

AGENDA
CULTURAL RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD
Wednesday, January 17th, 2024 – 10:00 am
City Hall Commission Chambers – 806 N. 2nd Ave.

CALL TO ORDER

Introductions:

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Strategic Plan for Welcoming and Integration
 - a. Civic Engagement
 - i Voter Engagement
 - ii New Americans Dinner
 - b. Equitable Access and Communication
 - i. Engage Dodge Program Update and Plans for Spring 24
 - ii. Approve application to NLC 2024 Cultural diversity Award for Engage Dodge
 - iii. Language Access Meeting with Hon. Teresa Watson District Court Judge
 - c. Refugee and Immigrant Integration
 - i USCIS Mobile Services Update
 - ii [Naturalization Scholarship](#)
 - iii Immigration Attorney Clinic
2. Welcoming Week Committee
 - d. Five Flags Video Update- Holly Mercer, DC3
2024 International Festival- Sunday, September 8, 2024
3. Vacant At-Large Board Position

NEW BUSINESS

1. Tentative Board Retreat- Date and Time
2. Certified Welcoming City Discussion
 - a. <https://welcomingamerica.org/initiatives/certified-welcoming/>

BOARD PROGRAMS/DATES (keep in mind):

- 2pm-4pm, January 20, 2024, Election 101, Dodge City Public Library
- 5:30pm, February 22nd New Americans Dinner - *tentative date*
- 9:30am February 21, 2024, International Festival Planning Meeting
- 10am, February 21, 2024 Board Retreat
- March 19, 2023, Presidential Preference Primary, Ford County Voting Locations
- April-Celebrate Diversity Month
- May 5, 2024, Cinco de Mayo
- June 17-23, 2024 Refugee Week
- National Hispanic Heritage Month September 15- October 15, 2024
- September 8, 2024, Dodge City International Festival, Wright Park
- September 13-22, 2024, Welcoming Week

- **Human Rights Day – Tuesday, December 10, 2024**

**COMMENTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS/STAFF
ADJOURNMENT**

MINUTES

CULTURAL RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD

Wednesday, November 15th, 2023 – 10:00 am
City Commission Chambers – 806 N. Second Ave.

CALL TO ORDER

Attendees: Brenda Carmona, Holly Mercer, Karim Schneider, Coral Lopez, Debbie Snapp, Elizabeth Reazola, Karla Lees, Isabel Garcia, Vicky Ortiz

Absent: Esmeralda Ruiz, Kurt Lampe, Esmeralda Soto

Staff: Melissa McCoy, Darlin Rayo

CONSENT CALENDAR

1. October 25, 2023, Minutes
 - a. Holly Mercer moved to approve the minutes; Karla Lees seconded. The motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Strategic Plan for Welcoming and Integration
 - a. Civic Engagement

- i. **Community Assessment – Brenda Carmona:** Brenda presented the results of the community assessment. The goal was broad participation, with 283 responses, primarily from Dodge City, followed by 7 from Bucklin and 2 from Spearville. Responses were predominantly from parents with children in the 0-5 age group. Medical services faced challenges due to a lack of doctors and difficulty in accessing local healthcare. Gathering places favored included community events, activities, and the library. Social media was the primary information source. Requests included open gyms for kids, more frequent events for all ages, and concerns about housing affordability. Mental health issues were highlighted, and the suggestion of incorporating mental health in family activities arose. Immigration issues and household abuse were relatively low. Affordable childcare dissatisfaction was noted, while transportation was considered reliable.

- ii. **Voter Engagement:** The voter videos, in collaboration with Ford County, received positive feedback. However, voter turnout in Precincts 1-4 was low at 6.7%. Possible solutions included encouraging voting by mail and hosting debates or meet-and-greets in specific precincts were discussed.

