



The Millicent Rogers Museum now has a new addition to the entrance, thanks to local architect Robert Sturtzman.

Rick Romancito

New digs

Millicent Rogers Museum debuts new look in time for Folk Life Festival

By Rick Romancito

Millicent Rogers Museum director Fred Peralta said he recalled stepping outside the front door of the renowned institution with architect Robert Sturtzman and wondering "something's missing."

That question was answered in the form of a new entryway for the museum, which is the first clue that other things underwent changes here. The last time the museum underwent a major renovation was in the late 1980s when famous architect Nathaniel Owings helped transform the former home of Claude J.K. Anderson into the first accredited museum in Taos.

This year's \$600,000 project, however, may not be so evident beyond the new entrance. Out of sight are changes

that will make operations much smoother and will ultimately help protect the museum's significant collections, Peralta said.

First, Peralta said they had to take a good look at the roof. Instead of replacing it entirely, Peralta said a "cap" was placed over

the practice of bringing in traveling shows and instead concentrating on rotating objects in the museum's vast and comprehensive collections. The museum possesses a wide variety of Hispanic, American Indian and other cultural treasures which will now be regularly rotated from the vault to the exhibition areas.

The project, which took place from late last year until a few weeks ago, was completed just in time for the museum's seventh annual Folk Life Festival Saturday (May 16) from noon until 4 p.m. This is a free Community Day Event presented "as a gift to our community," according to public relations officer Faith Hensley.

The festivities will include traditional arts and craft demonstrations by recognized American Indian, Hispanic, and Euro-American artists — including basket making, colcha embroidery, horn bread baking, retablos, wood carving, tin work, and pueblo pottery. Children will be able to participate in several arts and crafts projects, one of which will be making rag dolls with Melissa Larson of Wholly Rags.

Traditional music and dance from Northern New Mexico will also be featured. Performers to date include Billy Archuleta, Star Road Dance Company featuring Champion Hoop Dancer Kel Ranier from the Taos Pueblo, and Native American Flute music by Albino Luhan. Cristina Masoliver and the Puppet Theatre Los Titiriteros will also be performing.

The museum is located at 1504 Millicent Rogers Road in El Prado. For more, call (575) 758-2462 or visit online www.millicentrogers.org.



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Folk Life Fest

- **When:** Saturday (May 16), Noon - 4 p.m.
- **Where:** Millicent Rogers Museum, 1504 Millicent Rogers Road
- **Admission:** Free
- **Information:** (575) 758-2462

the entire roof, thereby ending the occasional leaks that plagued the staff. Second, Peralta said they examined the building's wiring, and heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems, which play a large role in ensuring the museum remains accredited.

Lastly, they made the choice to end