

**ARTS COMMISSION MEETING  
JANUARY 13, 2025, 5:00 PM  
SANTA FE COMMUNITY CONVENTION CENTER  
SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting of the Arts Commission was called to order by Chair Duncan, at 5:03 pm, on January 13, 2025, at the Community Convention Center, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

**2. ROLL CALL**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Commissioner Winoka Yepa  
Commissioner Paul Hultin  
Commissioner Marcia Mikulak  
Commissioner Robyne Robinson  
Commissioner Karl Duncan, Chair  
(2) Vacancies

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Commissioner Ann Wrinkle

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Chelsey Johnson, Director, Arts and Culture Department  
Sharla Russell, Deputy Director, Arts and Culture Department  
Melessia Velasquez, Arts and Culture Department, via Zoom  
Elizabeth Martin, Stenographer

**3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**MOTION** A motion was made by Commissioner Mikulak, seconded by Commissioner Hultin, to approve the agenda as presented.

**VOTE** The motion passed on a roll call vote as follows:

Commissioner Yepa, yes; Commissioner Hultin, yes; Commissioner Mikulak, yes; Commissioner Robinson, yes; Chair Duncan, yes.

**4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- a. **REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF AUGUST 9, 2024 ARTS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**
- b. **REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 9, 2024 ARTS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**

Items 4 a and b were postponed to the February meeting.

**5. DISCUSSION ITEMS: DISCUSSION ONLY**

- a. **DISCUSSION OF RECRUITMENT OF NEW COMMISSIONERS; DEADLINE JANUARY 15**

Chair Duncan said we have two vacancies now that Commissioners McKinnon and Villamil have resigned. Commissioner McKinnon is here tonight and would like to speak with us.

Ms. McKinnon said it has been an absolute pleasure to work with all of you. She is not moving far. She is now going to be helping Chelsey and Sharla on the UNESCO program and year-long celebration. She is sure our paths will cross in the near future.

Chair Duncan said he appreciates her service and looks forward to working with her in her new capacity.

All of the Commissioners thanked Ms. McKinnon for her service to the community.

Ms. Johnson said Councilor Villamil took a job with Northern New Mexico College in Espanola. With her move and commute she was not able to make it work to remain on the Commission. She expressed her joy in working with us.

- b. **DISCUSSION OF JURY FOR COMMISSIONER APPLICATION REVIEW; FINALIZE PROCESS AND TIMELINE**

Chair Duncan said we have received a large number of applications to join the Arts Commission. He suggests that the Governance Subcommittee review the applications to see if they meet all the requirements, then bring them to the full Commission.

Commissioner Hultin said the subcommittee reviewed the applications last time and culled them down. We then did Zoom interviews of the applicants and presented them to the Commission for ranking. The top three were sent to the Mayor. With three of us termed out, we have five vacancies. The three of us have committed to serving until our replacements are found. The Governance subcommittee, with Chelsey and

Sharla, can go through the first round then bring names to the Commission.

Commissioner Mikulak said we interviewed each of the applicants that passed the first round of culling via Zoom. We had agreed on a set of questions that we asked each applicant.

Commissioner Hultin said that worked well.

Ms. Russell said we have received a lot of applications. There will be a lot of reading for three people.

Commissioner Mikulak volunteered to join the Governance subcommittee to help with the applications.

Chair Duncan said he will send out an email regarding a meeting of the subcommittee.

### **c. DISCUSSION OF WORKING GROUPS UPDATES**

Ms. Johnson shared with the group a list of working groups and the Commissioners on each group.

Commissioner Mikulak was added to the Governance Subcommittee, Commissioner Wrinkle to the Mayor's Awards Subcommittee and Chair Duncan to the Grants, Funding and Outreach Subcommittee.

Chair Duncan said he is hoping we can use the working groups to hash out issues and bring back the information to the Commission. The working groups can have a deeper conversation.

### **6. MATTERS FROM THE PUBLIC**

None.

### **7. ACTION ITEMS: DISCUSSION AND ACTION**

None.

### **8. MATTERS FROM THE CHAIR**

Chair Duncan said he has been added to the Board of IAIA. He was a student there and is happy to be involved. They meet quarterly.

