

CONGRESO DE LAS ACEQUIAS 2024

NOVEMBER 15TH & 16TH, 2024

NEW MEXICO HIGHLANDS UNIVERSITY, LAS VEGAS, NM



¡Semos Acequias! We Are Acequias!



Thank you for joining us for Congreso de las Acequias 2024!

The annual Congreso de las Acequias is the only statewide gathering of acequia leaders, parcientes and supporters where we share knowledge and create strategies for protecting our beloved acequias. The Congreso is also the state-wide governing body of the NMAA, composed of regional delegates from across the state.

This year, we gather to affirm our role as caretakers of the water that flows to our fields and the interconnected waters of our watersheds, rivers, and aquifers.

Our communities are surviving in the face of climate disasters and pressure from development and industries. It has never been more important for us to have a united voice to defend our water while we also work for a vibrant future with healthy communities and locally grown food.

We speak with a united voice. We defend water. We are Acequias.

WWW.LASACEQUIAS.ORG/CONGRESO

ARTISTS & SPECIAL GUESTS



Joanna Vidaurre-Trujillo

Author/Poet and educator, Vidaurre-Trujillo was born in Embudo, New Mexico, and raised in the Cuchilla Pelada in the upper end of Llano de San Juan Nepomuceno, a small agricultural village situated thirty miles south of Taos, New Mexico. She has served as a commissioner on her local acequia, and has recently published *Papas y Frijoles Short Stories and Poems to Honor My Culture*.



David & Maximino Manzanares

David Manzanares (he/him) and Maximino Manzanares (she/they) are from Abiquiu, New Mexico. They are son and grandchild of Herman and Eleanor Manzanares. They and their family have been parcientes on the Abeyta-Trujillo Acequia for four generations. As small children, their father and uncle played guitar while the family danced and sang the rancheras, corridos, huapangos, boleros and valsos of another era. Their gift of music carries the tradition forward to the next generation.



Teatro Acequiero

Teatro Acequiero is a community theater group that presents short "actos" - politically charged and comically infused plays. Its mission is to entertain and teach, through popular education, acequia values to audiences of all ages. Its goal is to affirm acequia customs, traditions and culture.

El Agua y el aceite no se mezclan - This acto presents a clash of cultural values between Doña Agua and Don Aceite, characters who personify water and oil. Through their dialogue, they argue over who is truly best for the people. This acto is based on the locally known trovo of el atole y el café and adapted by Estevan Arellano.

Teatristas: Yolanda Jaramillo and Dabi S. García.

Al Acequia Intelligence - This acto explores the challenges faced by the acequia community of Poca Agua as participation in local meetings declines. With their decision-making power fading, the community's commission is overtaken by an affluent landowner aiming to fully automate the acequia with an AI Mayordomo. Ultimately, the community discovers that affirming their cultural values can unite them against the capitalist aims of artificial intelligence.

Teatristas: Yolanda Jaramillo, Dabi S. García, David Manzanares, Maximino Manzanares and Virgilio Trujillo.

Short Films: Acequia Apocalypse & Loving our Changing Homelands

NMAA will host a screening of two short films: *Acequia Apocalypse* and *Loving our Changing Homelands* followed by a discussion with ***Miguel Santistevan*** and ***Paula García***, moderated by ***Laura Paskus***.

Acequia Apocalypse is an artistic expression to vent frustration at the loss of northern New Mexico culture by the process of progress, development, and gentrification. The expression is made by Miguel Santistevan, who has spend decades of his life trying to maintain his place and culture of the region by defending and managing acequias, maintaining seeds, and addressing difficulties of the times and our future such as from the nuclear industry, climate change, and a disconnection from nature and community.

Loving Our Changing Homelands is an NM PBS Our Land special produced by Laura Paskus, in which we learn how New Mexicans love and steward forests and watersheds that have changed dramatically in the past half-century due to warming, fire, flooding, and drought. This episode includes Paula García, who is asked to reflect on how communities are caring for lands even as they change due to climate disasters such as the catastrophic Hermit's Peak Calf Canyon Fire.

