SEED Sustainable Experience & Entrepreneur Development

2026 Nominations for Taos SEED, a Pilot Initiative

We are excited to announce the following individuals, organizations, and collaborations have been nominated for the 2026 Taos SEED (Sustainable Experience & Entrepreneur Development) pilot aimed at building community-centered tourism business innovation in Taos County.

A Taos Destination Stewardship Network (DSN) initiative, nominations recognize community-rooted work that engages with visitors while actively considering the full costs and benefits of tourism — economic, cultural, social, and environmental — with the goal of strengthening community well-being and long-term integrity and livability of place.

Nominees' innovative ideas and leadership goes beyond destination promotion and toward destination stewardship - work that asks how visitor economies can support local people, honor culture, and care for land and community over time.

Nomination reflects community recognition and does not imply selection for the program.
All nominees are invited to apply to the 2026 Taos SEED pilot. Applications are due February 6th, with programming kicking off the evening of February 26th, 2026.

Congratulations to the following nominees!

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Name of Nominee / Project	Why are you nominating this product or project? (250 words max)
Taxonomy Taos	I am nominating Taxonomy because it is a Taos County–based business that creates products and experiences that benefit both local residents and visitors. Taxonomy operates as a retail space, community hub, and event organizer, offering an alternative model for tourism that is grounded in local relationships rather than extraction. The business generates revenue through the sale of locally made art, goods, and publications while directly supporting Taos artists and makers. In addition, Taxonomy produces community-centered experiences such as the Taos Queer Art Market and Taos Zine Fest. These events are open to the public, welcome visitors, and provide meaningful opportunities for local creators to earn income, build networks, and share their work. Taxonomy meets the criteria outlined in the nomination guidelines as a registered Taos County business that intends to continue developing products and experiences that serve both locals and visitors. Its programming reflects a commitment to inclusivity, accessibility, and cultural integrity, while remaining financially sustainable as a small business.
Cafe Sagrado	Cafe Sagrado has created events that are inclusive for locals and guests to enjoy. Sharing their culture and love for the community. They invite non profits in the community to take part in the Noche de Ofrendas event to engage the community and resources.
/ shed	Now I am less a chef and more a part of the ecosystem that we (my wife Maida Branch and two children) are working to build that is / shed, where we are intimate with each step of the process that goes into a / shed dinner. I first became enamored with food when my mother gave me a wild rose to eat and since then have been delving into what it means “to cook”. Once a passion solely based within the confines of a restaurant, now involves numerous vernacular practices of our terrain and culture. / shed is blurring of the lines between life and work.
Veterans offgrid	We are doing good work and making the world a better place. We would love to partner with you.
Sacred Water Mountain Society (SWMS)	SWMS has connected me more deeply to this land and the wisdom it holds due to having been stewarded for thousands of years by indigenous people. To connect with the land by serving the land is to connect with Taos in a way that will never leave you.
Sacred Water Mountain Society	SWMS is a team that focuses on the wellbeing of the future generations. Their work is sustainable and absolutely necessary for the well being of the people, the environment, and all of the creatures on this planet.

