

# MetroABQ Real Estate Newsletter



Including Rio Rancho, Corrales, Placitas, Atrisco Valley, Los Lunas & the East Mountains.

~April~

Immersed in the Fresco, Inside El Torreón, at the NHCC

The Paseo del Bosque Trail Tour

MetroABQ Growers Markets



## El Torreón

I've walked around El Torreón at the National Hispanic Cultural Center for over a decade & didn't know you could go inside. For most of the time you couldn't. Recently

the Torreón, above, was opened for tours, allowing the public to see the fabulous colorful frescos that adorn the ceiling & walls. What a fantastic place!

Created by native New Mexican artist Federico Vigil & entitled *Mundos de Mestizaje*, North America's largest concave fresco clearly does represent many Worlds of Mixed Heritage. Spanning over 3000 years, the 4000 squarefeet of frescoed ceiling & walls depict over 200 images snatched out of time along the way.

For [El Palacio Magazine](#), Alix I Hudson wrote an [extensive & beautiful article about the artist](#); reading it is the first thing to do before ordering your \$2 ticket...The writer describes the murals best:

*"Mundos de Mestizaje is a sea of countless people, a dazzling circular array of color & form bursting forth from the adobe-colored base of the walls. Its message, however, is simple: as Vigil tells it, "It's who we are as mestizos."*

*Vigil's own lineage traces back to the people of Santa Ana Pueblo, the Sephardic Jews, & Spaniards from Asturias, the northwestern principality of Spain. His people used to homestead near Budaghers, & they spoke Spanish & Tewa. Portraying the many ways in which Nuevo Mexicanos are mixed, the fresco has images from Spain & the American Southwest, but also some from Mesoamerica and Mesopotamia."*

Below is the first scene seen as one enters the Torreón.



thoughts.

Because of the rounded, concave shape of the Torreón, the images appear different from different places, sometimes interestingly elongated or foreshortened.

At 45 feet high, there's a lot to see before your eyes make their way up to the ceiling fresco. Below is the continuous world-spanning four-seasons/phases of the moon fresco, surrounding a bright oculus.

With all the layers of detail, it's clear why it took the artist close to a decade to complete the project.





### Nichos/Niches

From the El Torreón brochure: *There are seven nichos located below the bottom border of the fresco, inset into the lower walls of the Torreón. Nichos/niches are found in New Mexican architecture & in architectures of the Iberian-influenced world. Traditional niches house religious sculptures or shrines. Some of the nichos located under the four painted columns regress to thin, plate-glass windows; others provide a narrow bench for sitting. Looking up, each niche features great painted images.*

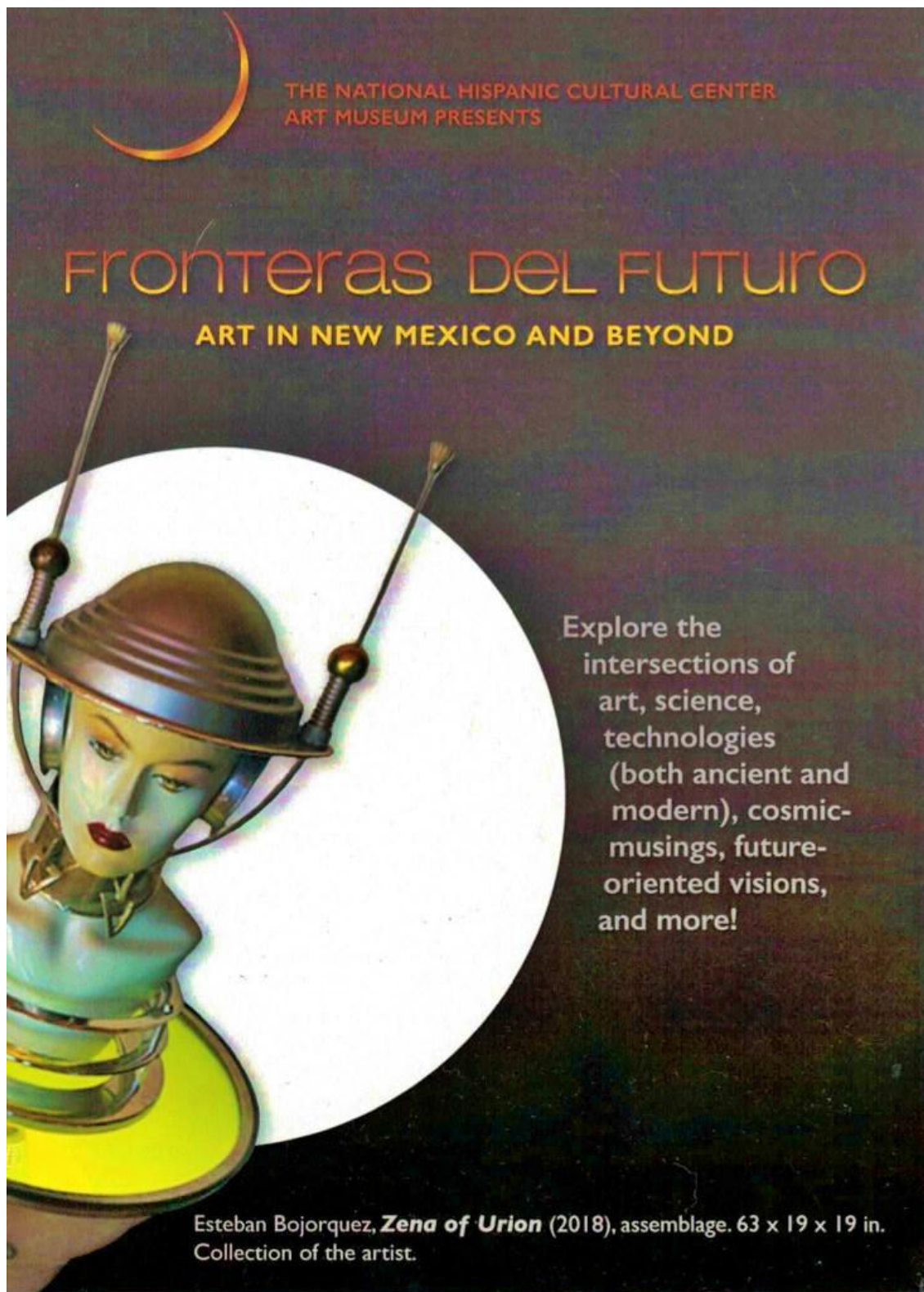
Below is an image looking up toward the ceiling of one of the niches.