Ms. Johnson said this is a Presidential appointment. He was sworn in by a

Federal Judge.

Commissioner Hultin said congratulations Chair. That is a high honor. He is glad you will have a bigger platform to continue to serve the community.

## **9. MATTERS FROM STAFF**

### **a. GENERAL ARTS & CULTURE DEPARTMENT UPDATES**

Ms. Johnson said we are working now on the disposition of the music assets at Midtown in the Brindlis building. The inventory has been completed and the pianos have been valued thanks to Commissioner Mikulak. The City had the first chance to ask for anything useful to the Departments. A piano went to the Convention Center and a couple of other sites. We are now sending the list of inventory to the public schools and the Pueblos. She will be meeting with the music lead to make decisions.

Ms. Johnson said we will have a new exhibit in the Gallery that is an Art is the Solution grantee. It was featured in the Albuquerque Journal on Sunday. It will be up through February 8<sup>th</sup>. There will be a free workshop at the Gallery on February 8<sup>th</sup> for making valentines. Our Gallery Manager will be heading that up. We are in the middle of TAI funding. Do we want to allow people to apply for multiple grants. Let us know your feedback.

Commissioner Mikulak said she is split on that. She understands the need. She would be more likely to say they need to choose one.

Commissioner Hultin said he feels they should be limited to one application. It would make the review process more complicated.

Chair Duncan said he agrees with both Commissioners.

Ms. Johnson said the Santa Fe Community Foundation still has \$9,000 of grant funding. They want to close that out. She spoke to Andy Lovato, our City Historian, about having a series of storytelling using those funds. We will have three locations across town. The funding will be used to rent a site, advertising and food for the participants.

### **b. ART IS THE SOLUTION FY25 UPDATES**

Ms. Johnson said all six grantees were confirmed. Rebecca is meeting with all of them. We may possibly have to alter the program for the next cycle. Finance and the City Manager have issues with giving the same amount to each grantee. We could scale the awards per project.

Commissioner Mikulak said she is concerned about basing the amount of money on the number of people who attend or are effected.

Ms. Johnson said she will be having a meeting with the City Manager and Finance about this issue and can bring back more information to the Commission.

Commission Hultin said that is a technical audit issue. He is sure the City Manager wants to avoid questions about the audit. We should go with it.

**c ART IN PUBLIC PLACES PLANNING**

Ms. Johnson said she wants to start thinking about extending the program in this year. We may want to include murals and other things. Please start thinking about ways to expand in 2025.

**d. UNESCO 20<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY INITIATIVES AND OUTREACH**

Ms. Russell said there are quite a few things going on. We are confirmed for February 28<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 pm to 8:00 PM for the kick-off event for the year-long program for UNESCO. We would like your input for a name for the event. Something snazzy. The Mayor thought Well Springs may be good as a name.

Ms. Johnson said she is not sure how we would market that. We will work on it.

Ms. Russell said we also need to think of something as a gift for participants such as a bolo tie or an art object or something else. Send us your feedback. We have sent out the initial save-the-date.

Ms. Russell said Heidi is working with us as the UNESCO consultant. She has been working on the design of the space and has come up with some wonderful ideas. We will bring those to you. We are working on caterers, artists and marketing and have decided to use Sunny 505 to help us with the marketing and advertising.

**10. MATTERS FROM THE COMMITTEE**

**a. COMMUNITY UPDATES: RELEVANT AND TIMELY ARTS-RELATED EVENTS AND ISSUES OF NOTE**

Chair Duncan said Santa Fe County is looking for people to be on an Arts and Creative Economy Council.

Ms. Russell said they are recruiting.

Ms. Johnson said they contacted her last spring about creating a County Arts

Commission. This came from that effort. For our Arts Commissioners who terms are ending, this would be a wonderful thing to be involved in.

Chair Duncan said in March, we will have a Roxanne Swentzell exhibit about her. Also there will be a Pueblo Fiber Arts Exhibit in March.

**11. NEXT MEETING: FEBRUARY 10, 2025**

**12. ADJOURN**

There being no further business before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 5:58 pm.

---

Karl Duncan, Chair

---

Elizabeth Martin, Stenographer