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Whitefeather Native Cultural Tours	Whitefeather Native Cultural Tours has now established itself as a viable business but still needs help to expand its reach and improve its operations. It is a Native-owned business that fills a gap by providing a more in-depth immersive experience of Native life and traditions. Reviews by tour participants have been overwhelmingly positive.
Taos Pueblo Pow-Wow	I am nominating the Taos Pueblo Pow-Wow because it exemplifies the goals of Taos SEED: sustainable revenue generation, cultural stewardship, environmental respect, and expanded access for historically excluded communities, particularly Indigenous peoples. As one of Taos Pueblo's only public, revenue-generating event, the Pow-Wow carries an outsized responsibility. While the Pueblo hosts many traditional and ceremonial gatherings throughout the year, those events are not designed to generate income. The Pow-Wow is therefore a critical economic driver that supports cultural continuity while welcoming visitors in a meaningful, respectful way outside of the proper Village. This project is also a strong candidate for innovation through cross-collaboration. Strategic investment could support collaborative efforts including the County and Town, Indigenous vendor development, youth engagement, visitor education, and infrastructure improvements. In a region where tourism benefits many entities, reinvesting in Taos Pueblo's efforts is both equitable and necessary. Supporting the Pow-Wow advances a tourism model where Indigenous leadership, cultural sovereignty, and economic innovation coexist. It is a powerful example of how local communities, especially those historically marginalized, can lead tourism efforts that benefit the entire region.
Sacred Water Mountain Society	In New Mexico, water is a most precious resource. Dustin comes from a line of Apache ancestors who knew how to best steward our water and our land for hundreds or thousands of years. I believe in his ingenious method of connecting the past to present in a relevant manner. Dustin's work will implement ancient technologies and philosophies in a pragmatic and tangible way in order to transform our relationship with water and land. His work will establish a precedent in the acequia communities that there are alternatives to the dangerous contemporary practices of water usage. We can make small but notable changes to the land which optimize the way that water behaves on the terrain and effectively increase the quantity of water available to us forever. This work restores agency to the people who have worked to steward the acequias in this place for as long as people have lived here. I am interested in the preservation of our future, and so is Dustin Freyta.
Vedoe Fine Art	I visualize peoples ideas, concepts and translate verbal stories, dreams and fables into murals of all size, shape and colors. Thus creating a sharable and lasting depiction of values in the realms of emotion, spirit, nature, animals and other more elusive qualities. This is my way to display and promote what Taos means to the people living in this very unique area of New Mexico. Share that special view of the world with people here, tourists and visitors alike. Murals create community.
Tribal Slice	I am nominating Tribal Slice to help support its ongoing growth and development. Under Aaron

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	Honyumptewa's leadership the business has grown and expanded significantly in 2025. In 2026 the business is seeking funding and support to help grow its capacity, purchase equipment, support staff training, and create new marking and promotion assets.
Albert "Al" Stengart-Ravelson	I'm nominating myself because $5k would be extremely helpful to get this off the ground. I am very passionate and confident about this idea, but would love the support and encouragement that the SEED program offers. The premier bottleneck is finding an appropriate space to lease. The $5k would help pay the rent — crucial during the first stage of operations — but I am perhaps even more keen to hear you folks say, "Okay, Al, we're going to help you find a space and make this happen." Having the right space would be a determining factor of the success of a hostel. I am reluctant to burn too much cash during the validation phase of my idea, but at the same time need a space that is theoretically walking distance from the plaza (or at least a bus stop), with adequate parking and some kind of outdoor space. Apart from the conundrum of finding the right space, I am very confident in my ability to execute this idea. I have stayed at perhaps 100 hostels in my life, across dozens of countries, and have worked in a volunteer capacity at several of them. On the business side of things, I managed (at least to the extent that he could pay me) Michael McCormick's gallery up until last year. If you're curious, I am currently working as a legal researcher for a lawyer in town, Kathryn Hardy.
Beyond the Maafa Sustainability Center	This project is greatly beneficial to the Black community here in the U.S. and can serve as a beacon of hope to those in impoverished communities.
Heritage Inspirations	Heritage Inspirations is being nominated because it represents a rare and powerful model of tourism that is both economically viable and deeply rooted in ethics, community, and place. The company has spent years intentionally designing experiences that do more than bring visitors to Taos. They create meaningful connections between guests, living cultures, local businesses, and the land itself. At a time when many destinations struggle with extractive or superficial tourism, Heritage Inspirations demonstrates how tourism can be regenerative. Their work channels visitor spending toward local guides, artists, restaurants, museums, and community partners, while also setting a high standard for cultural respect, environmental stewardship, and thoughtful storytelling.

