

Growing Pains and Solutions

Current Challenges

- There was no turnover procedure in place when the current board members took their seats in May of 2022, so the current board members had to learn how to manage a Political Subdivision with lots of help from the NM Land Grant Council members and staff.
- Poor record keeping. No central Land Grant office so Board Members in the past kept all the records of their tenure in their homes and never turned over records to the newly elected board members.
- San Miguel del Bado practiced land gifting well into the 2000s, without surveys and in many cases without knowing our own Patented Boundaries, and on a few occasions gave away state park land, which these heirs are now asking for the Merced to remedy these mistakes.
- Encroachment on Land Grant properties.
- Learning all the financial reporting requirements for Political Subdivisions. There is a need for the expertise of specialists and funds to accommodate employees.
- Procedures for spending Capital Outlay are complex and nuanced and require lots of time to comprehend and execute with confidence.
- Little to no resources for teaching our youth about the blessings and importance of Land Grant communities.

Current Projects and Future Plans

- Historic Preservation of an old building (Darwin House) that was part of the original settlement which lies within the National Register of Historic Places San Miguel del Bado Historic District.
- This structure will be used as a History Museum to commemorate the contributions and sacrifices of the people who maintained this community.
- This facility and others will also be used for an annual historical lecture series and workshops for local artists.
- We would like to connect our children to their ancestors in El Bado. Our symbolic avenue for breathing life into our plaza would be to build a public recreational park and playground.
- Our Board and all future boards need an office to conduct the business required of local government bodies. We need to add an office to the complex to house our historical records, heir information, land and lease records, and genealogical research.
- We would like an official genealogist to verify lineages of original grantees. We are involved in a project with Genealogist Henrietta Christmas in a process to formally certify heirs.

Claresse Romero

President

Tiffany Encinias

Vice President

Louis Gallegos

Secretary

David Bustamante

Treasurer

Jose Gonzales

Member

SAN MIGUEL DEL BADO LAND GRANT

- Adopting a set of Bylaws that include an election section and modification to residency requirements, and an addition of a 20 year lease.
- More signs for demarkation of our Land Grant patented and historic boundaries.
- Santa Fe Trail Marker to commemorate the commerce that changed the trajectory of our history.
- Survey project to formally define remaining lands.
- Legal representation to aid with boundary disputes and future challenges to US vs Sandoval.

Potential Capital Outlay Requests

- 500k for land buy back, purchase of remaining buildings within Historic District, and surveys
- 150k for Historical Preservation of the Darwin House
- 150k for San Miguel Senior Center for
- 150K to design and build a public park in San Miguel