

AGENDA
CULTURAL RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD

Wednesday, April 17, 2024 – 10:00 am
City Hall Commission Chambers – 806 N Second Ave.

CALL TO ORDER

Introductions:

Consent Calendar:

1. Approve Minutes from March 20, 2024

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Immigration Attorney Informative Session Update
 - a. Dodge City Public Library
 - b. Immigrant Connections, Inc.
2. Welcoming Week Committee Update
 - a. International Festival 2024
3. Engage Dodge Spring Session
4. Welcoming Interactive with Welcoming America Update
5. ICMA Award Application Update
6. Naturalization Scholarship
 - a. Application Review
 - b. Awardee Letter and Rejection Letter

NEW BUSINESS

1. Dia del Niño at Beeson Elementary

BOARD PROGRAMS/DATES (keep in mind):

- April-Celebrate Diversity Month
- April 10-12- Darlin & Roxana attending Welcoming America Interactive
- Engage Dodge April 2, 2024 - May 14, 2024
- Naturalization Scholarship Deadline April 17, 2024
- May 5, 2024, Cinco de Mayo
- June 17-23, 2024 Refugee Week
- June 25-27, 2024, USCIS MSI & June 25, 2024-Projected Naturalization Ceremony
- 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, March 20, 2023 – 9:00 am
City Hall Commission Chambers – 806 N Second Ave

CALL TO ORDER

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

Absent: Esmeralda Granados, Kurt Lampe, Esmeralda Soto, Jeff Heirs, Susan Finley

Staff: Melissa McCoy, Darlin Rayo

CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Approve Minutes from February 21, 2024 Meeting: Debbie motioned to approve the minutes, and Yarisel seconded the motion.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Immigration Attorney Informative Session Update
 - a. Dodge City Public Library: Staff decided to collaborate with Vicky from the Dodge City Public Library for this informative session. Vicky proposed dates for April 18th or 22nd and suggested Michael Feltman as a speaker, pending confirmation. The Multicultural Committee expressed interest in participating alongside DCPL. Debbie emphasized the need for a prompt confirmation of the date to include immigration workers from Catholic Charities. It was suggested to narrow down the selection to 3 or 4 attorneys. Debbie recommended gathering information on their intended topics focusing on framing. Vicky proposed the idea of a panel of attorneys for the session.
 - b. Immigrant Connections, Inc.: Immigrant Connections, Inc. from Garden City has reached out to us expressing interest in organizing a similar clinic. The idea is to explore the possibility of collaborating with them for a joint clinic session.
2. New committee members
 - a. Onboarding and KOMA/KORA Training: A few members still need to complete the KOMA/KORA training. Darlin will compile a list of those who require the training and send out the video and form. Additionally, we will schedule an onboarding session to review solutions, bylaws, and other pertinent information for new members. All members are welcome to attend this session.
3. Approve Implementation Plan for 2024: Yarisel motioned to approve, and Holly seconded the motion.
4. Welcoming Week Committee Update

- a. International Festival 2024: Save the dates for the International Festival have been distributed along with the necessary forms.
5. Engage Dodge Spring Session: Darlin provided an update that the spring session will commence with a morning session with ESOL and the Adult Learning Center, while the afternoon session will be dedicated to residents.
6. Welcoming Interactive with Welcoming America: Darlin and Roxana will attend the conference in April, and there will be further information provided at the next meeting regarding the city's welcoming certification.
7. National League of Cities (NLC) Cultural Diversity Award:

NEW BUSINESS

1. ICMA Award Application: Darlin asked the Board for approval of applying for Community Partnership Award from ICMA on behalf of the Cultural Relations Advisory Board. Debbie motioned to approve, Brenda seconded the motion.

BOARD PROGRAMS/DATES (keep in mind):

- o April-Celebrate Diversity Month
- o May 5, 2024, Cinco de Mayo
- o June 1, 2024 Main Street Festival
- o June 17-23, 2024 Refugee Week
- o July 25 – August 4, 2024 Dodge City Days
- o National Hispanic Heritage Month September 15- October 15, 2024
- o September 8, 2024, Dodge City International Festival, Wright Park
- o September 13-22, 2024, Welcoming Week
- o Human Rights Day – Tuesday, December 10, 2024

COMMENTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS/STAFF

Holly mentioned that the Five Flags Documentary is nearing completion. Additionally, there's an upcoming display slated to begin in October, focusing on sorting out the narratives related to a "race" museum exhibit and discussing how products reflect these narratives. Regarding the Committee for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, the Halo Club on campus is planning an event for Hispanic Month during the week of the event in September. They are currently seeking partners to set up the event. There's also an idea to provide opportunities for students to practice English in low-stress environments, potentially through immersive experiences.

