Central New Mexico Community College
School of Skilled Trades & Arts

FILM/FDMA - Advisory Committee Minutes, Fall 2025

Date: 11/12/25

Number of Attendees: 42

Called to order: 12:09 pm

Adjourned: 1:30 pm

Chairperson: Alan Trever

Recorder: Katherine Meagher

Location: Railyards, Flue Shop

Members present from industry: **Jey Bernal**- New Mexico Film Office, **Kat Bloom**- Vault Studios, **Rochelle Bussey**- New Mexico Film Office, **Rebecca Cavalier**- ABQ Film Office, **Brian Fosnaugh**- Cinelease, **Mateo Fraser**- NM Media Arts Collective, **Rosey Hayett**- Film Prize Jr, **Su Hudson**- PAPA/CNM, **Chris Jones**- NMAMA Charter School, **Laura King**- IATSE 480, **Liz Marshall**- Local 480, **Cyndy McCrossen**- CABQ Film Office, **Jonathan Nagel**- AFMX, **Candice Neu**- Katharsis Media, **Tom Ragan**- The Studio @WESST, **Julius Roanhorse**- National Indian Youth Council, **Mark Ryan**- APS CEC, **Melodee Saiz**- APS, **Jaaziel Salazar-** ABQ Film Office, **Chris Schueler**- film instructor, **Kira Sipler**- AFMX, **Ivan Weiner**- AFMX, **Jason Wolf**- TripleTone Audio Post, **Dooner**- IASTE 480

Members present from CNM: **Katelyn Attanasio**- CNM Ingenuity, **David Bair**- former CNM instructor, **Dani Belvin**- Associate Dean, **Stuart Bicknell**- PT Instructor, **Adrianna Casas**- Facilities Project Manager, PPD, **Kelly Diaz**- Instructor, **June Friedman**- ATA, **Sionna Grassbaugh**- Interim Dean, **Christina Gilroy**- CNM Advisement, **Colby Lein**- CNM Advisement, **Jeanette Loera**- Instructor, **Katherine Meagher**- ATA, **Noa Nunez**- Instructional Technician, **Margaret Ortega**- CNM WCS, **Rudi Rossiter**- PT Instructor, **Andrew Swan**- PT Instructor, **Alan Trever**- Program Director, **Jose Velez**- Instructor

Next scheduled meeting: TBD

I. **Welcome/Introductions:** Alan started the meeting by letting everyone know the structure of today's meeting. Unlike other advisories in the past, the meeting with open with updates from CNM and industry members, approval of the Spring 25 minutes, and then ending with a tour of the currently under-construction Railyards facility. Dani added that construction of this facility is projected to finish by June of 2026 and classes should hopefully start in Fall 2026.

II. Reports:

1. **College Updates:** Sionna gave college-wide updates, highlighting that this year marks CNM's 60th anniversary. She reported that enrollment at CNM is over 19,000 and is expected to increase as the year continues, mostly due to late start courses. Enrollment in Skilled Trades and Arts is up 8% from Fall 25 and further growth is expected, especially as many of our classes started on September 22nd. Enrollment numbers are very close to exceeding pre-COVID enrollment, using a benchmark of Fall 2019.

   The new Ted Chavez Trades and Technologies Center (TTC) had its grand opening in August and started holding classes on September 22nd. This project cost about $57 million and was built in order to provide better access to trades education and address the growing needs of the local workforce. The center is designed for hands-on, practical learning and features multiple outdoor training areas so that students can experience similar working

situations as they would in the workforce. The new TTC building will house our administration offices as well as our Carpentry, Welding, HVAC, Plumbing, Electrical, and Mechatronics programs. This includes a wing dedicated entirely to Carpentry.

The RioTech campus also opened for classes this fall, providing instruction to high school and adult learners. Programs at RioTech include Carpentry, Plumbing, Welding, Digital Media, and Electrical. In the future, there are also plans for our Film and Digital Media programs to move to the Albuquerque Railyards (in partnership between MAC and the city) as well as a new building in Rio Rancho to house our Automotive and EV programs. The west wing of the old Ted Chavez (TC) building is slated for demolition starting in January 26. Until the new Rio Rancho campus is done, Automotive and EV will remain in the east wing of the TC building.

There are also plenty of part-time faculty position that have been posted or will be posted soon. We encourage our partners to look into these postings and share them with anyone they think could be interested! Carpentry also added a new full-time instructor, Kurt Sullivan, for this current fall term. Sionna said we are very excited to have him and says that with his help, we should be seeing great changes to the program.

CNM will be implementing more short-term certificates and micro-credentials in order to provide flexible and focused learning options for students. This means that students will be receiving targeted skill development within weeks or months, as opposed to traditional degrees that take multiple years. Micro-credentials will validate certain skills and/or competencies and can be stacked for students to build a larger, better professional portfolio. This should help students with quickly upskilling, reskilling, or even switching careers in a fast-changing job market. Both these micro-credentials and short-term certificates are industry-aligned, affordable, and recognized by employers as a sign of proactive learning and specific expertise. We do value input from our advisory committee as we implement these credentials- your feedback on this will be valuable!

