

**FILM AND DIGITAL MEDIA COUNCIL
MARCH 3, 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 March 3, 2026 and was held virtually.

2. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT

Gay Dillingham, Chair
Anna Darrah
Robert Dennis
Dr. James Wysong
Dyanna Taylor
Jason Ordaz
Dr. Elizabeth Stahmer
Jaydin Martinez
Alessandra Dobrin
Sienna Bergt
(3 vacancies)
Alternate Members:
Liesette Bailey

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

Dezbaa, excused
Jacqueline Frank, excused
Tara Tovarek, excused
Alternate Member Max Walukas, excused
Alternate Member Barbara Bentree, excused
Alternate Member Talia Pura, excused
Alternate Member James Cresanthis, excused

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
Rosey Hayett, Director, Film Prize Jr.

Brett Trusko, Editor, Trend Magazine
Sierra Cruz, Indigenous Film Festival
Elizabeth Martin, Stenographer

38 people joined the meeting virtually.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION A motion was made by Ms. Taylor, seconded by Ms. Darrah, 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; Mr. Ordaz, yes; Dr. Wysong, yes; Dr. Stahmer, yes; Mr. Martinez, yes; Ms. Dobrin, yes; Ms. Bergt, yes; Ms. Bailey, yes; Chair Dillingham, yes.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 3 FILM AND DIGITAL MEDIA COUNCIL MEETING

Chair Dillingham noted that on page 3, the spelling is Tisch.

Ms. Bailey noted that in the report by Ms. LaBar-Tapia, she and Jacques were on the panel.

MOTION A motion was made by Ms. Darrah, seconded by Ms. Frank, to approve the minutes as amended.

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

Ms. Darrah, yes; Mr. Dennis, yes; Ms. Taylor, yes; Mr. Ordaz, yes; Dr. Wysong, yes; Dr. Stahmer, yes; Mr. Martinez, yes; Ms. Dobrin, yes; Ms. Bergt, yes; Ms. Bailey, yes; Chair Dillingham, yes.

5. UPDATES

A. SANTA FE FILM OFFICE

Ms. LaBar-Tapia said Dark Winds is getting ready to be here in a couple of weeks. She got a call about an eighth grader who is interested in getting into makeup. If anyone knows of a small production she could shadow for an hour or two, please let her know. She was asked to be part of the Capital High School mentorship program

and spoke to them a week or so ago. South By Southwest is coming up in a couple of weeks. We decided not to participate in this one. The State Film Office will be there. The New Mexico House is including things other than film. We will attend the ACI conference at the end of August in LA.

Ms. LaBar-Tapia continued, saying at least once a week, Andrew goes out and takes pictures to update the Locations Directory. Reach out to us if you are interested. Our office is a proud sponsor of Film Prize. They are a great organization. The transition with the new Mayor is going well. She has had a couple of meetings with him. He is interested in what we are doing. She is meeting with the County Commission Chair tomorrow about filming on Indigenous land and incentives. We are supporters of the BANF Film Festival. The proceeds go to the Santa Fe Conservation Trust. It will be at the Lensic. The Taos Film Festival is April 23rd to April 26th.

Chair Dillingham said Mayor Garcia will be joining us at our April meeting.

Ms. Darrah said the grants list is now up on the Film Office website.

Ms. LaBar-Tapia said we just revamped our casting page.

6. PRESENTATIONS

A. FILM PRIZE JR UPDATE

Mr. Hayett shared a video about Film Prize Jr., which included the educational program, measurable gains, State investment, funding, and community participation.

Mr. Hayett said the Fifth Annual Festival will be held on March 21st. Thank you all for your support.

Dr. Stahmer said she is very proud of Mr. Hayett and the program that he has created.

B. TREND MAGAZINE

Mr. Trusko gave an overview of Trend Magazine and his proposal for the 2027 edition, including that it will be about locations in New Mexico, stories on the studios, highlights of major productions and how they use the land, an article about sovereignty and Indigenous films, fashion on a film shoot, environmental issues, education, infrastructure, 24 hours on a set and more. He is open to ideas and would like input and suggestions from the Council. The 2027 edition will come out in June of 2027.

