

Midtown campus

The Midtown campus is a 60-acre area of land that has been home to several institutions including a hospital, a number of colleges, and arts institutions. During the 1600-1700s early Spanish settlers sent their children to Mexico, New Orleans, St. Louis, or Europe for formal education. For families who could not afford this schooling, children grew up illiterate. In 1821, the Mexican congress directed New Mexico town councils to organize primary schools in each locality, however the orders were never heeded, although a few private institutions for education did exist in the state. Father Antonio Jose Martinez of Taos, taught children from his home because there was not a school building available. Santa Fe opened its first public school in 1826.

In 1851, the Catholic churches of New Mexico were transferred to the Diocese of Durango, and the Pope ordered Archbishop Jean-Baptiste Lamy, a French-born man living in Cincinnati, to relocate and govern New Mexico churches. Lamy garnered Sisters from Kentucky to start the Loretto Academy for Girls, in 1852. Then Lamy recruited the De La Salle Christian Brothers from France to help open St. Michael's, a similar school for boys, which started classes on November 22, 1859. The first location of St. Michael's College, formerly known as El Colegio de San Miguel, was made of adobe bricks; the building was situated next to the San Miguel Mission on Old Santa Fe Trail.

In the 1870s, St. Michael's school appointed Brother Botulph as lead administrator. Botulph created offerings of high school diplomas and later teaching certificates. Then in 1874, the territorial legislature granted the school a charter, to serve as a teacher-training college, the College of the Christian Brothers of New Mexico. It is the oldest chartered college in New Mexico that granted diplomas to college graduates starting in 1876.

The school completed a new main building in November 1878, then ten years later, Brother Botulph initiated a fundraising effort for the construction of a three-story building to accommodate more students. This building, located behind the San Miguel Chapel, was the territorial capital for two years before the school began using it in 1889. It now functions as the Lamy Building for the state with offices that serve visitors with information about the state, as well as the Government Commission on Disabilities.

During World War I, the college program was dropped from St. Michaels' due to financial concerns. In 1926, a fire destroyed the third floor of the Lamy Building. Several alumni and a wealthy businessman Miguel Chavez, donated money to construct a new school building just south of the site. This structure was used until November 1966, when St. Michael's High School moved to its current location on Siringo Road.

After World War II, Brother Benildus of Mary left St. Michael's high school to re-establish the college program of St. Michael's on the grounds of the abandoned Bruns Army Hospital, located at the site of Midtown Campus. During the late 1940s, the Midtown campus was a Catholic facility founded as St. Michael's College. In the late 1940s, the auditorium became a chapel, which was dedicated to Saint Joseph, in honor of the Brothers who founded the Christian School. In 1963, part of the building complex served as living quarters for the Brothers who remained on the campus and who served as maintenance technicians for the College.

In 2017, a suspected arsonist started a fire that destroyed the World War II-era building on the Midtown campus. Investigations after the fire revealed the Midtown campus history. The building that was

destroyed by the fire had once been a hospital barracks that was part of the old Bruns Army Hospital complex, which opened in 1943 to medically treated wounded soldiers; many survivors of the Bataan Death March. It housed the dead, mostly members of New Mexico's 200th Coast Artillery Battalion, and also served as a place where theatrical plays were held and movies were shown to staff and patients.

The hospital, named after Col. Earl Harvey Bruns, was located near the corner of what is now Cerrillos Road and St. Michael's Drive, on what was considered "the edge of town". Bruns was an Army doctor who was considered an expert on pulmonary tuberculosis — a disease that killed him in 1933. The hospital employed 1,000 civilians including 500 military men and 100 military nurses which served a capacity of about 2,500 beds, and garnished an estimated \$4.5 million a year in revenue for the city.

During World War I, celebrities such as Groucho Marx, Olivia de Havilland, Helen Keller and Basil Rathbone, visited the hospital and entertained the wounded soldiers. After the Army decommissioned the hospital, half of the property was turned into a college, with the remaining portions given to various state and federal agencies. In 2012, when the city was planning to demolish the remaining barracks, a survey was commissioned to assess all the structures on campus. Architects, Gayla Bechtol, Lisette Ellis and Joe Browning, conducted a historic building survey of the Bruns site and found that the barracks building originally served as Red Cross headquarters. It was one of only 18 barracks remaining among more than 200 prefabricated "temporary buildings" that made up the hospital complex encompassing 228 acres. Within the Red Cross headquarters, was a lounge, a library, a stenographic office for transcribing letters, a telephone booth room, several second-floor guest rooms for women on one side and men on the other, plus two rooms for a "hostess." A beautiful organ was located in what had been the theater's balcony of the headquarters, and was used in religious services after the space was converted into a chapel. In 2014, the building became part of a set for the cable television drama called, "Manhattan", about the Manhattan Project in Los Alamos during World War II, however the show was canceled after its second season. The property has remained vacant since.

College Institutions on Midtown Campus

In 1964, St. Michael's College on Midtown campus was co-ed and changed its name to the College of Santa Fe, a non-profit institution and would later share parts of the campus with the Institute of American Indian Arts.

The Institute of American Indian Arts (formally known as the Institute of American Indian and Alaska Native Culture and Arts Development) is one of 37 tribal colleges located in the United States. The IAIA institution was established in 1962 during the administration of President John F. Kennedy and opened on the campus of the Indian School in Santa Fe, New Mexico. It was first a high school formed under the Department of Interior's Bureau of Indian Affairs. In 1980, the institution left the Santa Fe Indian School campus and moved to the College of Santa Fe, and the "IAIA "campus" was distributed amongst barracks of the college.

