



State of New Mexico

Office of the Governor

Bill Richardson
Governor

Governor Richardson Announces \$500,000 in Funding for New Mexico Filmmakers

*Gregory Nava and Barbara Martinez-Jitner will spearhead the New
Mexico Hispanic/Native American Filmmakers Program*

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SANTA FE - Governor Bill Richardson today announced that the state is expanding the New Mexico Filmmakers Program, which specifically supports and nurtures both emerging and established filmmakers in our state. The expansion will be funded with \$500,000 from the media fund.

"I am very proud of the progress we have made on film," stated Governor Bill Richardson. "Not only are we drawing business to our state, but we are promoting our homegrown talent as well. This \$500,000 will go to new initiatives that will specifically benefit our local filmmakers."

This funding will go to a number of new initiatives that the New Mexico Film Office will be implementing this year including a grant program, an annual conference, an expanded film resource center, and a program for Hispanic and Native American filmmakers to be spearheaded by New Mexico residents Director/Writer/Producer Barbara Martinez-Jitner ("Bordertown," "American Family") and Director/Writer/Producing partner Gregory Nava ("Bordertown," "El Norte," "Mi Familia," "Selena," and "American Family").

This program will give Hispanic and Native American filmmakers a special opportunity to work with nationally-recognized professionals in their field.

“Finding new ways to assist our New Mexico film community is a top priority,” stated Lisa Strout, New Mexico Film Office Director. “This funding will allow us to expand on the programs we currently offer and help promote the work of our local filmmakers.”

“Building our own New Mexico-originated production base has always been part of our larger strategy to expand film and television production,” said Eric Witt, the Governor’s Director of Media Arts and Industries. “It’s fundamental to long term success in growing this industry. Plus, New Mexicans tell great stories. And that’s what it’s all about.”

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