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Robert Palacios

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ROBERT PALACIOS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Robert Palacios is the Executive Director for the New Mexico Advocates for the Arts, which oversees the Las Cruces International Mariachi Conference (LCIMC), Camerata Del Sol chamber orchestra and Las Cruces Youth Orchestras and Choirs.

Robert is a Las Cruces native, Veteran of the New Mexico Army National Guard, and active community member. He graduated from Mayfield High School in 2008. After high school, he was accepted to the Conservatory of Recording Arts and Sciences in Tempe, AZ where he completed the Master Recording Program. Robert moved back to Las Cruces where he pursued a degree in Music Business at New Mexico State University. In 2016 he participated and graduated from Leadership Las Cruces.

Robert has a strong passion for radio and music which shows through his past work at Bravo Mic Communications, KRUX 91.5FM, KRWG Public Media and the Las Cruces Mariachi Conservatory. For the past 3 years he has been working hard to breathe new life in to a long-served tradition in our community, the Las Cruces International Mariachi Conference.

He has been active in the Las Cruces Community as a former member of the Conquistadores with the Greater Las Cruces Chamber of Commerce and active member of Los Amigos with the Las Cruces Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. Robert is a former Big with the Big Brothers Big Sisters, served on the 2018 March of Dimes March for Babies Executive Leadership Team, voluntarily serves as the Executive Director for the New Mexico Advocates for the Arts and is on the Governing Council for La Academia Dolores Huerta, a bilingual charter middle school.

Robert is very passionate about his heritage, cultural arts and education and the youth in our community. In his free time, Robert enjoys off-roading in his '76 CJ5 Jeep, hanging out with his dogs Jax and Gunner and playing Mariachi music across the community.



MARCUS H. ROYO PRESIDENT

Marcus H. Royo is the President of the Board of Directors for the New Mexico Advocates for the Arts, which oversees the Las Cruces International Mariachi Conference (LCIMC), Camerata Del Sol chamber orchestra and Las Cruces Youth Orchestras and Choirs.

Marcus is a native of Las Cruces, and a graduate of NMSU with degrees in Communication Studies and Journalism and Mass Communications. He previously worked in media relations with the NMSU Aggie Sports Information Office, as well as the Las Cruces Convention and Visitors Bureau (Visit Las Cruces), before becoming the Underwriting Marketing Coordinator at KRWG Public Media. Marcus is currently the Director of Resource Development at the Good Samaritan Society - Las Cruces Village.

A lifelong musician, Marcus has played the trumpet since the age of 10 and loved mariachi music from a young age. He first started playing mariachi in 1995, shortly before attending the 2nd annual LCIMC, and has participated in some way with the LCIMC ever since.

Marcus lives in Las Cruces with his wife Karina, daughter Kalyea, and two dogs. He enjoys taking photos as the owner of Desert Song Photography, as well as playing mariachi music. Art and music have always played an integral part of his life, and he hopes they always will!



MIGUEL DURAN VICE PRESIDENT

Miguel Duran is the Vice President on the Board of Directors for the New Mexico Advocates for the Arts, which oversees the Las Cruces International Mariachi Conference (LCIMC), Camerata Del Sol chamber orchestra and Las Cruces Youth Orchestras and Choirs.

Miguel Duran currently serves as a General Manager for TownePlace Suites by Marriott Albuquerque Airport, owned and operated by Total Management Systems. Based out of Albuquerque, New Mexico, Miguel is a native of California's San Joaquin Valley. Miguel's commitment to promoting customer satisfaction through team member engagement and exceptional guest relations has created a successful track record of exceeding goals, enhancing revenue, and creating loyalty.

With nearly 20 years of experience in the hospitality industry, Miguel also is a Global Accounts Manager at HelmsBriscoe, specializing in Meetings Procurement and Hotel Site Selection. His hospitality journey includes multiple years served as a Director of Sales, General Manager, and Area Manager for hotel chains such as Hampton Inn & Suites by Hilton and Holiday Inn Express, Hilton Garden Inn, TownePlace Suites by Marriott, and Hotel Encanto de Las Cruces, Southern New Mexico's Premier Resort Hotel. Miguel has also had the opportunity to work with multiple production companies, including Kiki Tree Pictures (The Mule), T-Group Productions (A&E's Ozzy & Jack's World Detour), BuzzFeed (La Llorona), Borderscene Film Festival, and Film Las Cruces.

As a firm believer in community outreach and support, Miguel previously served the Las Cruces Hispanic Chamber of Commerce "Los Amigos" as a goodwill ambassador, promoting Las Cruces and Doña Ana County as an outstanding city in which to work, live and play. He also served on the First Impressions team at Abundant Church in El Past, Texas.

Miguel is delighted for the opportunity to continue serving the community along with the Board of Directors for the New Mexico Advocates for the Arts.