The National Hispanic Cultural Center is a nicely spacious campus. Simply walking

around you are bound to see things of interest or be entertained. I love the largest canale in North America (probably), below, & an equally grande [architecturally prominent wooden aqueduct](#).





THE NATIONAL HISPANIC CULTURAL CENTER  
ART MUSEUM PRESENTS

# Fronteras del Futuro

ART IN NEW MEXICO AND BEYOND

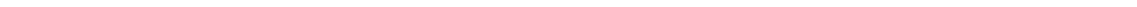
Explore the intersections of art, science, technologies (both ancient and modern), cosmic-musings, future-oriented visions, and more!

Esteban Bojorquez, **Zena of Urion** (2018), assemblage. 63 x 19 x 19 in. Collection of the artist.

## Sculpture Garden

There's a lot going on at the Cultural Center. Besides the Performing Arts Center, the three theatre stages & the 2500-person outdoor Plaza Mayor for gatherings, the NHCC has three art galleries with always interesting exhibitions. Fronteras del Futuro--Art in NM & Beyond, seen above, is one of the current shows; four NM photographers, & new selections from their [vast permanent collection](#) of Hispanic art are the other two...

Below is the National Hispanic Cultural Center Map. The Torreón, Fresco & new Visitor's Center is the small red circle attached to the red rectangle in the middle-left of the map.





## National Hispanic Cultural Center

- 1** **New Mexico Mutual Welcome Center and Torreón** with fresco by Frederico Vigil
- 5** **Roy E. Disney Center for Performing Arts**  
 Box Office  
 Albuquerque Journal Theatre  
 Bank of America Theatre  
 Wells Fargo Auditorium  
 PNM Rehearsal Halls
- 2** **History & Literary Arts Building**  
 Library & Genealogy Center  
 Salón Ortega  
 Anthony Trujillo Courtyard  
 La Fonda del Bosque Restaurant
- 6** **Pete Padilla & Manuel Mora Memorial Park**
- 3** **Virginia & Edward Lujan Plaza Mayor**
- 7** **Pete V. Domenici Education Center**  
 Instituto Cervantes  
 Spanish Resource Center  
 Grand Ballroom  
 Pop Fizz Paletaria
- 4** **Intel Visual Arts Building**  
 Art Museum  
 La Tiendita Gift Shop  
 Administrative Offices  
 Foundation Offices
- 8** **Bosque Gallery**  
 (Enter from Avenida Dolores Huerta)

## The Bosque Gallery

Labeled Section 8 in the upper right corner of the map is the Bosque Gallery, an outdoor sculpture garden consisting of three sections of greenspace along the west side of the Cultural Center.

The sculpture below, in a tranquil area of the NHCC Sculpture Garden, sits in memoriam to two fallen Latinx soldiers Pete Padilla & Manuel Mora. It faces the acequia greenspace along the Rio Grande bosque on the western edge of the Cultural Center.



## The Paseo del Bosque Trail

Always interested in where that cool-looking path goes, from the Sculpture Garden one can't help but notice a lush (in Spring) path alongside the NHCC, with the Rio Grande bosque on the other side, seen below.

The walking/biking trail is called the Paseo del Bosque Trail & amazingly, it runs for 13+ miles from the National Hispanic Cultural Center in the south, to the northern tip of the Metro at Alameda. [A map of the city-length trail shows the MetroABQ from an interestingly different angle.](#) (Heading south on the trail, you will encounter another six+ miles of the scenic bike trail that forms a loop back to the NHCC.)

