

# New Mexico Department of Cultural Affairs

## LEGISLATIVE FINANCE COMMITTEE

## NOVEMBER 19, 2026

Instructional Coordinator provides a public lecture at Ft. Selden Historic Site

# Preserving, Presenting, and Nurturing New Mexico's Rich Culture

Museums, Cultural Center & Historic Sites (16)

Historic Preservation

Office of Archaeological Studies

Museum Resources Division

New Mexico Arts

New Mexico State Library

Administrative Services Division

Facilities Management Bureau

Office of the Secretary

Museum Conservator repairs a piece at the Taylor-Mesilla Historic Site

# Strong Fiscal Stewardship

- **Expended $25.8 M** in capital outlay in FY26; **$144 M since FY19**
- **Reverted $0.31** in agency capital outlay in FY26
- **Reverted 0.0050%, or $2,410,** in operating and special general fund monies in FY26
- **No transfers out** of the 200s in FY26
- **Vacancy rate of 17.6%**, with a **funded vacancy rate of under 2%**
- **3-to-1 ratio** of employees to managers for 7-day-a-week, 362-day-a-year facilities in rural areas
- **No budget deficits; no supplementals or deficiencies** in 8 years
- **Clean FY26** audit with no findings

# Track Record of Performance

**In FY26:**

- **1.64 M people served** by museums & historic sites, 193,000+ above target
- **3.15 M attendees** at funded arts programs
- **5.05 M library visits** to public & tribal libraries
- **4.55 M digital transactions** via El Portal, 62.4%+ above target
- **35%** of arts grants distributed **outside urban centers**
- **97.5%** of preservation reviews **completed within 30 days**
- **957,000+ children reached** statewide through DCA arts programs, school tours, and youth outreach

# Recognized Excellence

- Museum of International Folk Art: Runner-Up, **Best Art Museum** in the Nation (*USA Today 10Best Readers' Choice Awards*, 2025)
- National Hispanic Cultural Center: Officially designated a **Smithsonian Affiliate** (2025)
- Associated General Contractors NM **Best Building Award** ($10 M–$20 M Public-Private Partnership, 2024)
- NM Cultural Properties Review Committee Architectural Heritage **Preservation Award**: Ft. Stanton Historic Site $10 M infrastructure investment (2026)
- NMAEA Museum Education **Art Educator of the Year**: Sarah Zurik, New Mexico Museum of Art (2024)
- Palace of the Governors: Historic Santa Fe Foundation **Heritage Preservation Award** for stabilization and restoration (2024)
- Taylor-Mesilla Historic Site: American Association for State and Local History (AASLH) **Award of Excellence** for Special Projects (2026)
- Bosque Redondo Memorial at Ft. Sumner: Ft. Sumner Chamber of Commerce **Community Award** for civic presence and community integration (2026)
- National Association of Government Web Professionals (NAGW) **Pinnacle Award**: Best Accessibility Initiative or Improvement (2026)
- New Mexico Infrastructure **Catalina Muniz Utilities Award** for Ft. Stanton Historic Site Water Infrastructure Project (2026)
- American Alliance of Museums **Reaccreditation** for 6 museums and historic sites

# A People-Powered Agency

**Our Success is Driven by Our Workforce**

Exhibitions, tours, preservation, maintenance, and public safety are executed directly by dedicated staff.

**The Structural 200s Deficit**

The recurring personnel services and employee benefits budget remains insufficient to cover authorized positions, forcing the agency to hold critical vacancies across all divisions.

**Current Operational Impact**

17.6% vacancy rate; 91.5 vacant FTE, 50 held positions.

72.5 vacancies in Museums & Historic Sites (P536); direct impact on curatorial work, visitor hours, and site maintenance.

21.9% vacancies in Preservation (P537); straining capacity for mandated archaeological and architectural reviews.

Vacancy management has maintained balanced budgets, but internal flexibility is exhausted. Without targeted personnel funding, the next administration will be forced to curtail public operating hours and core community services.