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	What makes Heritage Inspirations especially aligned with TAOS SEED is their commitment to turning values into systems. Guide training, partnerships with Taos Pueblo, responsible use of public lands, and carefully curated itineraries all prioritize depth over volume. Their experiences are intentionally designed to educate guests about living cultures, fragile landscapes, and the responsibility that comes with visiting a place as meaningful as Taos. Heritage Inspirations is not only a strong and sustainable business. It is a cultural ambassador for Northern New Mexico. Supporting this company means investing in a model of tourism that strengthens community identity, protects what makes Taos special, and proves that integrity, beauty, and economic success can grow together.
Beyond The Maafa Sustainability Center	I am nominating BTMSC because of the impact it has had on my community and I in Atlanta. Since BTMSC has been involved here, it has changed the way I think about sustainability, community, and health. BTMSC brings all walks of life together to create a place where we all can learn and grow together. BTMSC will help the Taos County community do the same thing and bring people from all over the world to witness and participate in it's mission. It offers real experiences and life skills that will attract visitors who want to engage meaningfully with the local community, people, and it's history. All of these factors make it a perfect candidate as Tier 2 organization. As BTMSC continues to develop, it would benefit from the guidance, visibility, and support Taos County is offering and also give back to it value that will last a lifetime. Pele has demonstrated his ability to successfully implement BTMSC in multiple different places and has gotten real results. He and BTMSC are perfect from this program.
Beyond the Maafa Sustainability Center	As BTMSC has evolved throughout the years, it has been Pele's dream to establish something physical and create a home for BTMSC. I'd love for that to come to fruition and I hope this award can be a a solid step towards that goal. Pele has taught and mentored many. He's a very genuine person and always shows up even when he doesn't have to. He's always seeking to help others and improve the conditions of those around him.
Heritage Inspirations Tours LLC	because SEED description seemed to fit perfectly with everything H.I. is about and doing their best to accomplish. It is a business I admire.
Poco Loco Café in Carson	Meeting the growing community's needs for accessible resources for self development of food sources and survivability in a desert climate where many of us live off grid and shun big city living. Sharing the old ways and incorporating the new to relieve stress on Mother Earth
Ashley Romero (A	As a local business their goal is to provide homes for locals as well as for new Taos residents and tourists.

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to Z handy Andy construction)	It is important being a family owned business to continue the education on making adobes for generations to come and maintain that traditional feel of Taos by doing this. To keep business going it has always been the goal to keeping close community contacts.
The Fall Arts Festival / Wilder Nightingale	Fall Arts Festival has a long standing history in Taos with a 50 year history. In 2025, the festival did not happen. We are excited to bring The Taos Fall Arts Festival back with a new approach and ensure the festival flourishes for many years to come. I am submitting two nominations for Rob/ Wilder Nightingale Gallery for Spring Arts Festival and The Taos Fall Arts Festival. Rob and I have been operating galleries on Kit Carson Road as colleagues for many years (we are on 24th year and he is on his 29th year). The Spring and Fall Arts Festivals are huge draws to the Taos area an celebrate our rich cultural diversity and the many talented local and international artist who create work here. Reviving either or both Arts Festivals is crucial to our local economy. Rob is equipped to coordinate both Spring Arts and / or The Taos Fall Arts Festival.
Taos Spring Arts/ Wilder Nightingale, proposed dates of Friday April 2th through Sunday May 10th, 2026	Taos Spring Arts Festival would be lovely compliment to the Taos Film Festival which opens April 23rd, 2026 and would support visitors to our town during the "shoulder" season. We are thinking the big opening reception would be on Friday May 1st and the festival would run through Mother's Day on May 10th, 2026. It is important to support Taos as the long standing fine art destination and the artists and galleries who live and produce work here. Both Spring Arts and Fall Arts are cornerstone festivals that promote Taos and welcome visitors to our unique multi-cultural community.
magpie	Over recent years, including the pandemic, when magpie changed locations, and the road construction downtown, magpie has struggled in many areas. It has been difficult to maintain employees, advertise regularly and keep up with operating costs and improvements. While many people come in to shop and return again and again, plenty of people come in regularly just to get inspired and recharged. magpie is an uplifting experience. I often have collage materials out and available free of charge for people to come sit and visit and be creative. With extra funding, I could expand this kind of community offering to different mediums and techniques as a means to help people feel more connected, inspired, and get away from the stress of this crazy world. The space has also been used for meetings by the Taos Mainstreet Merchant Advisory Committee and Taos Art Guild. magpie is a great space to gather and I would like to continue and expand that to various groups and organizations in need of a venue. I would also like to build a mosaic sculpture/bench in the front courtyard to serve as public art and attract people in. I would need to hire local craftspeople and artists to build and create this piece. In order to keep this business alive and thriving, an investment into these areas would be extremely helpful.
Julie Lake / Lake Object	I am nominating this project because it responds directly to current shifts in both tourism and the art economy. Many visitors are moving away from immediate purchases and toward experiences that offer education, context, and direct human connection. At the same time, traditional gallery models are

