

**ARTS COMMISSION  
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2026, 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 5:33 pm on Monday, by Chair Karl Duncan, on Monday, February 9, 2026, in Santa Fe, New Mexico. The meeting was held in-person and virtually.

**2. ROLL CALL**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Commissioner Karl Duncan, Chair  
Commissioner Winoka Yepa, Vice Chair  
Commissioner Heidi Brandow, arrived at 5:41 pm  
Commissioner Erin DeRosa  
Commissioner Herman Gomez Chavez  
Commissioner Mayrah Udvardi  
Commissioner Karina Hean  
Commissioner April Cleveland  
(1 vacancy)

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Chelsey Johnson, Director, Arts and Culture Department  
Rebecca Aubin, Community Gallery Manager  
Sage Graham, Arts and Culture Department  
Elizabeth Martin, Stenographer

**3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

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

Commissioner Yepa, yes; Commissioner DeRosa, yes; Commissioner Udvardi, yes; Commissioner Gomez-Chavez, yes; Commissioner Hean, yes; Commissioner Cleveland, yes; Chair Duncan, yes.

**4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- A. **REQUEST FOR APPROVAL JANUARY 12, 2026 ARTS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**
- B. **REQUEST FOR APPROVAL DECEMBER 8, 2025 ARTS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**
- C. **REQUEST FOR APPROVAL NOVEMBER 10, 2025 ARTS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**

**MOTION** A motion was made by Commissioner Udvardi, seconded by Commissioner DeRosa, to approve all three sets of minutes as presented.

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

Commissioner Yepa, yes; Commissioner DeRosa, yes; Commissioner Udvardi, yes; Commissioner Gomez-Chavez, yes; Commissioner Hean, yes; Commissioner Cleveland, yes; Chair Duncan, yes.

**5. MATTERS FROM THE PUBLIC**

**SETH ROFFMAN, GREEN FIRE TIMES.** Mr. Roffman spoke about Kathy Sullivan, an impressive Santa Fe artist, who is 86 years old and just showing her work for the first time. He asked if she could be recognized in some way.

Ms. Johnson shared her contact information with Mr. Roffman so they could speak about the request.

**MATTHEW GUTIERREZ, TEATRO PARAGUS.** Mr. Gutierrez spoke about the opening of a play entitles “Esperanza”, about workers rights and a fundraiser screening of “Salt of the Earth”. He distributed flyers.

**6. PRESENTATIONS**

- A. **PRESENTATION BY FY26 ART IS THE SOLUTION RECIPIENT KIM GRIFFIS REGARDING “STARGAZERS” PROJECT**

This item was postponed to the next meeting.

**7. DISCUSSION ITEMS: DISCUSSION ONLY**

- A. **DISCUSSION REGARDING VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES AND CURRENT IMPACTS ON ART AND CULTURE**

Chair Duncan said he would like to talk about this topic before we go into the Art

Is The Solution discussion about themes. Things are going on in the County and there are opportunities for arts and culture to have an impact. He would like to know everyone's thoughts and ideas about that. He would like to have an open discussion.

The following ideas and thoughts were shared:

- outreach ideas and professional development opportunities for artists and to support artists. Grant opportunities.
- advocacy centering around gatherings
- advocacy collaboration with IAIA around the process for public art - course work
- the power of music in small groups

Ms. Johnson asked what can we contribute as a Department that would help support people, lift their spirits and let them know they are not alone. We could put out a call that is carefully worded, for scholarships to sponsor pop up events that are community positive.

Chair Duncan said he likes the idea of facilitating a safe space for discussions to support what people are already doing out there.

Suggestions:

- having Department tables at events - need volunteers to staff them
- events for our grantees so they can meet and connect
- an expo with arts organizations
- maybe create a 1 page flyer that Commissioners can use when they are doing advocacy for the Department that gives the focus and priorities
- postcard mailings in English and Spanish

Ms. Graham said we could set up an intake for the public to send in invitations to the events and invite Arts Commissioners to attend.

