

**ARTS COMMISSION  
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2025, 5:30 PM  
SANTA FE COMMUNITY CONVENTION CENTER  
CITY OF SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

A meeting of the Arts Commission was called to order at 5:30 pm on Monday, September 8, 2025, by Vice Chair Yepa, in Santa Fe, New Mexico. The meeting was held in-person and virtually.

**2. ROLL CALL**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Commissioner Winoka Yepa, Vice Chair - Chaired the meeting  
Commissioner Marcia Mikulak  
Commissioner Robyne Robinson  
Commissioner Herman Gomez Chavez  
Commissioner Mayrah Udvardi  
Commissioner Karina Hean  
Commissioner Heidi Brandow

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Commissioner Karl Duncan, excused  
Commissioner Erin DeRosa, excused

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Chelsey Johnson, Director, Arts and Culture Department  
Melissa Velasquez, Arts and Culture Department

**3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Item 9 (A) was removed from the agenda and rescheduled for the October meeting.

**MOTION** A motion was made by Commissioner Gomez Chavez, seconded by Commissioner Udvardi, to approve the agenda as amended.

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

Commissioner Mikulak, yes; Commissioner Robinson, yes; Commissioner Gomez Chavez, yes; Commissioner Udvardi, Commissioner Hean, yes; Commissioner Brandow, yes; Chair Yepa, yes.

**4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**A. REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF AUGUST 11, 2025 ARTS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**

It was noted that Chair Duncan's first name is spelled Karl.

**MOTION** A motion was made by Commissioner Hean, seconded by Commissioner Gomez Chavez, to approve the minutes as amended.

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

Commissioner Mikulak, yes; Commissioner Robinson, yes; Commissioner Gomez Chavez, yes; Commissioner Udvardi, Commissioner Hean, yes; Commissioner Brandow, yes; Chair Yepa, yes.

**5. MATTERS FROM THE PUBLIC**

None.

**6. PRESENTATIONS**

None.

**7. DISCUSSION ITEMS: DISCUSSION ONLY**

**A. DISCUSSION REGARDING WORKING GROUP UPDATES**

Chair Yepa reported that at the last meeting of the Art is the Solution Working Group, we determined the six recipients of the Art is the Solution grant. Those names have been made public.

Ms. Velasquez said we had an excellent orientation for vendor registration and payment with the grantees. We are working on purchase acquisitions and are pleased with the progress.

There was discussion around presentations to the Commission by grantees.

**B. DISCUSSION REGARDING PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT**

Chair Yepa said hopefully, Karl can share his ideas with us at the next meeting.

Ms. Velasquez said one of his ideas was a basic contact card for Arts

Commissioners to have.

Ms. Johnson said we can see if the City will print cards for the Commission. We also discussed meeting with the Mayor's Youth Commission to engage with youth.

There was discussion regarding engaging youth, connecting with churches, public outreach to encourage public participation in Commission meetings, community informative workshops, public art, developing a template of what the Commission wants to say, outreach to groups that Commissioners are involved with, and education of Commissioners on what is available to artists through the Commission.

**8. ACTION ITEMS: DISCUSSION AND ACTION**

None.

**9. MATTERS FROM THE CHAIR**

**A. RECOGNITION OF SERVICE - ARTS COMMISSIONER MARCIA MIKULAK**

This item was removed from the agenda and scheduled for the October meeting.

**10. MATTERS FROM STAFF**

**A. UPDATE REGARDING COMMUNITY GALLERY**

Ms. Johnson said there is an exhibit currently being installed. It is a mix of submissions and will be up until November 1<sup>st</sup>. There will be programing around the show as well.

**B. UPDATE REGARDING THE CREATIVE HUB**

Ms. Johnson said she has met with the Creative Hub group members and will keep the Commissioners informed.

**C. UPDATE REGARDING GENERAL ARTS & CULTURE DEPARTMENT**

Ms. Johnson reported that the contractor hired to do the Greer Garson Theater Feasibility Study has begun their work with site visits and focus groups. They will be looking at both physical needs of the building and potential operational scenarios.

**D. UPDATES REGARDING UNESCO 20<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY INITIATIVES**

Ms. Johnson said our plan was to bring several international cities to Santa Fe,

but have encountered issues regarding visas. The visits have been postponed to spring. One City in Japan will be visiting Santa Fe soon.

**E. UPDATES REGARDING THE ARTS & CULTURE BUDGET AND FUNDING RULES**

Ms. Velasquez offered to provide comprehensive training on the funding opportunities and budget of the Commission one-on-one to Commissioners or at the next meeting. She gave updates on completing the purchase order packets for reimbursements in Arts and Culture Department programs, sponsorships and reports, and a detailed overview of the New Mexico Anti-Donation Program - what is allowable and what is not allowable.

**F. UPDATE REGARDING THE MAYOR'S ARTS AWARDS**

Ms. Velasquez said we have interviewed six on the seven awardees. It has been wonderful.

Ms. Johnson reported that the event will be on October 7<sup>th</sup> and is sold out. We will make sure Arts Commissioners get into the event.

**11. MATTERS FROM THE COMMITTEE**

**A. UPDATES REGARDING THE COMMUNITY: RELEVANT AND TIMELY ARTS-RELATED EVENTS AND ISSUES OF NOTE.**

Commissioner Mikulak stated that Santa Fe is a Sanctuary City. She has seen signs at restaurants and other sites stating the legalities of who can be interviewed etc. by ICE. Are there rules for taking a stand?

Ms. Johnson said we have ethics guidelines for employees. This is a safe City for immigrants. We have not officially been declared a Sanctuary City.

Commissioners shared upcoming events.

Commissioner Gomez Chavez said a well known artist contacted him seeking a space for an exhibit. It would be nice if we could help.

Ms. Johnson asked the Commissioner to send her the details and she will put the request in the newsletter.

**12. NEXT MEETING: OCTOBER 6, 2025**

Ms. Johnson said we will send out an email about the next meeting date.

**13. ADJOURN**

There being no further business before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm.

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Winoka Yepa, Vice Chair

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Elizabeth Martin, Stenographer