

MEETING MINUTES

GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON FILM AND MEDIA INDUSTRIES MEETING

Friday, April 15th, 2022, • 1:00 PM

Zoom Link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83543045433?pwd=UXlvS2sycUdJb1hJSGhKZUh2Y3MrUT09>

Call to Order – The quarterly meeting of the Governor's Council on Film and Media Industries (GCFMI) was held via Zoom. Chair James Gollin called the meeting to order at 1:01 pm. Joel Baca called the roll, and the following Council members were present, constituting a quorum:

Members in attendance: James Gollin (Chair)
Jo Edna Boldin
Ramona Emerson
Ken Fischer
Marc Comstock
Rajeev Nirmalakhandan
Liz Pecos
Jocelyn Jansons
Sam Tischler
Harris Smith
James Lujan
Paula dal Santo

Also present: NMFO Staff: Rochelle Bussey, Joel Baca
No members of the public attended the meeting.

Approval of Agenda – Chair James Gollin asked if there were changes to the agenda. None were proposed. Rajeev Nirmalakhandan moved to approve the agenda and Harris seconded the motion. The motion passed, and the agenda was approved.

Approval of Minutes from September 17, 2021, meeting – Chair James Gollin asked if there were changes to the minutes. None were proposed. Jo Edna Boldin moved to approve the minutes and Ramona Emerson seconded the motion. All were in favor, and the minutes were approved.

Film Updates Rochelle Bussey, NMFO Sr. Program Manager- Rochelle reported much production in New Mexico. There is strong production spending, and the numbers likely look like NMFO will break our record again this year.



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NMFO has been doing many pieces of training in the office. NMFO just completed ten virtual PA trainings in conjunction with CNMI Ingenuity, and we are currently discussing doing another ten virtual PA trainings. These are entry-level PA positions geared to get people in the door to educate them on the different departments they might be interested in. If they are considering transitioning, they can take this class and learn the basics. Alton Walpole is a local UPM doing the pieces training for the NMFO. The training is a one-day training typically on the weekends. There will be a new training schedule coming out soon.

Another training announced with Stowe Story Labs is specific to screenwriting the intensive we are collaborating with here in New Mexico. There were over 200 applicants that applied, and they will be narrowed down to 10. The training is a 3-part series, and the first part will start next month in Taos, New Mexico, at Monte Sagrado.

NMFO also hosted another training with the corrections department. This Training is another PA training program where individuals will be released in the next three months. Alton Walpole hosted the class of 15 individuals from 3 different corrections institutions (Northern, Santa Fe, and Southern). There was a lot of positive feedback and a high level of involvement. A lot of the questions were centered around 492 positions like drivers etc.

The latest news that Rochelle reported was that the Next Generation Media Academy (NMGA) was appropriated for 40 million by the Governor. Secretary Alicia Keys put together subcommittees. The New Mexico Film Office reached out to many of the state's film and media programs. Rochelle introduces Mateo Frasier, taking the lead on the NMGA sub-committees.

Mateo Frasier is a filmmaker and educator at Northern New Mexico College. He has been collaborating with Samantha (last name) with CNM to co-chair the consortium of education partners we call (CEP). CEP comprises ten institutions that have expressed interest in identifying and instituting a curriculum map for the line training program outlined in the NMGA proposal that the legislature recently funded. CEP meets bi-weekly in early March and meets twice a week in two subgroups. One group is a curriculum-focused subgroup with 22 faculty members and administrators from those institutions. The other group is an industry-focused group comprised of IASTE representatives' producers, and working professionals. Mateo expresses that he is exceedingly optimistic about the level of involvement from all the partner intuitions.

Rochelle- it's been much work with the focus on core curriculum requirements and aligning everyone's efforts, so everyone at the table agrees with future programming.

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Chairman James Gollin- Touch's base on the three components of the NMGA. The first component is the existing additional educational institutions working together on the core curriculum. The second will be the boot camps and intensives that will vary in length. The third component will be placing people on the career track with paid internships, film partners, and other opportunities.

I wanted to communicate the film council's current working groups, which are incentive optimization, education and training, new business, and film safety. There were two cross-cutting themes that they asked all the functional groups to evaluate, which are COVID and Issues of Diversity and Inclusion.