IAIA is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC). IAIA is a member of the American Indian Higher Education Consortium. Under the leadership of Dr. George Boyce, Lloyd Kiva New, and others, the Institute embodied a bold and innovative approach to arts education. In 1975, IAIA became a two-year college offering associate degrees in Studio Arts, Creative Writing, and Museum Studies. In 1992, IAIA relocated its Museum of Contemporary Native Arts to downtown Santa Fe. As the nation's leading

exhibition facility for contemporary art by Indigenous artists, the Museum also houses the National Collection of Contemporary Native American Art.

When the Equity in Educational Land-Grant Status Act was passed in 1994, it gave land-grant status to twenty-nine of the nation's tribal colleges and provided them with endowments and opportunities for capacity-building grants. The Institute for American Indian Arts was one of the institutions selected for land-grant status; federal financial support assisted its move from the Midtown campus to a new permanent 140-acre campus in August 2000.

The Institute expanded its academic programs to include baccalaureate degrees, introducing a BFA in Creative Writing, Studio Arts, and New Media Arts, as well as a BA in Museum Studies and Indigenous Liberal Studies (in 2006). The new campus at, 83 Avan Nu Po Road in Santa Fe, made room for several state-of-the-art buildings such as the library, an academic and administrative center, a residence center and family housing, a student life center and a cultural learning center.

In the fall of 2010, IAIA added over 60,000 square feet of building space to its campus with the Center for Lifelong Education Conference Center, the science and technology building and the sculpture and foundry complex. The Center for Lifelong Education Conference Center houses the campus café, space for conferences and meetings, the student life offices and the campus bookstore. The science and technology building features a digital dome theater, additional new media labs, conservation/science labs, and faculty offices. It also houses the world class Museum of Contemporary Native Arts' permanent collection. The sculpture and foundry building features studio space for wood/stone carving, as well as metal sculpting and casting capabilities.

Many of the country's most illustrious contemporary American Indian artists, poets, writers, musicians and cultural leaders are IAIA alumni, while others are affiliated with IAIA as faculty, staff, visiting artists, and scholars. Among these are Dan Namingha (Tewa- Hopi), Fritz Scholder (Luiseño), David Bradley (Chippewa/Ojibwe), Sherwin Bitsui (Diné), James Thomas Stevens (Akwesasne Mohawk), Allison Hedge Coke (Métis), Doug Hyde (Nez Perce), Allan Houser (Apache), Charlene Teters (Spokane), Nancy Mithlo (Chiricahua Apache), Linda Lomahaftewa (Hopi/Choctaw), Karita Coffey (Comanche), Jessie Ryker Crawford (Minnesota Chippewa Tribe), Mateo Romero (Cochiti Pueblo), Tony Abeyta (Navajo), Charles Loloma (Hopi), Otellie Loloma (Hopi), Earl Biss (Crow), T.C. Cannon (Kiowa/ Caddo), Darren Vigil Gray (Jicarilla Apache/Kiowa Apache), Kevin Red Star (Crow), and Joy Harjo (Mvskoke/Creek).

College of Santa Fe to Santa Fe University of Art and Design

In February 2009, the College of Santa Fe declared a state of financial emergency, and tried to merge with Highlands University but failed to do so due to long-term funding concerns. The College was then purchased by Laureate Education Inc. The education of students was no longer affiliated with the Christian Brothers or the Lasallian tradition, and the institution's name changed again to the Santa Fe University of Art and Design on August 30, 2010.

The University was a private and for-profit school, accredited by the Higher Learning Commission, which offered college degrees in arts management, contemporary music, creative writing, digital arts, film, graphic design, performing arts, photography, and studio art. In 2012, the school began collaborating with actor Robert Redford to offer a full-ride Unique Voice scholarship for indigenous people, as well as several Emerging Artist Scholarships.

The facilities still in use at this location include: the Greer Garson Theatre Center, the Weckesser Studio Theatre, a black-box performance space, a dance studio, the Claire Stewart Williamson Acting Lab, practice rooms and costume shops. Garson Studios is a 27,000-square-foot motion picture soundstage facility connected to the university's Film School. It has the largest permanent green screen in the state of New Mexico. This facility was founded in 1989, by actress and College of Santa Fe patron, Greer Garson.

The campus also contains a cinematheque called, "The Screen", which is used for film screening and has seating for 165 people. The Visual Arts Center housed the university's art and photography departments located within interconnected buildings that were designed by Mexican architect, Ricardo Legorreta. The campus faced significant ongoing financial challenges and a dwindling student population, and was forced to close its campus in May 2018. The City of Santa Fe then purchased the campus for \$30 million dollars.

Future Planning of Midtown campus

In 2020, the City of Santa Fe approved a contract with a Dallas-based master developer, and other local developers, to come up with a master plan for the Midtown campus. Mayor Alan Webber said, "And now we're looking at something that in the future could turn into a new center for Santa Fe with housing, with higher education, digital jobs, public spaces, parks, a really gorgeous new neighborhood in the geographical center of Santa Fe."

In May 2021, more than half of the buildings on the midtown campus were assessed; many will soon be demolished. Sam Burnett, midtown property maintenance manager, told the Santa Fe City council that 16 of the 23 buildings either have limited or no potential for reuse. The City discussed preliminary redevelopment plans for the 64-acre property, and identified nine buildings that could be used for development, which include the campus' visual arts center, Garson Studio, Alexis Hall, the data bunker, and the fitness center.

In September 2021, the City held a series of planning workshops for the public to provide feedback and recommendations about how the Midtown District, 64-acre property, could be developed. A report with the community engagement findings should be available by the end of 2022.

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