

## MISSION

The Sawmill Center for the Arts will be a place for all to experience, share, and learn about the arts. Located in the vibrant Sawmill / Old Town District, its mission will be:

- To provide a new, improved and sustainable home for two of New Mexico's most respected arts organizations — 516 ARTS and the Outpost Performance Space — and Sawmill Center, Inc., a newly formed nonprofit arts organization.
- To present the highest quality arts activities, featuring local, national, and international artists, with music and the visual arts as the central focus within an interdisciplinary approach that spans all of the arts.
- To nurture diverse artists and audiences of all cultural and socioeconomic backgrounds, including Latinx, Black, Indigenous, people of color, and LGBTQ.
- To facilitate inclusive community involvement from the residents of the Sawmill community, all of Albuquerque, New Mexico, and our region.
- To reinforce the importance of art and music in the development of children and the enrichment of the surrounding community.
- To connect Albuquerque with the rest of the world, participating in regional, national, and international dialogues.
- To act as a resource for coming generations of artists and audiences through dynamic arts education programming and audience development.
- To offer artists and arts businesses affordable space and professional development.
- To amplify, expand, and complement Albuquerque's Museum District.
- To lead collaborations and shared marketing initiatives for the Cultural Corridor of Albuquerque and New Mexico.

Experience

Share

Learn

Nurture

Connect



## VALUES

Once realized, the community will come to know the Sawmill Center for the Arts as a place that is inviting, accessible, exploratory and beneficial.

- CREATIVITY:** The Center embraces creative activity for all, from novice to professional. It is a place for learners as well as artistic professionals.
- INCLUSION:** The Center believes that all citizens can benefit from creative activity, and embraces greater diversity, equity and inclusion on every level. The center is, therefore, a place for everyone.
- COLLABORATION:** The Center seeks partnerships in the creative enterprise which will result in meaningful interaction for all participants.
- COMMUNITY:** The Center is an involved member of the community – both the immediate community and beyond.

## PROGRAMS

**EXPERIENCING:** The Center will offer opportunities to explore the creative work of local, national and international artists and provide opportunities for meaningful interaction between artists and members of the community. Audience development programs will encourage younger and more diverse participation as well as events designed for families. Cross pollination between the performing and visual arts will enhance the experience. The Center will demonstrate how community-based arts programming can truly be inclusive.

**LEARNING:** The Center will offer education programs which connect learners with artists through creative activity. Educational initiatives will pursue cooperative, innovative, interdisciplinary artistic activity. There will be collaborations with other organizations ranging from Tierra Adentro, to Explora, to UNM. The Center will serve as a model for how community-based arts programs can support school-based programs.

**SUPPORTING:** The Center will support economic development by offering artists, arts industry professionals, and arts businesses affordable space and professional development. The Center will support educational development by providing programs which assist diverse youth populations in realizing the potential of careers in the arts. The Center will support artistic development by inviting local artists and arts organizations to meet, interact, and share their work at the Center. The Center will demonstrate how community-based arts programs can support arts-related small business as well as emerging and existing artists.

## COMMUNITY

The Center will exist within the historic Sawmill District supported by and on land owned by the Sawmill Community Land Trust. The Trust provides housing for low- to moderate-income families and it seeks to empower communities through civic engagement, education, and advocacy. The Center, by its presence, will support these values and, in fact, will include approximately 40 rental housing units. The Center serves as a model for how community-based arts programs and land trusts can collaborate for the benefit of their communities.

In addition, the Center is adjacent to Old Town and several well-established cultural institutions and grass roots arts organizations as well as numerous local businesses. This proximity will encourage collaboration and allow the Center to contribute to the cultural vibrancy and economic health of the broader community.