



# State of New Mexico

*Office of the Governor*

Bill Richardson  
*Governor*

## Agreement for SISTERHOOD between La Villa de Agreda (Spain) and the State of New Mexico (USA)

Considering the mutual interest expressed by the Spanish town of Agreda and the State of New Mexico (U.S.) to deepen cooperation, understanding and cooperative relations and friendship to promote projects and actions inspired by the common historical character that binds us: Sister Maria de Jesus de Agreda,

It is agreed as follows:

1. Aim.

This agreement aims to:

Formalize the twinning of the town of Agreda (Soria-Spain) and the State of New Mexico (U.S.). Both sides have in common and as a meeting point the representative character of our common history: The religious Sister Maria de Jesus, "The Blue Lady".

It was she who, according to documents such as Memorial Fray Alonso de Benavides (1630), first preached Christianity to the native tribes of the State of New Mexico, approaching language, culture and faith of Europe to the Americas. Their mysterious appearances along the Rio Grande inspired the legend, still alive today on both sides of the Atlantic of the "Blue Lady". Today, nearly four hundred years later, it is our common desire that these and other exchanges flow in both directions, for the benefit of both communities.

It is our firm intention to use the "Blue Lady" as the vehicle for interaction between our two peoples to cooperate and exchange information and actions in the areas of culture, as well as social and economic and other of areas that are deemed appropriate.

## 2. Areas of cooperation

To achieve the proposed goals, it is necessary to develop actions aimed at the following areas:

- a) Culture. Promotion and dissemination of the figure of Sister Maria de Jesus, her life, qualities, significance and historical works, both in New Mexico and in Spain. As well as the promotion and dissemination of native cultures she visited in the seventeenth century.
- b) Tourism. Using this figure to develop international tourism activities aimed at publicizing the legacy and historical and artistic heritage of both peoples.
- c) Trade and Investment. Dissemination of information, scholarship and exchange, and future possibilities for economic advancement.
- d) Education. Develop educational and publicity programs to achieve a full understanding between the two cultures, covering areas such as language training (Spanish in the U.S., English in Spain), History of Native American peoples and the unique epic exploration of New Mexico by the Spanish.
- e) Any other area proposed by either party.

## 3. Modalities of cooperation.

- a) Exchange of information, documentation and materials.
- b) Cultural and artistic exchange.
- c) Organization of fairs, seminars and conferences.
- d) Promotion and dissemination of economy development projects
- e) Commerce.

#### 4. Operational Programs

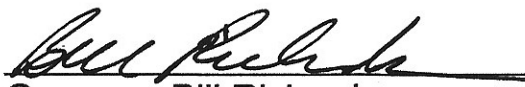
The parties agree to clarify the following aspects of the projects or actions to develop:

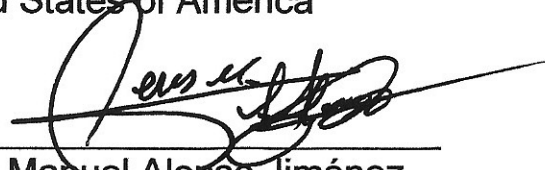
- Additional Objectives and development of activities.
- Schedule of work.
- Responsibilities of each party.
- Allocation of manpower, material and financial resources.
- Any other pertinent information.
- Draw up an annual program of activities to enhance relations between the two sides.


#### 5. Financing

The parties will fund activities with resources as allocated in their respective budgets, although they may use alternative funding mechanisms for them.

Agreed by the undersigned, this 2<sup>nd</sup> Day of December in Santa Fe, New Mexico, United States of America.

  
Governor Bill Richardson  
State of New Mexico  
United States of America

  
Jesús Manuel Alonso Jiménez  
Mayor of Agreda, Soria, Spain

  
Stuart A. Ashman  
Cabinet Secretary  
Department of Cultural Affairs