

AGENDA
CULTURAL RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD

Wednesday, May 21, 2025 – 10:00 am
2nd Floor, East Training Room Santa Fe Depot (101 E. Wyatt Earp)
Enter through Train Station under Green Awning

Call to Order: Chair Brenda Carmona

Visitors:

Consent Calendar:

1. Approve CRAB Minutes from April 16, 2025.

Unfinished Business:

1. Cultural Currents Project- Report by Holly Mercer and Melissa McCoy
2. CRAB 15th Anniversary – Report by Roxana Arjon
3. Naturalization Scholarships 2025 – Report by Darlin Rayo
4. Language Access Community Needs Survey – Report by Roxana Arjon

New Business:

1. United States Citizenship and Immigration Services Update - Report by Melissa McCoy
2. Mexican Consulate Mobile Services- Report by Melissa McCoy

Board Program/Dates (keep in mind):

- June 16, 7:00pm – CRAB 15th Anniversary Proclamation, City Hall 806 N. 2nd Avenue
- June 22, 4 pm - CRAB 15th Anniversary, Boot Hill Museum Mariah Gallery
- July 31, 2:00pm-3:00pm, Cultural Currents Panel Discussion, Boot Hill Museum Mariah Gallery
- Tentative August 15-17-Mexican Consulate Mobile Services Dodge City, Public Library
- September 2, 6:00pm – Cultural Relations Update- City Commission Study Session, City Hall 806 N. 2nd Avenue
- September 2, 7:00pm – Welcoming Week Proclamation, City Hall 806 N. 2nd Avenue
- September 7, 2:00pm-6:00pm – Dodge City International Festival, Wright Park

Board Member and Staff Comments:

Next Meeting Dates:

- June 18
- July 16
- August 20
- September 17
- October 15
- November 19

ADJOURNMENT

BOARD MEETING MINUTES CULTURAL RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD

**Wednesday, April 16, 2025 – 10:00 am
East Training Room Santa Fe Depot – 201 E Wyatt Earp Blvd.**

Welcome and Call to Order

Chair Brenda Carmona called the meeting to order at 10:10 am.

Present: Brenda Carmona, Holly Mercer, Kristin Hines, Debbie Snapp, Susan Finley, Yari Sanchez, and Karla Lees.

Absent: Esmeralda Soto, Jose Ramos, Perla Lopez, and Jeff Hiers

Visitors: Hugo Hernandez and Isabel Garcia

Staff: Melissa McCoy, Roxana Arjon, and Darlin Rayo

Consent Calendar

- **Approval of CRAB Minutes from March 5, 2025**
Motion to approve by Debbie Cox, seconded by Karla Lees. Motion passed (7-0).

Unfinished Business

1. Adoption of Annual Welcoming Plan Priorities – Report by Darlin Rayo

Darlin presented the proposed 2025 priorities:

- Civic Engagement
- Refugee and Immigrant Integration
- Safe & Healthy Community
- Public Transportation
- Language Access
- Engage Dodge
- Childcare
- Housing

Brenda expressed concern regarding the need for more medical professionals. Melissa proposed adding a goal to explore partnerships to support additional healthcare providers, potentially in coordination with the Dodge City Area Chamber of Commerce's Health Care Committee. Motion to adopt the priorities with the added healthcare access goal by Yari Dominguez, seconded by Susan Finley. Motion passed (7-0).

2. Kansas Department of Commerce, Global Cuisines and Cultures Week – Report by Darlin Rayo

Darlin thanked Karla and Hugo for recruiting participating businesses. Winners were selected and prizes distributed. Discussion included finding ways to increase public participation in future events.

3. **Humanities Kansas Grant** – Report by Holly Mercer and Melissa McCoy
Although CRAB was awarded the grant, federal funding limitations may impact distribution. The board decided to proceed with the project in-house, launching at Dodge City Days 2025 with a plan to release a podcast monthly through 2026. Nick approved equipment purchases; Mike King will assist. A meeting with Zacharias Hannes is scheduled to coordinate the next steps.
4. **Guatemalan Consulate Visit** – Report by Roxana Arjon
The Consulate served approximately 300 individuals over the weekend. Roxana noted appreciation for the volunteers who supported the event, especially as many walk-ins were accepted without appointments.
5. **CRAB 15th Anniversary Celebration** – Report by Roxana Arjon
The celebration is planned for Sunday, June 22 (pending Boot Hill Museum availability) at 4:00 PM. The event will include light refreshments, welcoming speeches, a photo/video presentation, and a possible *baile sorpresa*. Roxana is exploring displaying traditional dresses and using "padrinos" instead of sponsors. They will create a Facebook event for promotion. The celebration will also serve as a community meet-and-greet with board members.
6. **Naturalization Scholarships 2025** – Report by Darlin Rayo
Darlin presented the applicant summaries. One applicant (Applicant F) did not meet the income guidelines. It was noted that there may be additional applicants since the deadline had not yet passed at the time of the meeting. These will be brought to the board at the next meeting. Motion to approve the scholarship for Applicants A through E + Applicants G through I and deny scholarship for Applicant F by Yari Sanchez, seconded by Holly Mercer. Motion passed (7-0).
7. **KOMA/KORA Update** – Report by Roxana Arjon
The Kansas Legislature and Governor Laura Kelly passed and approved a new law that updates KOMA/KORA. Any committees and subcommittees are now subject to KOMA/KORA with these changes. Staff reviewed that were still some board members that needed to complete their training and that staff would follow up with them.

New Business

1. **Language Access Community Needs Survey** – Report by Roxana Arjon
Roxana introduced the idea of launching a survey to assess language access needs in the community, aligned with the Welcoming Plan priorities. Discussion included possible distribution through USD 443 and at community events. Further planning to continue at the next meeting.
2. **Kansas Library Association College and University Spring Conference Presentation** – Report by Holly Mercer and Melissa McCoy
Holly submitted a proposal to present at Emporia State University on May 13, focusing on CRAB's work and community engagement efforts. Holly and Melissa will present the presentation jointly.

3. Dodge City Community College Service-Learning Course – Report by

Holly Mercer

Holly will teach a Theory of Leadership hybrid course in Fall 2025, incorporating community engagement through a service-learning component. It was the consensus of the board to have the students will serve as volunteers during the International Festival and support CRAB's committee work.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Debbie Snapp, seconded by Yari Sanchez. Motion passed unanimously (7-0).

Meeting adjourned at 11:10 AM.