

**FILM AND DIGITAL MEDIA COUNCIL
MAY 5, 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 10:03 am, on May 7, 2026 and was held virtually.

2. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT

Gay Dillingham, Chair
Robert Dennis
Dezbaa
Dyanna Taylor
Jason Ordaz
Dr. Elizabeth Stahmer
Jaydin Martinez
Jacqueline Frank
Tara Tovarek
Alessandra Dobrin
Sienna Bergt, joined meeting at 10:35 am
(3 vacancies)
Alternate Members:
 Liesette Bailey
 Talia Pura
 James Cresanthis

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

Anna Darrah, excused
Dr. James Wysong, excused
Alternate Member Barbara Bentree, 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
Elizabeth Martin, Stenographer

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION A motion was made by Ms. Taylor, seconded by Mr. Ordaz, to approve the agenda as presented.

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

Mr. Dennis, yes; Dezbaa, yes; Ms. Taylor, yes; Mr. Ordaz, yes; Dr. Stahmer, yes; Mr. Martinez, yes; Ms. Frank, yes; Ms. Tovarek, yes; Ms. Dobrin, yes; Ms. Bailey, yes; Ms. Pura, yes; Mr. Cresanthis, yes; Chair Dillingham, yes.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM APRIL 7 FILM AND DIGITAL MEDIA COUNCIL MEETING

Chair Dillingham noted that on page 5, the third paragraph, it should say cross-over and on page 6 at the top it should say June 6 and 7.

MOTION A motion was made by Ms. Pura, seconded by Mr. Cresanthis, to approve the minutes as amended.

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

Mr. Dennis, yes; Dezbaa, yes; Ms. Taylor, yes; Mr. Ordaz, yes; Dr. Stahmer, yes; Mr. Martinez, yes; Ms. Frank, yes; Ms. Tovarek, yes; Ms. Dobrin, yes; Ms. Bailey, yes; Ms. Pura, yes; Mr. Cresanthis, yes; Chair Dillingham, yes.

5. UPDATES

A. SANTA FE FILM OFFICE

Ms. LaBar-Tapia said we continue to be busy. Andrew is continually updating the Locations Directory. We just got a request from someone looking for a Pod Cast consultant. If anyone knows of someone, let us know. She will be attending a one day conference on May 30th to be held on the Universal Lot. We have a big scout coming in for an episodic show to be located in New Mexico. Andrew is working on a Santa Fe Indy Q for the end of May. She will put the information in the chat. We attended the Taos Film Festival last week and it was very well attended. Andrew will be at the Gallup Expo this weekend. She is very active with Film USA and the Film Commissioners around the country. We are talking about national film incentives. She will keep the Council informed.

6. PRESENTATIONS

A. FOLLOW-UP: INDIGENOUSWAYS FILM FESTIVAL

Ms. Higgins and Ms. Cruz spoke about the second Annual Indigenousways Film Festival that was held at IAIA on April 17th and 18th, saying we had 580 attendees and highlighted 24 films. The spotlight was on Indigenous film makers.

Dezbaa gave a shout out to the film festival.

Chair Dillingham asked how the Council can support the festival.

Ms. Higgins said continue with what you do in getting the word out about what is happening in government and send sponsors our way.

B. UPDATE: 7K STUDIOS OPENING

Ms. Natelson, Founder, stated that they officially opened on April 25th with a soft opening. Over 400 people came through the studio that day. We have a co-work space and a meeting room for Pod Casts.

Chair Dillingham congratulated Ms. Natelson on her efforts and success.

7. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. STRATEGIC PLAN WORKING GROUP UPDATES

Government Affairs Working Group

Mr. Dennis said he put the link to his report in the chat.

Mr. Dennis reported that the Governor's Council is meeting with Senator Wirth to discuss ideas around MFA, SIC and the Film Loan Investment Fund. They are looking to find new budget dollars for loans and grants for new films. His report is an overview of where the industry stands right now. We are losing a lot of business to other countries. He is hoping to open up the incentives to make us more competitive along with looking at Federal incentives.

There was discussion regarding productions and work around the country and the promotion of green productions.

Education Working Group

Mr. Ordaz said our commencement will be on May 16th from 10:00 am to noon in

our gym. From 1:00 pm to 9:00 pm there will be a Pow Wow for our graduates. Both are open to the public. We have engaged with SFAI to partner with them to host 2 artists. There will be a showing at SFAI sometime this month. He will send information to the Council.

Above The Line Working Group

Mr. Dalbor said he and Jen spoke on Friday on the next event. We are working on getting the next two events scheduled. He will share the information with the group.

Chair Dillingham asked if anyone was interested in serving as Chair or Co-Chair of this group.

Ms. Taylor said she and Anna are talking about it.

Ms. Bailey volunteered to be a Co-Chair.

Ms. Rudin volunteered to help.

Post Production

Ms. Dobrin said we are planning to meet on May 28th at 11:00 am, on a Zoom meeting. Stagecoach and Vince Rose are working on the education side of post production regarding AVID training. We did receive a grant from AVID and are seeking funding for instructors. Vince Rose has ideas about training around how to run a small business and information sharing of resources for solo entrepreneurs in film. It will be a two day event in June open to 50 people.

Dr. Stahmer said she is excited about partnerships and team efforts and thanks the Department of Economic Development for funding the plans. We are working to improve the grassroots of the film industry here. We will be working on year-long programs.

There was discussion around a post production directory and inclusion in Jen's resource list.

Ms. Dobrin said we are working on creating an on-line platform for questions and assistance and a cross over event..

Dr. Stahmer said we are working on set sourcing, and the presentation of prototypes of video games that developers are proposing.

8. MATTERS FROM THE COMMITTEE

A. MATTERS FROM THE CHAIR

Mr. Griego said a new local business has started here, Turquoise Stick Arts, LLC. He will put the information in the chat.

Dezbaa said she is scheduled to be on a panel about adapting scripts at the Santa Fe International Literary Festival.

9. MATTERS FROM THE PUBLIC

Mr. Donneley said he is having a Santa Fe solo photo show on May 12th at the Strata Gallery. There will be a reception on May 15th. He also discussed a film he is working on regarding women rebel voices.

10. MATTERS FROM STAFF

Ms. Nelson said a briefing summarizing events and activities has been provided to Casey for the Council.

11. NEXT MEETING

A. JUNE 2, 2026

12. ADJOURN

There being no further business before the Council, the meeting adjourned at 12:01 pm.

Gay Dillingham, Chair

Elizabeth Martin, Stenographer