

RIO GRANDE

Arts & Crafts Festivals

ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RENOWNED ART FESTIVAL CELEBRATES 25 YEARS!

ALBUQUERQUE, NM – The Rio Grande Arts and Crafts Festival, now ranked #6 in the country, will celebrate 25 years in Albuquerque this October! The big white tent at the corner of Paseo Del Norte and I-25 has become a major annual attraction for the city and its influx of tourism during the International Balloon Fiesta. After the balloons go up, thousands of shoppers visit the Rio Grande Arts and Crafts Festival, where they can browse and purchase handmade works directly from 280 juried artists and craftsmen.

Over the first two weekends of October, the tent becomes home to traveling artisans from as far as Washington and Florida to as close as Santa Fe. The festival is unique in that the quality of work is high, the selection is always diverse, and the prices come in a wide range. Aside from the vibrant lineup of artwork, the most exquisite aspect of this show is the atmosphere. Fall weather in Albuquerque is ideal to begin with, and here, musicians fill the air with folk and blues music, great eats are served up outside, kids enjoy magic shows, and colorful hot air balloons float overhead. Visitors interested in experiencing the rich culture that landed Albuquerque on the map as the “#7 City for the Arts” should not miss this event!

This year may be the last year of the show as Albuquerque has known it for a quarter century! The new interstate construction is set to begin after this show and will disrupt the long-standing festival site. Next year, the ‘big white tent’ will have to find a new home!

Dates and Times - October 4,5,6 & 11,12,13; Fri 9 am-5 pm, Sat 9 am-6 pm, Sun 9 am-5 pm

Tent Location - Southwest corner of Paseo Del Norte and I-25; parking is free.

Admission - \$8, kids FREE, \$12 Festival Pass (unlimited admission to both weekends), \$16 Grande Pass (unlimited admission to all three Rio Grande Festivals)

For more information about this event or to set up an interview with the festival director, Ruth Gore, please call 292-7457 or 480-7457, or email rgore@riograndefestivals.com.

Founded in 1988 with one small festival, Rio Grande Arts and Crafts Festivals now bring Albuquerque three annual juried art shows, each with their own distinct flavor. All are ranked among the top 100 in the nation. The festivals take place in March, October, and November, as well as July in Denver. For more information, please visit www.riograndefestivals.com.

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