

**SANTA FE COUNTY
ART, CULTURE, AND CREATIVE ECONOMY COUNCIL
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14, 2026, 9:00 AM
SANTA FE COUNTY ADMINISTRATION COMPLEX
240 GRANT AVENUE, SANTA FE, NM**

1. OPENING BUSINESS

A. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Art, Culture, and Creative Economy Council was called to order by Pam Sullivan, Chair, on Wednesday, January 14, 2026, at 9:00 am, at the Santa Fe County Administration Complex, 240 Grant Avenue, Santa Fe, NM.

B. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT

Pam Sullivan, Chair
Brian McPartlon
Mariah Burns
Michale Lancaster
Carla Sanders
David Lindblom
Rudy Bentz
Nancy Sutor
Deborah Torres

MEMBERS ABSENT

Pablo Ancona, excused
Kevin Box, excused

OTHERS PRESENT

Jonathan Butler, Community Development Director
Anne Wodarczyk, Community Development Senior Planner
Valarie Rengel, SF County Planning Department
Juan Torres, SF County Economic Development Department Manager
Elizabeth Martin, Stenographer

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION A motion was made by Ms. Torres, seconded by Ms. Burns, to approve the agenda as presented.

VOTE The motion passed on a voice vote.

D. INTRODUCTIONS

introductions were made.

E. ACCE RESOLUTION POINTS

Chair Sullivan read the points.

2. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

A. REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 12, 2025, ACCE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

This item was postponed.

3. MATTERS FROM THE CHAIR

A. UPDATE FROM PAM SULLIVAN, COUNCIL CHAIR

Chair Sullivan said we presented to the County Commission in December. Our report was favorably received by the County Commissioners. This is our quarterly report. We would like to show it to you.

The Quarterly Report of the Arts, Culture, and Creative Economy Council (ACCE) was presented by Chair Sullival to the Council via PowerPoint presentation.

Members of the Council expressed thank yous to the Chair and staff for preparing and presenting the report.

Ms. Wodarczyk said Tressa is finalizing her report. We will send the presentation to you by email.

Ms. Wodarczyk said a strategic plan will be put together when we have what we need in place. It will be done by consensus and will include the mission, vision, priorities, recommendations and next steps. It will be a living document.

Ms. Sutor said it is important to include past generations with present and future.

4. MATTERS FROM STAFF

A. UPDATE FROM JONATHAN BUTLER

Mr. Butler said from the staff perspective, thank you Pam for all you have done and are doing. Thank you Mariah for serving as Vice Chair. What we hope to do is get enough information to be able to present to the Board of County Commissioners and the City Manager for your biggest ask. That was a full time staff person and that the Council continue. Of note for you all, we as a staff will work with you and the Commission on the right framing for what the extension of the Council may be. Right now, we are under the Open Meetings Act. We can create a Council that is not bound by those requirements. We will look at that. We can present to you our recommendation on that. The rest of it we looked at as foundational. Things such as that the new staff person will need to be able to work with the Council to dig deep into goals and expectations and what the County may do. There are specific things we are married to in the Resolution creating the Council. We hired a consultant who was asked to create a document. How the Council lives with that document is your decision. How the County deals with that document, we can work with you on that. As we see it, Tressa has done what she was charged to do. She has substantially completed the document she was charged with. It is in the final stages for her. The process we are looking at is that the document goes to Anne, we look at it and bring it to you all to look at. That document may just live as its own document. We will make that presentation to you and you will decide how you want to present information to the BCC. It may live as a stand alone document or may inform recommendations to the County or the County may decide how it wants to use it. We have not decided if it will be sent to the County Commissioners. The Consultant may present her recommendations to the County Commission. He has not been comfortable since he started with you thinking of what might be created as a strategic five year plan. From an execution standpoint, what he thought was important for this Council was to establish foundational principals, which you have done, and set us up with a process for a staff person that could eventually create a plan. He wants to emphasize that process is ongoing. Most important was to present Council items that cost money in your recommendations. We will at some point present a plan we think will encompass what we think it would look like for a Council to continue, full time staff sometime in March and a budget. We want you to feel free to have space to work with what you feel is important and what next steps will be. From this point forward, the remainder of this process will be heavily driven by Anne, the Chair and the Vice Chair. We, as County staff will be less involved. You will make a determination as to how you work together. We are less married to the language of a five year strategic plan and more married to the ideas you put forth with recommendations to the County Commission. We can say this is what we want to do once this work is more finalized.

B. FUTURE AGENDA REQUESTS

4. MATTERS FROM THE CHAIR

Chair Sullival gave her update earlier in the meeting.

5. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS/REPORTS/DISCUSSIONS

A. DISCUSSION - ARTS AND CULTURE JOB DESCRIPTION AND FUTURE ROLE OF THE COUNCIL

B. DISCUSSION - CONSULTANT'S STRATEGIC PLAN

Mr. Lindblom said our values seem to be important DNA of what we want to do. Those discussions seem important.

