



Tularosa Arts and History Council

Preserving tradition, culture and history through music and art.

Our Founding Story:

In 2015, the Greater Tularosa Foundation (GTF) and the Village of Tularosa applied for assistance with image development and event development from New Mexico MainStreet's Frontier Communities Initiative and were selected as a participant. The service team met with local stakeholders over the course of several meetings and collected valuable information that helped outline recommendations to support the Village as it makes decisions on image development, events and overall enrichment of Granado Street, the historic core of the community.

A key recommendation was to form a non-profit organization with the following objectives:

- Develop a strong local stakeholders group.
- Support existing civic and government entities in ongoing design projects that will enhance the historical 'main street' district on Granado Street.
- Encourage existing businesses and create a climate of confidence for new business investment and jobs.
- Enrich the tourism industry by developing a destination for dining, shopping and exploring which will ring cash registers for those businesses.
- Embrace the spirit of the community with annual events that will appeal to regional residents and tourists.

The original Charter was submitted for consideration by the founding and prospective members of the Tularosa Arts and History Council. Consisting primarily of artists, musicians and shop owners on Granado Street, the TAHC was approved as a 501 (c)(3) tax exempt organization and incorporated in October of 2016.

Mission: To increase awareness of the talented artists, rich history and unique culture in and around the Village of Tularosa.

In early 2017, TAHC leadership was asked to establish a group of stakeholders to influence the Downtown Metropolitan Redevelopment Area (MRA) Plan for the Village of Tularosa. TAHC Board and other members are listed as Community Stakeholders in the formal adopted version and TAHC is named explicitly throughout this key planning document as a trusted resource and responsible partner. The MRA Plan was funded through the New Mexico Finance Authority, Economic Development Department's MainStreet Program, and the New Mexico State Legislature. Involvement in this activity established TAHC as valued community influencers.

Also in 2017, a Student Scholarship Fund was established with an initial contribution by Board Director, Karl Clay Vetter. In the spring during the *Tularosa Art and Music Festival & Ice Cream Social* the first round of scholarship funds were awarded.

Already Funded Projects:

The TAHC was awarded a Resilient Communities Fund grant in 2016 from the New Mexico Resiliency Alliance, in partnership with the New Mexico MainStreet and the McCune Charitable Foundation to develop branding and



marketing materials that will draw people to the Granado Street District and highlight arts and cultural assets. Two deliverables; a Granado Street logo and a rack card about Tularosa, to be placed in hotels, chamber of commerce offices, and tourist destinations around the state, were funded by this grant.

Committed Recurring Projects:

- **Halloween on Granado Street:** Over 1,000 community members and visitors gather on Granado Street for free games, trunk-or-treat displays, a haunted house, contests and live entertainment. This flagship event (inspired by the example set in 2015 by the Greater Tularosa Foundation) is held every year on the weekend before Halloween.
- **Tularosa Duck Race:** The inaugural event on July 29, 2023 in conjunction with the Tularosa Community Ditch Corporation is intended to recur every year in the spring or early summer and is designed to create a fun but educational experience focused on the history of our precious acequia system and water conservation.
- **Christmas Eve Luminaria Display:** For many years, thousands of luminarias have been displayed throughout the Village of Tularosa on Christmas Eve. For the past twenty years, the luminarias were supplied through a cooperative effort between the Tularosa Chamber of Commerce and the Village of Tularosa. These entities are unable to continue to handle the organization and the expense of the project. In 2017, TAHC agreed to accept responsibility of the project by organizing the volunteer effort and paying for the upfront expense of the luminaria supplies.

Projects Requiring Funding and Volunteer Support – www.trytularosa.org/donate

- **Traditional Spanish Christmas Music - Ronda Los Carrozas de Cifuentes:** Part of our mission is to provide events that support art, history and culture. With this in mind, the TAHC has accepted the opportunity to support a *Ronda* group from Spain. Funded by the NM Humanities Council, this group came to our village December 18 – 20, 2019 as part of their tour of NM. ***Ronda Los Carrozas*** from Cifuentes, is one of the few traditional *Rondas* of Guadalajara, Spain that keeps this cultural tradition alive from generation to generation. A traditional Christmas *Ronda* (a group of people singing together) has been part of folklore and musical tradition of Southern Castile, Spain for centuries. A documentary is in the works that will include their trip to Tularosa and we hope to host them again in the future.
- **QR Code Trail:** A walking tour of historical locations throughout the downtown area of Tularosa marked with interactive plaques containing a QR (Quick Response) code that the visitor can use to launch a series of recorded stories told by Tularosa citizens to their family members. This ‘tangible tourism’ concept encourages the passage of history and culture of Tularosa from one generation to the next through the telling of life stories.
- **Youthful Artist Programs:** Scholarships, projects and programs where local artists are given opportunities to work with young artists in classrooms, community centers and special events.

Membership:

Participation is open to anyone in the community, of all ages. Meetings are usually the first Wednesday of every month or more frequently as needed. Written records of meetings and activities are kept.

**www.facebook.com/TheTAHC ~ tularosaartsandhistory@gmail.com
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