

AGENDA
CULTURAL RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD

Wednesday, November 19, 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 October 15, 2025.

Unfinished Business:

1. Cultural Currents Project- Report by Holly Mercer
2. New Americans Dinner – Report by Darlin Rayo
3. Engage Dodge – Report by Darlin Rayo
4. Naturalization Scholarships – Report by Roxana Arjon

New Business:

- 1.

Board Program/Dates (keep in mind):

- Smoke Alarm Installation – Saturday, November 22nd
 - Sign up at: www.raisingthewest.org/training-events/smoke-alarms
- Advisory Board Application Deadline – Wednesday, January 6th
 - www.dodgecity.org/82

Board Member and Staff Comments:

Next Meeting Dates:

- January 21
- February 18 – Board Retreat
- March 18
- April 15
- May 20
- June 17
- July 15
- August 19
- September 16
- October 21
- November 18

ADJOURNMENT

MEETING MINUTES
CULTURAL RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD

Wednesday, October 15, 2025 – 10:00 am
2nd Floor, East Training Room Santa Fe Depot (101 E. Wyatt Earp)

Call to Order

Chair Brenda Carmona called the meeting to order at 10:00 am.

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

Absent: Esmeralda Soto, Jose Ramos and Joel Tuche

Visitors: Hugo Hernandez

Staff: Roxana Arjon, Darlin Rayo

Consent Calendar

1. Motion to approve by Holly Mercer, second by Debbie Snapp. Motion passed 8-0.

Unfinished Business

1. Cultural Currents Project- Report by Holly Mercer

The Holly reported that two podcast episodes have been released, with the third scheduled for publication later this month. The next planning meeting will be held on October 30 at 9:00 a.m.

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

Roxana shared that data cleanup remains ongoing before results can be presented. A large portion of responses came through Brenda’s outreach and the Adult Learning Center’s distribution efforts. Hugo offered to display a QR code at Downtown Trick-or-Treat event to help increase participation.

New Business

1. New Americans Dinner – Report by Darlin Rayo

Darlin announced that the New Americans Dinner will be held on November 18, 2025, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the Mariah Gallery at Boot Hill Museum. CRAB members are invited to attend but were reminded that those who RSVP and do not attend will be invoiced for their meal. The event has been promoted on Facebook with a link to the City’s website for reservations.

2. Engage Dodge – Report by Darlin Rayo

Darlin shared that Engage Dodge has successfully begun, with two sessions completed so far. Participants have learned from various City departments, including Administration, Finance, Legal, Development Services, Facilities, Public Works, Recycling, the Airport, and Engineering. Two additional sessions remain, with a final recognition event planned at

the first City Commission meeting in November. The current Engage Dodge cohort consists of the City's Naturalization Scholarship recipients.

3. Naturalization Scholarships – Report by Roxana Arjon

Roxana reported that ten individuals have completed the Naturalization Scholarship process out of forty total awards. Some applicants expressed uncertainty about timelines or readiness for the citizenship process, while others inquired about applying for green card renewals. Susan recommended updating the application to clarify eligibility and requirements, and Brenda suggested providing applicants with educational resources. Debbie offered to share information on authorized preparers to ensure future applicants have access to proper legal assistance as the process evolves.

4. Fire Alarm Program – Report by Roxana Arjon

Roxana reported that the Department of Development Services and Inspections is developing a community outreach program to install and distribute fire alarms, in coordination with Ford County. CRAB's assistance was requested to help with outreach efforts, particularly where language barriers exist. Brenda offered support through family advocates, Susan through local churches, and Debbie through Catholic Charities. United Way may assist with grant funding for alarm purchases, while Perla from Genesis Family offered translation support. Roxana asked members to consider additional partners who might donate batteries or supplies.

Board Member and Staff Comments

- Roxana announced that the Chamber of Commerce's Small Business Advocacy Committee will host a Candidate Forum from 5:30–7:00 p.m.
- Roxana also informed members that the City of Dodge City is applying for a Community Development Block Grant to fund new amenities at Thurow Park, including a splash pad, restrooms, and parking improvements. A public hearing will be held next week at City Hall to review project designs, and members are encouraged to attend and share input.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Holly Mercer, second by Susan Finley. Meeting adjourned at 11:00 am.