Mr. Butler said there has to be some consensus on foundation. He feels like you are 90% aligned on what your values are.

Mr. McPartlon said he wants to acknowledge that our best work has been from the special meeting onward. He is glad to hear we not on a timeline of coming up with five year strategic plan. If we can incorporate more of that good work it would be helpful along with listening and community engagement.

Chair Sullivan said listening is very important. Listening to the community instead of telling.

Mr. Bentz said he wants to emphasize listening as very important.

Chair Sullivan said and looking at some of the work the County is already doing.

Mr. Butler said you are all emphasizing the value of what this assembly really is - your time as subject matter experts and volunteers. He is sensitive to your time. He doesn't want you to feel like you are spinning your wheels or wasting your time and that this is not valuable. We will get to a point where you will figure out your meeting cadence. It is likely you will not meet monthly. You are all doing things with participants, creatives and business people. You are engaging with people and you should also look at this work as inviting the Council and the County to get people to come and participate in things. How are we stewards to the County with advice and council and tapping into your own networks. The staff person is not just going to be working on behalf of this Council. The staff person is your conduit to attempting to embed creative economy throughout County government by influencing art as part of projects and community engagement across the spectrum. How to integrate arts in the economic impact associated with it. Shift your work from focusing on creating a document for the County Commission to integrating arts into the County.

Ms. Torres asked is hiring a staff person this fiscal year.

Mr. Butler said next fiscal year

Ms. Torres said the this Council will be a fraction of what a new County staff person will be doing. The continuation of the Council, was that approved.

Mr. Butler said the Resolution calls for this Council's existence to end at the end of this fiscal year. We have presented a recommendation that the Council be permanent. His sense is that the County Commission agrees. There are new members of the County Commission since that Resolution was adopted. It is important to inform their decision with information of how they want to continue this Council. We believe the language needs to be changed in order for it to continue. It can we want to continue as other advisory councils work.

Ms. Torres asked about the timeline of getting the document from the contractor to get to County.

Mr. Butler said June.

Ms. Torres asked is there somewhere we can see the scope of work for the contractor.

Mr. Butler said yes, we have a contract.

There was discussion, about participating in Commission town halls and community engagement and business cards.

There was a question about the salary for a staff person.

Mr. Butler said the County will decide that. You were beginning to discuss a job description. We will take your ideas and put them in a County framework and come up with a recommendation and pay scale.

The Council took a ten minute break.

Mr. Butler said you should not think of your work as isolated to when you have a formal staff person. You have four staff people in attendance today. If there is something you want to do, say that and we will figure out how to do it. You realize now that you have four months to come to some conclusions on how you are going to set this up. Let us figure out how to take it forward. He thinks it would be beneficial for you to discuss what you think you need, what do you need more information about, what do you need from a staff person. Your next meetings will be digesting and processing that document. Set up a template for engagement for next fiscal year.

Mr. Lindblom said he would like to go to public events as a member of this Council. He thinks that would be very helpful. He thinks we can get our teeth into is the job description.

Ms. Torres said we need to ask for what we want this person to accomplish, not put together a list of tasks or daily functions. We should have a five year vision.

Mr. Butler said that is excellent reframing. He wants to put community engagement as an action item for your plan. What you have already done and given to Tressa is of value. You will be vetting the document at the next meeting and deciding next steps.

Ms. Rengel said she wants you to understand that planning is part of arts as well. We are doing an RFP on an arts related project. She suggested that we utilize this Council to help us with what type of facility is necessary.

Ms. Wodarczyk said Joseph asked her if he could be in the agenda to talk about the Agua Fria History and Arts Center. He wanted input.

Ms. Sutor said she is very involved with this project. It would be a super concrete exercise in seeing what we do as a Council.

Chair Sullivan said she thinks that would be premature.

Chair Sullivan recommend labeling the discussion about staff until we review the report. The job description is not even going to be put out yet. Let's look at the report first. It may give us some insight.

Chair Sullivan said at our next meeting we can review the report for going forward and in March talk about the staff person.

6. ACTION ITEMS

None.

7. MATTERS FROM THE PUBLIC

None.

8. MATTERS FROM THE COUNCIL

A. COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

B. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Rengel said Joseph will put together a community meeting.

Mr. McPartlon said it is a priority for us to get a budget and job description to the

County Commission prior to the end of the fiscal year so they can plan for that.

Mr. Butler said we are already working on that. What you present to us we can add on. We can make a presentation to you in March.

Ms. Sutor said part of our task is identifying funding resources.

Mr. Butler said he thinks when you are building out functions of the Council it is crucial that you think about possible funding sources, like for micro grants, at that time.

9. CONCLUDING BUSINESS

A. NEXT MEETING: FEBRUARY 11

B. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Council, the meeting adjourned at 10:56 am.

Pam Sullivan, Stenographer

Elizabeth Martin, Stenographer