A well-written & extremely informative booklet called the [Paseo del Bosque Tour](#)

[guide](#) describes & explains many of the scenes along the Paseo del Bosque Trail, calling the trail "an historic route through historic communities." Parking in the lot at the NHCC & beginning the walk/ride from there works. Heading north, [Barelas is the first place you will encounter](#). And that unique community is just the beginning of that adventure...



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*Growers Markets Across The Metro*



### Four Growers Markets To Check Out

It's that time of year for fresh food, grown regionally, by local farmers. The Growers Markets are always a great destination, for more than just fruits & vegetables. Stop by one of them & experience a connection to food, people & places. Bring a bag.

**Downtown:** Above is a scene of a local greenhouse selling various plant starts at the [Downtown Grower's Market](#), one of largest outdoor growers markets in the state. It's

open Saturdays from 8-Noon until mid-fall; arriving earlier is better. There is often groovy live music & random activities like yoga throughout the market.



**Corrales:** The [Corrales Growers Market](#) is bustling **Sundays from 9-Noon**. Extremely local food from the pastures & dairies in & around the quaint Village of Corrales makes this market stand out.

The Corrales Winter Market is a good event to remember during the colder months; it's open the **first Sunday from 11-1p**, from December through April. They also have special Holiday Markets before Thanksgiving & the Christmas holiday.

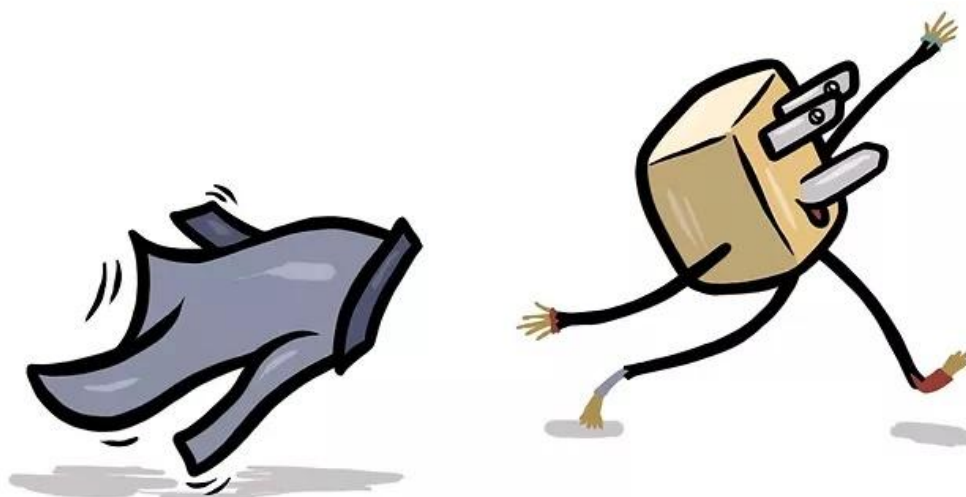


**Los Ranchos:** The [Los Ranchos Growers Market](#) sits just east of the Rio Grande River, along Rio Grande Blvd in the North Valley. It's generally a low-key market in a picturesque, fabulously lush part of the Metro. The Los Ranchos [Arts & Crafts Market](#) runs concurrently & is also located at the Los Ranchos community center. Both run **Saturdays from 8-Noon.**



**Barelvas Rail Yards:** [The Barelvas Rail Yards](#) is a pretty amazing place, & becoming more interesting as more work is completed. Above is a scene from one of the Winter Holiday markets. During the rest of the year starting in May, the [Rail Yards Market](#) is **open Sundays, from 10-2p.** It's usually packed with people, so expect to wait in line a bit to get in.

The Barelas Rail Yards is a great place to go to [see a concert](#), buy [local food & crafts](#), or just wander around (where allowed) & explore, below...



**Shameless Plug:  
Paying It Forward**

I recently received a letter from a sweet couple, friends I've known for years.  
Reading it left me speechless & extremely grateful to them.

"I just want to tell you that every moment & every day, I am so thankful for this house that you helped us find! I'm so thankful that we didn't wait to see what would happen with house prices... That's for sure! But every day, waking up, leaving the house, driving home, going to sleep, I can't believe that this is our home! We wouldn't be here without you & your efforts and we are truly so lucky to be living in such a beautiful place! Almost two years in & still so thankful for you!" ~B&J

[Catherine Ryan Hyde](#) wrote that when someone does a good deed for you, instead of paying them back, pay it forward by doing something nice for someone else. I'll surely be thinking of my friends who wrote the letter, as I pay it forward. And so it goes...

Correction: In the last issue (March MetroABQ) I mistakenly wrote that Dave Kaminski, with [Sun Valley Custom Homes](#), was the Owner/Builder, when he is actually the interior designer & salesperson for the company.

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I continually seek out the hidden gems in all areas for my **Buyers**, & I am a tireless promoter for all of my **Sellers'** listings.  
I love talking about real estate...

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**My 3-D Virtual Tours**



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