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	changing or disappearing, while artists still need sustainable ways to sell their work. By designing a visitor experience that begins with education and context in the gallery and extends into direct engagement with artist studios, this project offers an alternative to extractive or transactional tourism. I support artists through relationship-building rather than commission-based sales, while offering visitors meaningful access to living artists and working studios. The project aligns closely with the SEED program's focus on destination stewardship by prioritizing authentic engagement, ethical circulation of tourism dollars, and long-term community benefit. It serves multiple groups at once: local artists who gain visibility and direct sales, visitors seeking meaningful cultural experiences, and the broader Taos community, which benefits when tourism supports artists and studios rather than extractive intermediaries.
Natalina Oliverio	I have witnessed many of Natalina's interactive art exhibits through the Paseo Project. Every time, I feel inspired. Having a permanent project in our county from Natalina would be a benefit to everyone. Not only that, I want to see our wildlife thrive. This project is offering a sanctuary for all kinds of creatures. I am really excited to see this project actualized.
Pamela Rosenberg	The Beautify Taos project benefits Taos in immediate and lasting ways. It strengthens community pride and improves daily quality of life for locals by creating cleaner, more inviting public spaces where people want to linger, walk, gather, and bring friends and family. It also supports our small businesses by enhancing the visitor experience in a way that aligns with destination stewardship—encouraging respectful engagement with Taos rather than quick, transactional visits. The Beautify Taos project helps frame more public events and community use of the Plaza, reinforcing the Historic District as a shared "living room" for residents and a positive first impression for travelers.
Maravilla	I'm nominating Maravilla for the SEED program because I believe it matches the purpose and criteria, especially regarding building community connection and including under-represented populations. Maravilla is already working with or building collaborations with several community members and organizations, including: -The Neem Karoli Baba Ashram, which is down the street and for whom we anticipate hosting guests during their many yearly events -The Valverde Commons Association, a 55+ community directly adjacent to us who we expect to be frequent guests/visitors -The Healing Hearts Collective, a local network of healing practitioners that we expect will use our site for events and retreats -The Taos Land Trust, which manages the conservation easement on our farm acreage -Healthy Soils New Mexico, with which we've already hosted 2 workshops on our property