ADJOURNMENT

Applicant A

Household Income

- \$ 11,000

How have you prepared for the naturalization process?

- I am trying to get all the information that I can about the naturalization process, collect all the documents and evidence I will need to complete my application, I start studies for the civics test and English test.

Why do you want to become a US Citizen?

- I don't want to worry about losing my right to live and work in the USA. It's easier to travel because I have the ability to secure a US Passport automatically. I gain the international protection by the US Government, I can apply for most government jobs.

Is there anything else you would want us to know?

- For me, becoming a US Citizen is the next goal I have, since I arrived in the USA as a resident, I had in mind that being a US Citizen would be the next thing I would do

Applicant B

Household Income

- \$00,000

How have you prepared for the naturalization process?

- Estudiando
- *Studying*

Why do you want to become a US Citizen?

- Para saber mas de las leyes de E.U
- *To know more laws in the U.S.*

Is there anything else you would want us to know?

- no

Applicant C

Household Income

- \$25,000

How have you prepared for the naturalization process?

- Estudiando
- *Studying*

Why do you want to become a US Citizen?

- Para saber mas de las leyes de E.U.
- To know more about laws in the U.S.

Is there anything else you would want us to know?

- No

Applicant D

Household Income

- \$58,000

How have you prepared for the naturalization process?

- Yes, I have, using the USCIS test app on a smartphone.

Why do you want to become a US Citizen?

- Yes, I look forward to it.

Is there anything else you would want us to know?

- I have lived in the US for 37 years. It has been my dream to become a US Citizen as long as I can remember.

Applicant E

Household Income

- \$90,000

How have you prepared for the naturalization process?

- Estoy empezando a leer historias sobre E.U
- *I am beginning to read stories about the US*

Why do you want to become a US Citizen?

- Me gustaría estar involucrada en más actividades que como residente no lo puedo hacer, una de las cosas que me gustaría hacer es votar.
- *I would like to be involved in more activities that I can't as a resident. One of the things is I would like to vote.*

Is there anything else you would want us to know?

- Me gustaría tener más oportunidades como ciudadana Americana. También me gustaría regresar a mis estudios para darles un mejor futuro a mis hijos
- *I would like to have more opportunities as an American Citizen. I would also like to return to school to give my children a better future.*

Applicant F

Household Income

- \$61,000

How have you prepared for the naturalization process?

- I have become familiar with the process of naturalization by watching my two children earn their citizenship in the last 5 years. I personally believe I am a good candidate to begin the process because I have a positive background, have made quality professional relationships, and developed appreciation for this country and its culture in the 20 years I have been living here. Every year, my children encourage me to consider doing this and I now think it is time to listen to them.

Why do you want to become a US Citizen?

- This country has been my home for half of my life and though not easy, has given me the tools to provide for my family as a single mother and see my children grow with opportunities. I want to have more rights and be able to serve on jury duty next time I am asked to. I also want to gain more access to scholarships because higher education is valuable. Lastly, I will become more civically engaged because I will be able to voice my own vote during elections and find them more relatable to my life.

Is there anything else you would want us to know?

- As a longtime resident of Dodge City, I'd like to thank the city for developing this scholarship. It has motivated me to look at the benefits I have been missing out on and has shown that individuals who have realized a life here have lots of support from their

city government. Thank you for your consideration and the efforts you have made to do something like this in Kansas.

Applicant G

Household Income

- \$72,000

How have you prepared for the naturalization process?

- Attended the free event hosted by the City and the USCIS, studying for the civics test and looking over the N-400 application

Why do you want to become a US Citizen?

- Because I want to register to vote

Is there anything else you would want us to know?

- I want to thank you so much for this opportunity to become a US Citizen. I greatly appreciate it. I will try my best to make this scholarship worth being given to me in the end

Applicant H

Household Income

- \$85,000

How have you prepared for the naturalization process?

- Yes, I have been studying by myself for a couple of months with flash cards and books, also just started the class with the WFCW 2 (Union)

Why do you want to become a US Citizen?

- I would love to become a US Citizen because I would love to have more opportunities.

Is there anything else you would want us to know?

- I have been a resident of Dodge City for almost 30 years and a legal resident for 5 years, I would love to be able to give back to the community where I established my family and I'm praying I can get the honor to become a US Citizen

Applicant I

Household Income

- 36,000

How have you prepared for the naturalization process?

- Estudiando para el examen con los materiales que nos dio USCIS
- *By studying for the test with material provided by the USCIS*

Why do you want to become a US Citizen?

