

## **RESOLUTION**

**WHEREAS**, the University of New Mexico, in partnership with the Centro Artístico y Cultural (CAYC) and the Buena Vista Neighborhood Association (BVNA), proposes to submit an environmental education grant to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to support the Buena Vista community in training to become responsible stewards of the proposed Cement Lake Preserve;

**WHEREAS**, the project will be led by Professor Bill Gilbert, Lannan Endowed Chair in Art & Ecology, Professor Catherine Harris and Professor Jeanette Hart-Mann of the University of New Mexico;

**WHEREAS**, Professors Gilbert, Harris and Hart-Mann have directed the fall field program entitled Land Arts of the American West (LAAW) and have worked with CAYC and BVNA on a series of successful projects each fall starting in 2009;

**WHEREAS**, the City of El Paso is supportive of the Buena Vista Environmental Education Project (BVEEP) at the Cement Lake Preserve;

**WHEREAS**, the partnership between the University of New Mexico, Centro Artístico y Cultural, and the Buena Vista Neighborhood Association seeks to apply for the EPA Two Year Education Grant in the amount not to exceed \$216,000.00 for the beautification and improvement of the Cement Lake Preserve to benefit the educational and aesthetic needs in the Buena Vista Neighborhood;

**WHEREAS**, the goals of the project to preserve this natural wetland space for El Paso citizens and to develop a sense of community through environmental education programming specific to the wetland site align with the City of El Paso's commitment to its residents; and

**WHEREAS**, the community of Buena Vista is a historically rich neighborhood nestled in the landscape of El Paso with a long established connection to the Cement Lake Preserve and the Buena Vista Environmental Education Project will assure the Buena Vista community has the knowledge necessary to play an active role in any future planning and development of the Cement Lake Preserve.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EL PASO:**

THAT the El Paso City Council is committed to the University of New Mexico, the Centro Artístico y Cultural, and the Buena Vista Neighborhood Association's efforts in the Cement Lake Preserve Project to improve the quality of life and education of its citizens of the Buena Vista Neighborhood as well as provide a vibrant educational enrichment and community engagement. The City applauds their efforts to extend

outreach of this blossoming partnership to the City of El Paso, Cemex, and the greater El Paso Region while pursuing the EPA Education Grant to benefit all parties, and looks forward to future possible collaboration on the Cement Lake Preserve Project.

Dated this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2012.

CITY OF EL PASO

\_\_\_\_\_  
John F. Cook  
Mayor

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Richarda Duffy Momsen  
City Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sylvia Borunda Firth  
City Attorney