

AGENDA
CULTURAL RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD

Wednesday, July 16, 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: Vice Chair Yari Sanchez

Visitors:

Consent Calendar:

1. Approve CRAB Minutes from June 18, 2025.

Unfinished Business:

1. Cultural Currents Project- Report by Holly Mercer
2. Language Access Community Needs Survey – Report by Roxana Arjon
3. Mexican Consulate Mobile Services – Report by Roxana Arjon

New Business:

1. Strategic Plan for Welcoming and Integration Goals Review – Report by Roxana Arjon

Board Program/Dates (keep in mind):

- July 31, 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm – Cultural Currents Panel Discussion, Boot Hill Museum Mariah Gallery
- August 16-17 – 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:

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

ADJOURNMENT

MEETING MINUTES

CULTURAL RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD

Wednesday, June 18, 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, Perla Lopez (virtually), Yari Sanchez (virtually), and Karla Lees

Absent: Esmeralda Soto, Jose Ramos, Jeff Hiers, Kristin Hines, and Susan Finley

Visitors: Hugo Hernandez, Michael Marino and Lisa Klassen

Staff: Melissa McCoy, Roxana Arjon, and Darlin Rayo

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.
 - a. Motion to approve the consent calendar by Debbie Snapp, seconded by Karla Lees

Unfinished Business

1. Cultural Currents – Report by Holly Mercer

The City has officially purchased podcast equipment for the Cultural Currents project. Shortly after the equipment was acquired, Humanities Kansas informed the team that funding for the grant had become available again. While this is positive news, the grant requirements now stipulate the use of a professional in the podcast's production. Originally, staff planned to produce the podcast internally, with support from Mike King, but this adjustment would require restructuring. Roxana suggested exploring the option of amending the grant scope to continue internal production and avoid forfeiting the grant entirely. Holly will consult with Humanities Kansas to determine if a revised scope is possible. Regarding the upcoming Cultural Currents panel discussion on July 31 from 2:00–3:00 p.m. at the Mariah Gallery, the event will include three parts: a presentation by Hannes Zacharias on his Arkansas River journey, a Q&A session, and a segment introducing the podcast. The team will also reach out to Farm Bureau representatives to discuss local water depletion issues and invite Ray or Tanner to speak about the Managed Aquifer Recharge (MAR) project. Additionally, Holly will connect with Sara from Cimarron to potentially join the panel.

2. CRAB 15th Anniversary – Report by Roxana Arjon

The 15th Anniversary Celebration will take place on Sunday, June 22 at

4:00 p.m. at the Boot Hill Museum, with setup beginning at 3:00 p.m. The event's theme is light pink and gold, with floral decorations and a photo backdrop. Sponsors have donated dresses and other decorative items. The event will include a historical display of CRAB news articles and a video presentation featuring past members. In addition, a "Talk with Your Neighbor" activity will take place, reminiscent of past CRAB programs such as "Walk with Your Neighbor."

3. Language Access Survey – Report by Roxana Arjon

The Language Access Community Needs Survey is being finalized. The City's IT department is assisting to ensure public accessibility. The next step is to translate the survey into Spanish. The goal is to launch the survey during USD 443's school enrollment period in July. Additional translations into other languages will be sought through community volunteers.

4. Mexican Consulate Visit – Report by Melissa McCoy

The Mexican Consulate remains confirmed for their mobile visit to Dodge City Public Library August 15–17. Logistics are still being finalized, including services that may extend into Sunday and Monday. Volunteers will be needed to assist with wayfinding and crowd management. Appointments for consular services are expected to open approximately two weeks before the event.

New Business

Staff Comments

- Melissa McCoy thanked Chair Brenda Carmona for representing CRAB during the reading of the 15th Anniversary Proclamation.
- Holly Mercer announced a tentative "Know Your Rights" program scheduled for August 15, with another session planned in Garden City.
- Debbie Snapp informed the board that USCIS has changed its regulations and will now only accept immigration applications submitted by accredited representatives or attorneys.
- USCIS mobile services are operating this week from their new location at the Federal Building in Dodge City.
- Roxana Arjon shared that one of CRAB's 2025 goals is to support the Chamber of Commerce in civic engagement efforts. Karla Lees confirmed that a candidate forum will be held on October 2.
- Melissa McCoy concluded by announcing that Roxana Arjon has officially been promoted to Assistant to the City Manager. Melissa will be stepping away from her current involvement with CRAB, and staff will follow up with an update on new responsibilities and leadership assignments.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Debbie Snapp, seconded by Karla Lees
Meeting adjourned at 11:00 AM.