- Para tener más oportunidades viviendo en los estados unidos
- *To have more opportunities living in the Unites States*

Is there anything else you would want us to know?

- I have lived in the US for more than 25 years
- Tengo más de 25 años viviendo en los estados unidos

Applicant J

Household Income

- 72,000

How have you prepared for the naturalization process?

- Attended the free event hosted by the City and the USCIS
- Studing up on the civics test as much as possible
- Looking over N-400 Application

Why do you want to become a US Citizen?

- Because I want to register to vote

Is there anything else you would want us to know?

- I want to than you so much for this opportunity to become a US Citizen. I greatly appreciate it. I will try my best to make this scholarship worth being given to me in the end.

Applicant K

Household Income

- 67,000

How have you prepared for the naturalization process?

- Estoy tomando clases de curso de Citizenship cada semana martes y jueves. Lo estoy estudiando en inglés. Pero me gustaría tomarlo en español. En mi tiempo libre miro videos para aprender mas.
- *I am taking Citizenship course classes every week Tuesday and Thursday. I am studying it in English. But I would like to take it in Spanish. In my free time I watch videos to learn more.*

Why do you want to become a US Citizen?

- Quiero convertirme en ciudadano estadounidense para poder votar en las elecciones
- *I want to become a US citizen so I can vote in elections.*

Is there anything else you would want us to know?

- Para estar aquí con mis hijos e hijas nietos.
- *To be here with my sons and daughters, grandchildren.*

Applicant L

Household Income

- 17,233

How have you prepared for the naturalization process?

- I have been preparing myself for the naturalization process by studying civics questions. I have also been attending the USDA program they have that is free to the public.

Why do you want to become a US Citizen?

- I am now eligible to complete my citizenship. I have been in Dodge city since I was 1 year old. Ever since I stayed. I want to be able to do more for the county that saw me grow.

Is there anything else you would want us to know?

- I have been in Dodge City basically all my life. I attended school here all through high school. I am currently working as a paraprofessional for SKACD.

Applicant M (not Ford County resident)

Household Income

- 53,150

How have you prepared for the naturalization process?

- Inicie clases de ciudadanía en septiembre 2023 en el centro de aprendizaje de adultos (Dodge City) al igual que clases de Ingles
- *I started citizenship classes in September 2023 at the Adult Learning Center (Dodge City) as well as English classes.*

Why do you want to become a US Citizen?

- Para poder ejercer mis derechos y obligaciones
- *To have the ability to exercise my rights and obligations.*

Is there anything else you would want us to know?

- No vivo físicamente en Dodge City pero aquí es donde vengo al doctor, a la escuela a comprar todo lo indispensable para mi casa. Venimos al cine, a bailes, restaurantes y gasolineras. Mis 3 hijos se graduaron del colegio de Dodge y trabajaron algunos años aquí.
- *I don't physically live in Dodge City but this is where I come to the doctor, school, to buy consumables for my home. We go to the movies, dances, restaurants, and gas stations. My 3 children graduated from the community college in Dodge and worked for several years here.*

Applicant N

Household Income

How have you prepared for the naturalization process?

Why do you want to become a US Citizen?

Is there anything else you would want us to know?



April 17, 2023

First Last
Email

Congratulations, Name. On behalf of the City of Dodge City and our partners at Catholic Charities of Southwest Kansas and UFCW Local 2, I am pleased to inform you that you have been selected as one of nineteen (19) recipients for the Naturalization Scholarship.

This \$400 scholarship is funded by a grant from Gateways for Growth and a grant from the Community Foundation of Southwest Kansas. The scholarship can be applied to USCIS application fees and/or towards receiving legal assistance (\$240) from Catholic Charities of SWKS.

As a reminder, your scholarship is contingent on your attendance at Engage Dodge. This program will introduce you to City of Dodge City staff and to the various services and activities we provide. The exact dates for Engage Dodge are still tentative; however, we expect that the program will be held from September to October. We will work with you and the other recipients to find a time that does not conflict with school or work obligations.

The scholarship will be made out to you via check before the end of this month. If you decide to utilize the legal assistance, the \$240 cost will be sent directly to Catholic Charities of SKWS while the remaining portion of \$160 will be made out to you via check.

To receive the scholarship, we require that you fill out the attached W-9 form. You may send the completed form via email to Melissa McCoy (melissam@dodgecity.org) or Darlin Rayo (darlinr@dodgecity.org). You may also fill out a paper copy of the W-9 form at City Hall (806 N. 2nd Avenue) and leave the completed form with City staff.

