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NEWS / COMMUNITY

Community Foundation grants fund many local projects

Las Vegas Optic reports

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Camera Operator Jamie Garcia signals to hosts Rose Contreras-Taylor and Martín Leger during the 2021 Chile Challenge broadcast on YouTube broadcast from the Historic Plaza Hotel. The Chile Challenge fundraising

The Las Vegas New Mexico Community Foundation has prepared grant award checks to 13 nonprofit organizations for community projects in Mora and San Miguel counties, according to Foundation board chair Elmo Baca.

The Foundation's November online Chile Challenge fundraising program was the source of money for the \$62,240 in competitive grants awarded. The amount represented a 55 percent increase over last year's grants.

This year's Chile Challenge started with \$30,000 in challenge donations from Doyle and Pamela Daves, Leveo and Patricia Sanchez

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Photo courtesy of Las Vegas Community Foundation

and another generous donor. In addition to donations for competitive grants, the Foundation also received generous donor

directed gifts for particular area nonprofits.

Competitive grants this year were in the areas of arts and culture, education, community development, and health and wellness. This year's grantees are

Arts and Culture

- Big Brothers Big Sisters Mountain Region, \$4,800 for mentorship activities serving 24 participants
- Las Vegas City Schools, \$5,000 to produce traditional and cultural art projects, to learn traditional dances and to preserve local culture through storytelling.
- MainStreet de Las Vegas, \$4,000 for a citywide Vistas de Las Vegas mural project
- Mora Creative Council (Mora), \$5,000 for a beautification mural at Hatcha's Cafe
- Nat Gold Players, \$5,000 for community theater building improvements

Education

- Divergent Labs, Inc. (Mora), \$3,940 to fund workshops for disabled teens

- Las Vegas Arts Council, \$5,000 for a series of youth art workshops
- Luna Community College Foundation, \$5,000 for a student food pantry
- Upper Pecos Watershed Association (Pecos), \$5,000 to develop a Water Warriors high school curriculum

Community

Development

- Las Vegas First Community Service Foundation,\$4,800 to expand business opportunities through promotions
- Visiones Collaborativas (Mora), \$5,000 for the Mora Empowerment Project
- Samaritan House, \$5,000 for skills training and support services for reintegration

Health and Wellness

- Friends of Montezuma Hot Springs (Montezuma), \$5,000 to build boardwalk access to the hot springs
- Designated gifts were \$23,000 to the Hermit's Peak Watershed Alliance and \$4,000 to the Saint Vrain Mill Preservation and Historical Foundation.

In addition, The Pendaries Village Community Association is in the process of donating a lot to be auctioned off in the spring as part of the Foundations

endowment fundraising effort. Anyone interested in being part of the spring auction can sign up to receive more information by emailing info@lvnmcf.org.

According to Baca, this is the fourth annual round of grants and brings the total in competitive and designated grants awarded to nearly \$230,000. This year all grant applications were approved for their requested amounts, up to \$5,000 each.

This year's Chile Challenge program featured Adelita Lujan, the last member of her family to run Estella's Café in Las Vegas, preparing traditional Northern New Mexico dishes; local singers Karlitz DeMarco and Jordan Jones. Also featured were video segments showing the 2020 grant-winning projects in San Miguel and Mora Counties. The hosts for the program were Martín Leger, board chair of the Friends of the Montezuma Hot Springs, and Foundation board member Rose Contreras-Taylor. Program sponsors were Southwest Capital Bank, Dick's Restaurant and Pub, the Historic Plaza Hotel, and the Pendaries Village Community Foundation.

The program is available for viewing on Youtube.com, by searching for "Las Vegas New Mexico Community Foundation."

The Las Vegas New Mexico Community Foundation a 501c3 non-profit organization founded in 2017 to create and support an environment of philanthropic giving. LVNMCF works in partnership with the Santa Fe Community Foundation (SFCF) as an affiliate fund of SFCF, ensuring the highest fiscal and programmatic integrity to its work.

Donations to the Las Vegas New Mexico Community Foundation may be made online at lvnmcf.com or mailed to the Foundation at P.O. Box 1002, Las Vegas, NM 87701.