



Governor Bill Richardson Names Michael Kaye as Chairman of the Governor's Council on Film and Media Industries

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SANTA FE, NM - New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson today announced the appointment of Michael Kaye as Chairman of the Governor's Council on Film and Media Industries. Mr. Kaye has served on the Council, formerly the New Mexico Film Advisory Board, since its inception, and takes the helm following the Chairmanships of Marshall Monroe and Shirley MacLaine.

"We're fortunate to have someone of Michael's caliber contributing his expertise and enthusiasm to our ongoing efforts to grow New Mexico's media industry, including film, television, internet, wireless, and other advanced technologies," said Governor Richardson.

The Governor this year changed the name of the board to the Governor's Council on Film and Media Industries, to better reflect his desire to build a complete industry that would include not only film but also emerging digital media, audio recording, post-production, and other technologies that support the film industry.

Mr. Kaye will work closely with Eric Witt, who is heading up the Governor's strategic initiative for the development of media and related industries throughout the state, and Lisa Strout, recently appointed Director of the New Mexico State Film Office. The Board will coordinate efforts with the New Mexico Economic Development Department, and work with the state's technological leaders to promote the wealth of technology, infrastructure, and support New Mexico has to offer.

"Right now we're hot. We have an enormous opportunity and we need to take advantage of it or we will lose out," Mr. Kaye said. "I will try to understand and work with everybody, from the film to the technology sector, to best advance the state."

Mr. Kaye graduated from The Art Center School of Design in Los Angeles and spent the early part of his career as an art director and creative director in the advertising agency business. He won a number of national advertising awards, including three “Clios” for television commercials.

Mr. Kaye founded his own media consulting firm in 1974 and has worked with some of the nations leading corporate and political figures.

From 1985 to 1999, Mr. Kaye was a consultant to Walt Disney Company CEO Michael Eisner, where he wrote and directed Mr. Eisner’s introductions for “The Disney Sunday Movie” on ABC, and “The Magical World of Disney” on the Disney Channel, among other things. He is a member of both the Writer’s and Director’s Guilds of America.

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