



MEMO

To: Board of Trustees
From: Katie Esquibel, Advancement Committee Chair
Date: August 11, 2026
Re: Advancement Committee Update

The Advancement Committee met on August 11, 2026, and is entering an exciting period of transition and renewed focus as the Foundation continues its organizational evolution and strategic planning process.

Welcoming New Development Department Leadership

The Committee welcomed Dawne Bell, new Vice President of Development. Dawne brings extensive fundraising experience and a deep belief in philanthropy as a catalyst for community change. Her return to New Mexico and to community foundation work is an exciting addition to the team.

Giving Circle Round-up & Development Highlights

- **Future Future Fund** is preparing for its public launch, including a new webpage, social media campaign, email outreach to donors and community partners, and promotion leading up to its September 25 grant night.
- In partnership with **New Mexico United**, Foundation staff hosted a community tailgate that brought together giving circle members, donors, nonprofit partners, board members, and community members. The event included a raffle, with funds to be matched by ACF and granted to an organization supporting youth or girls in sports. The event provided increased visibility and relationship-building for the Foundation.
- A donor experience will be offered in partnership with **Presbyterian Healthcare Foundation**, including a tour of its Healthcare Learning Lab facility and opportunities to engage donors interested in healthcare, education, and student experiences. Happening Tuesday, October 27.
- An initial gathering with donors and community members interested in exploring a potential **Arts & Culture Giving Circle** is being coordinated for Friday, September 18. The conversation reflects the Foundation's strength in convening donors around shared interests and affinity.
- In partnership with the **Association of Fundraising Professionals of New Mexico**, the Foundation is offering a Lunch and Learn on Thursday, September 17 focused on demystifying donor-advised funds and helping nonprofit professionals better understand how community foundations work with donor advised fund holders.

Advancement Committee Member Engagement Discussion

The Committee revisited the Opportunity Engagement Form designed to help members identify the ways they are most interested in contributing, whether through stewardship, donor introductions, attending events, making thank you calls, writing notes, or helping connect the Foundation to their networks.



Committee members responded positively to the approach, noting that having specific opportunities made it easier to understand how they could contribute and prompted them to think intentionally about their own interests, relationships, and capacity. Committee members were asked to submit their form to Development staff.

Committee Charter Discussion

The Committee formally adopted its new charter and transitioned from the Advancement Committee to the Development Committee, reflecting a clearer focus on donor engagement, philanthropy, relationship-building, and the ways board and committee members can actively support the Foundation's development work.

2027 Strategic Plan Update

The Committee discussed how the strategic planning process will shape development work in the years ahead. One emerging question is the need for greater clarity around the relationship between Albuquerque Community Foundation and New Mexico Community Trust (NMCT). The strategic planning process will take a deeper look at the distinct but interconnected missions, staffing capacity, energy, and donor relationships associated with both organizations.

From a development perspective, the Committee recognizes that strategic clarity will be critical. As the Foundation looks toward its next chapter, a focused strategy will make it easier to articulate the Foundation value proposition, engage donors around shared priorities, and communicate the impact of philanthropic investment. The Committee will play an important role in thinking through what will resonate with donors, how the Foundation measures impact, and how all ambassadors of the Foundation build proactive donor relationships around the strategic direction.