

**SANTA FE COUNTY  
ARTS AND CULTURE ECONOMIC COUNCIL MEETING  
TUESDAY, MARCH 4, 2025, 1:00 PM  
SANTA FE COUNTY ADMINISTRATION COMPLEX  
240 GRANT AVENUE, SANTA FE, NM**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting of the Arts and Culture Economic Council was called to order by Dr. Leila Shadabi at 1:08 pm, on Tuesday, March 4, 2025, at the Santa Fe County Administration Complex, 240 Grant Avenue, Santa Fe, NM.

**2. ROLL CALL**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Anthony Moore  
Nancy Sutor  
Pablo Ancona  
Kevin Box  
Pam Sullivan  
Brian McPartlon  
Mariah Burns  
Jennie Cooley  
Michale Lancaster  
Carla Sanders  
David Lindblom, briefly attended virtually

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Dr. Leila Shadabi, Economic Development Specialist  
Dr. Tressa Berman, Consultant/Facilitator  
Paul Olafson, SF County Community Development Director  
Valarie Rengel, SF County Planning Department  
Juan Torres, SF County Economic Development Department Manager  
Jessica Stern, Presentation  
Elizabeth Martin, Stenographer

**WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Dr. Shadabi welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the Council.

Dr. Shadabi said she looks forward to working together to support the important work of the Council. She is excited to learn from your expertise. Our goal is to ensure

productive conversation.

Dr. Shadabi asked that the Council members introduce themselves and state what they are looking forward to in working with the Council.

Ms. Sullivan said she is from Madrid and worked in New Hampshire before she moved here. She wants to ensure that connectivity and collaboration are successful.

Mr. Ancona said he has been back and forth from New York to New Mexico for most of his life. He is an artist with a background in murals, style writing, illustration and art programs for youth. He has a love of New Mexico, specifically Santa Fe. This is a way to get more involved with community and a way to add something for the community.

Ms. Sutor said she lives in Agua Fria Village and has been in New Mexico since the early 70s. She is a visual artist and taught photo at the College of Santa Fe for many years. She is a practicing artist and has done some public artist programs around the state. She is part of a study group to create a cultural center in the Agua Fria Village. She hopes to lend some of her experience and expertise and her love of this place to helping the community.

Mr. Moore said he has been here for 15 years. He is involved with international opera and helps at the UNM Vocal Department. He also teaches privately. He is interested in fostering and nurturing performance and wants to see if a new amphitheater could be developed in Santa Fe.

Mr. McPartlon said he has been in Santa Fe for 40 years. He is an artist and an art advocate. He is interested in this new entity and is looking for fairness in our decisions.

Mr. Box said he lives on Turquoise Trail and is a practicing sculptor. He has shown and exhibited all over the country. He went to the School for the Visual Arts in New York and moved here 19 years ago. He has been on the Board for the Turquoise Trail and the studio tour. He is involved with the San Marcos overlay project and has a background in marketing as well. We have something very special in Santa Fe in supporting living artists. He is here to contribute his experience and expertise to help make Santa Fe one of the top art destinations in the world.

Mr. Lancaster said he is a gallerist, novelist and screen writer. He is the lead of the Madrid Art and History Walk, which partners with Santa Fe County. He would like to use centergy and dovetail multi media and arts. We are in one of the main districts of art in the United States, if not the world. He wants to contribute to that.

Ms. Sanders said she has been in New Mexico for 35 years. She is in arts education and has worked in public arts and arts administration. She also worked at

the opera as kid wrangler. She is very invested in arts organizations across the state. She is looking forward to things we can come up with to benefit the County. She is an artist and a writer. She sold her newspaper to come to Santa Fe. She is excited to help with marketing local art through a gallery.

Ms. Burns said she was raised here. She is a motion graphics designer and animator. Her father is an artist. She is looking forward to collaboration between mediums.

Ms. Cooley introduced herself and said she is happy to be here and to participate in this effort.

Dr. Berman said she is looking forward to getting to know you through the process of planning. She is a Cultural Archeologist in the art world, primarily with nonprofits. She wants to see how this Council can be of benefit and is happy to hear about interdisciplinary practices and the community. It is key to the cultural economy.

Mr. Olfason said he is the Director of the County Community Development Department. He has been here for 24 years. He thanks all of you for volunteering for this. It takes time and brain power. You were appointed because of your commitment to your community. This is hard work. You will be helping us to come up with a 5 year plan. That is the main emphasis. He is encouraged by the diversity and talent around the table.