- b. **Engage Dodge Program Update and Plans for Spring 24:** Plans for the spring session of Engage Dodge will be done in partnership with the

school district's ESOL and Diversity group. The awardees of the Naturalization Scholarship who were not able to attend from the fall session will attend the morning session in the springtime.

c. **Language Access: One of the Kansas Supreme Court Justices that attended the recent breakfast that was held in Dodge City will share information with Melissa about their language access initiatives.**

d. **USCIS Mobile Services Update**

i **Naturalization Outreach Event, 5:00pm, December 6, 2023: Boot Hill Museum: USCIS plans to return in December for interviews and tentatively in March for mobile services. A Naturalization Outreach Event is scheduled for December 6, 2023, at Boot Hill Museum.**

2. **New Americans Dinner- 6:30pm, December 6, 2023, Boot Hill Museum: Staff is actively recruiting Engage Dodge participants, and Isabel will be checking with Catholic Charities to identify potential contacts. The aim is to have everything finalized and submitted by the 1st of December. It was also discussed moving the event to January if there are not enough participants for the December event.**

3. **Welcoming Week Committee**

e. **Five Flags Video Update- Holly Mercer, DC3: There has been a delay in the editing process, but the team has now resumed their work. They are hopeful to provide samples soon. A recent meeting was held to review the segment at the museum, and the footage obtained is described as awesome. The team is enthusiastic about piecing everything together. Once the museum-related segment is completed, the focus will shift to the remaining parts of the project. The accompanying photos will be sent shortly. However, there is currently no estimated timeframe for the completion of the entire project.**

f. **2024 International Festival- Sunday, September 8, 2024: Darlin presented the six-month timeline for the International Festival. The board decided to schedule the first official meeting on January 17th to begin planning details and assign committees. The choice for the blue save the date with the cowboys was approved, and plans are underway to disseminate it across various social media platforms.**

4. **Vacant At-Large Board Position: Two positions are currently open. If you are interested in these positions, kindly fill out the application form. Once completed, the applications will be submitted to both the mayor and the city commission for their consideration.**

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Immigration Attorney Clinic Planning Discussion: committee members met prior to the Cultural Relations Advisory Board meeting and decided to hold the clinic in March after spring break. Two sessions, one in the morning and one in the evening.**

BOARD PROGRAMS/DATES (keep in mind):

Minutes Submitted by Darlin Rayo
Approved 00/00/0000

1. USCIS Mobile Services, December 6 & 7, 2023, Hennessey Hall
2. Naturalization Outreach Event – 5:00pm, December 6th, Boot Hill Museum
3. New American Dinner – 6:30pm, December 6, 2023, Boot Hill Museum
4. Human Rights Day – Saturday, December 10, 2023
5. International Festival Planning Committee – 9:30am, January 17, 2024
6. CRAB Meeting – 10:00am, January 17, 2024

COMMENTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS/STAFF

1. **Karla presented the flyers for the Multicultural Committee Holiday Posada scheduled for December 5th. The event will feature food, drinks, and live entertainment, promising a festive celebration for all attendees.**
2. **Additionally, Vicky presented the flyer for the DCPL Traditional Posada. Genesis Family Health and DCPL will co-host a Christmas Carol event featuring a live nativity.**

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, Debbie Snapp motioned to adjourn, Karim Schneider seconded. The meeting was adjourned.

ELECTION 101

JOIN US TO LEARN ABOUT
THE PROCESS OF THE
PRESIDENTIAL
PREFERENCE PRIMARY
TAKING PLACE
MARCH 19, 2024.

WHEN: January 20, 2024
2pm-4pm

Dodge City Public Library
1001 N 2nd Ave
Lois Flanagan room

If you have any questions regarding this presentation, please call (620) 227 4550.



ELECTION 101

ÚNASE PARA APRENDER SOBRE
EL PROCESO DE LA
PRESIDENCIAL
PRIMARIA DE PREFERENCIA EL
19 DE MARZO DE 2024.

