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## **New Mexico Film Office to host virtual events for veterans exploring film careers**

**Santa Fe, NM**—The New Mexico Film Office’s Operation Soundstage program will host two free upcoming virtual events to connect New Mexico Veterans with careers and training opportunities in the state’s film industry.

“These sessions are part of our ongoing effort to connect Veterans with the diverse career opportunities available in New Mexico’s film and television industry,” said **Steve Graham, director of the New Mexico Film Office**. “Veterans bring invaluable skills such as discipline, teamwork, and leadership that directly translate to success on set.”

The first session, “*Veterans: Film Jobs & FCAP Overview*,” will be held on November 12 from 6–7 PM. Local producer **Sam Tischler** will walk participants through the film set’s structure, introducing key departments, roles, and the hierarchy on set. Additionally, Rochelle Bussey, Senior Program Manager with the New Mexico Film Office, will share information about the **Film Crew Advancement Program (FCAP)**, a powerful tool for on-the-job training and career advancement for New Mexicans in the film industry.

The second session, “*Veterans: Film Union Panel*,” on November 19 from 6–7 PM, will provide direct insight into the local union. Moderated by **Liz Marshall** of IATSE Local 480, the panel will include representatives from several key film industry unions, including **Mel MacKaron** (*SAG-AFTRA*), **Neo Arboleda** (*IATSE Local 600*), and **Doraifay Estrada** (*Teamsters Local 399*), **Chemen A. Ochoa** (DGA, 1st AD) and **Ruby Garcia** (President, Background Actors Association of New Mexico). Panelists will discuss union operations, membership benefits, and employment pathways for Veterans interested in joining the film workforce.

Both events are free and open to New Mexico Veterans. Each session will be held virtually via Zoom, with access links provided to all registered participants the week before the event.

**To register, visit the links below:**

Film Unions Session - <https://nmfilm.jotform.com/253026040262847>

Film Jobs & FCAP Overview Session <https://nmfilm.jotform.com/253026077451049>

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*The New Mexico Film Office (NMFO), a division of the Economic Development Department, works to ensure the longevity and progress of New Mexico’s film incentive, grow the film, television, and digital media industry, and expand entertainment economic opportunities for New Mexico businesses and residents.*

- Named one of [Deadline’s Hot Spots](#).
- Three New Mexico cities were selected as “[2025 Best Place to Live and Work as a Moviemaker](#)” by MovieMaker Magazine for the third consecutive year.

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A division of the [New Mexico Economic Development Department](#)



*The Economic Development Department's Mission is to improve the lives of New Mexico families by increasing economic opportunities and providing a place for businesses to thrive.*



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