

WHY SAWMILL?

516 ARTS and the Outpost Performance Space are interested in creating a new home for our organizations under one roof as part of a larger Center for the Arts in the Sawmill District because:

- **Museum District**

We want to be part of Albuquerque’s Museum District. 516 ARTS is Albuquerque’s only museum dedicated exclusively to contemporary art, and the Outpost Performance Space is a world-renowned presenter of jazz and more. Proximity to the Albuquerque Museum, the New Mexico Museum of Natural History & Science, Explora Children’s Museum, the National Institute of Flamenco, and commercial development including Hotel Chaco, Hotel Albuquerque, and the Sawmill Market, will allow us to participate in expansive collaborative activities that serve the neighborhood as well as our city, state, and region.

- **Emerging “campus” for lifelong arts education**

Education is at the center of the missions of both 516 ARTS and Outpost. We see the Sawmill Center for the Arts and the surrounding museums, youth-serving arts organizations, and schools as creating a unique constellation of inter-generational learning opportunities. Neighbors include Tierra Adentro, (a middle and high school for the arts operated by the National Institute of Flamenco, with a new building breaking ground soon), ACE Charter School (a high school focused on architecture, construction, and engineering), and Explora’s expansion to include facilities for early childhood and teen education.

- **Parking and Safety**

We have gone through an in-depth research process over several years to identify the best place for a combined Center for the Arts to make the most impact. We explored 12 buildings/sites both in Downtown and on the outskirts. We determined that it would be best for the Center to be located at the edge of Downtown to accommodate parking needs, accessibility for all ages, and safety needs.

- **Opportunity Zone**

The Sawmill District is designated by the IRS as an Opportunity Zone through the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. It provides tax benefits to investors into low-income communities that have been left behind since the Great Recession.

- **Partnerships along Cultural Corridor**

We believe our Center for the Arts will be an important part of the momentum of Albuquerque’s Cultural Corridor spanning Nob Hill, UNM, EDo (East Downtown), Downtown, and Old Town. 516 ARTS and Outpost have long-time successful partnerships with UNM, the National Hispanic Cultural Center, and the KiMo Theatre, among many others, which will continue to thrive and grow.