CULTURAL CURRENTS



RECOUNTING THE IMPACT OF THE ARKANSAS RIVER IN
SOUTHWEST KANSAS AND MARKING THE KICK-OFF OF THE
CULTURAL CURRENTS PODCAST

BOOT HILL MUSEUM
MARIAH GALLERY
500 W WYATT EARP BLVD

THURSDAY
JULY 31ST, 2025
2:00-3:30PM

QUESTIONS? PLEASE CALL 620-225-8100 OPTION 6

**HUMANITIES
KANSAS**



CORRIENTES CULTURALES



EXPLORANDO EL IMPACTO DEL RÍO ARKANSAS EN EL SUROESTE DE KANSAS Y MARCANDO EL INICIO DEL PODCAST *CORRIENTES CULTURALES*

BOOT HILL MUSEUM
MARIAH GALLERY
500 W WYATT EARP BLVD

JUEVES
31 DE JULIO
2:00-3:30PM

PREGUNTAS? POR FAVOR LLAME A 620-225-8100 OPCIÓN 6

HUMANITIES
KANSAS



LANGUAGE ACCESS SURVEY | ENCUESTA DE ACCESO LINGÜÍSTICO

We want to hear from you!

¡Queremos escuchar de usted!

Waxaan rabnaa inaan kaa maqalno!

K'o k'ut chi k'ut ri atzij!



www.dodgecity.org/1093

Dodge City Welcoming Plan - Implementation Metrics

Impact Indicators	2024	2025	
	Actual	Goal	Actual
Equitable Access & Communication			
<p>Language Access: Encourage local public entities to adopt and implement a Language Access Plan with a comprehensive and current bank of qualified interpreters.</p>	<p>① Darlin Rayo and Roxana Arjon attended the Welcoming Interactive Conference, where they gained valuable insights into providing effective language access. This knowledge was applied to the Engage Dodge program by offering fully Spanish-language sessions and utilizing transmitters to facilitate real-time translation during English sessions.</p>	<p>CRAB will develop and distribute a community survey to identify language access needs and help guide future programming and resource development.</p>	<p>City staff have prepared a community and a internal survey, which will be launched in July,</p>
<p>Diverse Community Ambassadors: Assemble, inform and engage key influencers, leaders, and potential leaders from the entire community to better understand how information is received by community members, ensure accurate information is disseminated and engagement is inclusive.</p>			
<p>Connect Communities: Community-building events bring newcomers, long-time residents, law enforcement officers, nonprofits and others together to learn from and about each other, share food and music and build trust.</p>	<p>① CRAB introduced a cultural fashion show, "World Threads (Hilos Mundiales)," as part of the International Festival. This new addition promoted community connections and complemented Crossroads Kitchen and the overall celebration of cultural diversity at the festival.</p>	<p>CRAB will plan and host the International Festival. New additions like the cultural fashion show, World Threads, promotes community connections and complements Crossroads Kitchen. More sponsors will need to be secured to help fund the event specifically Crossroads Kitchen.</p>	<p>Planning for the 2025 International Festival is underway. No major barriers are expected.</p>
<p>Technology: Internet access and technology is equitable, affordable, and available to all residents. Basic computer skills classes and technical assistance are available and affordable. Community partners provide culturally relevant services.</p>			
<p>Public Transportation: is available at the times residents need it (including evenings and weekends), alternative transportation (walkability and biking) safety is improved.</p>		<p>CRAB will explore hosting a "Walk with Your Neighbor" event or producing an informational video to promote awareness of Dodge City's walking trails and future pedestrian-friendly developments.</p>	
<p>Initiatives: Such as the Engage Dodge Program that help residents understand, engage with and participate in local government and civic life are well-known and accessible to newcomers.</p>	<p>① Engage Dodge sessions in 2024 catered to recipients of Naturalization Scholarships, and ESOL & Diversity/SLIFE students. The spring sessions spanned six weeks, offering an in-depth experience for participants. In the fall, the program was condensed to four sessions over two weeks for scholarship recipients and two sessions over two weeks for Spanish-speaking students. These adjustments increased engagement and effectively highlighted essential information tailored to specific audiences.</p>	<p>The Engage Dodge program will expand by offering sessions to organizations like Arrowhead West and additional programs within USD 443.</p>	<p>Engage Dodge sessions were held and tailored to ESOL & Diversity/SLIFE students and to Arrowhead West. An additional session is expected to be held in the fall for naturalization scholarship recipients. City staff discussed incorporating more interactive programming such as a budgeting simulation.</p>
Civic Engagement			
<p>Voter registration and Get Out The Vote Efforts: Eligible voters are registered and informed on the issues and candidates, voting polls are accessible and voters know where to exercise their right to vote.</p>	<p>① City staff continued to share GOTV information on the City and Welcoming Facebook pages. ② The City offered free transportation to the polls during the election seasons.</p>		<p>Efforts to share GOTV information and provide free transportation to the polls is expected to continue.</p>
<p>Continuous education about the decennial Census, the American Community Survey, and the redistricting process occurs in the community.</p>			
<p>Civic mentorship programs are established: Current civic leaders are paired with community members to mentor them about civic leadership and encourage them to pursue leadership positions in the community.</p>			
<p>Local leadership positions are publicly advertised and all members of the community are encouraged to apply. Workshops and information sessions on how to run for local office and join local boards are held in multiple locations, times and languages.</p>		<p>CRAB will encourage participation in local leadership opportunities by supporting events hosted by the Dodge City Area Chamber of Commerce and will provide translators and meeting spaces to ensure inclusive access.</p>	

