

**CITY OF TRUTH OR CONSEQUENCES
PUBLIC ARTS ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES
Tuesday, October 21, 2025**

REGULAR MEETING

Regular meeting of the Public Arts Advisory Board of the City of Truth or Consequences, New Mexico to be held on Tuesday, October 21, 2025 at 4:00 p.m. in the City Commission Chambers, 405 W. 3rd St, Truth or Consequences, NM 87901.

ROLL CALL:

Sid Bryan, Tourism - Chairman
Cary "Jagger" Gustin, Sierra County Arts Council – Vice-Chairman
Eduardo Alicea, Art Representative - Member
Andy Underwood, Business Community - Member
Suzanne Carlstedt - Member

ALSO PRESENT:

Gary Whitehead – City Manager
Katy Martinez – Deputy Clerk

1. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

Vice Chairman Gustin made a motion to approve the agenda. Member Carlstedt seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

a. July 15, 2025

Member Carlstedt made the motion to approve the minutes with the correction to Chairman Bryan name. Member Underwood seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

3. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC: (3 minute rule applies)

There were no public comments at this time.

4. NEW BUSINESS:

a. Discussion/Action: Geronimo Springs Museum Fountain.

Chairman Bryan: I think that's the one where we just decide from the agenda that we have from the last one, what we want. I think we should, this is just my idea to start the discussion, but I think we should add, and I'd just make a motion that we start action and I think we should do the one where we get the contractor to come and look and give a quote, also just say what he thinks should be done, so that if we get in here by the next meeting, one that we agree with, then we can start, but you'd know more about that.

Member Underwood: Well we're at the point where we've decided that the architect isn't going to work. The last time we met, Gary's idea was to find a contractor, and I believe that's the course we should stay on at this point. We should just ask Gary to continue to look for a contractor solution versus anything else, and assume that we're going to repair it, and move on that way.

Chairman Bryan: I think we should just try to make that into a motion and then just start, but we can discuss.

Member Carlstedt: Do we have to make a presentation to the City Commission again saying that this is what we want to do and spend money on?

Chairman Bryan: I think, if Gary goes along with it, then we would already have it, and then still, yes, we will have to put it before the Commission I would imagine. Would you know that?

Deputy Clerk Martinez: That one I don't know, but I'm sure it would have to go in front of the Commission because we will be using funds.

Member Carlstedt: I just don't know which comes first, you put out a request for proposal, or you make the pitch to the Commission?

Chairman Bryan: I think the Commission will go ahead with it if Gary is on board. Gary seemed to be in favor of that when he was talking with Andy.

Vice Chairman Gustin: Well, this board has a fund that's assigned to that for use by the board, so we already have money in an account, and I don't know that we have to get permission to use it. I don't know that.

Member Underwood: I think we have to get permission. We're just an Advisory board.

Chairman Bryan: We're an Advisory board with some money. But I think we should go ahead and just send our –

Member Underwood: You want to try to get on the agenda for the City Commission meeting?

Chairman Bryan: Well, I think it should go to Gary first.

Member Underwood: I think so too.

Chairman Bryan: So, let's just do that. And then, with Gary's approval, then we can try to get a meeting with the Commission.

Member Underwood: So, the first thing we want to do is tell him that we want to stay with the contractor solution and repair it, and then the second thing we want to ask him is what our strategy is going forward. We want to talk to the Commission first, or have him talk to the Commission?

Chairman Bryan: No, I would just state it more positive, like you did, that if we get Gary's approval, we will then just have to go before the Commission.

Member Underwood: You going to go talk to Gary?

Chairman Bryan: Yeah, I'll talk to Gary. But I'd like to have that in a motion.

Vice Chairman Gustin: Gary's not able to be contacted?

Chairman Bryan: That wouldn't delay us too much, we've been delayed before, but if he says yes, then we'd need to wait in the line to get into the Commission. Gary, we've just been discussing your discussion with Andy and the rest. What we're trying to do is get a motion, just agreeing to take the contractor point, where he comes and says what can be done, and then if you agree to it, then we would try to get an appointment with the Commission, we'd have to go before them.

