Pete Madrid, who worked at Babbitt’s as a young boy, purchased the Hubbard Building in 1981, two years after the I-40 bypassed Route 66 in Winslow. At P&H Enterprises, Pete and his wife, Helen, stocked Wrangler western wear, large and small Whirlpool appliances, and Goodyear tires. After the Madrises closed their business in the late 1980s, the building changed hands several times but did not see new life until the 21st century. Old Route 66 received a historic highway designation in 1987, and more travelers began to pull off the interstate to experience the charm and authenticity of a bygone era. Now constantly flowing with tourists, Winslow’s section of “Historic Route 66” is the foundation of current downtown revitalization.

A Building is Reborn
In 1994, sculptor Dan Lutzick moved to Winslow from Southern California to work on the rehabilitation of La Posada, the former Fred Harvey grand hotel located on Historic Route 66. His first studio in town was a vacant post office on downtown Second Street that he renovated and sold in 2002. That same year, Dan purchased the P&H Building and began extensive renovations. The structure had been uninhabited for about ten years, the rear wall had collapsed, and the roof diverted rain directly into the interior. Dan took a five-year leave of absence from La Posada, moved into the building’s driest spaces, and spent four years rehabilitating it to a livable state.

Snowdrift Art Space Today
The building’s 8,000-square-foot main gallery, with the original 14-foot-high pressed tin ceiling and skylights, now houses Dan’s permanent large-scale sculptures, rotating groups of smaller sculptures, and the P.A. Ruscha Theater for private screenings. A 10,000-square-foot basement serves as Dan’s studio, more exhibition space, and storage.

Winslow’s Historic Route 66 corridor is zoned for live/work occupancy, so Dan, Ann-Mary, and their many pets also make their home in Snowdrift. They live in a 4,000-square-foot area at the north end of the building that includes an office, a library, and the original loft that overlooks the main gallery. Snowdrift Art Space, an affiliate of the Winslow Arts Trust, is open to the public for several annual community events in the main gallery, as well as for guided tours by appointment.

Snowdrift Art Space hosts annual community events including the Material Girls Quilt Show in September/October (above) and Winslow’s Día de los Muertos celebration in November.