**Docent leads school tour at the Museum of Indian Arts & Culture**



Sheep shearing at New Mexico Farm and Ranch Heritage Museum

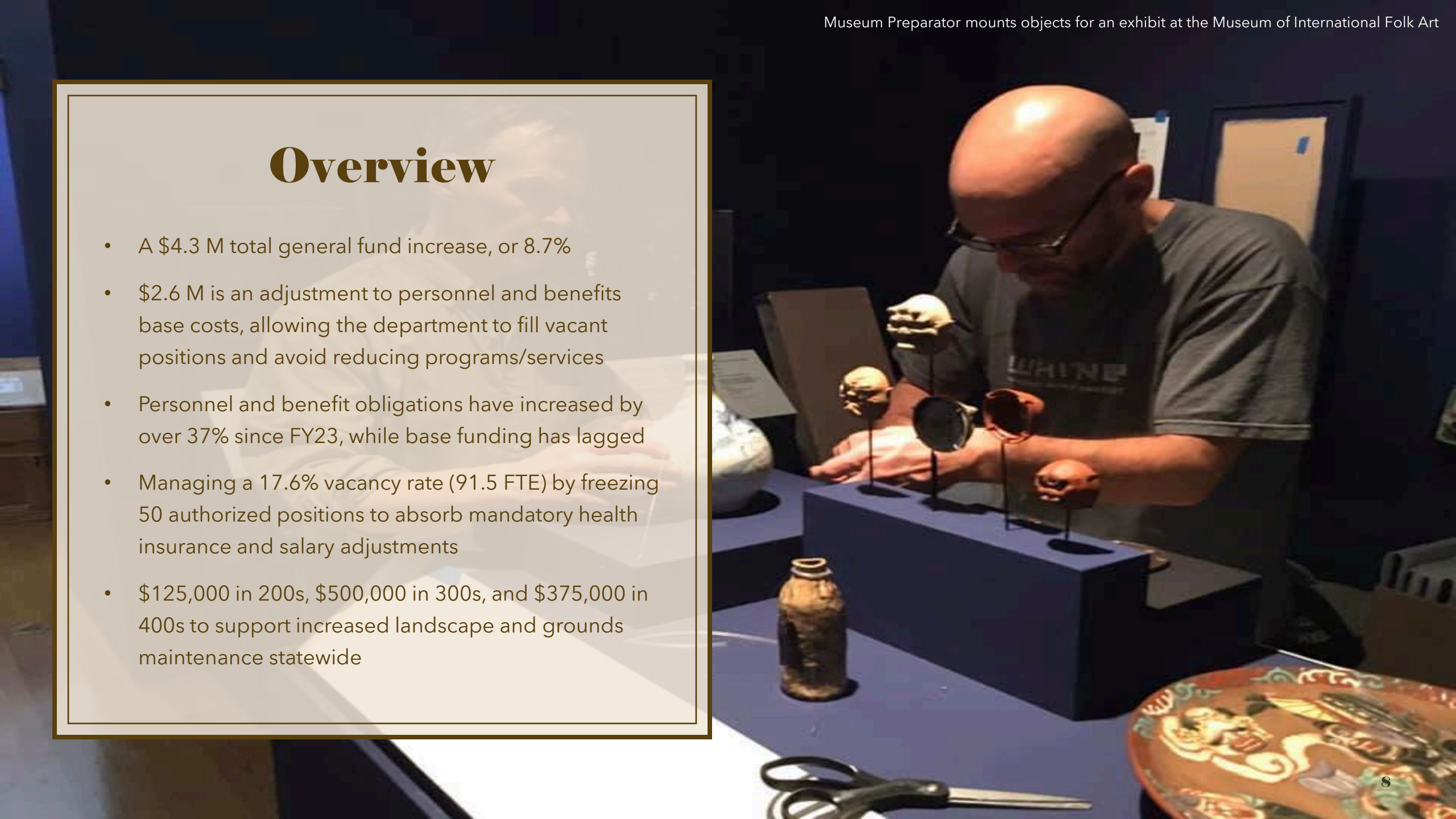
# General Fund Base Budget Request

| | 200s | 300s | 400s | Total | % Change |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **FY27 Budget** | 39,450.0 | 1,308.5 | 9,174.2 | 49,932.7 | |
| **Base Request** | 2,634.2 | 595.1 | 645.1 | 3,874.4 | |
| **FY28 Request** | **42,084.2** | **1,903.6** | **9,819.3** | **53,807.1** | **7.8%** |

*$ in thousands*

# Overview

- A $4.3 M total general fund increase, or 8.7%
- $2.6 M is an adjustment to personnel and benefits base costs, allowing the department to fill vacant positions and avoid reducing programs/services
- Personnel and benefit obligations have increased by over 37% since FY23, while base funding has lagged
- Managing a 17.6% vacancy rate (91.5 FTE) by freezing 50 authorized positions to absorb mandatory health insurance and salary adjustments
- $125,000 in 200s, $500,000 in 300s, and $375,000 in 400s to support increased landscape and grounds maintenance statewide



Museum Preparator mounts objects for an exhibit at the Museum of International Folk Art

# Highlights of Expansions and Nonrecurring Requests

- **$465,000 expansion** for the highly successful **New Mexico Women's Historic Markers** program
- **$2 M special** for the final phase of **Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act compliance**
- **$1.5 M special** to develop and operate the **Navajo Code Talker Museum** at Navajo Prep in Farmington
- **$1 M special** for updates to the **"Telling New Mexico" core exhibit** at the New Mexico History Museum
- **$500,000 special** for exhibit, restoration, and display costs related to the **Apollo 11 Lunar Rover**




# Thank you

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Cleanup day at the Santa Fe museums