Member Underwood: Do you have any new information for us?

City Manager Whitehead: I don't. I've reached out to Craig Stukey, they've evaluated it, they've indicated that there's a process where we could fill it with foam, he's not given me an estimate. I tried to reach out to Warren, his manager, this morning, and no contact. But it sounds like that's not going to be a challenge, if we could just get a number on what that's going to cost, and then we could fill the cavity, seal it, and then we would turn it back over to you guys to find who's going to come in and fix the outside. We didn't discuss it in relation to the water, how that'll go back, but I don't have the bid, I don't have a price.

Member Underwood: Because you weren't here a moment ago, we were just going to make a motion to let it be on the record that we still want to do the contractor repair choice, versus architect, engineer, that kind of stuff. We were also wondering if we need to go before the Commission with our ideas, so we were going to find out what you think we should do.

City Manager Whitehead: What I would ask is, let me get this price. Once we have a price, then what I would do, and certainly this is what you guys could be doing now, is figuring out what's going to be the external process? Who can come in and do the repairs to the outside?

Chairman Bryan: Try for the original, I think we had said before, try to get Shell here while he's still coming, he's still doing stuff.

Member Underwood: I don't think Shell is a licensed contractor.

Chairman Bryan: No, but for the aesthetics.

City Manager Whitehead: Could he direct, though, on what he feels like the restoration would look like? Could he give us, like if the cavity was done and we did this, and these are the pieces we need, am I thinking right there?

Member Underwood: Possibly, 10:00... inspecting the artist, but also I understand the need to be in a budget. If you have a guy that just does tile work, he's going to say, "This for this amount

of money." And if you let the artist in, the artist is going to go, "No, no, no, I want to do this and that." So it doesn't really make any difference how we do it, but probably.

Member Alicea: I think it'll be a matter of if it stays original as it is.

City Manager Whitehead: If I'm thinking like you are, with the contractor, because it feels like the bridge, some of those benches, the mesh, and the stucco, has just come off. A contractor would put that back together.

Member Underwood: Or maybe some of that stuff has to be eliminated.

City Manager Whitehead: But it's all exterior, it's not structural, it's all cosmetic.

Member Underwood: One problem was the fact that we thought the mountains were going to fall down. So if we take that problem off the table, then our new number one problem will be maintenance, repair of the damage, get some kind of a maintenance trip going. So, we can keep it for a while. I think it would be, you know, if you're going to ask a tile person to work on it, and you want Shell to come down too, you're going to have to include that in your scope of work for the bid. You'll have to work with the artist. I understand all of it.

Chairman Bryan: In a way, after it's secure, it would be good to have Shell and maybe another artist from here, I think that would make them happy if they could keep with that same look that the original has, hopefully Shell would be able to do it, but if we need somebody else, another artist from here, I think would be good, and they already know that the work had been done, that what they were doing is just decorative, and would have to be lasting, but they wouldn't have to interfere with the contractor at all, I wouldn't think. The contractor should be able to do what is needed to make sure the water can run through the hole that's being filled, and then Shell –

Member Carlstedt: Is there any work needed to the individual tiles themselves, or are we really talking grout work? I think that makes a difference because the tile is the art.

Member Alicea: The tiles are ceramic, they're burned in kilns.

Member Underwood: Every piece is a custom piece that he made by hand.

Member Alicea: Maybe there is an artist in town, maybe they have a kiln and they can do the pieces.

Member Underwood: Maybe. I've searched for tile people to build custom tile before, and it's hard to find. But maybe. And maybe Shell could just do that, I don't know. I think we should go with the first plan, get the mountains stable. Then, what I'm thinking is the biggest part of the maintenance is the grout and seal. And where there's a missing or broken tile, you can grout over the broken part, or get a piece of tile in there and fill it in. But I guess if we can afford it, maybe we can have Shell come down and give us some advice, but it'll cost money to have him come down and look at it.

