

**FILM AND DIGITAL MEDIA COUNCIL
MARCH 4, 2025, 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 March 4, 2025 and was held virtually.

2. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT

Gay Dillingham, Chair
Anna Darrah
Robert Dennis
Dezbaa
Jacqueline Frank
Jason Ordaz
Milton Reiss
De. Elizabeth Stahmer
Dr. James Wysong
Harvey Kahn
Frank Ragano
Dyanna Taylor
Alessandra Dobrin, arrived later in the meeting
Alternate Members:
 Mark Glaser
 Jaydin Martinez
 Tara Tovarek

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

Elisa Montoya, excused
Alternate Member Siena Bergt
Alternate Member Rashan Ahmed

OTHERS PRESENT

Johanna Nelson, Director, Economic Development Department and Interim
Director of the Affordable Housing Department
Casey Dalbor, Economic Development Department
Jim Gollin, Chair, Governor's Council on Film and Media

Jennifer Labar-Tapia, Santa Fe Film Commissioner
Jose Villarreal, Jr., Work-Based Learning (WBL)
Lizzy Portillo, Economic Development Department

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

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

Ms. Darrah, yes; Dezbaa, yes; Ms. Frank, yes; Mr. Ordaz, yes; Mr. Reiss, yes; Dr. Wysong, yes; Ms. Taylor, yes; Mr. Dennis, yes; Dr. Stahmer, yes; Mr. Kahn, yes; Mr. Ragano, yes; Mr. Glaser, yes; Mr. Martinez, yes; Ms. Tovarek, yes; Chair Dillingham, yes.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

Chair Darrah gave several changes to the minutes.

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

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

Ms. Darrah, abstained; Dezbaa, abstained; Ms. Frank, abstained; Mr. Ordaz, abstained; Mr. Reiss, yes; Dr. Wysong, yes; Ms. Taylor, yes; Mr. Dennis, yes; Dr. Stahmer, abstained; Mr. Kahn, yes; Mr. Ragano, yes; Mr. Glaser, yes; Mr. Martinez, yes; Ms. Tovarek, yes; Chair Dillingham, yes.

5. PRESENTATIONS

a. UPDATE, GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON FILM AND MEDIA INDUSTRIES

Mr. Gollin said our purview is the whole state. Our structure is to work with the New Mexico Film Office and make recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature. These are only recommendations, not decisions. We were on hiatus for much of last year. The Governor is working through the process of reappointment or appointment. We are having a meeting in ten days, so I can't really speak to recommendations as we have not met. In general, we make recommendations on

general areas. We do work with working groups that allow for flexibility such as incentive optimization, sustainability in the industry and film safety and financing. We would like to get the State Loan Fund going again, not just for productions, but other related industries. Milton Reiss has recently joined our Council as a member.

Chair Dillingham congratulated Mr. Reiss and asked Mr. Gollin how long he has been on the Council.

Mr. Gollin said three years.

Chair Dillingham asked if there has been a change in working with Steve Graham, the new Director of the State Film Office. We would like to work with you on how we can support each other. There is some overlap in our working groups as well.

Mr. Gollin said there has been a significant change in working with Steve. A lot of the focus last year was the Legislative session. People today are doing much more common thinking. There is a general sense that we are all moving in the same direction with the new leadership. He looks forward to working together.

Dr. Stahmer asked about the give back program and ways to re-boot it.

Mr. Gollin said he has general dissatisfaction with the direction education and training went under the previous leadership. That will be a topic for the regional councils.

Dr. Stahmer said she appreciates that there is a conversation.

Dezbaa said it is appropriate for the give back program to be back on the table.

Ms. Darrah said the Film Loan Fund is something we have been working on for years. We focused on funds to be used for film loans or grants and the incentives. It might be a great time to join forces on an overall push.

Chair Dillingham said we very much want to get our ducks in a row. Are there any thoughts about adding equity to the Loan Fund.

Mr. Gollin said here have been no discussions around equity. I don't oppose it.

Chair Dillingham said the sooner we can work together for the next Legislative session, the better. We will get email addresses for your members so we can invite you and them to gatherings.

b. WORK-BASED LEARNING (WBL) PROGRAM HIGH SCHOOL INTERNSHIPS 2024-25

Ms. Portillo stated that she oversees broadband and workforce programs. We are working on closing on programs with the schools. It is a great opportunity for our youth.