CUANDO: ENERO 20, 2024
2pm-4pm

Biblioteca Publica de la Ciudad de Dodge
1001 N 2nd Ave
en el cuarto Lois Flanagan

Si tiene alguna pregunta sobre esta presentación,
favor de llamar al (620) 227 4550.





New Americans Celebration & Dinner

Sponsored by the City of Dodge City and the Cultural Relations Advisory Board

Boot Hill Museum
500 W Wyatt Earp Blvd
February 22, 2024, 5:30pm

The City of Dodge City is excited to celebrate and recognize Dodge City residents who have recently naturalized to become United States Citizens. Taking the Oath of Allegiance and embracing U.S. citizenship is a remarkable act of patriotism. Our City and nation are stronger because of those who have chosen to become naturalized citizens. Therefore, we want to recognize you with a special celebration and dinner. Please complete the registration form below.

Registration Form

Full Name _____

Address (city, zip code) _____

Phone Number: _____

Email (optional) _____

Date of Naturalization _____ Will you be bringing a guest? (yes) (no)

Registrations must be returned to City Hall by Friday, February 16, 2024

Attention: Darlin Rayo, P.O. Box 880 Dodge City, KS 67801, or email darlinr@dodgecity.org.

Signature _____ Date _____



WELCOMING
AMERICA





Celebración y Cena de Nuevos Americanos

Patrocinado por la Ciudad de Dodge City y la Junta Asesora de Relaciones Culturales

Boot Hill Museum
500 W Wyatt Earp Blvd
February 22, 2024, 5:30pm

La ciudad de Dodge City se complace en celebrar y reconocer a los residentes de Dodge City que recientemente se han naturalizado para convertirse en ciudadanos de los Estados Unidos. Tomar el Juramento de Lealtad y abrazar la ciudadanía estadounidense es un notable acto de patriotismo. Nuestra ciudad y nuestra nación son más fuertes gracias a aquellos que han elegido convertirse en ciudadanos naturalizados. Por lo tanto Queremos reconocerte con una celebración y cena especial. Complete el formulario de registro a continuación.

Formulario de inscripción

Nombre Completo _____

Dirección (ciudad, código postal) _____

Número de teléfono: _____

Email (opcional) _____

Fecha de Naturalización _____ ¿Vas a traer un invitado? (Sí) (No)

Las inscripciones deben devolverse al Ayuntamiento antes del viernes 16 de febrero, a la atención de: Darlin Rayo, P.O. Box 880 Dodge City, KS 67801, o enviar un correo electrónico a darlinr@dodgecity.org.

Firma _____ Fecha _____



WELCOMING
AMERICA





Memorandum

To: Cultural Relations Advisory Board

From: Darlin Rayo

Date: 1/12/2024

Subject: National League of Cities 2024 City Cultural Diversity Award Application

Agenda Item: Strategic Plan for Welcoming and Integration

Purpose: Approval to submit application for award from National League of Cities for Engage Dodge and its dedication to show inclusivity in the community.

Recommendation: Staff is seeking approval for the submission of the application to the National League of Cities for the recognition of the Engage Dodge program. The award aims to acknowledge initiatives that demonstrate outstanding dedication to inclusivity in the community.

Background: Engage Dodge has been a beacon of cultural diversity within the community. Its efforts in promoting unity, understanding, and community empowerment align with the pillars in the Strategic Plan promoted by the Cultural Relations Advisory Board. By submitting this application, it showcases the impactful work being done in Dodge City and also contributes to the broader conversation on community engagement and inclusivity.

CRAB Board Options:

1. Approve
2. Disapprove
3. Table for further discussion

Financial Considerations: none

Legal Considerations: none

Mission/Values: Align with the strategic plan, particularly equitable action, while maintaining flexibility to adapt across all five pillars.