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 15TH - WORKSHOPS & RECEPTION

See workshops descriptions on the next page

8:00 am - Doors Open and Mañanitas

9:00 am - Welcome and Teatro Acequero: "El aceite y el agua no se mezclan"

9:30 am - Networking Break: Visit Partner Tables

10:00 - 11:00 am - Workshop Session 1 (concurrent sessions)

- Acequia Disaster Recovery after Wildfire & Floods (*classroom #322*)
- Next Generation Acequias: Engaging Youth through Education & Projects (*classroom #320*)

11:00 am - Break

11:15 am - 12: 15 pm - Workshop Session 2 (concurrent sessions)

- Watershed Restoration after the Hermit's Peak Calf Canyon Disaster (*classroom #322*)
- ¡Que Vivan Las Acequias! CD Preview Celebration & Discussion (*classroom #320*)

12:15 pm - Lunch in the NMHU Cafeteria

1:30 - 2:30 pm - Workshop Session 3 (concurrent sessions)

- Regional Associations Planning for Climate Adaptation & Environmental Justice (*classroom #322*)
- Training on Acequia Legislative Advocacy & Mobilizing for Acequia Day (*classroom #320*)

2:30 pm - Networking Break

3:00 - 4:30 pm - Congreso Delegates Meeting

4:30 pm - Reception, Food and Music by David and Maximiño Manzanares

5:30 pm - Film Screenings and Discussion: Acequia Apocalypse and Loving Our Changing Lands

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 16TH - CONGRESO DE LAS ACEQUIAS

8:00 am - Doors Open and Música

9:00 am - Welcome and Bendición de Las Aguas

9:45 am - Acequia Roll Call and Recognition of Dignitaries

10:15 am - We Are Acequias: Creating our Plan for the Next 100 Years

10:45 am - Remarks by Raúl Torrez, Attorney General of New Mexico

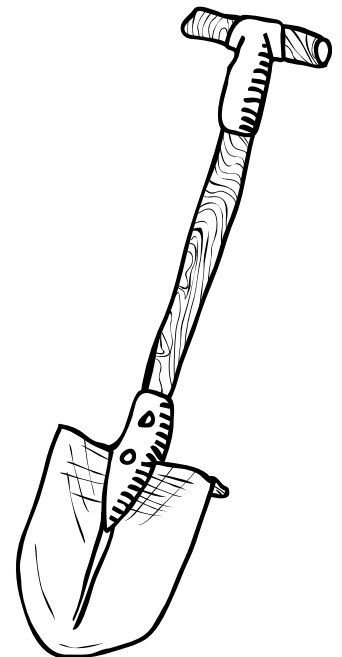
11:15 am - Poetry by Joanna Trujillo and Music by Dabi S. García

11:30 am - Youth Recognitions

12:00 pm - Teatro Acequero: "A.I. Robodomo"

12:30 pm - Lunch and Art Awards

2:00 pm - Closing Remarks



WORKSHOP DETAILS

Acequia Disaster Recovery after Wildfire and Floods

Acequia leaders will provide updates on recovery status and personal experiences in areas recently impacted by fire and flood, including HPCC, Gila, Ruidoso, and Rio Chama. A moderator will facilitate panelist questions and allow agency representatives and assistance providers to respond.

Watershed Restoration after the Hermit's Peak Calf Canyon Disaster

Come learn about plans to heal our watersheds and about ways to get involved in efforts to improve watershed health following the Hermit's Peak Calf Canyon disaster. Panelists will include Hermit's Peak Watershed Alliance, NRCS, Tierra y Montes SWCD, and the USFS Santa Fe Ranger District.

Next Generation Acequias: Engaging Youth Through Education & Community Projects

Let's work together to build more youth involvement in acequias and agriculture. We will share best practices from successful community and land-based programs, gather your perspectives and needs, and work together to create action plans on how NMAA can support you to do this work in your community! We encourage community members and commissioners of all ages to attend.

¡Que Vivan Las Acequias! CD Preview Celebration & Discussion

Join us for a preview of the new acequia themed record performed by NMAA Promotor Cultural, Dabi S. García. You will get to hear about the making of the songs and hear some of the tracks.

Regional Associations Planning for Climate Adaptation & Environmental Justice

Regional leaders and our partners from the New Mexico Water Resources Research Institute will share their experiences creating projects and plans to address, mitigate and adapt to changing conditions that can threaten our acequias. Hear from agencies about their resources and learn next steps to engage ISC regional water planning.

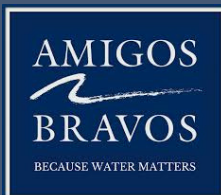
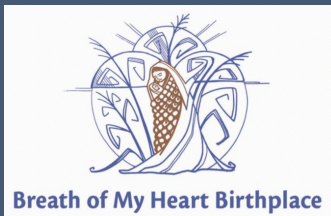
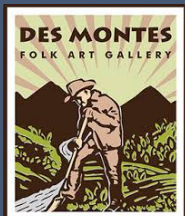
Legislative Advocacy and Mobilizing for Acequia Day at the State Legislature

It's time to mobilize acequias for advocacy in the upcoming legislative session! This workshop will include training on the legislative process and the acequia policy platform so we can mobilize 800 soldados for Acequia Day!

Thank You To Our Sponsors!



New Mexico Acequia Commission



Gael Minton
Juliana Anastasoff
Celina Benavidez



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