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	-The El Molino Acequia Association, which provides our farm with water and of which we're a member/parciante and serve as a commissioner on their board -Local small food businesses which can support our retreat guests and use our kitchen dining space for pop-up activities. Examples: Nixta Foods, Dawn Butterfly Cafe and TSA Lab We are making an effort to include all of Taos' communities, including especially the Latino/Hispanic and Indigenous communities. For example, our contractors for the renovations have been Hispano-owned businesses and are supporting 5-10 jobs in the Latino/Hispano communities over the 2-yearlong renovation. We are working on food sourcing relationships with Verdant Future Farm (Indigenous-owned) and are building connections with healing arts practitioners from Taos Pueblo.
Ultraviolet Floristry	Ultraviolet has a long list of projects that benefit both locals and bring tourists to the area. We have also been involved in starting 'First Friday Arts on Upper Bent Street.' This requires each of the 6 businesses to promote the event, provide music, snacks and an activity. The event continues to grow and hopefully will include the entire Bent street resuming again this spring. If we all work together to bring unique experiences to Taos then we become a stronger community. Locals are more likely to come out when several activities are happening at once. Tourists are drawn to an inside view of our community and I've noticed that many tourists continue coming back to Taos which is a beautiful thing.
Rivers & Birds	Rivers & Birds is currently exploring the possibility of launching a new ecological discovery center in downtown Taos. This public educational destination would serve as common ground for a broad spectrum of stakeholder communities to gather, learn about our local socio-ecological systems, and work together to address challenges to our shared habitat. The center's exhibits, programs, and equity-focused initiatives would welcome locals and visitors alike. For residents, the center would be a place to enrich their understanding of their own environment, engage in discussions about climate change adaptation and land use change, borrow equipment from an affordable outdoor gear lending library, and experience exhibits or talks blending science, traditional knowledge, and art. For tourists, the center would be a first point of contact with Taos' natural surroundings––a place to learn about the fragility of our ecosystems and how to visit sustainably, or book guided outdoor experiences with knowledgeable locals. For new-to-town property owners, it would be a place to learn about the rich stewardship traditions rooted in this community, and how to get involved. Beyond its public service functions, this institution could become a valuable revenue stream to support Rivers & Birds' cost-free youth programs, as well as other environmental organizations and sustainable entrepreneurs throughout the population. Taos SEED is the perfect opportunity to develop a responsible and remunerative business model, to make the Rivers & Birds ecological discovery center a success for the whole community.
Julie Lake, Yvonne Swartz, Sue	I'm nominating First Friday Arts on Upper Bent Street because it aligns with who SEED is designed to support: an existing, locally rooted, revenue-generating community experience in Taos County that benefits

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Westbrook	residents and visitors and reflects Destination Stewardship values. First Friday Arts is a true multi-partner collaboration led by Julie Lake, Yvonne Swartz, and Sue Westbrook, working alongside neighboring galleries and locally owned shops on Bent Street. Our goal is to strengthen and sustain a monthly arts evening that invites people downtown in a walkable, community-first way while supporting Taos artists, encouraging meaningful connection, and helping keep Bent Street vibrant. SEED funding would allow us to add four elements that will elevate the First Friday experience and increase community benefit: 1. Reliable live music each month, so the event has a dependable "heartbeat" that encourages locals to return regularly and helps visitors plan around a known entertainment offering. 2. Artist demonstrations in the courtyard, giving residents and visitors direct access to the creative process and deepening appreciation for Taos' living arts traditions, creating educational moments for families, and generating stronger sales opportunities for working artists and Bent Street businesses. 3. Food and beverages catered by a local restaurant. 4. Money for marketing the event to a broader audience. SEED support would help us build consistency and support growth that is not funded solely by business owners. The grant would help First Friday Arts keep growing into a sustainable, community led tradition that strengthens the creative economy and welcomes visitors in a way that serves Taos first.
Carlos D. Arguello dba El Tros Farm, LLC	Agriculture is an important and valued tradition. Carlos has great plans on how to continue the farm and achieve economic benefit to the community.
Francisco Gonzales aka Comanche	I would love to see Los Comanches provide an educational component to youth, passing on the tradition which in return provides an experience to visitors and an economic benefit to the community.
7K Studios	I believe this business is bringing an innovative and collaborative approach to how tourism, art, culture and community can interface. Not only will this business help Taos economically by bringing in industry and local jobs, but it also has the potential to bring with it career opportunities for our youth in the field of Production. This business offers a collaborative space for learning and cultural interchange while simultaneously providing resources and a platform for Taos locals to celebrate and shine the rich, vibrant and diverse culture that makes Taos so special with their very own voices through the art of production.
7K Studios	I am nominating Jenny Natelson because she exemplifies leadership rooted in community, creativity, and long-term impact. Rather than taking her success elsewhere, Jenny chose to return to her hometown of Taos and invest her skills, experience, and resources in creating opportunities for others. After a decade

