

Manitos Community Memory Project

MCMP Spotlight

May 23, 2022



Dana Maestas

Dana D. Valdez Maestas is one of our Manitos Community Memory Project community archivists. She was born in Alamosa, Colorado and raised in San Luis. She has been married to Huberto Maestas for 45 years. They have four children and three grandchildren. Ms. Maestas lost her youngest son in 2020. An eighth-generation resident of the Culebra villages near San Luis, her ancestors are originally from the communities of Mora, Costilla and the area around Tierra Amarilla in northern New Mexico. She received her

Bachelor's Degree in Communications and Marketing from the University of Colorado in Boulder, Colorado. She also received her diploma in the Leading Edge Business Plan program from Adams State College in Alamosa, Colorado. As a journalist, she has written for periodicals such as the Colorado Springs Gazette, the Costilla County Free Press, the Taos News, Westword and MUSE art magazine. She is also the author of [*San Luis, Colorado*](#) which was published as part of the *Images of America* series in

2015. She is a successful grant writer and has secured funding for numerous projects in the fine arts. Ms. Maestas worked for the [Land Rights Council](#) which is a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of the rights of the citizens of the San Luis Valley to have access to [La Sierra](#). She is the owner of the Jacales Fine Art Gallery. Currently, Ms. Maestas is the Planning Manager for the [Latino Community Foundation of Colorado](#) and the community-based organization Soul Players of the Valley which includes the communities of Antonito, Capulín, Alamosa and San Luis. In addition to this work, she is also a freelance writer and journalist.

