

**ARTS COMMISSION  
MONDAY, MAY 11, 2026, 5:30 PM  
COMMUNITY GALLERY  
CITY OF SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

A meeting of the Arts Commission was called to order at 5:37 pm by Chair Karl Duncan, on Monday, May 11, 2026, at the Community Gallery, 201 W. Marcy Street, Santa Fe, New Mexico. The meeting was held in-person and virtually.

**2. ROLL CALL**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Commissioner Duncan, Chair  
Commissioner Cleveland  
Commissioner DeRosa  
Commissioner Lee  
Commissioner Hean  
Commissioner Gomez Chavez

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Commissioner Yepa, Vice Chair, excused  
Commissioner Brandow, excused  
Commissioner Udvardi, excused

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Chelsey Johnson, Director, Arts and Culture Department  
Jen Joy Roybal, Assistant Director, Arts and Culture Department  
Rebecca Aubin, Community Gallery Manager  
Sage Graham, Arts and Culture Department  
Melessia Velasquez, Arts and Culture Department

**3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**MOTION** A motion and a second was made to approve the agenda as presented.

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

Commissioner Cleveland, yes; Commissioner Lee, yes; Commissioner Hean, yes; Commissioner DeRosa, yes, Commissioner Gomez Chavez, yes; Chair Duncan, yes.

#### **4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

##### **A. REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF THE APRIL 13, 2025 ARTS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**

**MOTION** A motion and a second was made to approve the minutes as presented.

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

Commissioner Cleveland, yes; Commissioner Lee, yes; Commissioner Hean, yes; Commissioner DeRosa, yes, Commissioner Gomez Chavez, yes; Chair Duncan, yes.

#### **5. MATTERS FROM THE PUBLIC**

None.

#### **6. DISCUSSION ITEMS: DISCUSSION ONLY**

##### **A. COLLECTIONS POLICY REGARDING DEACCESSION AND ETHICAL RETURN OF CULTURAL OBJECTS**

Chair Duncan shared his screen showing the Santa Fe Public Arts Collection that is housed on the Midtown Campus, saying we need to create a policy to address the deaccession, storage and ethical return of cultural objects.

Ms. Johnson said this is just our first step to open a discussion. We see this as very important. These items are stored on the Midtown Campus, but not in the manner they should be cared for.

There was discussion regarding obtaining professional assistance with this project, criteria, safe storage options and possible displays of art.

Chair Duncan suggested that a Working Group be formed to begin to work on a policy. He said he would be willing to Chair the Working Group. Ms. Roybal said she would be happy to be part of the process with the Working Group. Commissioner Hean also volunteered to be part of the Working Group.

##### **B. CALL FOR DISCUSSION ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS**

Chair Duncan opened a discussion regarding ideas for future meeting agendas.

Ms. Johnson said this will be a process for Commissioners to add their thoughts and ideas for discussion and/or action to the meeting agendas. She will send a

reminder out to the Commissioners two weeks before the meeting so they can share their ideas.

**7. MATTERS FROM THE CHAIR**

**A. STRATEGIC PLANNING RETREAT FOR ARTS COMMISSION WITH DATE CERTAIN**

Chair Duncan said we discussed a retreat at our last meeting.

Ms. Johnson said the responses we got at the last meeting regarding dates were June 27<sup>th</sup> or June 28<sup>th</sup>.

Chair Duncan said the Commission participated in a strategic planning process several years ago. This is an effort to update the priorities of the Arts Commission.

There was discussion around possible dates. It was decided that Ms. Johnson will send out a poll to determine the best date for all of the Commissioners.

**8. MATTERS FROM STAFF**

**A. DEPARTMENTAL REORGANIZATION IN CITY ORG CHART**

Ms. Johnson said the City reorganization is now official. The Arts and Culture Department will now be part of a new Division called Economic Development and Creative Industries. The new Division includes Economic Development, Film and Arts and Culture. Johannah Nelson will be over the three departments and will report to the City Manager. Our budget will remain the same. This configuration makes more sense.

**B. MAYOR'S ARTS AWARDS UPDATES**

Ms. Johnson said Commissioners Hean and Cleveland are about to start reading the submissions. We are still determining the site and are looking at options. Please let us know your ideas for an award object, music and the site.

**C. AFTACOM UPDATES**

Ms. Johnson said this is the Americans For the Arts Conference.

Ms. Johnson shared her screen with information about the upcoming conference and asked the Commissioners to let her know if they would like to attend. The Arts and Culture Department will pay for their fees.

**D. GENERAL ARTS AND CULTURE UPDATES**

Ms. Johnson said this is budget week. She will be presenting her budget to the Governing Body on Thursday. In the coming year we are looking at funding professional development for artists such as workshops. Ms. Roybal is working on the Art in Public Places Program with the Working Group.

**9. MATTERS FROM THE COMMITTEE**

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

The Commissioners shared updates on events and matters of note.

**10. NEXT MEETING: JUNE 8, 2026 AT 5:30 PM**

**11. ADJOURN**

There being no further business before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 6:00 pm.

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Karl Duncan, Chair

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Elizabeth Martin, Stenographer