Valerie Rengel said she works in the Santa Fe County Planning Department and is a practicing artist as well. She is a paper cutter.

Dr. Shadabi said she is excited to have all of you. It gives me energy. This Council is super important.

Mr. Torres said he is the County Economic Development Manager. Why is this under economic development. The Economic Development Division has a Strategic Plan that passed last November. Arts and culture is one of the several sections of the community we are focused on. Our plan was a result of meetings with each of the County Commissioners. We received feedback that specifically touches on things you talked about. Currently, an amphitheater study is underway. We will make that report available to you. That is a focus of the City and the County. We are currently working with Currents New Media. We are hoping to make a County building available for a month long exhibition some time in May. We are looking at the Solana Center. We have an arts in public places initiative. It starts with this building. Part of the work of this Council would be look at arts funding and giving us some feedback as to providing continuous funding. Public art in roundabouts is a project as well. We work with individual communities on infrastructure projects, capital appropriations and facilitation. Think about what kinds of things you want to see in your communities. We work with individual targeted communities, for profit and nonprofit organizations, on events. He

looks forward to your input on that. We support your work through our budget.

Dr. Shadabi said we need to elect a Chair and Vice Chair and set a schedule for our meetings for the year.

### **3. PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES OF THE COUNCIL**

Dr. Shadabi said we are shaping the future of arts and culture and the creative economy. The Council will support development and sustainability of arts culture and will provide a platform for voices to ensue all of the community has access. How does art influence economics. Art has an impact on crime reduction through community engagement with art. It engages individuals, especially young people, and helps the economy. Tourism is one part of that, but not all of it. Art is a valuable tool for education and increasing skills. It also helps individuals to develop emotional intelligence. It is a tool for social improvement.

### **4. MEETING ESTABLISHMENT**

#### **A. NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR**

There was discussion around the duties of Chair and Vice Chair and the process of election.

**MOTION** There was a motion by Ms. Sanders, seconded by Mr. McPartlon, to nominate Ms. Sullivan as Chair of the Council.

**VOTE** The motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

**MOTION** A motion was made by Mr. Ancona, seconded by Ms. Sullivan, to nominate Mr. Moore as Vice Chair of the Council.

**VOTE** The motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

#### **B. SCHEDULING OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

Dr. Shadabi said this is a monthly meeting. We will be figuring out our meeting dates that will work with you.. It is really up to you.

There was a discussion about possible dates.

Mr. Lindlom joined the meeting electronically to join the discussion and to introduce himself.

A consensus was reached to have the meetings on the second Wednesday of

each month, from 9:00 am to 11:00 am.

**MOTION** A motion was made by Ms. Sutor, seconded by Mr. Box, to set the meetings of the Council on the second Wednesday of each month, from 9:00 am to 11:00 am.

**VOTE** The motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

## **5. PRESENTATION**

### **A. REVIEW OF THE CURRENT LANDSCAPE**

Ms. Stern gave a PowerPoint presentation on the current landscape and the creative economy.

## **6. ASSIGNING ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

Dr. Shadabi said we are thinking about forming 3 working teams, as an example they could be Art, Culture and the Creative Economy.

Mr. Torres said this is going to be up to the facilitator. She will reach out individually to each of you to discuss these items in order to develop an agenda.

Dr. Berman said she would like to ask you to start thinking about this for the next meeting. She will reach out to you. She would like to open it up more specifically and widely for brainstorming at the next meeting. You will have an opportunity to voice your thoughts in that process and your standpoint from your districts.

Mr. McPartlon asked what about our budget.

Mr. Torres said there is no budget per se. We will take into consideration whatever requests are made.

Mr. McPartlon asked are we to take our direction from the County Commission or give direction to the County Commission.

Mr. Torres said as a Body, you will provide feedback and recommendations to the Board of County Commission at the end of this process. There will be a formal report that will be drafted and presented. On a quarterly basis, you may provide the Council Commission updates.

Mr. Olafson said this is a recommending body. You don't give direction to the Governing Body. You serve at the pleasure of the Board of County Commissioners.

Dr. Shadabi said this Council is supposed to do a quarterly report.

Dr. Berman said she writes the reports.

## 7. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business before the Council, the meeting adjourned at 3:01 pm.

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Pam Sullivan Chair

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Elizabeth Martin, Stenographer