

Española Valley Fiber Arts Center  
of the New Mexico Fiber Arts Center  
2020 Summary

2020 was an interesting year for the Center, beginning with extraordinary challenges.

During the first quarter the entire Board resigned. Fortunately, Director Denielle Rose, who had previously announced her intention to resign, stayed on to facilitate the transition to a new Board. Though all staff members were laid off early in the year, some continued to work on a volunteer basis. And then there was a pandemic.

In May, in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, a newly-elected Board led by President Sandy Liggett took on a Center in financial disarray, with all its staff laid off. Despite this rocky start, the Center in 2020:

- conducted a members and friends survey to set priorities and plan a path forward
- closed the Santa Fe store to preserve financial strength for Española
- inventoried and re-organized the Española location and implemented pest control procedures
- applied for and received a PPP loan, allowing for re-hire of one staff member part-time by summer, and, late in the year, a second
- resumed sending newsletters to members and friends
- re-opened the Center two days a week when the state public health orders allowed
- put COVID safety practices in place to keep staff, volunteers, and visitors safe
- offered in-person weaving classes when COVID concerns allowed
- created a new online store, and implemented a curbside pickup option
- presented an online exhibit on Colcha Embroidery, with selected works by featured artists offered for sale online
- re-imagined Fall Fiber Fiesta, showing the work of more than 50 local fiber artists, managing both in-person and online sales as shifting public health orders required
- created a pilot online directory of member-artists, starting with some Fall Fiber Fiesta artists
- won a grant to provide fiber arts instruction to differently-abled community members
- ended the year in the black, with back bills settled and revenue outpacing expenses

During an unprecedented global public health and economic crisis, preceded by a local organizational crisis, the Center bounced back, thanks to the resilience, devotion, and hard work of Board members, employees past and present, volunteers, donors, and membership. Thanks, so very many thanks, to you all!