

Arts and Culture

CTA BOARD MEETING PRESENTATION

November 9, 2026 | Eric Brooks

October 2026

- CODAsummit 2026 Recap
- Mark Twain Days
- National Mural Awards
- The Charles W. Friend “East Side” Historical Tour



CODAsummit 2026 - Art, Technology, & Place

Hosted by the New Mexico Department of Cultural Affairs and New Mexico Arts, CODAsummit is the premier gathering for the public art industry, focusing on the intersection of art, technology, and placemaking. It's designed to connect commissioners with leading artists, showcase innovative commissioning models, and foster collaborations between artists, fabricators, engineers, and technology partners.



- Barber Tober Opening Keynote with Virgil Ortiz
- Here, There, and Everywhere: Transforming Spaces with Public Art (a focus on places of healing and inspiration)
- Creative Revolutionaries: Big Art Loop (SF, CA)
- Tour VLADEM Contemporary Museum
- Unfinished by Design: Waterfront Toronto/Rafael Lozano-Hemmer



Museum of International Folk Art

As one of the few museums in the United States dedicated to folk art from around the world, the Museum of International Folk Art expands the understanding of folk art and encourages dialogue about traditions, cultural identity, community, and aesthetics. Our collection of over 160,000 pieces and programming, provide important connections between past, present, and future folk art and related traditions.

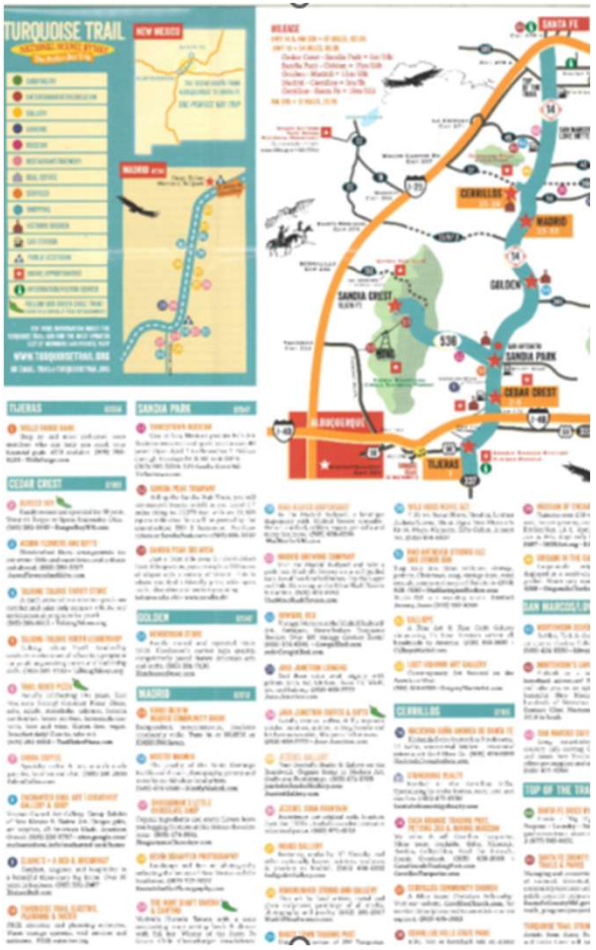
Museum of Indian Arts & Culture

The Museum of Indian Arts and Culture, one of four museums of the Museum of New Mexico system in Santa Fe, is a premier repository of Native art and material culture and tells the stories of the people of the Southwest from pre-history through contemporary art.

The Turquoise Trail National Scenic Byway

The Scenic and Historic Area encompasses 15,000 square miles in the heart of central New Mexico, linking Albuquerque and Santa Fe. The drive is approximately 50 miles along Highway 14. Enjoy a breathtaking view from atop Sandia Crest, then drive back into history through the mining towns of Golden, Madrid, and Cerrillos, now coming alive with art, crafts, theater, music, museums and restaurants. This was an inspiration of how the Dust & Wonder Trail could mature as.


TURQUOISE TRAIL
NATIONAL SCENIC BYWAY
The Perfect Day Trip
SANTA FE
MADRID
CERRILLOS
GOLDEN
SANDIA CREST
SANDIA PARK
CEDAR CREST
ALBUQUERQUE
TIJERAS
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TURQUOISE TRAIL
NEW MEXICO
SANTA FE
CERRILLOS
MADRID
GOLDEN
SANDIA CREST
SANDIA PARK
CEDAR CREST
ALBUQUERQUE
TIJERAS

Mark Twain Days Literary Festival - Highlights

- **Opening Night Poetry** - Kick off the Mark Twain Days Literary Festival with Spoken Views Collective and Poet Laureate Emeritus Jesse James Ziegler (Tuesday) – **28 Attendees**

- **Picon Punch Off** - An evening of tasting the best Picon punches around along with a Basque buffet, and authentic music. (Wednesday)
- **64 Attendees (sold out)**

- **Bradford McMullen NV State Folklorist & Kit Carson Trail Walking Tour** – A seminar on "Roughing It" followed with a guided tour with Dan Neverett (Thursday) **58 Participants**

- **Vendor Fair, Live Music & Poetry at McFadden Plaza** - (Saturday)
- **750-800 Participants**







