

AGENDA
CULTURAL RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD

Wednesday, June 18, 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.
2. Approve three new applicants for the Naturalization Scholarship.
3. Approve CRAB Minutes from May 21, 2025.

Unfinished Business:

1. Cultural Currents Project- Report by Holly Mercer and Melissa McCoy
2. CRAB 15th Anniversary – Report by Roxana Arjon
3. Language Access Community Needs Survey – Report by Roxana Arjon
4. Mexican Consulate Mobile Services- Report by Melissa McCoy

New Business:

- 1.

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, 7:00pm – Welcoming Week Proclamation, City Hall 806 N. 2nd Avenue
- September 7, 2:00pm-6:00pm – Dodge City International Festival, Wright Park
- November 4, 7:00 am – 7:00 pm – 2025 General Election

Board Member and Staff Comments:

Next Meeting Dates:

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

ADJOURNMENT

MEETING MINUTES

CULTURAL RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD

Wednesday, May 21, 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, Debbie Snapp, Susan Finley.

Absent: Roxana Arjon, Esmeralda Soto, Jose Ramos, Perla Lopez, Jeff Hiers, Yari Sanchez, Kristin Hines, and Karla Lees

Visitors: Hugo Hernandez, Michael Marino and Isabel Garcia

Staff: Melissa McCoy and Darlin Rayo

Consent Calendar

- **Approval of CRAB Minutes from April 16, 2025**
- **Three additional applications for the Naturalization Scholarships**

Due to the absence of quorum at the May 21, 2025, meeting, the approval of the April 16, 2025, CRAB minutes and the three new Naturalization Scholarship applications were submitted for consideration via email to all voting board members. However, per CRAB bylaws, no official action or recommendation may be approved unless a quorum is present at the meeting and the action is approved by a majority of the members actually present. As email voting does not meet these criteria, the votes cannot be officially counted, and the items will be re-agendized for action at the next regularly scheduled CRAB meeting.

Unfinished Business

1. **Cultural Currents Project** – Report by Holly Mercer and Melissa McCoy
Holly Mercer and Melissa McCoy announced that while the podcast project received a grant, subsequent news from Humanities Kansas indicated that funding may be unavailable due to federal budget issues. As a result, the City will continue the Cultural Currents project using internal resources. The podcast equipment has been purchased, and a panel discussion is scheduled for July 31 at 2:00 PM in the Mariah Gallery to launch the project. Monthly podcast episodes will be released from Dodge City Days 2025 through 2026. Collin Clark and Darlin Rayo will assist with production, and Hannes Zacharias, the project scholar, has agreed to help with the first panel.
2. **CRAB 15th Anniversary** – Report by Roxana Arjon
In Roxana Arjon's absence, Darlin Rayo presented plans for CRAB's 15th Anniversary Celebration, scheduled for Sunday, June 22 at 4:00 PM at Boot Hill Museum's Mariah Gallery. The event will feature welcome

remarks, an explanation of the quinceañera theme, a video highlighting CRAB's history, a "Talk with Your Neighbor" activity, and a surprise event by the 4H Cuauhtli Club. Decorations and historic news clippings about CRAB will be displayed. Board members were encouraged to help promote the event on Facebook and personally invite past program participants and community partners.

3. **Naturalization Scholarship** – Report by Darlin Rayo
Darlin Rayo presented three additional scholarship applications received after the last meeting. The board voted to approve these new recipients. Next steps include having all scholarship recipients complete W-9 forms to begin the process of issuing checks. The board also indicated that they were not in favor of approving any additional applicants after the deadline even though funds were remaining. The next Engage Dodge session for recipients is tentatively scheduled to take place weekly in October, concluding at the November City Commission meeting.
4. **Language Access Community Needs Survey** – Report By Roxana Arjon
In Roxana Arjon's absence, Darlin Rayo presented draft versions of both community and internal staff language access surveys have been sent out. The board discussed improvements, including defining what a language access plan is and assessing community use of translation tools. Roxana will incorporate feedback, submit the drafts for City Manager review, and finalize the surveys by the next meeting. Rollout is tentatively planned for July to coincide with school enrollment and fall parent-teacher conferences.

New Business

1. **United States Citizenship and Immigration Services Update** – Report by Melissa McCoy
Melissa McCoy reported that USCIS informed the City of changes due to budget cuts and staffing shortages. Starting in June, monthly mobile services will only be held in Dodge City—no longer rotating with Liberal or Garden City. Services will move from Hennessey Hall to the Farm Credit building. While the regional director is retiring, local service will continue monthly but there is not a possibility of a regional field office for the foreseeable future.
2. **Mexican Consulate Mobile Services** – Report by Melissa McCoy
Melissa McCoy announced that the Mexican Consulate will return to Dodge City August 15–17. Services will be hosted at the Public Library, which will provide space and staffing support. Volunteers will also be needed. Services will be appointment-based and should require less onsite assistance.

Staff Comments

- Bright Beginnings will offer walk-in appointments June 3–4 for families with children ages 0–5.
- The Adult Learning Center will now be operated by Seward County Community College.
- TRIO funding is uncertain.
- DCPL is offering summer programming, including story time at Lake Charles and regular sessions on Wednesdays at the college.
- Catholic Charities will close its refugee program and open a thrift store in Great Bend this summer, with plans to explore similar options in Dodge City and Garden City.
- Main Street Dodge City is hosting a food drive during the Main Street Festival.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Susan Finley, seconded by Debbie Snapp.
Meeting adjourned at 11:05 AM.