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	working in film production in New York City, she came home with the knowledge and vision to build something new for the region. Jenny's decision to open a film studio in Taos reflects both courage and commitment. She is introducing an industry that creates jobs, supports local talent, and strengthens the creative economy while honoring the cultural integrity of the community. Her work bridges local values with national experience, expanding what's possible for Taos without losing what makes it special. Jenny is being nominated because she leads with purpose, generosity, and a genuine dedication to uplifting her community.
Taos Historic Museums	The Taos Historic Museums operates only on donations, memberships, special events and gift shop sales. The THMs have not received government support. WE would like to be considered to assist in learning and gaining grants. Assist with reaching out through broader advertising in promoting upcoming special events. Help assist in increasing memberships. Help with updating website.
Beyond the Maafa Sustainability Center	I am nominating this business because I have seen the impact it has had on every community where Pele has taken his program and business. It has turned around the lives of the youth and adults alike, given people the space to develop as individuals and as members of a community, and improve the quality of life for those who have employed the BTM Sustainability Center for its services. I have seen Pele do this with minimal to no support and often times out of his own pocket. Awarding Pele this grant to build the site of his sustainability center in Taos would make his success and reach skyrocket. And everyone within it's proximity will benefit. He has the plan, the vision, the skill, the determination, and integrity to make investments into him worthwhile. Now he just needs the support.
Taos Art School	answer sent to:destinationstewardship@taosmainstreet.org
Dancing Butterfly Naturals	Indigenous-owned business offers small-batch skincare, haircare, and medicinal products. Formulations use locally foraged ingredients from Northern New Mexico and ethically sourced materials from global Indigenous suppliers. Products are free from parabens, sulfates, artificial colors, and synthetic fragrances.
Sacred Water Mountain Society	I think this project has the power to influence not only the local landscape and water resources in Taos, but also nationally and perhaps even globally. Tourists who come here and learn from Dustin and the group, whether through visiting natural sites around the county and surrounding areas, or participating in educational workshops, information sessions, or community gatherings, will be able to take that knowledge back to their communities and see their own lands and watersheds with new eyes. I think the water tending and regenerative agriculture skills Dustin is cultivating and sharing with others in the community are essential for Taos and for the world, imminently necessary for all of us who see the need for living and thriving in land-based, Earth-oriented communities that prioritize collective care.

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Arroyo Seco Live	We have been working very hard in creating momentum for responsible events , including an intensive special use permit . We are seeking support in our causes and reach more of the community.
Whitefeather Native Cultural Tours	Kevin's business is on a precipice of sorts - beyond simple tours of the Pueblo, he wants to expand his cultural experience offering to lean towards the more educational, emphasizing "culinary tourism" which we feel is a fast-growing segment in the tourism market. As a small business, funding sources are critical to growing his business. Whitefeather Native Cultural tours would benefit greatly from funding from the Taos Seed cohort program sponsored by the DSN.
Milagro Micaceous LLC	This project leverages new technologies to better tell Taos culture and history to locals and tourists alike, then offers products and services generated with learning processes to let Taos fans buy profitable products made in Taos County. Innovations allow costs competitive with Chinese factory souvenirs, but the Cerro location in Taos County keeps tourist money in the local economy
Picuris Pueblo Museum	The Museum is open to the public, but its existence is not well known. While the tribe in general is working with the NM Dept of Tourism, the museum itself is looking to expand its marketing reach as well as add a gift shop to help generate income. Seed money toward a POS system or a staffer would be a big help in getting it up and running.
Sam Joseph Photography	Sam Joseph Photography is being nominated because this is a stellar opportunity to increase business both for him and other Taos businesses by collaborating to expand offerings, improve sustainability, or strengthen cultural/authentic experiences. By working in tandem client bases can be expanded. He can bring folks into certain businesses or experiences and other businesses or experience providers can work with Sam to provide photographs/video of experiences as an add on. The more stories and history that is shared the more authentically Taos is represented and remembered, creating a meaningful experience and ultimately bringing folks back for more, and ideally with a deeper understanding and respect for Taos.
Herencia Build LLC	I'm self-nominating Herencia Build because this project embodies the Destination Stewardship Plan's vision of tourism that "gives back more than it takes." Climate Relevance: Adobe construction offers a proven, low-carbon alternative to conventional building. As our blog documents, we chose adobe specifically to reduce embodied carbon, the emissions from material extraction, manufacturing, and transportation that net-zero calculations often ignore. With Governor Lujan Grisham's 2024 executive order calling for 2,000 climate-ready workers by 2026, adobe workforce training aligns with state priorities. Cultural Continuity: Taos Pueblo has maintained adobe buildings for over 1,000 years. The San Francisco de Asís Mission Church, the historic plaza all embody Taos's authentic character. Yet the skills to build and maintain these structures are at risk as fewer people learn the craft. Our workshops help ensure these techniques survive and thrive.

