



## State of New Mexico

Michelle Lujan Grisham  
*Governor*

Dear Mr. Bateman and the entire Carrizozo Heritage Museum team,

I am writing to extend my warmest congratulations on the ribbon-cutting ceremony for your new exhibition, "Atomic Dawn: Lincoln County, Trinity, and the Bomb." This momentous occasion represents the culmination of your dedicated efforts.

Small museums like the Carrizozo Heritage Museum are the beating heart of New Mexico's historical preservation efforts. While our larger institutions in Santa Fe and Albuquerque may receive more attention, it is often the community-centered museums throughout our rural regions that form the most meaningful connections between history and the people whose lives were shaped by it. Your partnership with the Tularosa Basin Downwinders Consortium exemplifies the vital role that local museums play in preserving and telling the complex stories that might otherwise be overlooked.

The work you and your staff undertake daily—collecting artifacts, researching local history, creating compelling exhibitions, and engaging with community members—ensures that future generations will understand the multifaceted history of Lincoln County. Your commitment to exploring challenging topics, such as the Trinity Test and its lasting impact on local communities, demonstrates the courage and integrity that make small museums such powerful forces for education and healing.

Museum professionals like yourself are not merely caretakers of the past; you are storytellers, educators, and community builders. The countless hours spent researching, designing exhibits, writing grants, and welcoming visitors do not go unrecognized — this work is essential to maintaining our collective memory and identity as New Mexicans.

This new exhibition addressing the dawn of the atomic age and its effects on Lincoln County residents represents museum work at its finest—preserving difficult histories while creating space for community reflection and dialogue. By partnering with those directly affected through the Tularosa Basin Downwinders Consortium, you ensure that these stories are told with authenticity and respect.

As you cut the ribbon, please know that my office stands with you in celebration of this achievement and in appreciation of your ongoing dedication to keeping our shared history alive. We look forward to visiting the exhibition and witnessing firsthand how you have illuminated this critical chapter in our state's history.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michelle Lujan Grisham".

Michelle Lujan Grisham  
Governor

