

Dear Colleagues and Friends:

As Conference Co-Chairs, it is our pleasure to welcome you to Albuquerque, New Mexico for the 2019 joint conference of MPMA and the New Mexico Association of Museums: *Community and Empathy: Reaching Out to Serve*, September 22 – 25, 2019. This will be an exciting conference that will bring together differing points of views from various cultures that create a whole. To do this, the conference vision of “*Can museums offer a space that encourages us to consider other points of view, appreciate differing cultural values, and foster a love of learning? If so, how do institutions add value to the discussion while remaining true to mission?*” will be the catalyst that will lead to the exploration of how to empathize with those who are different from us. What better place to have these discussions than in Albuquerque, which is a blend of Native American, Spanish, Mexican, and Anglo cultures that have mixed for over two centuries.

This city is a vibrant blend of museums and archaeological sites. The sights and smells of an historic old plaza with varied restaurants and shops will take you back to old Nuevo Mexico. Archaeological sites such as Petroglyph National Monument and Coronado State Monument (the site of Kuaua pueblo where in 1540 Coronado spent his first winter in the Rio Grande Valley) coupled with the living Pueblos of Acoma, Sandia, and Isleta will show you the richness of the people who made this area home centuries before the Spaniards came. Seven museums will tantalize you with stories from the natural sciences to the nuclear age.

New Mexico is known as the Land of Enchantment and Albuquerque is considered the gateway to that land. The stories of the Pueblo peoples and those that came after them with their customs from Spain, Mexico, and the Anglo world speak to the blending of those cultures that extend far beyond stereotypes. The sessions offered at this conference will teach us how our museums and cultural institutions can offer a path for understanding other points of view and differing cultural values and perspectives that are not threatening but rather conducive to a sense of community.

We look forward to seeing all of you.

The 2019 Conference Co-Chairs:



Jim Walther, Museum Director  
National Museum of Nuclear Science & History



Sue Taylor, Chief Curator  
New Mexico Museum of Space History