City Manager Whitehead: Where does he live?

Chairman Bryan: The last time he came he stayed at my hotel and I comped it for him, and I'd do that again.

Member Underwood: But we still gave him \$1,000 to come down. Number one is save the mountain.

City Manager Whitehead: Just give me until the next month, let's meet again in 30 days. Craig Stukey, he has had some issues, he was here and got really aggressive, he came and looked at the projects, looked at 4 or 5 things, and then his mom got sick, he was in Seattle for a month, and then he just got sick. He had some kind of surgery, so it's just that calamity. So I think if we can just get that number, find out what the foam is going to cost, let's agree that we want to do that process, and then I think we come up with a move forward process. Once we do that, it should last another 25 years.

Member Underwood: Some kind of a pricing idea just from the tile guy on grout repair, which I didn't do, but I could probably do that in the same time frame, and then you could fix the mountain and then you'd know what it would cost to seal it up and make it last. Then if there's extra money, we could maybe get Shell in to build some extra tile. But like I said, we may have to decide to get rid of the benches if they're not doing anything. If you spend \$1,000 to fix the bench, or you can just take it away, but I don't know if we can just take it away, it's art. There are some rules we have to follow to do that.

Chairman Bryan: And it's nice to sit on.

City Manager Whitehead: 2 benches, though, cover the access points to get in. So it really feels to me like they would go back and it would be sealed, you would come up with some way to make it permanent, and then you fill that whole thing with foam, so then those benches are never going to move either, that whole thing is going to be sealed.

Chairman Bryan: And would you be able to contact another contractor during the month in case we can't get Craig? Because Craig does get –

City Manager Whitehead: I definitely could seek out, I just feel like I got this guy that's looked at it and said, "Yeah let's not tear it down, let's save it."

Member Underwood: People like that don't just fall off of trees.

City Manager Whitehead: Right.

Member Underwood: If you ask 10 contractors, 9 of them will want to tear it down and rebuild.

City Manager Whitehead: So I feel like I just want to see if I can't get him locked in, get a price, because he's not going to do the foam, he's going to find somebody, but he's going to contract it, he'll probably tell us how to fix it, and he may even be able to tell us how he wants to stucco the outside, because again I'll say as a novice, not looking at it as a piece of art, when I walk up it just feels like there's stucco that's fallen off, and the bridge doesn't look that attractive, so I think if you fix that, it would really look good again, but it might be missing the pieces of the tile, and I'm not seeing them as much as somebody else. I think if we got it fixed to that level.

Member Underwood: Do you think if we changed the design of it by removing the bridge or a bench as needed, do you think we would have to bring that up with the artist or does the city own it well enough that we can make small changes for the sake of safety or whatever reason? But do you think that we're obligated tell the artist that we're making alterations?

Vice Chairman Gustin: We should keep him informed, but it belongs to the city and has nothing to do with the artist anymore. It belongs to the city, the city's purview is to do what they need to do to it. We should keep Shell informed and in the loop, but in reality he doesn't have anything to say about it.

City Manager Whitehead: I guess I would want to preserve the integrity and intent of the art piece that was bought and paid for.

Chairman Bryan: I think just for him to come down it would be less than \$1,000. I wouldn't mind talking to him.

City Manager Whitehead: I think that's worthy. If we can find out if he would come and visit with us, look at the piece, give us his opinion on what he would do to improve the piece, and the things that need to happen, kind of a roadmap, and his blessing, maybe he says, "Take the bridge out. It wasn't really part of what the whole plan was." So that could go, and then we could lean our hat on that to say, "Hey we're going to do this, we're going to take this out, and have it back in shape." But if he says that it's all part of it, that's what the intent was, then maybe we just have to keep it.

Member Underwood: So you think we should talk to Shell before we talk to anybody?

City Manager Whitehead: Well I think we should talk to Shell at the same time we're talking with Stukey. If you can find someone that can do the stucco work, if you could get a price on the stucco repair, and the Shell tells us what tile needs to be replaced.