Chairman James Gollin- Moves to introductions of new and old film council members.

Paula Dal Santo was born and raised in Albuquerque, New Mexico. She earned her bachelor's degree and master's degree in architecture at the University of New Mexico and became a licensed architect and general contractor. Fifteen years ago, her daughter, a film student, suggested she investigate film production. Since then, she has worked on some of New Mexico's top shows as a set designer, art director, and production designer. The film has offered Paula a gratifying career working with masterful and talented crews and the belief that the film industry is an avenue to retaining our young talent and providing strong economic growth for New Mexico.

Jocelyn Jansons is an award-winning writer, producer, and director. She was recently selected for the NBCUniversal New Mexico Director's Initiative and shadowed on MacGruber, starring Will Forte and Kristen Wiig. Her screenplay Because Maybe (formerly Wolf) is a winner of the George RR Martin Screenwriting Award. Jocelyn and her producing partner Laurence Dumortier are seeking financing for the feature film to be shot in Latvia in 2022-2023. Jocelyn is the founder and director of the non-profit New Mexico Girls Make Movies. She taught film production for the New Mexico Filmmakers Intensive at the College of Santa Fe and Santa Fe School for the Arts and Sciences and was a guest lecturer at UCLA. She is a graduate of Brown University and the University of Bologna, Italy, and is a Fulbright scholar in Latvia, where she is a citizen. She is currently writing the pilot for a comedy series set in Santa Fe.

Marc Comstock has been a member of SAG-AFTRA since 1995 and is currently serving his third term as SAG-AFTRA President for the New Mexico Local. Marc has worked on numerous New Mexico Productions in film, TV, and theater. Having grown up in New Mexico and Colorado, he is happy to call New Mexico his home. Before returning to New Mexico, Marc worked for the WGA and was a founding member of the staff union. Marc is honored to serve on the council and looks forward to working with our film family to keep our industry growing and thriving.

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Harris D Smith is Dean of the College of Fine Arts at the University of New Mexico. He received his Bachelor of Arts in Theatre from Montana State, where he was a division one football player. He earned his MFA in Acting from the prestigious Professional Actor Training Program at the University of Washington School of Drama. Most recently, he served as Chair of the Department of Theatre at the University of Utah; he was the Director for the Johnny Carson School of Theatre and Film at the University of Nebraska. He is a Certified Teacher of Stage Combat through the Society of American Fight Directors. (SAFD) He has worked as a professional actor and fight director in major regional theatres across the country, including the Tony award-winning Utah Shakespeare Festival, St. Louis Black Repertory Theatre, Illinois Shakespeare Festival, Capital Repertory (NY), Sacramento Theatre Company, Seattle's Children's Theatre, ACT in Seattle. He has also worked as an actor in film, television, and multimedia. He was the executive producer and stunt coordinator for the award-winning short film "The Healing of Harmon." Starting in 2016, he has been serving as a Communications Coach for the New York State Defenders Association. (NYSDA). His current research focuses on incorporating Afrofuturism into stage combat.

James Lujan is a filmmaker, playwright, and educator from Taos Pueblo. He launched the BFA degree program in Cinematic Arts and Technology at the Institute of American Indian Arts and has been the program's Department Chair since 2013. He also launched IAIA's Certificate Program in Broadcast Journalism in 2021. He currently serves on the advisory board of Camel Rock Studios. From 2016 to 2022, he served as Vice Chair of the Santa Fe Film and Digital Media Commission.

Rajeev Nirmalakhandan was born in Sri Lanka, raised in New Mexico, and educated in Los Angeles. He is now a writer and director and is a faculty member at The Creative Media Institute at New Mexico State University. Rajeev has worked creatively for over fifteen years in commercials, films, and other media and recently co-wrote and directed a feature film entitled "The Odd Way Home."

Jo Edna Boldin CSA -In 2020, Jo Edna was invited to join the Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences. This is the first year that a regional casting director has been requested. In 2019, Jo Edna was inducted into the New Mexico Film & TV Hall of Fame. Jo Edna was on the founding board of New Mexico Women in Film. A proud Casting Society of America (CSA) member, Jo Edna served on the National Board from 2017-2019.

