



Developing Youth:

The New Mexico Youth Conservation Corps Program

<https://www.emnrd.nm.gov/about-ycc/>

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What is NMYCC?

A state agency that provide grants to government agencies, schools, tribes and non-profits who hire and train youth to carry out projects that improve natural, cultural and recreational resources.



Program basics

- Eligible entities are local government units, including schools; tribes; non-profits
- The project must result in a specific, identifiable project(s) or service(s) that would otherwise not be accomplished with existing funds and does not duplicate routine services or functions.
- Up to \$150,000 per project may be requested
 - 70% of the grant must go towards corps member wages, which includes FICA, unemployment insurance, & workers' comp
 - 30% of the grant may be used for training (staff or materials), supplies and equipment.
- Youth ages 14-25 are eligible to be corps members and are employees of the grantee.
 - At least 4 corps members and one corps crew leader or trainer must be hired
- Projects may not last longer than 26 weeks.
- 10% of the time for the project must be spent in training (job skills, life skills, career skills, advanced education (GED), natural resource process and issues, cultural traditions and knowledge).
- 20% match from the contractor (cash, in-kind contributions, other grants may be used as match).
- About 40 projects funded each year.

Ecological monitoring



Stream restoration



Mapping & Inventory



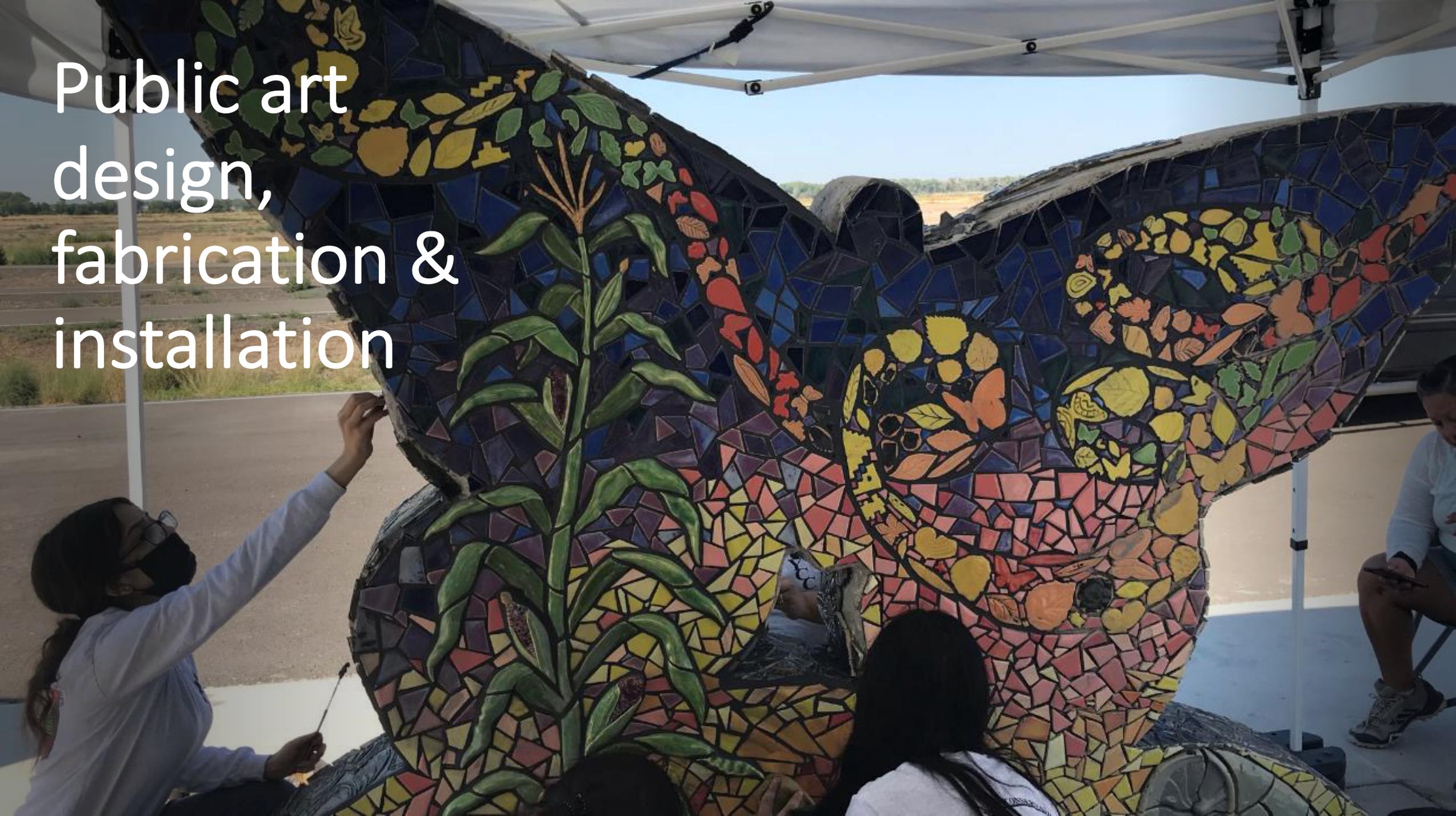
Tent campground construction



Cultural preservation



Public art
design,
fabrication &
installation





Prescribed burning

Improving municipal parks



Trails – maintenance & construction



Corps Member Benefits

- For Corps members who work on a YCC project for 48 weeks within a 48 month period, the YCC offers a \$1,500 educational tuition voucher good at New Mexico vocational and educational institutions OR a \$500 cash compensation.
- The YCC may offer a prorated amount based on a minimum of 32 weeks worked.



Opportunity: Co-operative Procurement Agreement

- NMSA 1978 § 13-1-158: Any state agency or local public body may either participate in, sponsor or administer a cooperative procurement agreement for the procurement of any services, construction or items of tangible personal property with any other state agency, local public body or external procurement unit in accordance with an agreement entered into and approved by the governing authority of each of the state agencies, local public bodies or external procurement units involved.
- Enables YCC to make multi-year agreements with state agencies who want to hire and train youth for projects.
- Enables state agencies to make long-term plans particularly with regard to hiring staff.
 - Opportunity to develop mentoring programs.

Co-op Agreement Considerations

- Capacity of NMDGF to carry out programs
 - Are there staff who can
 - plan projects
 - provide crew supervision
 - prepare detailed reimbursement packets and track the budget
- What kind of training is needed or desired, and how will that be provided.
- Will subcontractors be used.
- If something falls through, are there alternate plans in place.

What Corps Members Say

It was my first job and I feel I have more of an understanding of the real world.

The YCC is hands down one of the best programs that I've been able to work with and it really helped me a lot and they gave me the knowledge and the motivation to push myself even further and start a career for myself.

I watched as each crew member grew and found a connection with the community and outdoors.

I learned a lot about managing people and I would like to work more with forest, soil and water conservation in my future career.

It got to a point where the paycheck was just a bonus. This program is also a reason I managed to keep up my grades

The YCC grant was a stepping-stone and definitely, an eye opener showing me that there's a lot of options this program provides from fire, to project work, and a whole lot of training opportunities that younger individuals have at their disposal to be able to kick off their career.

Questions?

