

(a): 1000 Perkins Road (airport), PO Box 271  
(h): M - F, 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM  
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# BLUE SKY CENTER

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## NOÉ MONTES ARTIST IN RESIDENCE

Photographer and conversationalist Noé Montes is back working in the Cuyama Valley, this time on a six-month residency leading to an exhibit at the Bakersfield Museum of Art in September. From January to June, Noé will be visiting with Cuyama Valley residents of all ages who are either interested in photography or in telling their story of their life in the Cuyama Valley. Contact us if you'd like to connect to Noé! "I look forward to learning about the history of the valley and about what is important to the people who live and work here. I am excited to meet and listen to people and get to know them, more than anything I hope that this project is something that will be of value to its residents." - Noé Montes

## NEWS + EVENTS

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### SMALL FARMERS AND RANCHERS GATHERING

Be on the look out for the Small Farmers and Ranchers Gathering in March 2019! Looking to get involved or have any questions? Contact Cecilia Guevara: (559) 715-2137 or stop by Blue Sky Center (1000 Perkins Rd., New Cuyama, Ca 93254).

### WELCOMING OUR MARCH DESERT FELLOW

We're excited to announce London-raised, Santa Barbara-based printmaker and artist Claudia Borfiga as our first Desert Fellow of the year! Staying in the Cuyama Valley for three weeks, Claudia will work within the community to engage residents with programming and creative projects. Interested in getting to know Claudia? Let us know your ideas and look out for future opportunities to get involved!

### RURAL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Rural Business Development Project update: We're currently in the process of selecting consultants and job trainers for the Made in Cuyama project! In August of 2018, the USDA approved us for their Rural Business Development Grant for \$35,000. These funds will be used to bring in consultants to provide one-on-one assistance to emerging and existing businesses here in the Cuyama Valley. Additionally, we've been collecting data from a job training survey to analyze which job trainings community members want and need. Technical assistance and job trainings will be put into action beginning in the spring. We've also started assisting all entrepreneurs who filled out an intake application form with business plan writing and other forms of technical assistance. If you're interested in receiving technical assistance for your business idea or existing business or want to see specific job training here in New Cuyama, stop by Blue Sky Center to pick up an intake application and/or a job training survey.