



**Martha "Marty" Braniff** is an award-winning writer, poet, and child advocate. Marty's newest novel, *Broken Moon*, won the 2015 Writer's League of Texas Mystery Novel Award, as did her second novel, *Step Over Rio* in 2005. Marty's first novel, *Beds of Broken Glass*, was a finalist for Barbara Kingsolver's Bellwether Prize, and her book of poems, *Songs From the Bone Closet*, was a finalist for the Mark Twain Violet Crown Award.

Before launching her writing career, Marty focused on child advocacy, including starting art programs in Houston for children at the Juvenile Detention Center, St. Michael School, and Casa de Esperanza. She founded Houston's Child Advocates, Inc. an organization that trains volunteers to advocate for abused and neglected children through the courts. Marty's other professional awards include *Inc. Magazine* Entrepreneur of the Year; National Council of Jewish Women Hannah G. Solomon Award; YWCA Woman of the Year; Kappa Alpha Theta Executive Director of the Year; Houston Young Lawyers' Liberty Bell Award; *Houston Post* Woman on the Move; and City of Houston Mayor's Award.

"I was first attracted to New Mexico Women in the Arts because I believe women's art and words are inspiring and transforming forces in society," says Marty. "Additionally, I enjoy being a part of this energetic group of brilliant women who seek to recognize and celebrate New Mexico women artists."