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## Building the Future of Northern New Mexico

### Grant-funded Partnership Converts Casino to Classroom

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**Santa Fe New Mexico:** The Carl & Marilyn Thoma Art Foundation is proud to announce our partnership with Moving Arts Española (MAE) with a new grant supporting the renovation of the former Ohkay Owingeh casino dome to serve the youth and teens of the Española Valley and Northern New Mexico communities.

Moving Arts Española programs have successfully reached more than 5000 low-income students since the organization began in 2008. Many students leave the program, however, in their teen years, a crucial transition time in vulnerable populations. The \$100,000 matching grant from the Thoma Art Foundation will enable Moving Arts Española to build out the unfinished section of the existing campus to create a separate entrance and classroom spaces for teen and young adult programming.

Services offered in the newly designed space will include skills-based arts training, access to behavioral health services, and career-building initiatives with local partners Ohkay Ohwingeh Pueblo Health & Human Services Division, Rio Arriba Empowerment Center, United Way of Northern New Mexico, and Northern New Mexico College. Programs will educate and assist approximately 125 teen students per week from communities throughout Rio Arriba County and Northern New Mexico.

“We feel our communities’ expectations for us to lead in helping our teen population. We want to boldly push ahead and grow in a way that permits us to serve the teens in our region by honoring the strengths of our programming for children while presenting opportunities, paths, and strategies for teens. This grant from the Thoma Foundation will help us to literally build a new program.” –Moving Arts Board President Dr. Steve Cox

Design of the domed former casino building on the Moving Arts campus will be headed by the Santa Fe office of [MASS Design](#) and renovation is estimated for completion in two years, with the first teen participants entering the program in Spring 2023.

To donate matching funds to support crucial youth programming, contact Salvador Ruiz, ED 505-577-6629

*[Moving Arts Española](#) provides high quality, affordable performing and visual arts education and free nutritional and academic support for children and youth ages 3-18. Our programs promote the creative, physical, academic, social and emotional health and well-being of children and youth from the Española Valley and the surrounding communities of Northern New Mexico.*

*[The Carl & Marilyn Thoma Art Foundation](#) recognizes the power of the arts to challenge and shift perceptions, spark creativity, and connect people across cultures. The Foundation supports pivotal initiatives in the arts by exhibiting artwork at their Santa Fe venue, lending artwork to institutions, providing grants to 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations, and awarding individuals*

*whose innovative projects and original ideas will advance scholarship in the arts. The Foundation is based in Santa Fe, New Mexico, and Chicago, Illinois.*



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