

# Southwest New Mexico ACT awarded state economic development grant

Silver City's Southwest New Mexico Arts, Culture and Tourism has received funding from the New Mexico Economic Development Department's Outdoor Recreation Division to construct an education pavilion at the town's Waterworks historic site on Little Walnut Road, and funding for trail development from the site to Penny Park.

"We are very excited to receive this funding from the state, which allows us to create an outdoor educational space for the community," said Lee Gruber, swnmACT director. "The pavilion will be available for area schools and organizations to use for educational purposes in a beautiful, historic location that adds another public asset to our community. We are very grateful to town management and staff for their ongoing help and support to make this project happen."

Gruber added that the development at the Water-

works site is an important economic development asset for the community, given that plans include the creation of a layover space for hikers and bikers along the Continental Divide Trail, with camping sites, restrooms, kitchen facilities and other amenities to be developed over time that will also be available for use by area residents. Space for related commercial businesses is also anticipated, further supporting the local economy.

Two jobs have already been created for this project, with four or five additional jobs anticipated, according to a news release. There is also the potential for additional, seasonal youth jobs, given that swnmACT is working with AmeriCorps and Youth Conservation Corps members to improve the grounds and develop the property.

A press release from the state Economic Development Department stated that this funding program

was created to improve access to outdoor recreation within a community, while simultaneously bolstering the outdoor recreation economy in New Mexico. The program focuses on conservation-minded, shovel-ready projects that are open to the public which demonstrate a clear benefit to the community, by attracting and retaining residents and/or attracting visitors. Beneficiaries of the grant will enhance and rebuild the recovering economy.

"Investing in outdoor recreation helps create jobs and develop opportunities closer to where people live," Cabinet Secretary Alicia J. Keyes said. "These grants will boost the outdoor economy all over the state."

The Silver City Waterworks, established in 1887, provided the town's first municipal water supply, the release stated. Known as "The Rock House," the Waterworks building is the only surviving stone build-

ing from its era in Silver City. It has two parts: a one-story section that originally housed steam-powered pumps and boilers, and a two-story engineer's residence. Water was drawn from a subsurface collection gallery beneath the adjacent Silva Creek arroyo. The gallery drained to a well that was connect-


ed to a 30-foot-deep pit beneath the building. Water was pumped from the Waterworks to a reservoir on a nearby hill, and from there it flowed into town.

The building is listed on the New Mexico State Historic Register and the National Register of Historic Places.

For more information

about the Waterworks project or swnmACT, contact Bridgette Johns, project coordinator, at 575-654-3969, or Gruber, at 590-0314.

Information is also available by email, at info@swnmact.org, or by visiting the website at swnmACT.org.

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Silver City Woman's Club

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Bayard Community Center

290 Hurley Ave.  
Bayard, NM

Grant County Fairgrounds Exhibit Building

16 Arena Rd.  
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San Lorenzo Elementary School

2655 Highway 35  
San Lorenzo, NM



For More Information Contact the  
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