

AGENDA
CULTURAL RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD

Wednesday, August 20, 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 July 16, 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
4. Strategic Plan for Welcoming and Integration Goals Review – Report by Roxana Arjon

New Business:

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, July 16, 2025 – 10:00 am
2nd Floor, East Training Room Santa Fe Depot (101 E. Wyatt Earp)

Call to Order

Vice Chair Yari Sanchez called the meeting to order at 10:08 am.

Present: Yari Sanchez, Holly Mercer, Debbie Snapp, Jose Ramos, Kristin Hines, Perla Lopez, Susan Finley

Absent: Brenda Carmona, Karla Lees, Esmeralda Soto, Jeff Hiers

Visitors: Michael Marino, Cindy Soriano, Angel Romero

Staff: Roxana Arjon

Consent Calendar

1. Holly Mercer motioned to approve the consent calendar. Second by Debbie Snapp. Motion passes 7-0.

Unfinished Business

1. Cultural Currents Project- Report by Holly Mercer

Holly spoke with Humanities Kansas about the grant modifications and having the City to produce the podcast instead of a professional podcast creator. HK was okay with the changes and approved the revised \$5000 grant request.

The kickoff event will be held July 31st at 2 pm. The original plan was to have 3 presenters, but one was unable to make it, so there will be more time for the two other presenters to share. The kickoff event will be livestream on Facebook and the video will be made after the event.

The planning team is hoping to share the podcast schedule during the July 31st kickoff. Each podcast will be released on the final Friday, which allows for any additional promotional events that we may want to do.

2. Language Access Community Needs Survey – Report by Roxana Arjon

City staff have translated the survey into Spanish, and with the help of Catholic Charities, the survey is also available in Somali. Staff are working with community partners to have the survey available in K'iche' as well. The survey will be shared/launched Friday, July 18th and will close at the end of Welcoming Week on September 22nd.

While staff were unable to share the survey at Open Enrollment, USD 443 will work with the City to disseminate the survey via Parent Square in August. The Church of the Nazarene has also invited the City to share the survey at their backpack distribution event happening July 27th. City staff will also share the survey at other events like KidsFest and International Festival. The Board shared about other community organizations to share the survey with and suggested locations to have the flyers hung.

3. Mexican Consulate Mobile Services – Report by Roxana Arjon

The Consulate will be arriving on Friday, August 15th to set up and have their community presentation. Consulate services will be offered all day on Saturday and Sunday before the Consulate packs up and returns to KCMO on Monday. The

Consulate is wanting some volunteers to help direct foot traffic and provide other support as needed. City staff will share a volunteer sign up list.

New Business

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

The Board reviewed progress made towards the Strategic Plan goals.

- Connect Communities: The Board suggested adding the CRAB 15th Anniversary under progress made.
- Public Transportation: The Board suggested sharing more information about the existence of public transportation through the Public Transportation video the City created and via flyers talking about the routes. For 2026, the Board suggested planning events during National Transportation Week in May such as a public transportation crawl where residents ride the buses and meet with the Board.

Given insufficient time in the meeting, the Board was asked to review the remaining goals and send City staff suggestions as to how to make progress this year.

Board Member and Staff Comments

- Holly Mercer asked if staff expected to host a New Americans Dinner this fall. Staff confirmed that the plans were to host the dinner again.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Debbie Snapp, seconded by Kristin Hines.
Meeting adjourned at 11:03 am.

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>① City staff have prepared a community and an internal language access 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>① CRAB celebrated its 15th year anniversary with a "quinceañera" celebration highlighting past and current efforts to build community and welcoming. ② 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>① City staff will share more information via social media about the existence of public transportation in Dodge City. ② CRAB will host "Ride the Bus" events during National Transportation Week in May 2026 to encourage residents to use public transportation while meeting with CRAB and learning about the City's multi-modal transportation efforts.</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>① 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>① 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			
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.			
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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 	CRAB will continue to support USCIS mobile services and provide naturalization scholarships to help eligible residents achieve U.S. citizenship. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ① USCIS mobile services and outreach event (March, June, September, December) ② Provide naturalization scholarships for residents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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.
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.			
Positive stories and spotlights about newcomers are regularly published in local news outlets and across the state.			
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.			
Governmental entities and community organizations advocate for inclusive legislation, policies, and initiatives at the local, state and federal level.			
Safe & Healthy Community			
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.			
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.		CRAB will promote access to mental health resources through partnerships with organizations such as Compass Behavioral Health and the Ford County Health Coalition.	
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.			
Education & Economic Opportunity			
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.		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.	
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.			
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.		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.	
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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ① Roxana Arjon and Darlin Rayo met with representatives from other communities to explore best practices for facilitating youth mentorship programs. 		
Clear paths to professional recertification exist for foreign-educated professionals through local and state education institutions			
Adult education is available and accessible for all newcomers and meets their needs, including English as a Second Language and trade certification programs.			