

NATIONAL HISPANIC CULTURAL CENTER



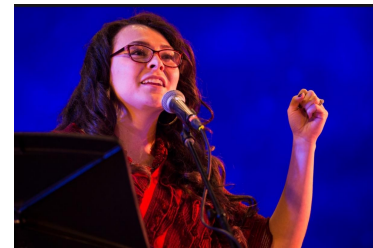
Perspectivas Nuevas: Featuring Olivia Romo

The National Hispanic Cultural Center is gearing up for a special two-day poetry reading and writing workshop in September, featuring Taos poet Olivia Romo!

Before the event kicks off on Sept. 7, Romo spoke with the NHCC about her approach to poetry and her work as a farmer and water rights advocate. Her answers have been edited for length and clarity.

NHCC: How would you describe your work to readers who might be unfamiliar?

Olivia: I identify as a Chicana poet who strives to honor her entire heritage and language, not just what is deemed acceptable by English literature. As a bilingual writer, my body of work reflects the code-switching, borrowing, and sing-song of the Manito dialect and experience.



For me, poetry is a remedio and part of our core values as a land-based community in New Mexico. Primero soy una estudiante de la cultura and from this deep love of home and in protection of our cultural heritage, I am moved to write. Many call me a regional poet and while it is true, I want to emphasize that regardless of your race, somewhere in your ancestral lineage your people were connected to the land and hold stories that are globally relative to our collective experience as human beings.



NHCC: How does your background as a farmer and water rights advocate inform your creative work?

Olivia: Growing up in Northern New Mexico, I never had to go far outside my community to be inspired. The richest stories ever told to me were under the portal with my family shelling corn, planting beans, or making adobes. The richness in the dichos, stories, and wisdom of the land provided me with a limitless number of characters and topics to explore in my writing.

Later in my life, after obtaining my Bachelor's Degree and taking a job at the New Mexico Acequia Association, my advocacy took root. My time working in acequia communities in Taos where I grew up and across the state of New Mexico provided me with insight on the environmental and socio-political impacts on our natural resources and ways of life. As I continue to broaden my scope as a public servant and advocate for our communities, I realize that art and poetry are the strongest tools in moving hearts and changing minds on issues that severely impact our ability to maintain the legacy of our ancestral way of life.

NHCC: What do you hope attendees take away from the Sept. 9 ekphrastic poetry workshop?

Olivia: I will be guiding writers through ekphrastic correspondence with the works of art at the NHCC. Through these experiments in craft, the writer will not only embody a piece of art but will become an accessory to the process in the making. From this, writers will emerge through a new way of seeing themselves and the pieces of

art. We will deconstruct the ideas portrayed within the works that depict Hispanic/Chicano/Latino figures and the roles they play in our identity, places of belonging or segregation to our cultural heritage.

I hope that participants will learn to reimagine their unique histories and personal stories by interpreting works of visual art.



Upcoming Events

Visual Art Museum: First Sunday Free Admission

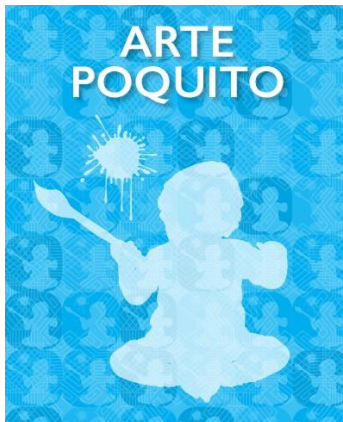
Sept. 3 | 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Visual Art Museum

On the first Sunday of every month, the Visual Arts Museum is free to all New Mexico residents!

Explore the Museum this Sunday and check out the exhibition *Nexo Entre Raíces / Nexus Between Roots* before it closes on September 10.



[Register Here](#)



Arte Poquito

Sept. 5 | 10:00 a.m.
Domenici Education Building

Arte Poquito is a free, monthly, 45-minute program for babies and toddlers ages 0 months to 4 years and their caregivers that cultivates creativity and self-expression through the exploration of Hispanic/Latine arts and culture.

This is a free community event, generously supported by United Way DEI Fund.

[Register Here](#)

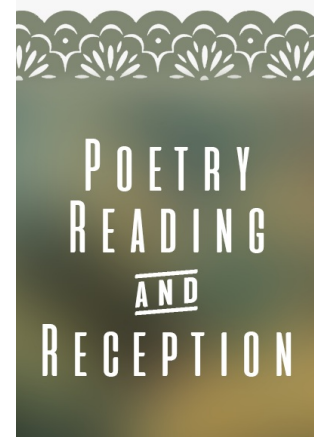
Poetry Reading and Reception with Olivia Romo

Sept. 7 | Salón Ortega
6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

Join us at the Center for a reading and reception featuring New Mexico poet Olivia Romo! Olivia Romo is a farmer, poet, and

water rights activist from Taos. She earned her dual Bachelor's degrees in English and Chicano/a Studies from the University of New Mexico in 2015. Olivia is also a recognized spoken word artist and storyteller.

This is a free community event, generously supported by AARP Albuquerque. Snacks will be included as part of the reception. This event is part of the NHCC's Siempre Creativo program.