Chair Duncan said if anyone has additional ideas or suggestions, please send them to him.

Ms. Johnson said also, if you have ideas about activating the Gallery, let her know.

## **B. DISCUSSION REGARDING THEMES AND TIMELINE FOR FY27 ART IS THE SOLUTION CYCLE**

Ms. Yepa said we will be announcing the call for applications for Arts is the Solution soon. Last year we gave out five grants of \$10,000 each. The application process is open to all disciplines, All funded projects have to be coupled with a presentation or event. We need to decide on a theme for this year. She will be sending an email to Commissioners regarding thinking about potential themes. The Art is the Solution working group will meet to talk about themes and will email each of you to share our recommendations and thoughts. The Commission will decide on the theme at the next meeting. We will send out the call in April.

Ms. Johnson said we could discuss doing variable amounts this year, a tiered system or raising the amount to \$12,000 per grant for five grants.

The consensus of the group was to raise the amount to \$12,000 per grant for five grants.

Ms. Yepa said we will talk about that in the working group.

There was discussion around doing a lesser amount and more grants, and reminding people who were not funded in previous years to reapply.

## **C. DISCUSSION REGARDING GRANTS WORKING GROUP UPDATE**

Commissioner DeRosa said we met last Monday and discussed community engagement, grant opportunities, hosting a virtual event, in-person quality engagement with Commission members, the Commission and staff meeting in small groups for discussion and coming together as a whole, and what attendees would want to see. She would like to send out a doodle poll regarding possible dates for our first event.

There was discussion around professional development for artists, partnering with Vital Spaces on their "How To Do A Thing" series, and having an arts community block party.

Ms. Johnson said she would contact City Councilors about block parties in their districts with an arts and culture focus.

## **D. DISCUSSION REGARDING ART IN PUBLIC PLACES**

Ms. Johnson shared her screen with images of public art and locations.

Ms. Johnson said we would like to have inspirations and recommendations from Commissioners.

There was discussion around sites, trails, walkability areas and bus stops.

Commissioner Gomez-Chavez left the meeting.

**E. DISCUSSION REGARDING WORKING GROUP REALIGNMENTS**

None.

**F. DISCUSSION REGARDING JURY NEEDS FOR CULTURAL INVESTMENT FUNDING PROGRAM (MARCH 1 - APRIL 1)**

Ms. Johnson said our applications for cultural investment are due in March. We need to get them judged and will be calling on you to help us along with staff and the community.

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

None.

**9. MATTERS FROM THE CHAIR**

Chair Duncan said he would like to work with Ms. Johnson to develop a collections policy for the City collection including a process and policy for the pottery and pieces of pottery and other items.

**10. MATTERS FROM STAFF**

**A. GENERAL ARTS AND CULTURE DEPARTMENT**

Ms. Johnson said we are into the budget session. Our budget for this year is \$2,589,717. She has a meeting with the City Manager and the Mayor next week. We will be looking at ideas and priorities. She is open to suggestions. We are considering if UNESCO should be a standing line item or not in the budget. The gallery is going well. There is a lot of activity going on and our visitor numbers are up. The Garson Theater Feasibility Study is done. We will be meeting soon to discuss details.

Ms. Johnson reviewed the programs and events coming up.

**B. QUARTERLY COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT FORUM ON ARTS AND CULTURE**

This item was included in item A.

**C. GALLERY AND ART IN PUBLIC PLACES UPDATE**

Ms. Aubin shared the gallery and art in public places update.

**11. MATTERS FROM THE COMMITTEE**

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

Commissioners shared updates and a discussion about tours.

**12. NEXT MEETING: MARCH 9, 2026, 5:30 PM, COMMUNITY GALLERY**

**13. ADJOURN**

There being no further business before the Arts Commission, the meeting adjourned at 7:10 pm.

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Karl Duncan, Chair

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Elizabeth Martin, Stenographer