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	Economic Opportunity for Underserved Communities: The SEED program prioritizes expanding opportunities for Hispanic, Latino, and Indigenous communities historically excluded from tourism's benefits. Adobe construction has deep roots in these communities, and our cooperative brickyard concept could create accessible employment pathways that honor heritage while building wealth locally. Proven Demand: In 2025, we hosted six events that attracted 55+ participants from across the country — visitors from New York City, Denver, Florida, Texas, and throughout New Mexico who traveled specifically to Taos for this experience. This demonstrates clear market viability for adobe education tourism. With SEED support, we can scale these offerings and formalize partnerships. This isn't just tourism. It's building capacity for climate resilience while honoring the people and place that make Taos extraordinary.
Futuros Ancestral	I am an artist-in-residence at Futuros Ancestral, and I have led workshops with Futuros for locals and visitors alike, ranging from adobe making, horno building, plastering, goat shearing, sheep wool processing, spinning, and weaving workshops. I also became a co-director at Futuros after co-founding their Adobe Horno Cooperative; we have been building community hornos across Taos County and facilitating well-attended workshops. I am nominating Futuros to support us in expanding our ability to offer innovative workshops in 2026 that helps our Indigenous communities keep our traditions alive, as students and teachers alike.
Maia Franz	I am nominating myself because we are losing our elders and their stories. This project will preserve the elders of Taos stories for future generations and visitors
Futuros Ancestral	For expanding programs and strengthening cultural/authentic experiences. Funds and revenue are needed to continue teaching workshops and creating rich educational experiences. To keep the lights on so that we can have our colcha meetups. To have a place where the colcha artists can go to learn their art, create their art, advance their art, and share their art. So that we have a place to not only teach but share with community and tourists who are interested in our artform.
Oo-Oo-Nah	They deserve all the help they can get and are at a junction where they want to consider revenue options that engage tourists, as a way to support free programming.
Whitefeather cultural tours	He's the definition of tourism innovator with an aim to benefit the community and help educate and provide authentic experiences for tourists
Futuros Ancestral	Based on my experience, learning how to weave the Navajo horse cinch has allowed me to connect to my own culture, heritage, traditions, and roots, and has motivated me to branch out and learn more within the weaving traditions. It brings together other artists from different traditions and. we get to come together