Attachments: Executive Summary for Engage Dodge

Approved for the Agenda by: Melissa McCoy

Name, Title

Executive Summary of Engage Dodge

Engage Dodge stands as an exemplary program strategically designed to connect individuals with local government officials, fostering an understanding of civic functions. The program is committed to inclusivity, offering sessions in both English and Spanish, providing an avenue for diverse community members to actively participate in local government. This commitment is exemplified by the City's most recent Spanish-language program which was tailored for Naturalization Scholarship recipients and while also including general members of the public. In collaboration with the local school district, USD 443 ESOL and Diversity programs and the Dodge City Community College Adult Learning Center, Engage Dodge integrates into the community promoting cultural diversity and inclusivity. The initiative acts as a bridge, welcoming newcomers and showcasing the harmonious collaboration between community members and local government. By promoting unity, understanding, and active civic engagement, Engage Dodge exemplifies a model program deserving recognition for its impactful contributions to our community's cultural diversity and inclusivity. Furthermore, Engage Dodge aligns with the first pillar of City's Strategic Plan for Welcoming and Integration—Equitable Action and Communication. As an integral component of this framework, Engage Dodge plays a pivotal role in promoting a more equitable and inclusive community. It actively engages residents from diverse backgrounds, providing accessible opportunities to connect with local government officials and learn about various city departments. Through insights into the functions, responsibilities, and impact of different City departments, Engage Dodge empowers participants to become more involved in local government processes, contributing to a more informed and engaged citizenry. In summary, Engage Dodge stands as a cornerstone of Dodge City's Strategic Plan for Welcoming and Integration, actively advancing the goals of creating a more equitable and engaged community.



NATURALIZATION SCHOLARSHIP

The City of Dodge City is proud to offer twelve \$400 scholarships to help community members pay for fees related to the citizenship/naturalization process.

Recipients will have the opportunity to attend citizenship classes provided by Catholic Charities.

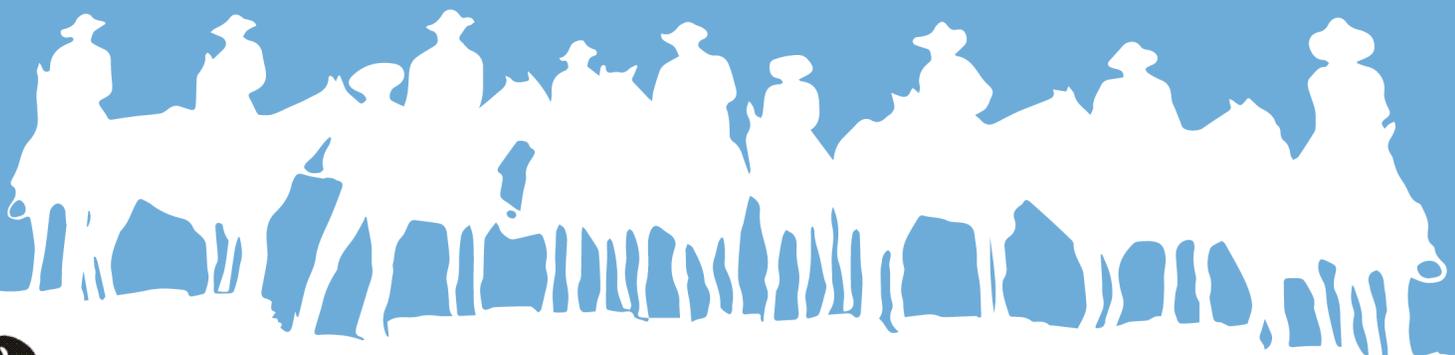
The deadline to apply is Wednesday, April 17th.

Scholarship Requirements:

- Eligible for naturalization
- Resident of Ford County
- Demonstrate financial need
- Commit to attending the Engage Dodge program

Apply at www.dodgecity.org/663 or pick up an application at City Hall (806 N. 2nd Ave)

For more information, contact Melissa McCoy (melissam@dodgecity.org) or Darlin Rayo (darlinr@dodgecity.org) or via phone at 620-225-8100 (ext. 6).