Refugee & Immigrant Integration			
<p>Community Welcome Center: Centralized location (both physical and virtual) for accessing information about community services relevant to newcomers. The Welcome Center also facilitates communication between service provider agencies in the community and there is follow-up on referrals made.</p>			
<p>Immigration legal assistance including free clinics (DACA renewal and Naturalization consultations), United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) and consular mobile services are held regularly, accessible and advertised widely. A permanent USCIS office be established in Southwest Kansas, with preference of a Dodge City location. Immigration legal services assistance capacity is expanded with additional funding support and community volunteers.</p>	<p>① USCIS mobile services quarterly (March, June, September, December) ② The City and partners provided naturalization scholarships for residents ③ Catholic Charities provided scholarship recipients with legal assistance ④ DCPL put together an informative session with Immigration Attorneys</p>	<p>CRAB will continue to support USCIS mobile services and provide naturalization scholarships to help eligible residents achieve U.S. citizenship. ① USCIS mobile services and outreach event (March, June, September, December) ② Provide naturalization scholarships for residents</p>	<p>① USCIS mobile services will be held monthly in Dodge City in the USDA - Farm Service Agency office. ② CRAB approved 11 naturalization scholarship applications. City staff are working on collecting w-9 forms in order to process the checks. ③ The Guatemalan and Mexican Consulates have visited Dodge City to provide mobile services.</p>
<p>Provide education and training about acceptable identification documents commonly used by immigrants and refugees in the community, including documents produced by USCIS consular offices of foreign countries in the United States.</p>			
<p>Positive stories and spotlights about newcomers are regularly published in local news outlets and across the state.</p>			
<p>Regular opportunities for newcomers to interact with long-term residents and build neighborly friendships are coordinated intentionally; New arrivals are paired with long-term residents for mentorship and social connection. In addition, initiatives, and programs to build trust among New Americans and Law Enforcement are available and promoted. Volunteer opportunities are widely available.</p>			
<p>Governmental entities and community organizations advocate for inclusive legislation, policies, and initiatives at the local, state and federal level.</p>			
Safe & Healthy Community			
<p>Healthcare Access: All Dodge City residents know when and where to access healthcare services, including dental and vision services, and are able to get the support they need regardless of insurance status, socioeconomic status, cultural concerns, language challenges or other barriers. Health education community outreach and clinics for basic healthcare needs occur frequently.</p>			
<p>Mental Healthcare: is available and accessible Bilingual providers are available. All providers are trained in trauma informed care. Mental health services are culturally competent. Community outreach assists with overcoming stigma of mental health diagnoses and treatment.</p>		<p>CRAB will promote access to mental health resources through partnerships with organizations such as Compass Behavioral Health and the Ford County Health Coalition.</p>	
<p>Disaster Preparedness: Enhance outreach and support for disaster preparedness and emergency responses that are culturally and linguistically responsive through coordination with local disaster response agencies and Ford County Emergency Management. Interpretation services are immediately available for 911 calls.</p>			
Education & Economic Opportunity			
<p>Child Care: Quality child care is affordable and available at the times parents need to work (including 2nd and 3rd shifts), go to school, or engage in the community. Newcomers are empowered, educated and are aware of resources available to become certified child care providers.</p>		<p>Support the Childcare Coalition of Dodge City efforts to provide support for local childcare providers and to help increase childcare options to meet growing demands.</p>	
<p>Banking and Financial Services: Lending institutions offer products and services that are appropriate and accessible across cultural, religious, and national origin status. Banks and financial institutions recognize and accept identification documents and immigration status (other than exclusively citizenship and/or green card status) while catering these services.</p>			
<p>Housing Challenges and Opportunities: Affordable, appropriate housing is available, families are educated about tenant rights and responsibilities, local governments and nonprofit organizations are partners in improving housing opportunities and families are able to become homeowners.</p>		<p>Support the Community Housing Association of Dodge City (CHAD) in addressing housing needs in Dodge City by revitalizing neighborhoods through comprehensive assistance to persons of low-to-moderate income.</p>	
<p>Youth Mentorship Programs Are Established: Current community leaders and professionals are paired with youth (with intentional outreach to immigrant and refugee youth) to mentor them about post-secondary opportunities, specific career paths and encourage them to pursue staying or coming back to Dodge City after college graduation.</p>	<p>① Roxana Arjon and Darlin Rayo met with representatives from other communities to explore best practices for facilitating youth mentorship programs.</p>		
<p>Clear paths to professional recertification exist for foreign-educated professionals through local and state education institutions</p>			
<p>Adult education is available and accessible for all newcomers and meets their needs, including English as a Second Language and trade certification programs.</p>			