

La Bajada, Santa Fe, NM

SPONSORED SECTION

- 5,421 +/- Acres
- Price: \$65,052,000 (\$12,000 AC)
- Master Plan & Aggregate Resource Potential

La Bajada is the largest privately owned parcel of land located between Albuquerque and Santa Fe, New Mexico. This exceptional property features over 10,000 feet of Interstate 25 frontage and has tremendous development potential. The northern New Mexico | Colorado rail line and the Rail Runner run directly through the heart of the property.

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Portrait ALBUQUERQUE

GALLERY

History Al Fresco



MAGNUM OPUS
Frederico Vigil's fresco will tell the history of Hispanic people since prehistoric times.

Frederico Vigil's neck hurts. Yours would, too, if you'd been standing on a scissor lift painting the walls and ceiling of the Torr on—the 45-foot-tall stucco tower at the entrance to Albuquerque's National Hispanic Cultural Center—for the better part of six years.

This is no ordinary paint job. Vigil, one of a handful of masters in the art of fresco worldwide, is creating a work that is monumental in both size and scope. When he finishes (sometime in 2009, he hopes) every inch of the Torr on's more

than 4,000 square feet of walls and ceiling will be covered with his bright, bold fresco, which tells the story of the Hispanic peoples throughout the world from prehistoric times to the present.

The scissor lift may be a modern invention, but the painting techniques Vigil uses are ancient, predating even Michaelangelo by centuries. He mixes and applies the plaster by hand, and hand grinds and blends the natural pigments that make up his larger-than-life figures. "This process has taught me that the people who used to do frescoes, the Italians, the primitives, were very

strong and very determined," the 61-year-old Santa Fe native says.

The design is a collaboration based on more than two years of research with a small group of historians and scholars into Hispanic history through the ages. The execution is a more solitary thing. He gets help from local art students who grind pigments and mix plaster, but Vigil is painting every inch of the mural himself.

Vigil began learning how to paint in the fresco style in 1984. Now, six years into this project, he says, "I'm finally figuring it out." —Paula M. Bodah