

AMENDED MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

School for the Arts - NM New Mexico School for the Arts

This Memorandum of Understanding is made by the New Mexico School for the Arts, a state chartered high school (“Charter School”) and School for the Arts – NM, a tax exempt arts educational institution (“SA-NM”).

1. RECITALS.

1.1 The Charter School. The Charter School is a public high school for students who show exceptional promise or aptitude in the arts and a strong desire to pursue a career in the arts. The goal of the Charter School is to graduate highly educated students who are specially prepared to pursue a post secondary education at excellent colleges, universities and arts institutions and careers in the arts. The Charter School will meet all of the curriculum, faculty and reporting requirements of a public high school in New Mexico.

1.2 SA-NM. SA-NM is a tax exempt arts educational institution created to provide (1) intensive pre-professional and professional arts instruction to high school students in New Mexico who show exceptional promise or aptitude in the arts and a strong desire to pursue a career in the arts, (2) housing and food services for eligible students and (3) outreach and arts enrichment instruction and programs in communities around the State of New Mexico.

1.3 Collaboration and Cooperation.. The Charter School and SA-NM agree to collaborate and cooperate with each other in connection with curricula and the administration of classes and programs in order to give New Mexico students who demonstrate exceptional promise, aptitude and passion for the arts the opportunity to excel in the arts and to earn a New Mexico high school diploma by engaging in the highest standards of artistic and academic excellence and to prepare for competing on a national level for post secondary education and/or professional careers in the arts.

2. SEPARATE GOVERNANCE.

2.1 The Charter School. The Charter School will operate in accordance with the New Mexico Charter Schools Act, Sections 22-8B.1, et seq., NMSA 1978, as amended (the “Act”) and the Charter issued by the New Mexico State Public Education Commission. Under the Act and its Charter, the Charter School is responsible for its operations and has the power to carry out its educational mission.

2.2 SA-NM. SA-NM will operate as a nonprofit tax exempt educational institution in accordance with the purposes set forth in its Articles of Organization. SA-NM is responsible for its operations and has the power to carry out its educational mission.

2.3 The Charter School and SA-NM. The Charter School and the SA-NM are separate legal entities, having different and separate operations and responsibilities which they intend to coordinate in order to achieve their educational mission. The Charter School and SA-NM will collaborate and coordinate administration, and curricula in order to fulfill the mission and educational philosophy of the Charter School and SA-NM. The collaborative efforts of the Charter School and SA-NM include the following:

- (1) Defining the mission, vision and guiding principles of the Charter School and SA-NM;
- (2) Developing and creating a structure that recognizes and preserves the independent governance of the Charter School by its governing council and the independent governance of SA-NM by its board of trustees and at the same time ensures that a coordinated and collaborative administrative and curricular structure will exist for the purpose of carrying out the mission and goals of the Charter School and SA-NM;
- (3) Establishing protocols whenever possible to ensure consistent institutional cultures, programming, and staffing at both organizations;
- (4) Coordinating the development and implementation of strategic planning and long and short-term plans of the Charter School and of SA-NM;
- (5) Admitting students who will succeed in both the Charter School and the enhanced art curriculum offered by SA-NM;
- (6) Selecting administrators, faculty, artists, and staff; and
- (7) Developing and implementing a plan that integrates and coordinates the curriculum of the Charter School and the curriculum of SA-NM that will meet rigorous standards and graduate highly educated and experienced students who can readily pursue post secondary education and/or careers in the arts.

3. ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMS. The Charter School and SA-NM will work together to collaborate on activities and programs that will carry out their educational mission and enhance the educational experience of the students of the Charter School and SA-NM. The collaborative activities and programs of the Charter School and SA-NM will include the following:

3.1 Student Selection. The Charter School and SA-NM will work together to develop and implement student selection procedures and programs to identify students throughout New Mexico with exceptional promise or aptitude in the arts and a strong desire to pursue a career in the arts.

