



PRESS RELEASE

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Singer/Songwriter Darden Smith Brings His “Be An Artist” Program to Area Schools Program teaches kids about creativity while writing their own original song

ALBUQUERQUE—Acclaimed Austin-based singer/songwriter Darden Smith travels to New Mexico next week to bring his “Be An Artist” program to several area schools. The program brings innovative, personalized and inspirational songwriting workshops into schools to encourage students to explore creativity in a way not usually seen in traditional classroom settings.

The Be An Artist workshops are sponsored by the APS Education Foundation, American Federation of Teachers NM, Pueblo of Isleta, Youth Development, Inc., Albuquerque City Councilman Isaac Benton, New Mexico Voices for Children, and Embassy Suites.

To show students how easily the artistic process can unfold, Darden leads the group in a creatively charged, fast-paced exercise of writing an original song. Every student is encouraged to contribute, whether it is a word, a few lines or a theme for the song. Darden acts merely as a guide and an editor, keeping the song on course, as the students themselves become the songwriters. With his laptop computer and a microphone, Darden and the students record the song in the classroom. At the close of the session, the schools receive CDs of the students’ songs.

Darden Smith’s Be An Artist program schedule:

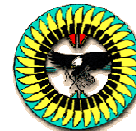
Washington Middle School: Monday, March 29, 9am-3pm

Isleta Elementary School: Tuesday, March 30, noon-3pm

South Valley Academy: Wednesday, March 31, 9am-4pm

Albuquerque High School: Thursday, April 1, 11am-3pm (time is tentative)

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Pueblo of Isleta



New Mexico Voices for Children is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization advocating for policies to improve the health and well-being of New Mexico's children, families and communities.

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