Mr. Villarreal gave a PowerPoint presentation on the internship program.

Mr. Ragano said it is great having interns. They get all kinds of experience. We are building a 14,000 square foot building so they are getting building experience too. They interact with the public. They get a great skill set. He has high praise for this program. Thank you Economic Development for supporting it.

Chair Dillingham asked what is the future in terms of funding. Is it sustainable.

Mr. Villarreal said we have a new contract that goes to 2029. In terms of funding, we are looking for other grants for the program. There are other sources of funding we can look at. Our long-term goal is to have partners pay interns. The City Councilors and the Mayor are fully invested in the program.

Chair Dillingham asked if the partner businesses are putting any funds toward the program.

Mr. Villarreal said they are putting in their time in mentorships. It is not mandatory. We look for partners who will invest in these young people.

6. UPDATES

a. SANTA FE FILM OFFICE UPDATE

Ms. LaBar-Tapia said we have had tons of coverage with the Gene Hackman death. There has been a lot of media attention. Our thoughts are with his family and friends. Aspect Media Village, she and Steve met with many heads of production in LA. We had great meetings. She wants to give a shout out to Philip and Claudio for putting the meetings together. It was a great opportunity.

Ms. LaBar-Tapia said a shout out to Anna. She went to her showing at Jon Cocteau. It was a really fun evening. We are doing interviews for the film coordinator position. Shout out to Casey for helping with that process. We have two city people and two county people on the interview panel. He is on the interview panel. Michelle, from our State Film Office, was elected to the AFCA Board. The City has put in \$250,000 for the back lot production. The County put in \$1 million of their ARPA funds. She sat on a panel at St. Johns College and addressed students about film. Our locations directory is a work in progress.

Ms. LaBar-Tapia reported that Opus, a John Malcovich film that was filmed in

Santa Fe, previewed at Sundance. Casting calls are out for Dark Winds. We have a western coming in June. A few commercials came through and a TV episode. Film and Media Day at the Legislature is March 13th. It is hosted by IATSE and will be from 8:00 am to 2:00 pm.

Ms. LaBar-Tapia said we have been a bit slower this year. It is quiet.

Mr. Dennis said he read something about the anti-donation clause roadblocks. Have you heard any discussions about that.

Ms. LaBar-Tapia said she can't pay for scouts to come out or for hotels or for meals etc. There are some things that could be relaxed.

7. MATTERS FROM THE COMMITTEE

a. WORKING GROUP UPDATES

Government Affairs

Mr. Dennis reported that the working group met on January 23rd and discussed the following items: commercial productions and the incentives; the slow down of productions; co-production models; new areas of distribution: incentivizing low budget productions: making content to promote the State, using New Mexico bridges to reach out to finance companies, improving education of productions in the use of incentives, and framing conversations to Legislators. We also spoke about the Film Loan Program and concerns about the fall out from Rust.

Above-The-Line

Ms. Darrah thanked everyone involved in the upcoming Above-The-Line event including Jason and Dr. Stahmer. We are thrilled it is happening.

Ms. Ordaz said it is happening at IAIA from 9:30 am to noon, with individual tours of the Dome from noon to 1:00 pm.

Ms. Darrah said we have 104 people registered. Thank you to the City and Casey.

Education

Dr. Wysong said we are delighted about the additional resources for the backlot project. We have a request in to the Legislature as well. He is working on agreements to get the groundbreaking as soon as next month. We appreciate all the support. Stay tuned.

Mr. Reiss said we are putting together another PA training. Our fifth one. It will begin on May 17th and will be for three consecutive weekends.

Dr. Stahmer said she put a flyer in the chat about PA incentives for productions that hire.

b. MATTERS FROM THE CHAIR

Chair Dillingham said thank you for your patience. We are close to getting new members for the Council.

8. MATTERS FROM STAFF

Mr. Dalbor said he put a report in the chat of upcoming events with links to sign up for the event. The Directors report is also in the chat.

9. MATTERS FROM THE PUBLIC

None.

10. NEXT MEETING

April 1, 2025

11. ADJOURN

There being no further business before the Council, the meeting adjourned at noon.



Gay Dillingham, Chair



[Elizabeth Martin \(Apr 13, 2025 09:31 MDT\)](#)

Elizabeth Martin, Stenographer