[Register Here](#)



Writing Workshop and Reading with Olivia Romo

Sept. 9 | Visual Art Museum

10:00 am – 12:00 pm: Ekphrastic Poetry Workshop
12:30 – 1:30 pm: Community Reading

Please join Olivia Romo for an ekphrastic poetry workshop and community reading that will breathe new life and interpretations into the works of art at the National Hispanic Cultural Center. Through experimental usage of form, this workshop will assist writers in developing their craft.

After the workshop, a community reading will be held to provide a brave space for participants to explore how the visual arts impact them in maintaining and reclaiming New Mexico as home.

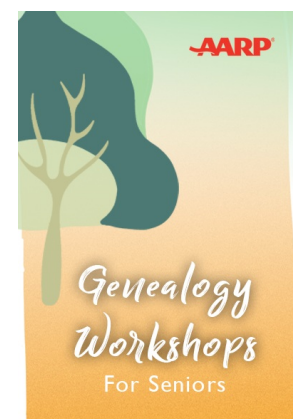
Free Community Event, generously supported by AARP Albuquerque. Boxed lunches will be provided. This event is part of the NHCC's Siempre Creativo program.

[Register Here](#)

Nuestra Herencia: Genealogy Workshop for Seniors

Sept. 14 | 1:30 p.m.
Salón Ortega

Explore your cultural heritage at the NHCC with free genealogy workshop as part of our Nuestra Herencia program! Nuestra Herencia will provide participating seniors with the opportunity to participate in interactive tours of the NHCC Art Museum and Torreón, paired with genealogy workshops and coffee socials.



Genealogy Workshops for Seniors are part of the NHCC's Siempre Creativo program, which provides free multidisciplinary arts program for seniors. No previous genealogy experience required. This is a free community event, generously sponsored by AARP of

[Register Here](#)



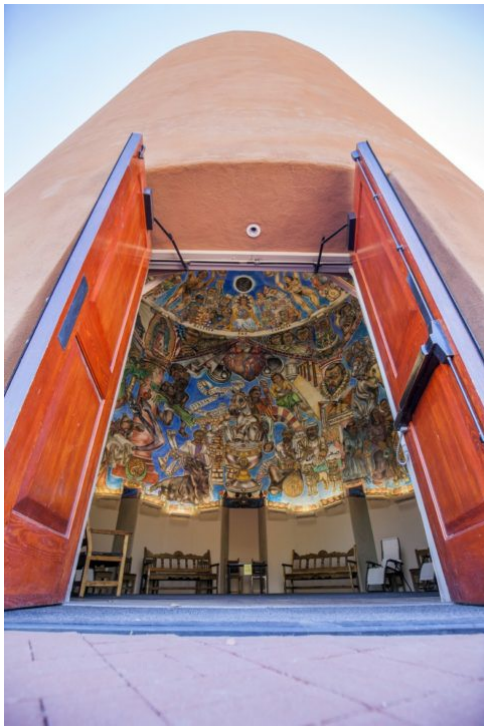
Reposo: A Hispanic Artist Rests for the Entirety of Hispanic Heritage Month

Sept. 15 - Oct. 15 | Tu. - Sun: 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Visual Arts Corridor

In this durational performance, artist Justin Favela will rest for the entirety of Hispanic Heritage Month at the National Hispanic Cultural Center. This performance challenges capitalistic views of labor and human value, the performance of racialized and gendered labor, and examines what it means to be an Hispanic/Latinx/Latine artist working in the art world today.

Favela will be resting at the NHCC in the Visual Arts Building. During this time, the artist is available for casual visits with the public. However, he is unable to participate in interviews during this time because he is resting.

[Learn More](#)



Mundos de Mestizaje: Torreón Tour

The National Hispanic Cultural Center is offering a guided tour of the *Mundos de Mestizaje* fresco by Frederico Vigil twice a week, Thursdays and Fridays at 11 am. Located in the Torreón on the NHCC Campus, *Mundos de Mestizaje* depicts thousands of years of Hispanic culture, history, and identity.

Admission for the tour is \$2 and tickets are available for advance purchase below.

Tickets can also be purchased in the New Mexico Mutual Welcome Center, depending on availability. The capacity for each tour is limited.

[Buy Tickets](#)

[Mark Your Calendar](#)

Opera Southwest: Mariposa Que Vuela: An Evening with Cecilia Violetta López

Sept. 23 | 6:00 p.m.
Visual Art Museum

Opera Southwest & the NHCC present *Mariposa Que Vuela*, a “recital autobiográfico” with soprano Cecilia Violetta López. Weaving together mariachi, ranchera, and opera music, Cecilia tells the story of her family, her early childhood in the farm fields of Idaho, the songs that her mother taught her, and her thrilling career in opera.

Celebrated soprano (and new Albuquerque resident) Cecilia Violetta López has been named one of “Idaho’s Top 10 Most Influential Women of the Century” by USA Today and has been named one of opera’s “25 Rising Stars” by Opera News.

Tickets range from \$22 to \$42. Discounts for patrons 30 years old and younger as well as anyone with a WIC or EBT id. Please call the NHCC Box office at 505-724-4771 for discounted tickets.



[Buy Tickets](#)

Additional support for NHCC exhibitions and programs provided by NM Gas, the AARP Albuquerque, United Way DEI Fund, the Albuquerque Journal, and Heritage Hotels.

