

**FILM AND DIGITAL MEDIA COUNCIL
JANUARY 6, 2026 10:00 AM
MEETING VIRTUALLY**

1. CALL TO ORDER

A meeting of the Film and Digital Media Council was called to order by Chair Dillingham, at 10:02 am, on January 6, 2026 and was held virtually.

2. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT

Gay Dillingham, Chair

Anna Darrah

Robert Dennis

Jason Ordaz

Dyanna Taylor

Dr. Elizabeth Stahmer

Jacqueline Frank

Jaydin Martinez

Tara Tovarek

(3 vacancies)

Alternate Members:

Liesette Bailey

Talia Pura

Barbara Bentree

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

Dr. James Wysong, excused

Dezbaa, excused

Allessandra Dobrin, excused

Sienna Bergt

James Cressanthis

OTHERS PRESENT

Johanna Nelson, Director, Economic Development Department

Casey Dalbor, Economic Development Department

Jennifer LaBar-Tapia, Santa Fe Film Office Director

Andrew Griego, Santa Fe Film Office

Elizabeth Martin, Stenographer

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION A motion was made by Ms. Darrah, seconded by Ms. Pura, to approve the agenda as presented.

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

Ms. Darrah, yes; Mr. Dennis, yes; Ms. Taylor, yes; Ms. Frank, yes; Mr. Ordaz, yes; Mr. Martinez, yes; Ms. Tovarek, yes; Dr. Stahmer, yes; Ms. Bailey, yes; Ms. Pura, yes; Ms. Bintree, yes; Chair Dillingham, yes.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM DECEMBER 2, 2025, FILM AND DIGITAL MEDIA COUNCIL MEETING

The approval of the minutes was postponed.

5. UPDATES

A. SANTA FE FILM OFFICE

Ms. LaBar-Tapia said December was busy with multiple productions going on in town during the early part of the month. Dark Winds is in pre-production and getting ready to ramp up. A shout out to Vince Gilligan, who is a Santa Fe resident, and to the crew of Pluribus, which is the most watched show on Apple TV. He is the creator of Breaking Bad. Move Maker Magazine is coming out in a couple of weeks. Las Cruces, Albuquerque and Santa Fe are in the top 10 best places for movie making. We did an insert highlighting New Mexico in the magazine. If you want copies, let us know. We will let you know when they are available. We are going to Sundance in a couple of weeks and are going to South by Southwest. We will keep you posted on the details. After that, we will be attending the Association of Film Commissioners in LA. About half of you have not picked up your Santa Fe swag. Let us know about that. The Locations Guide continues to thrive.

6. PRESENTATIONS

A. NM FILM FOUNDATION UPDATE

Ms. Darrah said Mr. Rogan is not present. We wanted him to come talk about Indie Q. The next one is on January 9th at Jon Cocteau. She will put something about it in the chat.

Ms. La-Bar-Tapia said this is in partnership with our office. Andrew was

instrumental in bringing it to Santa Fe. It will be scheduled every other month.

7. DISCUSSION ITEMS

None.

8. MATTERS FROM THE COMMITTEE

Chair Dillingham said all of the working groups submitted their reports. The final report was submitted to the Mayor and Councilors. Casey, please send the final report to our members.

A. STRATEGIC PLAN WORKING GROUP UPDATES

ABOVE THE LINE

Ms. Darrah said we are thinking the next event will be at Sky Theater. We want to be sure we are not holding too many of these events so they stay strong. We have had one Kombucha night. Another one is coming in February. We are thinking the next Above the Line event will be in March. If you have any ideas, please send them to her. The Opera Prop House has been suggested. Please put your information in the chat if you would like to join the working group.

EDUCATION

Dr. Stahmer said she has no updates yet after the holidays.

Mr. Ordaz said the United States Poet Laureate and Simon Ortiz will be doing readings in our gym tonight. He invited everyone to join them at 6:00 pm. It is free and open to the public.

Dr. Stahmer said we won a three year grant from AVID Learning Partners. We are creating a post production training program for AVID training and editing. We will be able to have 40 students in small groups of 5 throughout the year. She will put the link in the chat.

POST PRODUCTION

There was no report.

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

Mr. Dennis said we have had a couple of meetings. He met with the CEO of MFA. It sounds like the SIC is comfortable with loaning out \$150 million a year. The

original legislation will need to be modified. He has a meeting in the next weeks with partners to discuss further the 30 day session. The objective is to get a Legislative Sponsor to draft the legislation with staff to fit regulations. Staff knows best how to structure the legislation. The next step is to meet with Peter Wirth. The SIC needs a 6 ½% return. MFA needs 2% to cover overhead, and a letter of guarantee.

Chair Dillingham said we are also trying to prioritize New Mexico Above The Line in this if possible. We are going to try like heck to get as much as we can.

Ms. LaBar-Tapia said we have postponed the initiative for grants this year due to the situation with having to make up for lost Federal dollars. The amount of oil and gas revenue is down. We decided to wait for the next 60 day session to work on grants for film making. That makes more sense. We don't want to compete with the health and safety of residents programs.

Chair Dillingham said we are going to need help when we get our talking points together. The items on the 30 day session are only what is on the Governor's Call.

Mr. Tovarek asked can the Above The Line Working Group help.

Ms. Darrah said we initially felt so happy for what the Film Loan Fund could be. What is happening, is we have had to give on so many points just to get it going again. It has been a collaborative effort on what will work. We are looking at the Above The Line Working Group to something to promote what we can do.

Chair Dillingham said the Governor's Council is working on expanding existing grants so that is in play.

B. MATTERS FROM THE CHAIR

Chair Dillingham said she has expressed her thoughts during earlier discussion.

9. MATTERS FROM STAFF

Mr. Dalbor said he will put a link in the chat for our newsletter sign up.

Mr. Dalbor reviewed activities and events including the Native American Roundtable at the Incubator, the kick off of Go Local with the Guadalupe Walk, the work on the Department's year end report and the opening of the South Side Coordinator position.

Ms. Pura said Film and Media Day at the Legislature will be on February 17th. She is also doing a one-woman show the week of January 26th through the 25th.

Dezbaa said she is putting a link to a screening in the chat.

10. MATTERS FROM THE PUBLIC

Alisa Matlovsky. Ms. Matlovsky thanked Dezbaa for coming to her group and introduced herself.

Brendon Widner. Mr. Widner said thank you for having these meetings. They are a fantastic resource.

Dan Mathis. Mr. Mathis said thank you for working on the Film Loan Fund. We are all in support of it. Let us know how we can help. He is part of the independent film community.

Tina Presley-Borek. Ms. Presley-Borek said we are excited about all of what you are doing in Santa Fe. She has Presley Talent, a Cast New Mexico initiative.

Aaron Jones. Mr. Jones said thank you for these meetings. They are very helpful.

Johanna Nelson joined the meeting and talked about Go Local - Go Different, small business support, crime prevention/crime mitigation grants and micro grants. She asked that interested parties reach out to Casey or her.

11. NEXT MEETING

A. FEBRUARY 3, 2026, 10:00 AM TO NOON

12. ADJOURN

There being no further business before the Council, the meeting adjourned at 11:30 pm.

Gay Dillingham, Chair

Elizabeth Martin, Stenographer