Beca de Naturalización

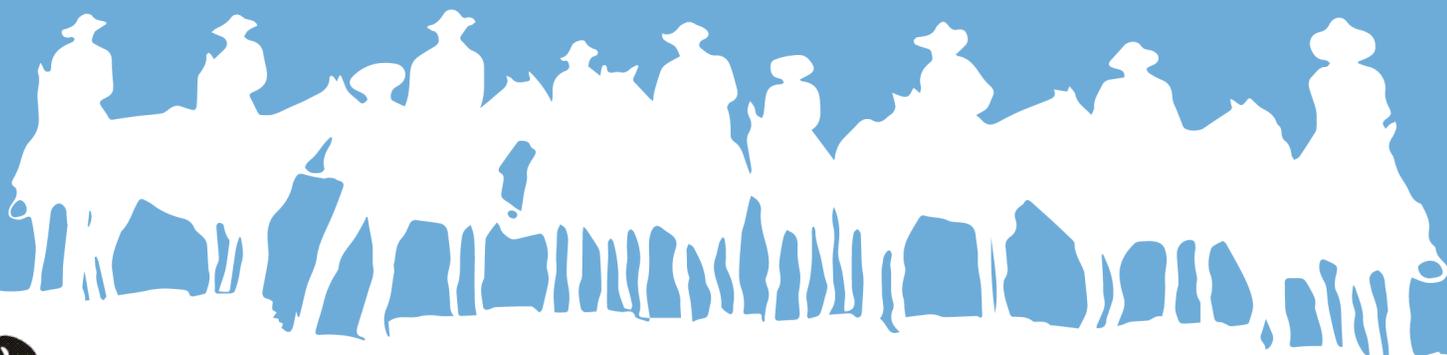
La Ciudad de Dodge City tiene el honor de ofrecer doce becas de \$400 para ayudar a los miembros de la comunidad a pagar las tarifas relacionadas con el proceso de ciudadanía / naturalización. Los beneficiarios tendrán la oportunidad de asistir a clases de ciudadanía proporcionadas por Caridades Católicas. La fecha límite para aplicar es el miércoles, 17 de abril.

Requisitos de la Beca:

- Elegible para la naturalización
- Residente del Condado de Ford
- Demostrar necesidad financiera
- Comprométase a asistir al programa Engage Dodge

Puede aplicar en www.dodgecity.org/663 o recoger una solicitud en el Ayuntamiento (806 N. 2nd Ave)

Para obtener más información, comuníquese con Melissa McCoy (melissam@dodgecity.org) o con Darlin Rayo (darlinr@dodgecity.org) o por teléfono al 620-225-8100 (ext. 6).





**ASK US ABOUT OUR
NATURALIZATION SCHOLARSHIP!**

**¡PREGÚNTENOS SOBRE NUESTRA
BECA DE NATURALIZACIÓN**



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NATURALIZATION SCHOLARSHIP!**

**¡PREGÚNTENOS SOBRE NUESTRA
BECA DE NATURALIZACIÓN**



City of Dodge City Naturalization Scholarship

The City of Dodge City is proud to offer twelve \$400 scholarships to help community members pay for fees related to the citizenship/naturalization process. Scholarships can be applied towards USCIS fees or legal assistance provided by Catholic Charities. Recipients will have the opportunity to attend citizenship classes provided by Catholic Charities.

To be considered for the scholarship, fill out this application. Please read each question carefully, and answer to the best of your ability. Submitting this form is not a guarantee that we will be able to support you monetarily.

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact Darlin Rayo at darlinr@dodgecity.org or via phone at 620-225-8100.

La Ciudad de Dodge City tiene el honor de ofrecer doce becas de \$400 para ayudar a los miembros de la comunidad a pagar las tarifas relacionadas con el proceso de ciudadanía / naturalización. Las becas se pueden aplicar para las tarifas de USCIS o la asistencia legal proporcionada por Caridades Católicas. Los beneficiarios tendrán la oportunidad de asistir a clases de ciudadanía proporcionadas por Caridades Católicas.

