

## **Personnel**

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### **Ronald Usherwood, ACD Steering Committee Chairperson**

Mr. Usherwood has been the Executive Director of The Taos Center for the Arts for four years. In the prior four years he was the Technical Director of the Taos Community Auditorium. Ron holds a Master's Degree in Directing Theatre Theory and Criticism from Illinois State University and a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Directing for the Theatre from Illinois Wesleyan University. His directing credits include over 50 shows directed in Taos, the Quad Cities in the Midwest, and Chicago. He is an accomplished actor, scene, sound and lighting designer, and has produced dozens of productions. Ron was an Adjunct Professor of Theatre at Black Hawk College in Moline, Illinois and Scott Community College in Bettendorf, Iowa. His professional associations include Taos Arts & Cultural District Steering Committee, and Founder, President and Artistic Director of Working Class Theatre.

### **Cynthia Spray, Taos ACD Coordinator**

Cynthia Spray has been the ACD coordinator since the ACD was first designated by the State of New Mexico, in August 2009. Since that time, Ms. Spray has organized and completed dozens of events and activities within the ACD; always engaging the community. As a long-time business owner in Taos Downtown Historic District, she further directs of the bi-weekly meetings of The Taos Project, a merchant's association of downtown business owners who advocate for local business development, downtown revitalization, and historic preservation. Ms. Spray is also serving in her second year as the Chair of the Town of Taos Historic Preservation Commission.

### **Matthew Foster, Town of Taos Long Range Planner & ACD Steering Committee Member**

Mr. Foster has been a planner in the public and private sectors for seventeen years. In addition to serving on the Board of Directors of Sustain Taos, the Mariposa Food Co-op, and the Taos Cycle Club, he represents the Town Taos on the ACD Steering Committee. Some of his current projects include an inventory of greenhouse gas emissions, an architectural inventory of historic buildings, and updates to the affordable housing, infrastructure, and land use elements of the Town's comprehensive plan. He has a Bachelor's degree in economics and a Master's degree in community and regional planning.

### **Matthew Spriggs, Taos ACD Steering Committee Member**

In addition to serving on the board of directors for numerous community non-profits, including the local Community Housing Development Organization, Mr. Spriggs has over 15 years of public sector experience as a planner and economic developer. Matt holds Certified Economic Developer (CEcD) certification with the International Economic Development Council, is certified as an Economic Development Finance Professional by the National Development Council, and is a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners with the American Planning Association. Matt founded a small consulting business in 2011 specializing in planning, community development, mediation, and training.

### **Susan Longhenry, Taos ACD Steering Committee Member**

Susan Longhenry became the Director of the Harwood Museum of Art in 2009. Since then she has begun to transform the 85-year old institution into a 21-century destination. One of her first tasks as the Director was to oversee construction of a \$6 million, 10,000 square-foot expansion that will add collection storage facilities, gallery space and a 135-seat auditorium. She and her staff also embarked on a strategic plan that will assess the collection, sharpen programming and exhibitions, and bring the museum's audience more clearly into view. The museum has also seen advances in electronic marketing and social networking updates with Longhenry's arrival including a newly overhauled web site and a monthly e-newsletter, a presence on Facebook and YouTube, and some deep drilling down into data on museum visits. For the past 20 years Susan Longhenry has been at the forefront of museum administration serving at several of the nation's most prestigious art museums including Indianapolis Museum of Art, Georgia Museum of Art, Art Institute of Chicago, and the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston.

### **Miranda Quintana, Town of Taos Grants Administrator**

Ms. Miranda Quintana has considerable experience in grants administration and contract management. She will be responsible for processing reimbursement requests, reviewing the grant agreements, and keeping track of the Town's in-kind contributions. She is currently managing over \$10 million in state and federal grants.

### **Planning Consultant**

The Town and the ACD Steering Physical Planning Sub-Committee will issue a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) to solicit the most qualified consultant team. The consultants must have at least 5 years of direct experience in preparing similar plans in comparable communities. The qualifications must also demonstrate the firm's intimate experience with creative public education and outreach activities. The RFQ will emphasize the importance in rural community development and planning, master planning for historic communities and districts, parking management and transportation planning, civil engineering (storm drainage and utilities), historic preservation, urban design, way-finding, and public art. Knowledge of local culture and economy will also be a criterion for the selection of the consultant. The consultant will deliver maps, illustrations, and narrative which describe the existing conditions and future needs related to the built environment in downtown Taos. The Downtown Master Plan will outline the goals, policies, and objectives for improving the downtown.