



## City celebrates one year 'in business'

By Bob Quick  
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The City of Santa Fe will mark the first anniversary of the Santa Fe Economic Development Plan with a celebration on Oct. 26 at the Lensic Performing Arts Center between 8:30 and 10:30 a.m.

The public is encouraged to attend.

"Our citizens embraced the Santa Fe Economic Development Plan," said Mayor Larry Delgado in a statement. "Because of their involvement and enthusiasm, we are proud to report many accomplishments in the first year of the plan."

The plan grew out of a study of the local economy by Austin-based AngelouEconomics that was carried out in 2003/2004. The plan offered recommendations for cultivating existing businesses and growing new ones.

The Santa Fe City Council approved the five-year Santa Fe Economic Development Plan on June 30, 2004 and a one-year strategic action plan on Sept. 29, 2004.

Councilors also approved an initial budget of \$800,000 for the first year of the plan and another \$750,000 for a second year.

The celebration will highlight "the work that has been done so far," said Steve Whitman, senior economic development planner for the City of Santa Fe.

"It helps if people know what's going on," he said.

Among the accomplishments to be discussed at the upcoming celebration are the following:

Santa Fe Arts and Culture Web Portal: a single Web site on Santa Fe Arts and Culture that also includes a reference center for work-force development and an online marketplace for arts and culture commerce. The Web address is <http://www.santafeculture.org>.

Tickets Santa Fe: an online system for purchasing tickets to a variety of events through the Lensic box office. The Web site is expected to generate almost \$2 million for performing-arts groups that use the service.

The Web address is [ticketssantafe .org](http://ticketssantafe.org). The site will make its debut on Oct. 26.

Tom Maguire, the city's culture , arts and tourism planner, said at a recent meeting of the Occupancy Tax Advisory Board, that 13 arts groups soon will be selling tickets on the site, with three to five more on the way.

Creative Santa Fe: a not-forprofit organization intended to strengthen and promote Santa Fe's creative economy.

Center for Community Sustainability : a center to foster the development of communitybased water conservation and renewable energy technologies.

"Santa Fe Community College has embraced it, and Santa Fe County is on board," Whitman said. The college "is interested in training workers for those industries."

Water and Energy Target Industry Support: promotes local environmental technologies and businesses with ultimate plans to build a center of green building and water conservation .

Small Business Support by the City of Santa Fe: includes more than \$280,000 in loans to local small businesses through the New Mexico community Development Loan Fund and support for Santa Fe Alliance's "Independents Week" and the "Local Farm to Restaurant" project.

UNESCO Creative Cities program: named Santa Fe the first city in North America and one of the first three cities in the world a Creative City for Folk Art Design.

"We're using that to continually develop our status as a center for design and folk art," Whitman said.

Santa Fe Design Week: an initiative to promote Santa Fe as a leading design and creativeindustry center. "It could very well become an internationally known conference," Whitman said.

For more information, contact Steve Whitman at 955-6889 .