



Stephen Seymour, District 1
VACANT, District 1
Deepa Nair, District 2
Lois Fried, District 2
Andrea Jones, Dist. 3
Josephine Deciron, District 3
Jeanne Heise, District 4
Farah Yasmeen Shaikh, District 4
Victoria Magbilang, District. 5
Reno Anoa'i, District 5

County Executive's Office
400 County Center
Redwood City, CA 94063
www.smcgov.org/smcac



REGULAR MEETING OF THE ARTS COMMISSION

Wednesday, November 20, 2024 – 3:00 - 5:00 p.m.

400 County Center, 1st Floor, Criminal Justice Training Room, Redwood City, CA 94063

MINUTES

1. **Roll Call** Chair, Commissioner Magbilang called the meeting to order at 3:12 with roll call.

In Attendance: Commissioners Seymour, Magbilang, Shaikh, Fried, Nair, and Deciron

Absent: Commissioners Jones, Heise, and Anoa'i

Staff: Aimee Shapiro, Mara Grimes, Jacki Rigoni

Guest: Florence Wong, Commission on Disabilities

Commissioner Magbilang welcomed Commissioner Wong to our meeting and invited her to introduce herself. She stated that she was very happy to be able to attend the Arts Commission meetings.

2. **Agenda Amendments**

None

3. **Oral Communications**

None

4. **Consideration of Minutes** of September 18, 2024, regular meeting minutes.

Motion to approve the minutes with corrections was made by Commissioner Deciron and seconded by Commissioner Shaikh. Approved unanimously.

5. **Staff Reports**

Aimee Shapiro: Director thanked the Commissioners for their help at during the September Arts & Culture Fest which featured over 80 performing and visual artists. Updates for OAC:

- 51 grant applications were received and the OAC has \$50K to award. The reason for the shortage in funds is due to the OAC grant not being renewed by CZI and only receiving half of what we received last year from the CA Arts Council as both organizations also faced cutbacks. We are looking for other ways we can support County arts and culture nonprofits. We will make 11 awards of \$4,500 each.
- Artwork in the new County building, COB3 has been installed in the lobby. We will be installing a show in December in the 555 County Center Building in December to showcase artwork done by students at EPACENTER in East Palo Alto that are model design for utility boxes in their city.
- The OAC is partnering with Mosaic America and hosted a cohort of cultural bearers, artists and arts organization in Silicon Valley and San Mateo County. They have developed a cultural mapping feature on their website and would like to include San Mateo too. Commissioner Shaikh added that Mosaic

Public records that relate to any item on the open session agenda for a regular Arts Commission meeting are available for public inspection. Those records that are distributed less than 72 hours prior to the meeting are available for public inspection at the same time they are distributed to all members, or a majority of the members of the Commission. The Commission has designated the Board of Supervisors Office, located at 400 County Center, Redwood City, CA 94063, for the purpose of making those public records available for inspection. The documents are also available to be sent electronically by e-mailing artscommission@smcgov.org. In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), auxiliary aids and services for this meeting will be provided upon request when given three days' notice. For the safety of those sensitive to airborne chemicals, please refrain from wearing chemically based products.

received funding from the Wallace Foundation to help find points of connection for arts and cultural bearers especially in areas we don't usually hear from.

Mara Grimes:

- Navigation Center Mural –Artist Heather Hardison began working on the mural with the residents on November 18, 2024, and is expected to complete the mural over the next few weeks, weather permitting.
- Youth Services Center Mural – Three muralists were selected, and we will meet with them and the Youth Services Center staff on November 21, 2024, to make sure we are all on the same page. The work will begin sometime early in the new year.
- Poetry Out Loud – The deadline has been extended to December 10, 2024, to reach more youth. She asked the Arts Commissioners to share with their networks.
- Applications for the next Poet Laureate was launched on November 12 with a deadline of December 20, 2024. She noted that we are hoping to have the PL start a new term in early 2025 and asked that they share this opportunity with their networks as well.

Jacki Rigoni:

- Ms. Rigoni noted that Supervisor Corzo's office and the other Supervisors have been very busy with the current issues with the Sheriff. Since the Sheriff position is an elected position, and she is unwilling to step down, they are working on a recall which requires 4,500 signatures.
- The weather has been very severe, and she recommended that everyone should be signed up for the County alerts and to be sure to check on neighbors.
- She reiterated the importance of the Poet Laureate and asked that Commissioners help spread the word to increase the reach in their districts.
- Supervisor Corzo's office is the liaison to the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW). She reported the Commission recently presented a report at a Board of Supervisors meeting with data to support the needs of women in the areas of equity and a recommendation for investment in childcare and financial literacy. They presented the report in a way that has made the Board listen and it could impact the budget in 2025. She suggested that the Arts Commissioners choose an area that needs support in the arts and culture, gather data to make the case, and that they present their findings at a future board meeting (discussions regarding the budget begin in early February.)

