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Camilla Bustamante
Commissioner, District 3



Adam Fulton Johnson
Commissioner, District 4

Hank Hughes
Commissioner, District 5

Gregory S. Shaffer
County Manager

MEMORANDUM

Date: November 14, 2025

To: Board of County Commissioners

From: Anne Wodarczyk, Senior Planner

Via: Jonathan Butler, Community Development Department Director

Subject: **December 2, 2025, BCC Meeting**
Presentation of Arts, Culture, and Creative Economy (ACCE) Advisory Council's Quarterly Report

SUMMARY:

This is a presentation and report from Pam Sullivan, ACCE Council Chair, providing an update on the Arts, Culture, and Creative Economy (ACCE) Advisory Council, including activities completed to date, emerging priorities, and preliminary recommendations under consideration as part of the development of the ACCE Strategic Plan.

BACKGROUND:

The ACCE Advisory Council was established by Resolution No. 2024-167 on December 9, 2024, to support arts, culture, and the creative economy in Santa Fe County. Its purposes include increasing public awareness of art, enhancing community identity, preserving cultural history, and supporting the development of a strategic plan for arts programming and funding.

The Council advises County staff and a contracted consultant, meets monthly, and provides quarterly updates to the Board of County Commissioners. County staff from the Community Development Department serve as liaisons. The Council's term concludes when the BCC takes formal action on the Strategic Plan.

The Council currently consists of eleven voting members representing the County's five districts and one at-large member. Membership has changed since the Council's formation; the current members are:

- **District 1:** David Lindblom and Deborah Torres
- **District 2:** Pablo Ancona and Nancy Sutor
- **District 3:** Pam Sullivan (Chair) and Kevin Box
- **District 4:** Carla Sanders and Brian McPartlon
- **District 5:** Mariah Burns (Vice-Chair) and Rudy Bentz

- **At-Large Member:** Michael Lancaster

The Council has established priorities and guiding statements to inform the development of the Strategic Plan. In support of this work, and with guidance from consultant Dr. Tressa Berman, the Council convened a four-hour work session at the Santa Fe Association of Realtors to review values, discuss goals, and shape approaches for arts, culture, and the creative economy. Following this session, the Council adopted the following guiding statements:

Mission:

“To identify, cultivate, and invest in individuals and communities to strengthen the arts, culture, and creative economy of Santa Fe County, honoring existing and future generations.”

Vision:

“An inclusive and connected creative economy rooted in Santa Fe County’s diverse history of artistic and cultural expressions empowering sustainable, resilient, and thriving communities.”

To focus the development of strategic goals and objectives, the Council identified three main priorities: Creative Economy, Equity and Inclusion, and Artistic Spirit.

Dr. Tressa Berman has supported the Council throughout this process by facilitating planning sessions, organizing subcommittee meetings, coordinating stakeholder engagement, and developing a working strategic framework with sample objectives and strategies. Her work is summarized in the quarterly report submitted as an exhibit to this memo.

Preliminary recommendations under consideration by the Council include establishing a permanent ACCE Advisory Council, creating a full-time position within the Community Development Department, and conducting community engagement and asset mapping to support ongoing planning efforts. These recommendations are preliminary and may be refined before final inclusion in the Strategic Plan.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

This is an informational presentation; no action is requested.

EXHIBITS:

- Exhibit A – Presentation
- Exhibit B – Quarterly Report from Consultant
- Exhibit C – Resolution No. 2024-167