



## Journey's End

Just as hardened mud recorded nearly 60 years of turning wagon wheels along the Santa Fe Trail, hardened bronze captures a moment when people traveled along the Trail dreaming of the end to a long and difficult journey.

*Journey's End*, by Albuquerque, New Mexico artist Reynaldo Rivera, in collaboration with landscape architect Richard Borkowetz, is placed within sight of actual Santa Fe Trail wagon ruts. The sculpture portrays the lead wagon of a Trail caravan as it makes its final approach into Santa Fe. Wary mules struggle to pull the wagon up a rise. One of the mules has stumbled. The muleskinner leans down to lift the reins of the animal as it struggles to regain its footing. Nearby, a Pueblo woman observes, while a boy and his dog run to watch the excitement. The Trail Boss on his horse points north urging on the caravan towards the end of the Trail on the Santa Fe plaza.

*Journey's End* illustrates the hardships of the Trail as well as the interdependence of people and animals for a successful passage. It portrays the relief and excitement as well as the profound changes that came with the arrival of each caravan.

## About the Artist



Reynaldo Rivera was born in Mesquite, New Mexico where he was steeped in the Hispanic, Native American and Anglo cultures. It was in his hometown that Rivera cultivated a life-long passion for the 400-year history of shared cultural cooperation along the Rio Grande. He continues to draw inspiration from his love and knowledge of the Rio Grande that flows near his home and studio in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

A highly skilled artist, Rivera went through numerous, labor intensive steps to create *Journey's End*. Steps included sculpting full-size clay models for each piece, casting the pieces at a foundry, welding many bronze pieces together to form a single figure and careful placement of the pieces on the site.

## About the Commission

The City of Santa Fe Arts Commission, through the Art in Public Places program, commissioned *Journey's End*. Funding for the project was provided by the City's 1% for Public Art, the Scenic and Historic Byways Program of the New Mexico Transportation Department, the Federal Highway Administration and the National Park Service. The artwork is located on a Museum of New Mexico-owned site and was completed in 2003.

## Partners

The City of Santa Fe 1% for Public Art program creates sites of community significance in public places, encourages private and public awareness and interest in the arts, increases employment opportunities in the arts, and encourages the integration of art into public property. For more information visit [www.santafetrail.org](http://www.santafetrail.org).

The Santa Fe National Historic Trail, established by Congress in 1987, is administered by the National Park Service in partnership with other government agencies, organizations and private individuals. Look for the distinctive Trail logo pictured below at participating historic sites and interpretive facilities.

The End of the Trail Chapter of the Santa Fe Trail Association works to bring community awareness of the Trail and its history. For more information, call 505-983-6338 or visit [www.santafetrail.org](http://www.santafetrail.org).

Special thanks to the National Park Service Long Distance Trails Group Office in Santa Fe and Richard A. Borkowetz for their contributions to the text.

## Directions

*Journey's End* is located at the entrance to Museum Hill, on Camino Lejo off the Old Santa Fe Trail in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Public transportation is offered via Santa Fe Trails "M-Bus" service.