C. INDIGENOUS FILM FESTIVAL

Ms. Cruz said we are having our second Indigenous Film Festival at IAIA in partnership with the Performing Arts Department. There will be two feature films, a student showcase and panels. We are asking for help to promote the event. She will put the information in the chat.

There was discussion.

7. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. STRATEGIC PLAN WORKING GROUP UPDATES

Chair Dillingham said her meeting with the Mayor went really well. Johanna Nelson joined her at the meeting.

ABOVE THE LINE

Ms. Darrah gave an update on the next Above The Line event to be held on March 20th at 10:00 am at the newly opened Tender Fire Kitchen on the Midtown Campus and gave an update on the Kombucha Bingo events.

Ms. Taylor congratulated Ms. Darrah on her event at Plan B to introduce her pilot for her new incredible show - Blankton. It was fabulous, hysterically funny and marvelous and very local.

Chair Dillingham added that there are a lot of creatives, directors, writers, and actors participating. It is mostly filmed at Lamy.

Ms. Darrah thanked everyone who came out to support the project.

EDUCATION

Dr. Wysong reported on their continued work on the backlot project and the Legislative funding they received to put in some of their IT infrastructure.

Dr. Stahmer reported that they are in the first stages of preparing their first training to be held at the backlot, so stay tuned. Stagecoach is partnering with IAIA and being funded by the State Film Office to have their second screen writing conference on June 3rd, 6th and 7th. We are also working with Alessandra Dobrin to devise our post-production training.

Mr. Ordaz reported that Jessica Matten, with the Indigenous Film Academy, came to IAIA to offer her three day intensive workshop. Twelve of our students participated. It was funded by AMC.

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

Mr. Dennis gave an update and overview of the Legislative Session issues relative to film and digital media. He will put the written report in the chat.

Mr. Dennis noted that the City of Las Cruces voted to end their relationship with their Film Partner agreement and reported on the State Film Commission meeting, including the State Film Office's work to bring the marketing efforts forward in the Film Partner agreements, the MAC project at the railyard will have their grand opening on September 1st, the New Mexico Film and Media Conference will coincide with that opening, for fiscal year 25 \$360 million was the spend for film and TV productions in the state, and discussions on film incentives.

POST-PRODUCTION

There was no report at this time.

8. MATTERS FROM THE COMMITTEE

A. MATTERS FROM THE CHAIR

Ms. Dillingham reminded those who are applying or re-applying to join the Council need to be sure to note that category they fit into in their letters of interest.

9. MATTERS FROM STAFF

Mr. Dalbor reviewed the report from Director Nelson and put the report in the chat. The report included the March 12th Outdoor Recreation meet-up, events, trainings, the Above The Line event and the Books Behind the Business event on March 24th.

Mr. Dalbor reported that they are working on the SAFE and SPUR grants and that Go Local - Go Different is in full swing. The office is finalizing their site ready documents. An offer has been made for the Southside Coordinator.

10. MATTERS FROM THE PUBLIC

Josh Bernstein. Mr. Bernstein asked for advise to hire a person to help him with the rebates and incentives. He will put his email in the chat. We are going to start filming in New Mexico/Santa Fe in May and need a space to build a set for an Indiana Jones type museum that has an authentic look. If you know of any sites, please let him know. He will be at Aspect.

Mr. Griego said we can connect you with accountants who can help you with the

rebates and incentives. There is a site on the Midtown campus that may work for your museum. Send him and email.

Sean Montoya. Mr. Montoya said he is moving forward with the capstone project this month and later into the month. He is looking for volunteer crew members for a short student film. He will put his information in the chat.

Lisette Bailey. Ms. Bailey said the Santa Fe International Film Festival is partnering with Midtown for an opening on Thursday at 7:00 pm. She will put the information in the chat.

John. John spoke about a project he is working on.

11. NEXT MEETING

A. APRIL 7, 2026

12. ADJOURN

There being no further business before the Council, the meeting adjourned at 11:55 am.

Gay Dillingham, Chair

Elizabeth Martin, Stenographer