Para ser considerado para la beca, complete esta solicitud. Por favor, lea cada pregunta cuidadosamente, y responda lo mejor que pueda. Enviar este formulario no es una garantía de que podamos apoyarlo monetariamente.

Si tiene alguna pregunta, no dude en ponerse en contacto con Darlin Rayo a darlinr@dodgecity.org o por teléfono al 620-225-8100.

** Indicates required question*

Full Name / Nombre Completo*

Your answer

Email / Correo Electronico*

Your answer

Phone Number / Numero de Telefono*

Your answer

Eligibility Information / Información de Elegibilidad

To be eligible for the scholarship, applicants must be [eligible for naturalization](#), be a resident of Ford County, and demonstrate financial need. Recipients of the scholarship must also commit to attending the Engage Dodge program. If selected for the scholarship, applicants will need to submit additional documents including, but not limited to, a copy of your ID or utility bill and 2023 tax return or 1099 form.

Para ser elegible para la beca, los solicitantes deben ser [elegibles para la naturalización](#), ser residentes del Condado de Ford y demostrar necesidad financiera. Los beneficiarios de la beca también deben comprometerse a asistir al programa Engage Dodge. Si es seleccionado para la beca, los solicitantes deberán presentar documentos adicionales que incluyen, entre otros, una copia de su identificación o factura de servicios públicos y la declaración de impuestos de 2023.

Are you eligible for naturalization? \ ¿Es usted elegible para la naturalización?

Please visit the [USCIS Website](#)

Visite el [sitio web de USCIS](#) para determinar su elegibilidad.

*

Your answer

Are you a resident of Ford County? / ¿Es usted residente del Condado de Ford?

Please note that the scholarship is limited to residents of Ford County.

Tenga en cuenta que la beca está limitada a los residentes del condado de Ford.

*

Yes

No

What is your household income? / ¿Cuál es el ingreso de su hogar?

*

Your answer

Tell Us More / Cuentanos Mas

As scholarships are limited, these questions will help us to narrow the pool of applicants in case there is more interest than scholarships available. Please fill out these questions with as much detail as you can.

Las becas son limitadas. Estas preguntas nos ayudarán a reducir el grupo de solicitantes en caso de que haya más interés que becas disponibles. Por favor, responda a estas preguntas con tanto detalle como pueda.

How have you prepared for the Naturalization process? / ¿Cómo se ha preparado para el proceso de naturalización?

Your answer

Why do you want to become a US Citizen now? / ¿Por qué quieres convertirte en ciudadano estadounidense ahora?

Your answer

If selected, can you commit to attending 5-6 classes as part of the Engage Dodge program? / Si es seleccionado, ¿puede comprometerse a asistir a 5-6 clases como parte del programa Engage Dodge?

Yes

No

Maybe

Other:

Anything else you would want us to know? / ¿Hay algo más que quisieras que supiéramos?

Your answer

Agreement / Acuerdo

By submitting this application, I understand that if selected for the scholarship . . .

- *I agree to provide documentation to demonstrate my eligibility. This can include, but is not limited to, submitting a copy of my ID or utility bill (Ford County resident) and a copy of my 2023 tax return (financial need).*
- *I agree that I will attend the Engage Dodge program to the best of my ability.*

Al presentar esta solicitud, entiendo que si soy seleccionado para la beca . . .

- *Acepto proporcionar documentación para demostrar mi elegibilidad. Esto puede incluir, pero no se limita a, presentar una copia de mi identificación o factura de servicios públicos (residente del condado de Ford) y una copia de mi declaración de impuestos de 2023 (necesidad financiera).*

- *Estoy de acuerdo en que asistiré al programa Engage Dodge lo mejor que pueda.*

Do you agree to the above? // ¿Está de acuerdo con lo anterior?

*

Yes

No