

Village of Los Lunas Museum of Heritage & Arts

Winter 2026



Small Community. Big Possibilities

HOURS: TUES-SAT 10AM-5PM

(505) 352-7720

251 MAIN ST. SE

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- *Vida, Cultura y Familia* annual art show through January 31, 2026.
- Route 66 Speaker Series: at the Fred Luna Generational Center.
- Michael Bletzer will speak about Pottery Mound on Jan. 24 @ 2PM at the Los Lunas Museum.
- Belen Art League show at the Los Lunas Museum: Feb. 7 - March 14.
- Casa San Ysidro & El Pinto Van Tour: March 7, 2026.
- Annual Student Art show from March 21 - May 9.

Follow us on Facebook and at our website

www.LosLunasNM.gov/museum

MUSEUM STAFF:

Cynthia Shetter
Library & Museum Director

Andrea Chavez
Asst. Library & Museum Director

Louis Huning Jr.
Museum Manager

Owen Baca
Monica Kemsley
Martha Jaramillo
Museum Technicians



On December 6, 2025, the winners of the 13th Annual Art Show were announced. There are 18 artists with 45 pieces on display. Jordan Ortega Aguilar won Best of Show for his piece titled "El Descanso de San Pascual," which is seen above, using the technique of straw appliqué. In recognition of his accomplishment, Jordan will have a solo show in 2026 at the Los Lunas Museum of Heritage & Arts to showcase his work.

First Place was Monica Kemsley with a "Wonder to Behold." Second Place was by John Rosborough for "Wood Model of 315 Steam Engine and Track." Third Place was by Patrick Lueras with "Feathers." There were also two Honorable Mentions respectively done by Kenneth Provine for "Atsá." and Sallie Idoine with "Siblings." These and other works will be featured until January 31, 2026. Please come and see what all of these wonderful artists have created.

Route 66: Our Roots on the Route - Annual Student Art Show

Students from Valencia County will showcase various art pieces from March 21 to May 9. The theme is "Route 66: Our Roots on the Route" to commemorate the 100th anniversary of historic Route 66 that ran through Los Lunas pre-1937. If you know of students who are interested in displaying their work, please submit an entry form with up to 3 pieces. We are looking forward to showcasing student artwork and creativity! Entry forms can be found on our website at www.LosLunasNM.gov/museum or in person at the museum. Prizes will be awarded for Elementary, Middle and High School categories.





Route 66 Centennial Speaker Series: Every month in 2026 **(Except December) at the Fred Luna Multigenerational Center!**

Roland Penttila: Little Beaver Town

January 24, 2026: 11 AM to 12:30 PM, speaker Roland Penttila will present the story of Little Beaver Town. In the 1960s, Albuquerque had a theme park showing the West's history with cowboys, old west towns and Native Americans. The owners collaborated with Fred Harmon who created the comic characters of Red Ryder and Little Beaver. They called it Little Beaver Town, and it was to be a Route 66 main attraction. But that was not to be!



Aimee Tang: Chinese Merchants of Albuquerque's Route 66

February 28, 2026: 11 AM to 12:30 PM, As routes connected already well-traveled roads from Chicago to Los Angeles via the American Southwest, Chinese merchants on Central Avenue in Albuquerque proved ready to be a welcoming destination along the "Mother Road." This presentation will feature Fremont's Fine Foods, a grocery store in the heart of Albuquerque established by Chinese immigrants in the early 1900s.

David Montoya: Land & Acequias along Los Ranchos' Route 66

March 28, 2026: 11 AM to 12:30 PM, David Montoya inherited his grandfather's love and respect for the land. He will share stories about early Los Ranchos history along Route 66, including floods, agriculture, acequias and adventure with his grandfather who helped raise him. He recalls visiting nearby pueblos when he was young and remembered his grandfather spoke Tewa and told him he was proud his family had "Indian blood."



Historical Highlight



Simon Neustadt (right) pictured here with young Joe Tondre Jr. c.1925

Simon Neustadt

1858-1928

Born in Westphalia, Prussia in 1858, Simon Neustadt immigrated to the United States in 1879, first settling in Santa Fe, NM. After a brief move to El Paso, TX, Neustadt returned to New Mexico and settled in Los Lunas where he opened a general merchandising store in 1890. Neustadt was involved in politics in the area and served as Postmaster from 1896 until 1914. His store would continue on even after his death in 1928, and Simon Neustadt's was a staple of Valencia County for many more decades.





Valencia County Historical Society Events

January 24, 2024: 2:00 PM at Los Lunas Museum - Michael Bletzer will speak about the historic Pottery Mound site. Pottery Mound (LA 416) was a late prehistoric village on the bank of the Rio Puerco, west of Los Lunas, New Mexico. It was an adobe pueblo most likely occupied between 1350 and 1500. The site is best known for its 17 kivas, which yielded a large number of murals (Wikipedia).



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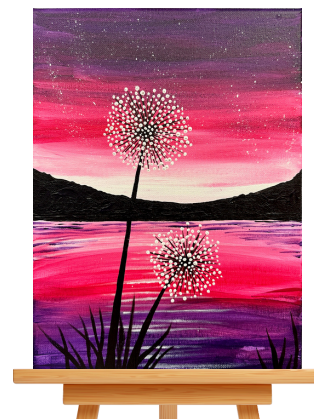
Belen Art League Show at The Los Lunas Museum February 7 - March 14

We're pleased to host the Belen Art League for another great exhibit featuring local talent. Members will present art in a wide variety of mediums. The show will run February 7 - March 14. The opening reception and meet and greet with artists will be Saturday, February 7 from 2 - 4PM. Refreshments will be provided.

FREE! Spring Paint Party - March 14 & 28

Join us on Saturday, March 14 or 28 for a Spring paint party! We'll all be painting the same twilight dandelion scene. No artistic experience is required - you will be guided through the process to create a small masterpiece that you can take home with you.

- Saturday, March 14 & 28 from 2 PM - 4 PM
- Attendance is limited to adults and youth 14+
- Limit 4 per reservation, limited to one date. Call the Museum at (505) 352-7720.
- This event is free, but space is limited, so reservations are required.
- All supplies provided
- Lemonade and iced tea will be served



Casa San Ysidro & El Pinto Van Tour Saturday, March 7 - 9:15 AM - 2:00 PM

Join us for a van trip to tour Casa San Ysidro in Corrales followed by lunch at the beautiful El Pinto Restaurant & Cantina. Cost is \$5 which includes transportation and tour of Casa San Ysidro. Participants are responsible for their own meal purchase from El Pinto. Call us at (505) 352-7720 to reserve your spot by February 28! Space is limited.



Schedule:

- 9:15 AM - Arrive at Los Lunas Museum and load vans
- 9:30 - 10:15 AM - Drive to Casa San Ysidro
- 10:30 - 11:45 AM - Docent Tour at Casa San Ysidro
- 12:00 - 12:15 PM - Drive to El Pinto Restaurant & Cantina
- 12:15 - 1:15 PM - Lunch at El Pinto
- 1:15 - 2:00 PM - Load vans and drive back to Los Lunas

Casa San Ysidro is a single-story historic home and out buildings with uneven surfaces which may prove challenging for some visitors. To view El Pinto's menu, please visit their website at elpinto.com. Times are estimates, we may arrive back at Los Lunas Museum as late at 3:00 PM.



VISIT OUR GIFT SHOP!

The Friends of the Los Lunas Library & Museum Gift Shop offers a wide selection of jewelry, handbags, books, and gifts. Come in today and see the new items we have! Your purchase supports our Museum and Library.



Museum of Heritage & Arts
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