2. **Reports from Industry Members:** Attendees introduced themselves and industry members gave updates.

Rosey stated that this is the 5th year of Film Prize Jr. As of this year, there are 10 schools participating and the event is state-wide at this point! The festival for Film Prize Jr. will be on March 21st, 2026.

Kira mentioned that AFMX had their annual event in September. They are looking to do more in the future!

Candice said that Katharsis Media is wrapping up with their apprentices and that they will have more openings in the spring for editing apprentices. They are looking for 2 editing interns, as well as 4 interns from CNM and about 3-4 from the city. She also recently attended the Frame by Frame film summit and also got to film the pilot of a local series project. They will also be filming a feature in the summer.

Chris is a new representative from the NMAMA Charter, attending in place of Anthony Conforti. He is impressed to hear from us and happy to collaborate.

Jason said that Tripletone is celebrating 20 years of production work and just wrapped a production that brought jobs to the state.

III. <u>Minutes:</u> Minutes from Spring 25 were approved.

IV. <u>New Business</u> Adrianna gave an update on the Railyards project. This project has been a collaborative effort between the City of Albuquerque, CNM, and the NM Media Arts Collective. They have faced some challenges building a facility on such a historic site and have had to build within the existing structure. She noted that during the tour, attendees might notice that the walls built inside of the historic structure do not actually touch the outer walls. They have been trying to preserve the original character of the building while also doing the proper testing and work to get this project to where it needs to be.

The inside has been split into three different structures: the screen room/theater space, the south bay for the sound stages, and a flex space for classrooms, offices, studios, and control rooms. Construction is projected to finish June 30th, 2026 with classes projected to start in Fall 2026.

She then outlined the requirements for the tour. The attendees were split into two groups and each person walking the tour needed to wear a hard hat and closed-toed shoes for safety. She asked that everyone use caution during the tour as the space is still under construction and presents multiple trip hazards.

<u>V. Tour of the Railyards Facility:</u> Adrianna led the attendees through a tour of the Railyards facility, which is estimated to be a total of 76,000 square feet in size. The front lobby space will be built with a full AVS system, meant to work as an overflow space for any large presentations being held in the adjacent screening room. A large LED screen will be placed in the lobby for this purpose. She also noted that the lobby will have radiant heat in the learning stairs that will go in that space.

The adjacent screening room will house 100 inclined seats and will be equipped with a post-production center. Alan said that the screen in this room will be 25 feet and will be Dolby certified. It will have a Dolby Atmos system with 22.2.2.12 speakers and an HDR laser projector. This space can be rented out and used for internships once it is up and running. He stated that Netflix has toured the space and has been highly impressed with the work done. Just outside of the screening room are a few classrooms, green rooms, and a studio.

On the other side of the screening room is the CNM soundstage. This is one of three soundstages in the facility and is adjacent to classrooms and the storage space. This soundstage is 40 feet to the top and is equipped with insaquilt. Adrianna noted that it will have a wooden floor but the floor will have to be floated as they need to preserve the train tracks in this part of the structure. She also mentioned that elephant doors will be installed for a loading area. These doors will be aligned to the existing bifold doors already in place. This soundstage should have full rigging, mobile platforms, and set subgrading. She also mentioned that they are trying to optimize space in the storage areas to maximize use without classes overlapping. The outside corridor that leads to the next sound stage was restored and they are trying to make use of the historic elements for class use. The second soundstage will also be for CNM to use.

The third sound stage production space will be used for the Media Arts Collective. It has the same layout as the CNM stages but has a higher ceiling and will be getting two sets of elephant doors. There will be an open-air system and the A/C will be made to turn off when film is rolling. Alan mentioned that students will get experience on running lights and bell lights thanks to this system. Adrianna also spoke on the glass windows in the outside corridors. The glass was replaced but kept opaque for historic purposes and green panes were added as it has become iconic. The architects and contractors worked tirelessly to make sure the glass panes looked exactly how they used to and it creates a beautiful effect when the sun hits it. Multiple attendees noted this would be great for film shoots.

The future site for the construction mill will be in what used to be the paint booth and is still under construction at this time. Adrianna noted that this space had some partial renovations as the existing concrete and steel were heavily deteriorated. Now that they have done restorations, they are now at a point where they can start building out. This

space will be equipped with a mill for set building as well as a fabrication lab. This will be equipped with a full dust collection system and should be done in June as the workers have been moving very fast. There should also be power for movie trailers and vehicle chargers as well as a loading dock.

The last stop on the tour was the flex space, which is adjacent to spaces for offices, hair and make-up, a sewing lab, conference rooms, and recording. This part of the building will be a two-story space with the offices on the second floor and will be split between CNM and NMMAC. The office space could not be accessed at this time as the stairs have not yet been installed. This is also the only space with a recessed floor as no train tracks ran through this portion of the original structure. This area will also be equipped with power and data to support computer needs.

The total projected cost of this project is $73 million. As of the day of the tour, about $58 million has been spent.

VI. Adjournment: Adjourned at 1:30 pm.