



Town of Taos
PRESS RELEASE

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TEMPORARY ONTACT: Councilmember Judi Cantu, jcantu@taosgov.com, (575) 779-9804; Website coming soon: www.taoscesarchavezday.com

For Immediate Release:

Press Release - Taos Hosts Cultural Educational Tourism Incentive & Revitalization Intervention Panels in Recognition of Cesar Chavez

June 22, 2015, Taos, New Mexico - Forty-five years after the signing of the first United Farmworker's Union Contract, the Town of Taos will be commemorating the work of Cesar Chavez and others—while looking forward to the future of agriculture and culture preservation— with the first-of-its-kind Cultural Educational Tourism Incentive and Revitalization Intervention Panels. The panel and two-day conference will take place August 1st and 2nd to shed light on historical perspectives in current issues of self-subsistence through agricultural and cultural preservation.

Panel themes will include: Acequias – Struggles of acequias past & present (Water is the new gold!); Jardines – Bringing back a return to agriculture to revive a way of life; Journalists – To talk about and bring about awareness of how issues become brought into the forefront; Environmental Justice – Addressing health & safety Issues of farming; Culture as Tradition – Historical perspective; La Cultura – Preserving a way of life (Money is not God); Teatro (Play) – To address educational system; Chicano Poetry – Addressing issues creatively; Music of Moveimento – The power of song; and Film – Entertainment as teacher & inspirational artistic endeavors.

“This event will be a powerful commentary on how the history of our area shapes the present landscape and economic possibilities, uses of the land, and social issues,” said Judi Cantu, Taos Councilwoman and co-creator of the event. “It’s a must-attend event for all involved in any capacity with the farming industry and the cultural preservation of the unique cultures that have made Taos and other rural areas in the country so great.”

Councilor Cantu gives credit for the academic design of the event to the President of the Community Ad Hoc Cultural Committee; Arsenio Cordova and contributions from his family members, and includes committee members as an important impetus for this weekend.

Presenters and panelists will include notable guests, such as Michelle Roberts, Co-coordinator for Environmental Justice & Health Alliance for Chemical Policy Reform out of Washington, DC; Enriquetia Vasquez (Author, Journalist, & Publisher) who has published El Grito del Norte; Bill Whaley (Author, Renown Journalist) who authors and publishes on-line Taos Friction and wrote the book Gringo Lessons; Liddie Martinez, Director of Community & Economic Development for SOC Los Alamos and President of Los Alamos National Laboratory Major Sub-contractor's Consortium; Arsenio Cordova, MA (Author, Actor, Composer, Musician, Cultural Preservation Activist) whose expertise is in Southwest Studies & Political Science; Dr. Kathryn Cordova (Historian, Author, Community Activist) whose books include Children of the Pajarito Plateau, Concha: Concha Ortiz y Pino, Matriarch of a 300-Year- Old New Mexico Legacy, and Faces I Have Known; Dr. Tess Cordova Professor of American, Cultural & Chicano Studies at UNM; Juanita Dominguez (Author, Composer, Actress, Translator) who has translated Corky Gonzales's Poem, "I am Joaquin"; Diana Sandoval, Guadalupe Credit Union, CCUFC, who provides credit counseling for farm workers; Paul Martinez (Perspectives of Land Grant Struggles & Issues) Sangre de Cristo Land Grant; Dr. Cesar Gomez & Dr. Marisol Ruiz, Professors of Chicano Studies of UCLA at Arcadia; Dr. Sophia Martinez & Richard Moore of Los Jardines Institute; Jaelyn de Maria who specializes in Agricultural Photography; Rudy Gonzales (Son of Corky Gonzales) Servicios de la Raza, Escuela Tlalolco.

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TOWN OF TAOS GOVERNING BODY

Mayor Daniel R. Barrone
Mayor Pro Tem George "Fritz" Hahn
Councilmember Judith Y. Cantu
Councilmember Andrew T. Gonzales
Councilmember Frederick A. Peralta

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Town Hall Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
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