Member Underwood: I personally think we should get a price to fix the mountains, foam the mountains. Then we should get a price from a tile person to grout and seal. Then we should call up Shell and tell him what we're doing, and to get his blessing, and see if he'll sign off on it. Because he knows the struggles we've had with the possibility of demolition and stuff like that, and I think he would be happy with anything we can pull off. The other thing we have to do is we have to figure out some way to get the plumbing fixed inside of those mountains.

City Manager Whitehead: We're going to have to solve that before –

Member Underwood: Before we fill them with foam. I still think the only person to do that is old Eddie Irwin. Have him figure out a pump and dial it into the gallons of water per minute that our spring will produce. Then we have to figure out a way to have sump the pump instead of inside the mountain. Then we just plumb the mountain like we would a house, foam it, and it's there forever.

City Manager Whitehead: The pipe is just inside the walls, and then it's foamed in.

Member Underwood: No electricity, so we don't have to worry about it ever going back in. But I think that Eddie is the only one for that job that I've ever found. It's like Craig, you know, if you

find somebody who can do it right and has the imagination to do the job, you have to cherish them. Not look for another bid.

City Manager Whitehead: Right.

Member Underwood: So we're going to have to do that too. I'm happy to talk to Eddie, with the board's permission, and see what he can offer us. I'm happy to talk to a tile person with the board's permission and find out what they would charge to grout and seal it.

Chairman Bryan: Can we just do that or does that need a motion?

City Manager Whitehead: I would just think that you should just do it. I think you and I should work together, partner a little bit harder on this, and let's get it going. Eddie actually came by yesterday to talk about something else, so I will see him tomorrow.

Member Underwood: He's been in there, he knows what to do, he likes it, and he's said he can do it.

City Manager Whitehead: I think the secret, the trick right now is to get Craig to give me a price, and say, "100% if we fill this with foam, it's going to stand for 20 more years. It's a worthwhile investment, and it's X dollars." Then that tells us everything from that point is a go. Otherwise, the decision really has to be made that if there's not a solution, it has to come down. Because it is eating itself up from the inside.

Member Alicea: Can the plumbing be done outside not intergraded in the foam?

Member Underwood: I'm sure.

Member Alicea: We can lower the risk of the water damaging the foam.

City Manager Whitehead: I think the only risk there, or concern, would be aesthetically, where would we put a line on the exterior of that, that wouldn't be offensive to the piece of art. If we rana piece of poly, solid with no connections in it, from one end underground, to wherever it comes out, 99% of the time, we should never have a problem with it. And it's hidden.

Member Underwood: Talking with the guy that's doing the plumbing, make sure there's a way we can do what Eduardo's suggesting later. Know that it could happen and have some kind of a strategy for the future.

City Manager Whitehead: Yep. The other thing we could do is, if we kept it in there, instead of doing a piece of poly that runs the water, we run an inch and a half piece of pipe, that's always a conduit, that allows us to, if it breaks, we plumb it.

Member Underwood: What Eduardo and you're saying is, we want to build it for future problems to be solved.

City Manager Whitehead: Right.

Member Underwood: So we don't need a motion for anything?

City Manager Whitehead: I don't think we need a motion. I think we just need to continue fact-finding, and as soon as we can get to those answers, we can schedule a meeting. Say, for 30 days, but I'll work with the Clerk. Unless something comes up sooner that you need to take action on, but for this issue, as soon as we can get this answer, I think we'd be ready to come back and vote.

Member Underwood: So you're going to talk to Eddie and Craig, when Craig's available?

City Manager Whitehead: Yes.

Member Underwood: We hope that he becomes available. And I'll talk to the tile guy, and meet back here.

City Manager Whitehead: Meet back here.

Member Underwood: And after we get all this together, then we'll contact Shell and tell him what we're going to do, what we propose to do. Keep him in the loop.

Chairman Bryan: Is that agreeable with everybody?

All: Yes.

