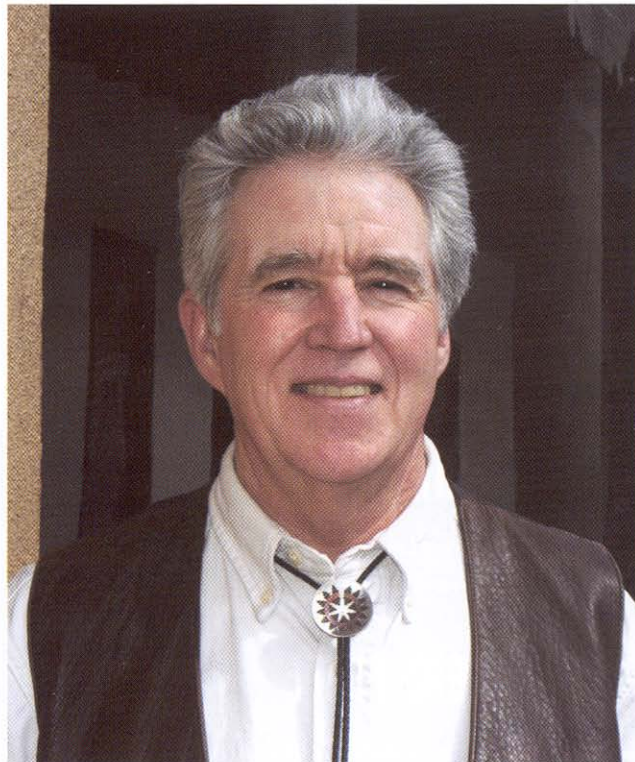
BY CAROLYN GONZALEZ
DEVELOPMENT MANAGER FOR SPECIAL PROJECTS

“I’VE ALWAYS BELIEVED IN TRYING TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE and giving back to my community,” says Museum of New Mexico Foundation Trustee Jerry Richardson.

As a founding member of the Friends of the Palace in 1986, Richardson has spent two decades giving—and getting—major support for the Palace of the Governors and now the New Mexico History Museum. His dedication has led to various roles as foundation trustee, including board chair, vice chair, secretary, and chair of long range planning.

“I love being a part of the foundation,” he says. “You can really see how your efforts have made a difference in the community. We [the foundation board] have had some big successes, and success builds on success. I am grateful to be part of all this.”

Richardson came to Albuquerque at the age of fourteen, but



Foundation trustee Jerry Richardson. Photo by Blair Clark, 2006.

“A gift to endowment will continue giving.”

knew he would eventually make Santa Fe his home. He frequently visited his great aunt and her partner, world-renowned photographer Laura Gilpin, in Santa Fe, inspiring in him a deep affection for the city’s myriad cultural and artistic offerings. Later earning a law degree at the University of New Mexico, Richardson became a public defender, but then dropped out of law and moved with his partner to El Rito, where they operated The Coffee House in El Rito and worked for artist Georgia O’Keeffe.

“We knew [Georgia’s] assistant, Juan Hamilton, and he told her that the raspberries from our garden were better than hers,” he recalls. “The next day she called and wanted a tour of our

garden.” O’Keeffe hired Richardson and his partner to restore her gardens for the next two years.

Ultimately, Richardson returned to law, working for the state Taxation and Revenue Department as an attorney and then as Chief Administrative Law Judge. But a few years ago, unexpected health problems caused him to retire. “It was a wakeup call,” he says, prompting him to give more serious thought to his estate planning. Richardson decided to give back to the cultural institutions he loves by making a bequest both to the foundation endowment and Palace of the Governors endowment through the Maggy Ryan Legacy Society.

“I don’t have children or grandchildren to provide for in my estate. That allows me to use my estate to make the kind of significant gift I could not afford to make now,” he says. “It is gratifying to know that a gift to endowment will continue giving to support these valuable institutions in my community for many, many years to come.”

For more information about estate planning, contact Kirsten Jasna at 505-982-6366, ext. 113, or kirsten@museumfoundation.org. ■