6. Discussion Items

A. *Definition of Roles for Office of Arts and Culture and Arts Commission*

Ms. Rigoni suggested she start off the conversation by stating the role of the Arts Commission is supporting the OAC in their programming and work with County arts and culture organizations. The Arts Commission could help the OAC by advocating to the Board for more funds. She noted that the grant applications revealed that the nonprofits were struggling with paying their employees fair wages, paying rent, and funding current programs as the need for them continues to grow. She went on to state that the role of the OAC is to attend events, connect the organizations, and to know their needs. The Arts Commission should be self-governed and have the ability to create who they are and what they want to share with the Board.

Commissioner Seymour commented that the Arts Commission is in a position to advance collectively and the ability to provide some direction to the staff in areas such as choosing artist for exhibits in public spaces. He wondered what's the message that the Arts Commission is trying to create? He agreed with Ms. Rigoni's suggestions that they hone their message, backed by data, and ask the Board for more funds. He also agreed that it is important that each Commissioner talks and connects with people in their districts. He gave several examples how he has been connecting schools, local government, artists and donors/sponsors in District 1 with favorable results.

Ms. Rigoni thanked Commissioner Seymour and added that the CSW chose two focus areas for the year, formed subcommittees for each area, and then collected lots of data to make it easier to ask the Board for more funds. She suggested that the Commission invite members of the CSW to a future Arts Commission meeting to talk about the process and also that the Commissioners review their report which is on their website.

Commissioner Nair added that the Commission did that a few years ago, choosing the topic of climate change, specifically sea level rise and how it related to the arts but there was no follow up and maybe we could pick that up again.

Commissioner Fried shared that she sat on a panel with the Admin-Manager and other Commissions for the County's Civic 101 Class to share with them how the Commissions work and the importance they play in our County.

B. Action/Work Plan for 2025

Commissioner Magbilang suggested that the Commissioners take more time to think about what they would like to focus on and that it could be discussed at the next Commission meeting. She said she liked the idea of presenting to the Board but wanted to be clear on what they were asking for and how to get the data that would support the case. She added that she liked the idea of inviting members of the CSW to a future meeting.

Commissioner Shaikh asked Ms. Rigoni when the best time would be to make the ask of the Board. Ms. Rigoni stated that March or April. She also suggested that the Arts Commissioners other Commissions to see how they work.

Commissioner Seymour commented that it would be helpful to have a template to work from to record examples of programs/services/events in each district that would help build the narrative. He offered to be responsible for creating a template they could use.

C. Current and Potential Subcommittees

Commissioner Shaikh reiterated that she felt that there was a lot of redundancy between the groups and that they should consider folding some of the groups into the others.

Commissioner Deciron reported that the Toolkit was complete and ready to send to Ms. Rigoni for her review. Following the review and edits made, it would need to be distributed and then work with the Admin-Manager to find a place on the Arts Commission website to post it.

D. Updates from Commissioners on activities in their district

Commissioner Seymour shared that she had recently joined the San Bruno Arts Commission to be more involved in his city's art scene. He also announced that he will be heading up the visual and performing arts areas of the San Mateo County Fair in June and asked the Arts Commissioners if they would be interested in being more involved this year. Commissioner Magbilang suggested that we add it to the next Arts Commission agenda for discussion.

Commissioner Nair reported that she had been busy working on a film project and Commissioner Fried said she had been writing poetry.

Commissioner Deciron noted that she attended the Fog Fest in Pacifica, the walk to school with Ruby Bridges school event, and the Sanchez Art Center's show. She has also worked with the sea level rising issues in her community.

Commissioner Shaikh said that she had served on a panel for SV Creates and ACTA (Alliance for California Traditional Arts) that discussed cultural art practices. These practices often take the format of a master and an apprentice transmission of legacy. She suggested that the Arts Commission and OAC may want to consider a similar event. She added that she attended the Day of the Dead Celebration hosted by Casa Circulo Cultural and that it was an amazing event and encouraged others to attend in the future. She also shared that the Redwood City Parks & Art Foundation has an open call for their art program at CZI and asked the Commissioners to share the opportunity with their networks.

Commissioner Magbilang said that she too attended the Day of The Dead pre-event which was also impressive. Her organization, the Daly City Public Library Associates held their Art & Lit Fest which was very successful. She also attended a Youth Arts event in Brisbane.

7. Action Item

A. Discussion and potential revisions to meeting schedule for 2025

The Chair stated that she had talked to each of the Arts Commissioners individually and there was consensus that they needed to meet monthly. Commissioner Seymour stated that he could not commit to meeting monthly as he traveled a lot. Commissioner Fried suggested that maybe they could meet 8 to 10 times a year rather than monthly.

The Chair noted that the by-laws stated that the Commissioners must attend 2/3 of all the meetings.

A motion to increase the meeting from 6 to 10 a year, excluding June and December was made by Commissioner Shaikh and seconded by Commissioner Nair. Approved unanimously.

B. Revise the by-laws to change the meeting schedule

Due to the shortage of time, the Chair suggested that the Commission vote on changing the bylaws until the next meeting.

Commissioner Magbilang thanked everyone for their work and participation.

8. Adjournment

Chair adjourned the meeting at 5:23 pm.

NEXT REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING: January 15, 2025 – 3:00-5:00 PM