Felipe Salcido is the Treasurer for the New Mexico Advocates for the Arts, which oversees the Las Cruces International Mariachi Conference (LCIMC), Camerata Del Sol chamber orchestra and Las Cruces Youth Orchestras and Choirs.

Felipe has served New Mexico State University as a senior auditor for eight years. His previous experience includes working with the Catholic Diocese of Las Cruces as Director of Financial Services.

Prior to that employment, he worked in public accounting for Ernst & Whinney primarily performing financial audits for non-for-profits entities, state and local governments and universities. He is a graduate of New Mexico State University, where he earned a Bachelor of Accountancy.

Felipe is a member of the New Mexico Society of Certified Public Accountants, Association of College & University Auditors and the Institute of Internal Auditors. Felipe is treasurer of the New Mexico Advocates for the Arts and has been associated with the Las Cruces Mariachi Conference since its inception.

FELIPE SALCIDO TREASURER



SYLVY GALVAN DE LUCERO SECRETARY

Sylvy Galvan de Lucero is the Secretary on the Board of Directors of the New Mexico Advocates for the Arts, which oversees the Las Cruces International Mariachi Conference (LCIMC), Camerata Del Sol chamber orchestra and Las Cruces Youth Orchestras and Choirs.

At an early age, Sylvy Galvan de Lucero, began studying Folklórico under the direction of Jose Tena, the Director of Ballet Folklórico Tierra del Encanto, and was a member of BFTdeLE for over 14 years. She later went on to become the founder of Ballet Folklórico Estampa Cultural as a component of the Fine Arts program at the Court Youth Center.

Sylvy went on to become a member of the Viva! El Paso cast as a dancer and actor inspiring her to pursue her education in the arts. She went on to receive her degree in Performing Arts and Curriculum and Instruction which afforded her the opportunity to become part of the Onate High School Ballet Folklórico & Dance program where her experience with not only Folklórico, but also, jazz, contemporary and dance history helped to grow the program. She is now a member of Ballet Folklórico Quetzales of El Paso, TX under the direction of Maestro Jaime Carrasco, since 2003, where she has been afforded the opportunity to tour extensively throughout the United State and Mexico.

Sylvy was also a member of the CR Productions Team working as the Choreographer and Artistic Director for the Miss NM Teen USA/Miss NM USA pageants for over 12 years. She has gone on to pursue a Master degree in Education as well as an Educational Administration license and has been an educator in the public school system for over 16 years. She is currently serving as the Head Administrator at La Academia Dolores Huerta; a Multicultural focused fully bilingual charter Middle School.

She has been involved with the Las Cruces International Mariachi & Folklórico Conference since its inception in 1994 in one form or another, first as a student participant, eventually transitioning to Assistant Instructor and now we welcome her as not only a Workshop Instructor, but also the Chair of the Folklórico Committee for the LCIMC and Board Member of the New Mexico Advocates for the Arts.



AMALIA ZEITLIN BOARD MEMBER

Amalia Zeitlin is a member of the Board of Directors for the New Mexico Advocates for the Arts, which oversees the Las Cruces International Mariachi Conference (LCIMC), Camerata Del Sol chamber orchestra and Las Cruces Youth Orchestras and Choirs.

Amalia Zeitlin is the program director for Camerata Del Sol, the premiere chamber music ensemble of the Las Cruces / El Paso area. She is also the violin sectional leader for the Las Cruces Youth Orchestra. Additionally, she serves as a board member for New Mexico Advocates for the Arts, which oversees the Las Cruces International Mariachi Conference (LCIMC), Camerata Del Sol chamber orchestra, and the Las Cruces Youth Orchestras and Choirs.

Amalia has been playing violin since the age of seven, continuing a tradition of at least four generations in her family. In December 2020, Amalia received her Master of Music degree from New Mexico State University, where she received the Outstanding Graduate Student award for the College of Arts and Sciences. Previously, Amalia studied at Boston University and the Jerusalem Academy of Music. Amalia made her solo debut in 2019, playing Mozart's Sinfonia Concertante with the New Horizons Symphony Orchestra. Amalia is the principal 2nd violinist of the El Paso Symphony, where she has served since 2018. Amalia is featured on "Sparks," an album by Larry Lesser that was nominated four times for the New Mexico Music Awards, and received one award. In her spare time, Amalia enjoys freelance singing and learning new instruments, such as the mandolin and otamatone.



KAREN WOOTTON BOARD MEMBER

Karen Wootton is a member of the Board of Directors for the New Mexico Advocates for the Arts, which oversees the Las Cruces International Mariachi Conference (LCIMC), Camerata Del Sol chamber orchestra and Las Cruces Youth Orchestras and Choirs.

Karen Wootton has practiced law for over twenty-five years in Las Cruces, New Mexico.

