NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF

CULTURAL AFFAIRS

Pre-Proposal Conference for RFP for Cultural Resource Consulting Services for El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro World Heritage Site Nomination and Other Projects

May 28, 2026

El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro, New Mexico

El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro, US & Mexico

Purpose of RFP

- DCA is seeking cultural resources consulting services for the timely completion of World Heritage nomination projects, including research and preparation of materials in support of a nomination dossier to add the U.S. trail sections of El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro to the World Heritage List.
- During and after this project, the Historic Preservation Division may seek additional support for separate cultural resources projects including historic register nominations, historic preservation studies, GIS/mapping and cultural resources training.

Contract Vehicle

- This is a qualifications-based RFP, not a cost-based RFP.
- Multiple offerers may be offered a contract for a 4-year period to provide services based on task orders.
- Vendors with different professional focuses may be awarded a contract
- The department will request quotes for specific task related to the World Heritage nomination process or other historic preservation activity from vendors. Task orders are all inclusive for costs.
- A contract is no guarantee of work, and a vendor does not have to submit a proposal in response to the department’s request.

Funding

- The New Mexico legislature provided $250,000 of non-recurring funding during fiscal year 2027 for this project. (Fiscal year 27 starts July 1st and ends June 30, 2027.)
- The department will likely seek a one- or two-year extension of these funds depending on how much activity is projected to be accomplished in FY27.
- The department is confident that if satisfactory progress is demonstrated additional non-recurring funding can be obtained to complete the nomination process.

History of Efforts to Include New Mexico Portion of Trail as World Heritage Site

- The U.S. withdrew its nomination of El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro for Work Heritage status in 2009 due to conflicts with Spaceport America construction
- Interest was renewed in 2024, with six Stakeholder meetings having been held since October 2024 on the World Heritage Nomination Initiative
- Stakeholders include representatives of the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS-USA), U.S. and Mexican General Consulate, Honorary Consul of the Kingdon of Spain, and the National Institute of Anthropology and Historic in Mexico (INAH), along with Michael Taylor – Cultural Routes Senior Advisor.
- DCA's Historic Preservation Office is a stakeholder, with interest from New Mexico Historic sites adjacent to the route and the New Mexico History Museum
- The stakeholders view the best way to expand the Camino Real de Tierra Adentro is to add the U.S. portions to Mexico's 2010 World Heritage List inscription

History of Efforts to Include New Mexico Portion of Trail as World Heritage Site

- A draft list of properties that may meet the UNESCO Outstanding Universal Value has been developed
- Tours were conducted in summer of 2025 of properties
- The draft tentative list currently contains 15 properties but it is expected that this list will change as the evaluation for Outstanding Universal Value continues

Expectations for Camino Trail Contractor

- Preparation of the nomination will require, in part, services of a qualified contractor(s) with extensive experience in writing National Register of Historic Places and/or World Heritage nominations, including expert familiarity with cultural routes and Indigenous, Spanish, Mexican and Anglo history and archaeology in the U.S. Southwest.
- The work will follow the Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention. It will also entail holding public scoping meetings along the route, as well as close coordination with Mexico, including travel for meetings and site visits . Historic properties to be considered (approximately twenty) include historic churches, public buildings, cultural landscapes, Indian Pueblos, and historic Camino Real road segments on public lands. The dossier nomination narrative to be prepared will follow the existing format as established in Mexico's original dossier prepared in 2010.
- This is expected to be a multi-year effort.

Notes

- Submission is due on Friday June 5th.
- Contract award is in early July.
- Please include key forms: letter of transmittal form (appendix A), campaign contribution form (appendix B), New Mexico or Native American preference certificate, if applicable.