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	and learn from and share with another.
Morning Star Farm of Taos	I think agro ecology and agro tourism can be an exciting place where sustainability, culture and tradition meet. It crosses a bridge that can be meaningful to locals, being able to grow and preserve your own food while also having an appeal to tourists looking for a unique meaningful experience. Being able to do something small that has many benefits, ie improving personal health through good food, and exercise (working in a garden) re-connecting and caring for land is a small act that can have a positive uplifting effect on humans.
Wild Roots Village	I am nominating Wild Roots Village as its founder and lead educator, as self-nominations are welcomed under the Taos SEED guidelines. The project exemplifies the type of emerging, community-centered initiative SEED seeks to support. It is a revenue-generating, teacher-led Waldorf early childhood program rooted in place-based education, land stewardship, and practical arts. Seasonal programs, summer camps, and offerings for older children and homeschool families provide meaningful engagement with land, culture, and regional ecology while serving local families first. Wild Roots Village is at an emerging stage and is well-positioned to refine its revenue model and expand offerings while maintaining strong stewardship values. Support from Taos SEED would help strengthen capacity, clarify programming, and develop a resilient model that contributes positively to Taos County's cultural, ecological, and family-centered community life.
Community Alliance for Sustainable Adobe (CASA)	I'm nominating CASA because, from my experience in collective impact, community development, and nonprofit leadership, I can say without hesitation that CASA is one of the most uniquely promising projects in Taos right now. CASA is not just preserving adobe building—it's preserving a way of life that reflects the soul of Taos. What sets CASA apart is its integrated approach: it honors traditional knowledge while creating pathways for local economic opportunity, especially for youth, artisans, and tradespeople. Its mission is deeply responsive to Taos's cultural complexity, offering programs that are inclusive, intergenerational, and rooted in place. CASA's work strengthens environmental sustainability by promoting earthen construction techniques that are low-impact, climate-adaptive, and locally resourced. At the same time, it invites visitors to connect with Taos in an authentic, hands-on way that aligns beautifully with the Destination Stewardship Plan. In short, CASA bridges past and future. It creates meaningful work, cultivates cultural pride, and embodies the creative resilience that defines this community. I believe strongly that CASA's presence in Taos will have lasting, positive ripple effects for locals and visitors alike.
Taos Historic Museums	To expand our offerings by further developing our art entrepreneur ecosystem. To improve our sustainability by generating revenue that increases our capacity & longevity. To strengthen cultural/authentic experiences by expanding our partnerships with traditional practitioners throughout Taos County that support a sustainable tourism model for our local community.

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Whitefeather Native Cultural Tours, LLC	Where are Native voices represented in the historical record? Where are Taos Pueblo perspectives on their own history and cultural memory? Why are Native elders, many of whom are aging and at increasing risk of losing their knowledge, so rarely consulted about their communities' pasts? Despite their deep expertise in Taos Pueblo history and culture, many elders have not been taken seriously by the outside community, in part because they lack formal university education. As these elders age, irreplaceable knowledge is at risk of being lost, including fluency in Taos Tiwa and extensive understanding of traditional plants, medicines, and cultural practices.
Sonus Mysterium	To help with establishing an LLC and website and recording help
Taos Walking Tours	To expand the scope and narrative of promoting Taos Walking Tours.
Heritage Inspirations	Heritage Inspirations is being nominated for the Taos SEED Award because it is a locally rooted, entrepreneur-led business that strengthens Taos through equitable economic development, cultural preservation, and sustainable tourism. Based in Taos, the company intentionally reinvests in the local economy by creating paid opportunities for local guides, Indigenous and Hispanic culture bearers, artists, educators, and small businesses. Its business model prioritizes community partnership and fair compensation, ensuring that those who hold Taos' cultural knowledge directly benefit from sharing it. Heritage Inspirations is innovative in its approach to tourism, offering education-driven, low-impact, relationship-based experiences that prioritize authenticity over volume. By emphasizing responsible visitation, environmental stewardship, and long-term local partnerships, the company supports sustainable growth while protecting Taos' cultural and natural resources. This project aligns with the goals of the Taos SEED Award by supporting local entrepreneurship, economic resilience, and community well-being, while modeling a tourism approach that honors the land, people, and heritage that define Taos.
Heritage Inspirations	I am nominating Angelisa Murray for her exceptional business sense, integrity, and deep connection to culture and community. Since beginning my work with Angelisa at the Heritage Inspirations office in Santa Fe, I have seen firsthand how thoughtfully and authentically she leads. Angelisa brings history, art, and place together in innovative ways that honor Northern New Mexico's living cultures while creating meaningful experiences for others. Her work is grounded in respect, ethical storytelling, and genuine relationships with the communities she highlights. She leads with integrity, prioritizing cultural responsibility, sustainability, and collaboration over easy commercial gain. Angelisa's vision and care not

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only shape a successful business but also strengthen community pride and cultural understanding throughout the region.