After receiving a Bachelor of Arts in English at San José State University, she received a Juris Doctorate from the University of California at Berkeley. Most of her work has been in the private practice of law, previously at Miller Stratvert, P.A., and the Carrillo Law Firm, P.C. Karen also worked in the Doña Ana County Attorney's Office from 1998 through 2003, and clerked for Federal Magistrate Leslie Smith September-December 1997. Karen set up her own firm starting March 1, 2018, continuing her emphasis on working with businesses and individuals on commercial transactions and estate planning, and select litigation.

Karen is currently President of Families & Youth, Inc., a not-for-profit social service agency, and serves on the Board of New Mexico Advocates for the Arts, Inc. She has served on several other not-for-profits and other community service projects during her career.



SIMÓN GOLLO BOARD MEMBER

Simón Gollo is a member of the Board of Directors for the New Mexico Advocates for the Arts, which oversees the Las Cruces International Mariachi Conference (LCIMC), Camerata Del Sol chamber orchestra and Las Cruces Youth Orchestras and Choirs.

Recognized as a multifaceted and charismatic musician, Swiss-Venezuelan violinist Simón Gollo enjoys a successful international career as a soloist, chamber musician, and conductor. At the same time, he is a committed recording artist, artistic director, and pedagogue.

Simón Gollo has appeared on countless stages across Europe, Asia, and the American continent from Canada to Chile. His long career has led him to perform at prestigious venues such as Carnegie Hall (New York), Cadogan Hall (London), the 92nd Street Y's Kaufmann Concert Hall (New York), the National Gallery of Art (Washington, DC), Bolívar Hall (London), the Teatro Teresa Carreño (Caracas), the Auditorio Blas Galindo (Mexico City), the Auditorio Manuel de Falla (Granada), and the Teatro Mayor (Bogotá), and for renowned organizations such as the BBC Proms Festival, the Philadelphia Chamber Music Society, and the Chamber Music Society of Detroit. He has collaborated in these performances with international figures such as Alessio Bax, Ricardo Morales, Dmitri Berlinsky, Monique Duphil, Edicson Ruiz, Paul Rosenthal, John Novacek, Alissa Margulis, Jakob Koranyi, Miguel da Silva (Ysaÿe Quartet), Richard Young (Vermeer Quartet), Randolph Kelly, and the Cuarteto Latinoamericano, among many others.

Appointed conductor of the New Mexico State University Philharmonic in 2016, Simón Gollo has experienced extraordinary growth in this facet of his career that has not gone unnoticed. Simón Gollo is a recording artist for the international recording label IBS Classical. Visit www.simongallo.com to learn more about Simón.

KARIN M. WIBURG BOARD MEMBER



Karin M. Wiburg is a member of the Board of Directors for the New Mexico Advocates for the Arts, which oversees the Las Cruces International Mariachi Conference (LCIMC), Camerata Del Sol chamber orchestra and Las Cruces Youth Orchestras and Choirs.

Karin is a Professor Emeritus from New Mexico State University. She worked as a faculty member in Learning and Technology for 25 years and as the Associate Dean for Research for nine of those years. She has written numerous books, designed instructional programs, and assisted with research development.

Karin enjoys writing grants and assisting organizations to plan for their futures. She has a doctorate in instructional design, K-12 teaching and administrative licenses and a minor in art. She plans to help NMAFTA to expand services, link across the arts and gain more national and community support through grants and activities.

ROSS MARKS BOARD MEMBER



Ross Kagan Marks is a member of the Board of Directors for the New Mexico Advocates for the Arts, which oversees the Las Cruces International Mariachi Conference (LCIMC), Camerata Del Sol chamber orchestra and Las Cruces Youth Orchestras and Choirs.

Ross Kagan Marks is an award-winning director best known for directing WALKING WITH HERB, THE TWILIGHT OF THE GOLDS and HOMAGE. His other credits include the films THE HEART OUTRIGHT, FOWL, TARRANT COUNTY, SHOWDOWN ON RIO ROAD, FLUFF and PRINCESS, which was on the short list for the Academy Award live-action shorts. His films have won awards at the Sundance Film Festival, Chicago International Film Festival, Cleveland International Film festival and festivals throughout the world. He is a graduate of the American Film Institute and a member of the Writers Guild. The Executive Director and founder of the Las International Film Festival, Ross teaches at New Mexico State University.



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DEBRA MARKS BOARD MEMBER

Debra Marks is a member of the Board of Directors for the New Mexico Advocates for the Arts, which oversees the Las Cruces International Mariachi Conference (LCIMC), Camerata Del Sol chamber orchestra and Las Cruces Youth Orchestras and Choirs.



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DIANA MOLINA BOARD MEMBER

Diana Molina is a member of the Board of Directors for the New Mexico Advocates for the Arts, which oversees the Las Cruces International Mariachi Conference (LCIMC), Camerata Del Sol chamber orchestra and Las Cruces Youth Orchestras and Choirs.



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