National Mural Awards – Mural Friendly City

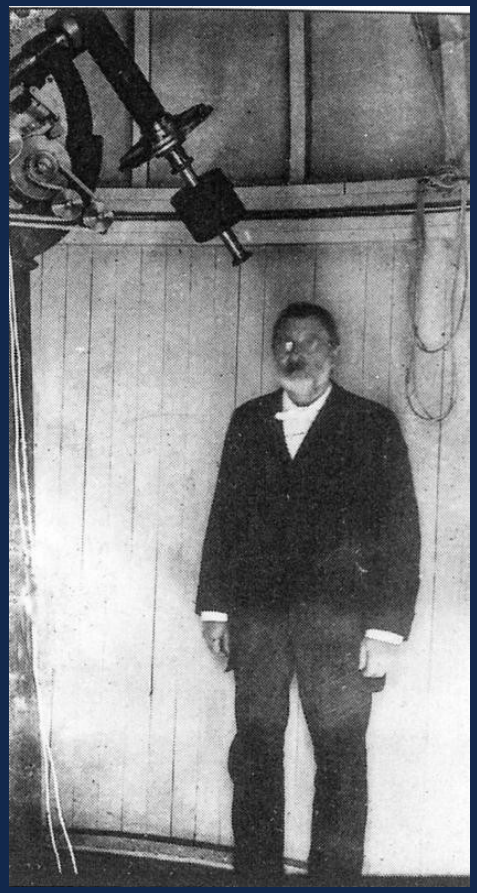
- Mural Friendly Cities is an annual recognition program designed to raise awareness of the value of public art, set foundational standards for communities of all sizes, and celebrate communities that understand the importance murals play in story telling and community building.

- The mission of the National Mural Awards is to celebrate the community-building power of murals as well as the overwhelming talent of the artists who create them. The 2027 National Mural Awards will be presented in conjunction with the Jacksonville Mural Festival on Saturday, May 8 in Jacksonville, Florida.

National Mural Awards



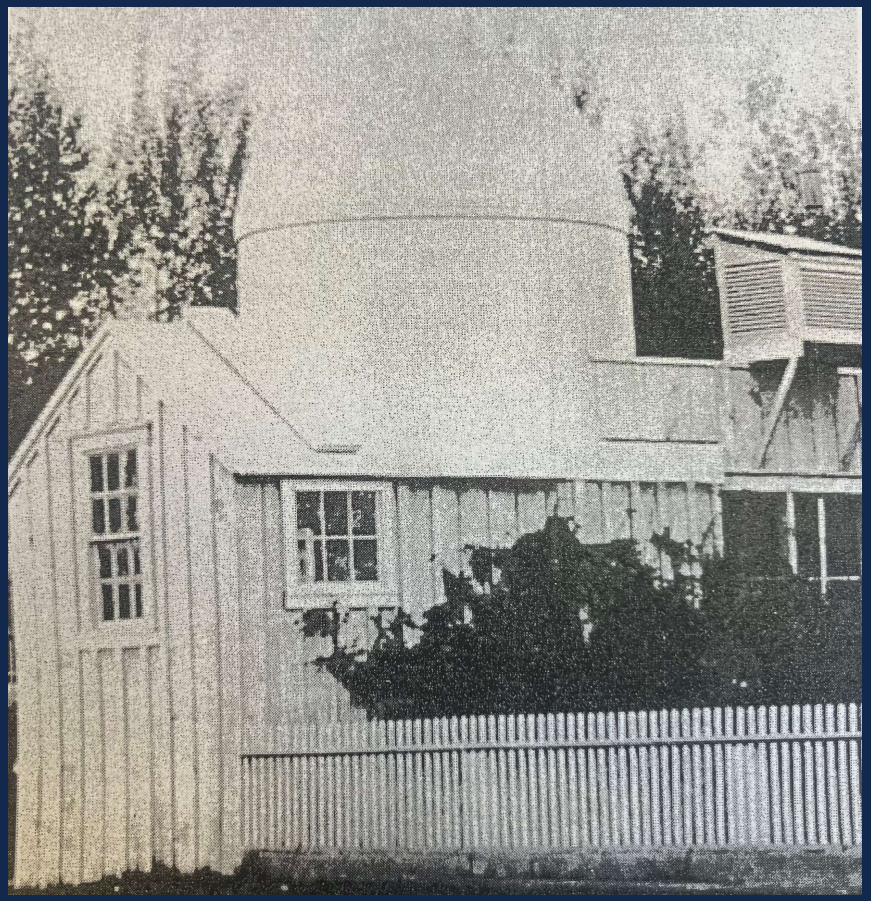
The Charles W. Friend "East Side" Tour



Developed by the Carson City Preservation Coalition in 1999, the Charles W. Friend Trail explores 26 historical homes on Carson's East Side.

Charles William Friend (1835–1907) was a Prussian-born jeweler, astronomer, and pioneer weatherman who founded Nevada's first observatory and served as the first director of the Nevada State Weather Service.

Friend built Nevada's first observatory in 1875–1876 at his Carson City home, equipped with a six-inch refracting telescope and standard weather instruments such as precipitation gauges, thermometers, barometers, and an anemometer.



From 1880 onward, he took three daily weather observations (7 a.m., 2 p.m., and 9 p.m.) and compiled them into a climatological record, sending data to the U.S. Army's Signal Service in Washington, D.C.

He created volunteer weather stations across the state and produced reports still referenced today . His work was recognized by the Association of Weather Services as pioneering for the West of the Rockies.

Friend lived in Carson City for over 40 years, died here on January 10, 1907, and is buried in Lone Mountain Cemetery . His home and observatory site are marked as State Historic Marker 258, 100 N. Stewart St.
(Marker placed in 1999)

CCCTA staff will be studying a possible revival of the trail in FY28.

THANK YOU

