****

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**City Paints A Bigger Picture For Arts and Culture Department, Former Arts Commission**

Name Change Scheduled To Go Before The Governing Body, January 29, 2020

SANTA FE, January 15, 2020—Santa Fe is creating a new name and expanded role for the Santa Fe Arts Commission, being renamed the Arts and Culture Department. The department, under the leadership of Director Pauline Kanako Kamiyama, will continue the commission’s mission to provide leadership by and for the City to support arts and cultural affairs.

Responsibilities include recommending policies and programs that develop and promote artistic excellence through its cultural investment funding grant programs, art in public places, community art gallery, Mayor’s Art Awards, poet laureate, city historian, youth programs and Culture Connects.

The Arts Commission had previously been administered under the City’s Tourism Department, but once the changes are approved by the Governing Body Arts & Culture becomes a stand-alone department.

“This goes beyond changing the name of a vitally important part of City government,” said Mayor Webber. “It is a recognition of how deeply rooted arts and culture are in Santa Fe’s identity. Arts and culture define who we are and how we live, the stories we tell each other, the food we eat, the traditions we hold fast to, the celebrations we embrace. For all of these reasons, the City needs—and now has—a stand-alone arts and culture department that can touch all parts of City government and all parts of our community.”

This newly established department will further elevate the role of arts and culture with the ability to forge partnerships and seek funding for programming and initiatives based on input from *Culture Connects: Santa Fe.* *Culture Connects* was a community-wide effort to shape the cultural future of the city. Through a series of creative, hands-on engagement convenings that explored community’s belief and aspirations, a roadmap was crafted to ensure that the vibrancy of arts and culture in Santa Fe be equitable, accessible, inclusive and participatory. One of the many recommendations that came out of the Culture Connects was the establishment of a department focused on culture thereby transitioning out of the office of Tourism to the City Manager.

“*Culture Connects* is the lens through which the Arts and Culture Department fosters collaborations, amplifies the creative work happening all throughout the city,” said Pauline Kanako Kamiyama, Director of the Santa Fe Arts and Culture Department. “Our arts and culture ecosystem knits together our cultural institutions and includes small non-profits and community based organizations. Together, we will continue to create a welcoming environment that celebrates our traditions, history, present and future with access to the arts.”

The Arts Commission was established in 1988 in recognition of Santa Fe as the cultural capital of the Southwest whose artists and artistic organizations contribute significantly to the quality of life. The nine-member Arts Commission, an advisory body appointed by the Mayor, with advice and consent of the City Council, will continue to advocate on behalf of the new department.

"We have a dynamic and dedicated group of Commissioners who are excited for the Mayor’s initiative to expand the role of arts and culture in our city government,” said newly appointed Arts Commission chair Alex Hanna. “We believe this new department can more directly benefit Santa Fe’s economy and foster a greater quality of life for all Santa Feans."

For more information: <https://www.santafenm.gov/arts_commission>

###