5. REPORTS FROM THE BOARD

Member Underwood: I think we should mention to the City Commissioners that all the public art that's out here now, we should try and figure out a way to make sure there's money in their budgets to maintain it. Like the sculptures that are rusting here and there, maybe we can put a little rust-stop lacquer on it or something like that. You know, the murals on the walls, maybe we need to put some clear coat on them every 5 years or something like that. If we're an Advisory Board, I think we should give official advise to them, that we should have some kind of a maintenance program for the art that we have. I don't know if you need a motion for that or not, but that's just my personal view.

City Manager Whitehead: That's heard, understood. I think we could discuss that. One of the changes, as I shared with you, I'd like to make sure that we change the Lodger's tax this year when we do budget, I will recommend that we change the Lodger's tax so it allows you guys to accumulate your money into perpetuity. Right now you have \$20,000 and I don't know if you've spent any, but you have 20, and whatever we can start giving you, that 1%, needs to just stay with you guys. I would imagine the Commission would say, "Let's use that for maintenance too." But we come up with a process.

Member Underwood: But you know that for us to get a good piece of art, it's going to cost us more than what we get every year. We need \$50,000 or \$60,000 to get a good sculpture or a nice mural or something like that.

Vice Chairman Gustin: Gary, do we have an amount that's in that fund right now?

City Manager Whitehead: You have \$20,000.

Vice Chairman Gustin: 20 even?

City Manager Whitehead: Yes. I gave you the 1%, that's what the ordinance requires, is that you get 1%. And I used the entire value that was there, which we have about \$1.4 million, we have about \$800,000 in cash, and we projected about \$600,000. So I took that \$1.4 million and said, that's 1% so that's \$14,000, and then you carried over \$6,000 from last year that you didn't spend. So \$20,000 is what's in the art budget of the 1%. In the future, that whole thing may not work like that, it may be whatever the revenues are, you get 1% which is about \$700,000 a year, you may end up with 7 or 8 thousand, but the point is, you should get to keep it. You would say, "We're going to buy a piece of art for 30 and we will get it in 2 years."

Member Alicea: Thank you, that's what we need.

Vice Chairman Gustin: But there's \$20,000 in the fund right now?

City Manager Whitehead: There's \$20,000 in the fund.

Vice Chairman Gustin: Thank you.

City Manager Whitehead: You're welcome.

Chairman Bryan: Just need to know the exact amount.

City Manager Whitehead: That's public information, they're pretty good at finding that out. They can IPRA anything, so we might as well put it on the table.

Chairman Bryan: The bill will be a coincidence. Does any of that need a motion?

City Manager Whitehead: No sir.

6. REPORTS FROM STAFF

City Manager Whitehead: The last item I would like to report on, on a fun note, I think we're really close to having a plan for the PNC building, to start the renovation for the Police Department.

Chairman Bryan: Very good.

City Manager Whitehead: Yes sire, we have \$750,000. We're using some general fund money, we're using some Police Department money, we were able to raise \$360,000 in capital outlay, and then we are also proposing selling the current Police Department, so we would have about \$1 million. We think we've found the right architect, we're doing a design build, so we really think for the \$700,000 or \$800,000 we're going to get that building. It's a beautiful building, it doesn't need a renovation, it needs some offices, it needs some fake walls, we need to relocate the air conditioner, do some electrical work, and we found the right architect that agrees. We had some contractors who came in and said that we needed to replace the HVAC, we needed to gut the building and put new electrical, and I just disagree with that. It was an operating bank a

year ago. The good news is, that's happening. We also received a \$1 million grant from the state to help me with the Wastewater Treatment Plant. In each of those three grants that we received, it has art in public places for 1%. We have accumulated \$17,000 for art, and we have decided that we are going to take the center of the PNC building, so if you can imagine when you walk through the doors to the bank, the big high ceilings, the Police Department will be offed-off on one side for admin, when you walk in from the museum side, admin on your right, and the left side will be for the Police department, they'll have their meeting rooms, the vault will become the evidence vault, it's all being designed, and then we are going to make the center into an art gallery. So when you walk in off the street, you're going to walk into an art gallery, we're going to use all the public funds that we have, the \$17,000, because you have to buy it from that process, you have to use the art in public places. But the chief has come up with some ideas, we're going to buy some mobile boards so we can put local art, we can put kids' art, we can change it, so we're really kind of tooling an idea, the Police Department would be open on Art Hop. People could walk in and it's an art gallery, the police are there, and you've created some good will amongst the community, so that's the vision for what the Police Department is going to look like, and then we're talking about doing some outside art as well, where we could put up something like Bank of the Southwest did, where it's kind of permanent, but it looks area-specific. I think we'll be bringing those plans to you to at least look at and have some feedback on.

