



**The Monthly Newsletter of the
New Mexico State Film Office
March 2020**



Covid-19 Response

You May Be Eligible to File an Unemployment Claim

The New Mexico Department of Workforce Solutions (NMDWS) has announced support for workers who have lost their jobs, or suffered a reduction in salary, due to the COVID-19 virus. This support covers eligible entertainment industry workers in New Mexico. Details regarding this announcement can be found in the [press release here](#).

Additional resources have been created by NMDWS to assist entertainment industry workers in our state. They include:

- a [4-minute YouTube video](#) explaining the unemployment benefit process;
 - a [1-page fact sheet](#);
 - initial unemployment insurance claims must be filed at jobs.state.nm.us or via telephone at 877-664-6984
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Small Businesses Eligible to Apply for SBA Disaster Assistance

87% of businesses in the U.S. film and television industry employ fewer than 10 people. The COVID-19 pandemic's impact on our industry, therefore, has been officially declared to be a "disaster" by the U.S. Small Business Administration where multiple assistance programs will now become available to small business owners.

If you or someone you know owns a small business, be sure to share this information with them. The SBA has declared New Mexico small business owners eligible for Disaster Assistance Loans and other programs. For details, please visit the following resource page established by the SBA: [**Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): Small Business Guidance & Loan Resources**](#)

Let's Get Engaged

During the current national emergency, having a reliable source of industry news and information is vitally important. The New Mexico Film Office wants to be just that reliable source for New Mexicans engaged in the film and television industry. We will be focused on delivering accurate and authoritative information in all our communication.

It's Easier than Ever to Stay Connected

Stay connected with us by following us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) as well as connecting with the New Mexico Film Office on [LinkedIn](#).

Additionally, it's easy to become a part of our email list. It's as easy as texting "NMFILM" to 22828.

Join the New Mexico Film Office Email List

Keep in touch and stay informed.

Text
NMFILM
to **22828** to get started.



Message and data rates may apply.

Senator John Pinto Native Filmmakers Memorial Fund

Deadline Extended for Submissions

- Applicants must be Native American students or filmmakers who are members of pueblos or native nations within the state of New Mexico.

- Grants up to \$5,000 each will be awarded to successful applicants.
- Funds can be used for pre-production, production and post-production expenses.

[Learn More and Apply Today!](#)



Sen. John Pinto

Industry News

Deadline Hollywood: No Better Place Than New Mexico



Deadline Hollywood chose New Mexico as the debut location for the launch of its new "Hot Spots Conference Series." Held during the first weekend of March, the event featured panel discussions and presentations on a wide variety of film and television industry topics as they relate specifically to New Mexico. You can find an extensive collection of videos and other media at the [Deadline's HotSpots](#) web pages.

One of our favorite discussions was entitled "New Mexico — World-Class Crew Base, Largest Between The Coasts." [Click here](#) to watch the video of this panel and to see the rest of an extensive collection of other videos from the conference.

A Booming Industry

These days when anyone mentions the film and television industry in New Mexico, the most oft-used word is "booming." Although we could cite a long list of reasons why our home state is enjoying its new position as a major production hub in the industry, we think [the best explanation yet was offered to MovieMaker by new Film Office Director, Amber Dodson](#) when she said, "Albuquerque [New Mexico] is a place with open doors and open minds. We embrace respect, diversity, opportunity and equality. We welcome creators and stories of all kinds and can support everything from a short film to a studio tent-pole with our competitive incentive, deep crew base, impressive

production facilities, and support businesses, large talent pool, diverse locations and landscapes, proximity to L.A., great weather, network of film offices, and overall film-friendly community.”

Netflix: The Calm Before the Storm

Nick Maniatis, Head of Production Policy for Netflix North America, [spoke with a New Mexico television station recently](#) at the company's massive production facility in Albuquerque. As he cited some of hugely successful productions that have already called the facility their home, he promised another long list of major productions would be coming to the Netflix hub in 2020.

NBCUniversal Directors' Initiative is the Nation's First

This month's joint announcement by NBCUniversal and the New Mexico Economic Development Department's Film Office marked the first time that a Director's Initiative was launched at the state level anywhere in the United States. As part of its commitment to serve as a New Mexico Film Partner, [the company invited experienced New Mexico-based directors](#) to apply to shadow alongside directors currently working at one of the NBCUniversals production facilities. Economic Development Department Cabinet Secretary [Alicia Keyes discussed some of the exciting details of the program during an appearance on morning television](#). Although the program has been put on hold during the national emergency, future developments will be reported as they are announced.

New Mexico Film Office News

Amber Dodson, New Mexico Film Office Director

Amber Dodson takes leadership of the New Mexico Film Office as its new director this week. [In a press release announcing her appointment, the New Mexico Economic Development Department](#) noted that she has over 20 years of professional experience in the entertainment, media, and tech industries, both in the private and public sectors. During her most recent work as the Albuquerque Film Liaison, the city was twice honored as "The #1 Best Place to Live and Work as a MovieMaker" and the film office she managed issued a record number of film permits amidst a dramatic increase in industry activity in the state's largest city.



Film Office Staff Hiring Complete

Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham's new initiatives aimed at increasing both accountability and transparency in state government are part of the focus of the new staff members of the New Mexico Film Office.

Amber Dodson, Director

Carrie Wells, Deputy Director

Rochelle Bussey, Sr. Mgr. of Operations & Workforce Development Programs

Brad Malone, State Outreach Coordinator

Claudette Montoya, Production Administrator

Morgan Tolan, Production Analyst

Joanne Wylie, Executive Secretary / Administrative Assistant

Operation Soundstage Partners with IATSE Local 480

A New Mexico Film Office job development program already in place to assist military veterans in obtaining jobs and advancement in the film industry got a significant boost this month when Local 480 of the International Alliance of Theatrical and Stage Employees agreed to waive the \$800 initiation fee charged to new union members for any veterans in the Operation Soundstage program. The agreement [sets the stage for fast-track advancement](#) of military veterans in the numerous trades represented by the union.

New Mexico Film & Media Conference

We're just a few short weeks away from announcement of the details surrounding the 2020 New Mexico Film & Media Industry Conference.

Here are a few of the major announcements you should expect regarding the conference:

- a new conference venue,
- new sponsorship opportunities,
- the inclusion of the NM Filmmakers Showcase awards ceremony, and
- an exciting event to be held at Albuquerque Civic Plaza on the Saturday night of the Conference.



2020 Annual New Mexico Filmmakers Showcase

The 2020 NM Filmmakers Showcase awards ceremony will be held on the first night of the 2020 New Mexico Film & Media Industry Conference. The call for entries will be announced next month (April 2020).

Statewide Film Festivals



Film Festivals large and small are held across New Mexico in just about every community. The State Film Office is frequently asked to provide information regarding these events, thus we are compiling a comprehensive listing of Film Festivals held within the state.

If you are a Film Festival organizer, please let us know about your event.

[Send details using "Film Festival Listing" in the subject line.](#)



EDD

ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT

The New Mexico Film Office is a division of the [Economic Development Department](#), whose mission is to improve the lives of New Mexico families by increasing economic opportunities and providing a place for businesses to thrive.

STAY CONNECTED



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