We thank you for taking the time to apply for this scholarship to continue your path to becoming a U.S. Citizen. If you have any questions, you may contact Melissa McCoy or Darlin Rayo at 620-225-8100 (ext. 6).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nickolas J. Hernandez". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Nick Hernandez
City Manager



159 de abril de 2024

First Last
Email

Felicidades, Teresa. En nombre de la Ciudad de Dodge City y nuestros socios de Caridades Católicas del Suroeste de Kansas y **UFCW Local 2**, me complace informarle que ha sido seleccionado como uno de los diecinueve (19) beneficiarios de la Beca de Naturalización.

Esta beca de \$400 está financiada por una subvención de Gateways for Growth y una subvención de la Fundación Comunitaria del Suroeste de Kansas. La beca se puede aplicar a las tarifas de USCIS y / o para recibir asistencia legal de Caridades Católicas de SWKS.

Como recordatorio, su beca depende de su asistencia a Engage Dodge. Este programa le presentará al personal de City of Dodge City y a los diversos servicios y actividades que ofrecemos. Las fechas exactas para Engage Dodge aún son tentativas; sin embargo, esperamos que el programa se lleve a cabo de septiembre a octubre. Trabajaremos con usted y los otros beneficiarios para encontrar un momento que no entre en conflicto con sus obligaciones escolares o laborales.

La beca se le hará a través de un cheque antes de finales de este mes. Si decide utilizar la asistencia legal, el costo de \$240 será enviado directamente a Caridades Católicas de SKWS. La porción restante de \$160 se le hará a su nombre a través de un cheque.

Para recibir la beca, requerimos que complete el formulario W-9 adjunto. Puede enviar el formulario completo por correo electrónico a Melissa McCoy (melissam@dodgecity.org) o Darlin Rayo (darlinr@dodgecity.org). También puede completar el formulario W-9 en el Ayuntamiento (806 N. 2nd Avenue) y dejar el formulario completo con el personal de la Ciudad.

Le agradecemos por tomarse el tiempo para solicitar esta beca para continuar su camino para convertirse en ciudadano estadounidense. Si tiene alguna pregunta, puede comunicarse con Melissa McCoy o Darlin Rayo al 620-225-8100 (ext. 6).

Sinceramente,

Nick Hernandez
Gerente de la Ciudad



April 17, 2024

Recipient Name
Recipient Email

Thank you for taking the time to apply for the Naturalization Scholarship offered by the City of Dodge City in partnership with Catholic Charities of Southwest Kansas and UFCW Local 2 and funded through a grant from Gateways for Growth and a grant from the Community Foundation of Southwest Kansas. We had many applicants for the scholarship, and we regret to inform you that you were not selected as a recipient due to not meeting the eligibility criteria.

Although we wish we could assist with every community member's request, funds for this scholarship are limited. However, you may be eligible to receive a [fee waiver](#) or a [reduced fee](#) from the US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). If you believe you are eligible for the fee waiver or a reduced fee, you may visit the USCIS website (www.uscis.gov) to learn more.

We wish you luck on your pathway to citizenship. If you have any questions, you may contact Melissa McCoy (melissam@dodgecity.org) or Darlin Rayo (darlinr@dodgecity.org) at 620-225-8100 (ext. 6).

Sincerely,

Nick Hernandez
City Manager



178 de abril de 2024

Recipient Name
Recipient Email

Gracias por tomarse el tiempo para solicitar la Beca de Naturalización ofrecido por la Ciudad de Dodge City en asociación con Caridades Católicas del Suroeste de Kansas y UFCW Local 2 y financiado a través de una subvención de Gateways for Growth y una subvención de la Fundación Comunitaria del Suroeste de Kansas. Tuvimos muchos solicitantes para la beca, y lamentamos informarle que no fue seleccionado como beneficiario debido a que no cumplió con los criterios de elegibilidad.

Aunque deseáramos poder ayudar con la solicitud de cada miembro de la comunidad, los fondos para esta beca son limitados. Sin embargo, puede ser elegible para recibir una [exención de tarifas](#) o una [tarifa reducida](#) de los Servicios de Ciudadanía e Inmigración de los Estados Unidos (USCIS). Si cree que es elegible para la exención de tarifas o una tarifa reducida, puede visitar el sitio web de USCIS (www.uscis.gov) para obtener más información.

Le deseamos suerte en su camino hacia la ciudadanía. Si tiene alguna pregunta, puede comunicarse con Melissa McCoy (melissam@dodgecity.org) o Darlin Rayo (darlinr@dodgecity.org) al 620-225-8100 (ext. 6).

Sinceramente,

Nick Hernandez
Gerente de la Ciudad