Vice Chairman Gustin: That's a wonderful idea, and remember the city already owns that little tiny corner where the cow is.

City Manager Whitehead: Yep, the cow's going to stay, we're going to put a very nice cosmetic fence. That whole corner will be blocked off for the police to park, the vision would have them closing in the sally port, so they're going to make that an enclosed area, so if they impounded a car, etc. So that will be a secured area, the cow will be marked off so it's outside of the fence, and then the fence will be something really attractive, like what you might see at the True Value fence, where it's the black spikes, you can still see through it, not a chain link fence. Something really attractive to make that whole area look really good, and we think we have the money to get it all done.

Vice Chairman Gustin: Is there a start date for that project?

City Manager Whitehead: No we're just finishing up the plans, and then we will do a public meeting in the building. We hope to be constructing somewhere in February or March.

Chairman Bryan: But there was a public meeting with the mayor not too long ago where we were at a certain point in progressing, and then he said that we were being sued by a person, so we would have to stop and get money through a new bond. I have to wait for that, is that still true?

City Manager Whitehead: When I came on board, that was the case. The city wanted to go out and borrow \$1.6 million to do a renovation, and that bond required that it go through an ordinance. You have to have an ordinance to issue a bond. Because the number of voters allowed that group of folks to get a petition, that then required that the bond had to come through an election, we would have to go back, and the voters would get to vote on whether or not we debited ourselves \$1.6 million. There were some problems with the timing, because of certain things, the city missed some dates, the county missed some dates, and unfortunately, if

we would have gone forward with the election, we would have been out of compliance, and if it would have passed, we would have been out of compliance and had to redo it, if it failed, you couldn't do another election for another year, and it probably would have been the same. When I looked at everything, I felt like it was crazy, we don't need \$1.6 million to renovate this building, it's just not that bad. That's when I asked if we could find a way to come up with \$1 million on our own, so we didn't have to go to an election, it's our money we'd be spending, the legislature gave us the 360, and then again, if we sell the building, we'd know we're going to get \$300,000 and that's our plan. So we have about \$800,000 and if we need to we'll sell the building to get what we need to get over \$1 million. We'll pay for it, it'll be ours, we won't have any debt on it, and we don't have to go to an election, and we're going to get it built at a reasonable cost at a good value.

Chairman Bryan: Sounds very good.

City Manager Whitehead: I hope so. I think it's the right decision. Just anxious to get it going, it feels like it's taken forever.

Chairman Bryan: We had maybe four meetings with the group about that.

City Manager Whitehead: I think the election would have passed, I think there was a good momentum for people to support that building and the Police Department, but again, we were out of time, and it would have put us in a position where even if it passed, we would have violated the statute at the time, so the best option was to start over. And here's where we are. We have the money, we're going to fix it and get it done.

Vice Chairman Gustin: Thanks to your good leadership, Gary.

City Manager Whitehead: I don't know about that. It just feels like it takes forever.

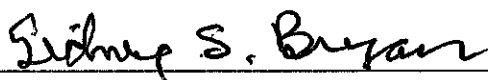
7. SET TIME, PLACE AND DATE FOR NEXT MEETING:

Deputy Clerk Martinez advised the board that the next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 2nd, 2025 at 4pm.

8. ADJOURN

Vice Chairman Gustin made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:41pm. Member Carlstedt seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 21st Day of April, 2026.


Sid Bryan, Chairman