Ken Fischer worked for over forty years in feature-film post-production, primarily as an award-winning sound editor at Lucasfilm's Skywalker Sound. Ken's credits include Apocalypse Now, Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back, Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade, Terminator 2, and Avatar. Ken volunteers with various New Mexico media non-profits and Santa Fe Search and Rescue. He enjoys mentoring new and seasoned film professionals in New Mexico and the industry at large. Ken lives in Santa Fe with his wife, author, Carlyn Montes De Oca.

Sam Tischler came up through the ranks of the New Mexico Film Industry. His work has given him first-hand experiences with the various areas and demographics of New Mexico and the many demands of the film industry. He has worked on 18 feature films and over a hundred television episodes. He currently works as a

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Production Manager and Line Producer. He is a member of the Directors Guild of America, The International Alliance of Theatrical and Stage Employees, and the Location Managers Guild International.

Liz Pecos is President of IATSE Local 480, the film technicians' union representing below-the-line film workers in New Mexico. She is also a costume designer and supervisor and has worked on over thirty film and television productions in New Mexico. Ms. Pecos proudly serves as the first female elected to the presidency in Local 480. She chairs several union committees, is a Vice President on the New Mexican Federation of Labor executive board, is appointed as the Political Coordinator and Women's Committee Coordinator for IATSE District 5, and serves as a union delegate to state and national conventions. Ms. Pecos was born and raised in New Mexico and is a member of the Pueblo of Jemez, known as "Walatowa," or "this is the place," by her tribe, and traces ancestors back to the original Pueblo of Pecos. In her free time, she enjoys hiking with her two German Shepherds.

Ramona Emerson is a Diné writer and filmmaker from Tohatchi, New Mexico. She received her degree in Media Arts in 1997 from the University of New Mexico and her MFA in Creative Writing (Fiction) in 2015 from the Institute of American Indian Arts. She has worked as a professional videographer, writer, and editor for over twenty years and is currently working on her 8th film project, *Crossing the Line*. She is an Emmy nominee, a Sundance Native Lab Fellow, a Time-Warner Storyteller Fellow, a Tribeca All-Access Grantee, and a WGBH Producer Fellow. Ramona just finished her first novel, *Shutter*, the first of a trilogy, and is now working toward publishing and adapting the series into a screenplay. Through her storytelling, Emerson looks at contemporary stories about her people. He aims to question and redefine the expectations of Native cultural identity, highlighting stories that are not a part of mainstream media. She resides in Albuquerque, New Mexico, where she and her husband/producer, Kelly Byars, run their production company Reel Indian Pictures.

Introductions Concluded 2:06

Chair James Gollin briefly touches base on the functions of the working groups and the role of the Governors Film Council. Chair James Gollin stated that he and Amber Dodson, director of NMFO, will need to discuss who will be assigned to the working group and determine the leadership of the working groups.

Chair James Gollin opened the meeting to the public, but there were no members of the people.

Chair James Gollin Opened the meeting to members of the council for comments.

Liz Pecos touches base on the importance of collective working groups. Liz Pecos describes the relationship between the Film Council and the New Mexico Film Office and how it guides the film tax incentive credit creation.

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Paula Dal Santo asked a question regarding training and how the Film Council can gather information from all the above and below-the-line film departments to ultimately create better educational training programs to grow the New Mexico film industry workforce.

Sam responds to Paula, letting her know this question has come up in the New Mexico Film Industry workforce.

Harris touched on Paula's question and how it directly relates to the NGMA. Harris states that this question has been spoken about, and they will look for these answers later on NGMA.

Chair James Gollin asks about renaming the working group that's called New Businesses Development. Chair James Gollin suggests renaming it to Beyond Production. He asks for ideas and suggestions on what to rename this working group.

Chair James Gollin asks whether anyone moves to rename the New Businesses Development working group to the Beyond Production working group. Ken Moves, and Sam seconds all in favor, and the motion passes.

Chair James Gollin thanked everyone for their work and service.

Next Council Meeting – Chair James Gollin said the next meeting would be in the summer of 2022.

There being no further business, James Gollin asked for a motion to adjourn. Liz Pecos moved to adjourn the meeting, and Marc Comstock seconded the motion. All were in favor, and the meeting was adjourned at 2:40 pm.

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