



**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](http://www.smcgov.org/smcac)**



**REGULAR MEETING OF THE ARTS COMMISSION**  
**Wednesday, January 15, 2025 – 3:00 - 5:00 p.m.**  
**455 County Center, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Room 101, Redwood City, CA 94063**

**MINUTES**

- 1. Roll Call** Chair, Commissioner Magbilang called the meeting to order at 3:06 with roll call.  
In Attendance: Commissioners Jones, Magbilang, Fried, and Deciron  
Absent: Commissioners Seymour, Heise, Nair, Shaikh and Anoa'i  
Staff: Aimee Shapiro, Mara Grimes, Jacki Rigoni  
Guest: Florence Wong, Commission on Disabilities, Allison Gamlen, the Visual and Performing Arts Coordinator of the San Mateo County Office of Education
- 2. Agenda Amendments**  
None
- 3. Oral Communications**  
None
- 4. Consideration of Minutes** of November 20, 2024, regular meeting minutes and December 11, 2024, special meeting minutes. Minutes were not considered as there was not a quorum in attendance. Will be voted on at the February 19, 2025, meeting.
- 5. Staff Reports**  
**Jacki Rigoni:**
  - Ms. Rigoni noted that the County welcomed its two newest Board of Supervisors, Jackie Speier of District 1 and Lisa Gauthier of District 4. David Canepa of District 5 is the new Board President and Supervisor Corzo of District 2 is the new Vice President. The new Commission and Committee assignments have been made and Supervisor Corzo will continue to work with the Arts Commission.
  - She reiterated the importance of the Poet Laureate and asked that Commissioners help spread the word to increase the reach in their districts as the deadline has been extended until January 22.  
**Aimee Shapiro:** Director shared that the County Communication Team wrote a story about the Poet Laureate application, and it was picked up by other news media. To date the OAC has received five applications, and she hoped that the media attention will result in more applications as more voices are preferred. Updates for OAC:
  - The OAC is working on several youth programs. The Poetry Out Loud Competition will be held online on February 6. The Youth Arts Fellows are currently working on finalizing their events and programs which will take place from March to May. They have many good ideas but need more follow up. She asked that the Arts Commissioners attend the events if possible and will have the dates soon.

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- Artwork was installed 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 County is also considering purchasing artwork for the new building and she is working on a public art purchase policy before building the collection. She stated that there is a need to clean, repair, and care for some of the current artworks.
- The OAC has been working on finalizing the first draft of a list of gallery spaces, nonprofits, arts businesses, and classes that she plans to share with each Supervisor.

**Mara Grimes:**

- Navigation Center Mural –has been completed and a small celebration with Life Moves and the artist Heather Hardison will be held in February. Details coming soon.
- Youth Services Center Mural – Three muralists will begin work with the youth on January 21. They will be meeting twice a week for 2 hours. The youth will help create the artwork both conceptually and literally. The mural is scheduled to be completed by the end of February.
- Women’s View 2025 Art Exhibition – the exhibit will be held at Twin Pines Art Center in Belmont from March 5 – 30. The application will open on January 22 until February 19. It is open to all women-identifying, non-binary, and gender nonconforming artists living or working in the County. A reception will be held, hosted by the Commission on the Status of Women, our partner, date to be determined soon. We will need their help hanging the artwork and hope they will attend the reception.
- The OAC is working with the Office of Racial and Social Justice for a contest of digital artwork to use on their website, in reports, presentations, convenings, collateral, and other projects. Original painting, photography, sculpture, digital illustration, textiles and mixed media are welcome. The launch will be in February, and we ask that they help promote to their networks.
- In celebration of Earth Day, the OAC is partnering with the County Office of Sustainability to hold a Climate Ribbon event in April. The event will interactive art installation encouraging participants to reflect on this central question: What do you love and hope to never lose to climate change? County employees and members of the public can share their responses to this question by writing on recycled ribbons and hanging these on a display. We are also arranging live performances related to climate change.
- The Admin-Manager reminded the group about the January 25 Poetry event in South San Francisco featuring CA Poet Laureate Lee Herrick, CA Youth Poet Laureate Chloe Chou and many of the San Mateo County Poet Laureate Emerita.

**Aimee Shapiro:** The Director stated that the month of April is Arts Advocacy Month and that the OAC will be participating again this year as a State Local Partner for the CA Arts Council. She invited the Arts Commissioners to get involved too. The statewide event will take place on April 23 in Sacramento where advocates meet with their elected representatives to reinforce the impact that arts and culture have on our communities and their constituents. We will have more details soon on ways to get involved.

**6. Presentation**

Commissioner Magbilang introduced Allison Gamlen, the Visual and Performing Arts Coordinator of the San Mateo County Office of Education. She added that agreed to present to the Arts Commissioner ways that the Office of Education was already working with the OAC and ways the Arts Commission could do so too.

- Ms. Gamlen thanked the Arts Commissioners for the opportunity to talk with them and for their past work on Art Takes a Bus Ride. She reminded them that the artwork would be reviewed on January 23, and they were all welcome to participate in choosing the artwork to go on the buses. She also said that she has created a Digital Art Contest in all the disciplines and that all were welcome to serve on those panels as well, just let her know.
- She also stated that the OAC was also working with her and other partners on an Arts Conference to take place on October 1.
- The Arts Leadership Council titled Create San Mateo County represents all the elementary and high school districts in the County. The purpose is to share information and plan for next year, especially in terms of Proposition 28 usage. The group has met several times both online and in person and is picking up steam. At the last meeting the idea of vertical planning was highlighted as it is important that schools understand how art programs in the elementary feed up through the middle schools and then the high schools. She noted that all schools are required by the education code to provide access to all five art disciplines, yet music is the only art form that every school provides. This becomes an

equity issue because if some schools do not offer the arts, the students are denied access to some of the disciplines due to lack of experience and training.

- In addition to the Office of Arts and Culture, another partner is Career Tech Education, CTE, which is a work-based program in the arts learning job skills. She said that there is a lot of funding available, and it is tied to the labor market data. Students can get college credit for some of their work.
- Ms. Wong shared that she was a past Burlingame School Board Member and that one of the major problems with Proposition 28 is that there are not enough qualified teachers to teach art. Ms. Gamlen explained that a district could apply for a waiver to use an arts education nonprofit or teaching artist. She went on to report that California needs 15,000 teachers are only has 7,000 credentialed teachers in the pipeline and is relaxing requirements to meet the needs.

## **7. Discussion Items**

### **A. Survey of Arts and Culture and Arts Organizations**

The Director stated that the OAC would like the Arts Commission's help in surveying the organization listed on the document lists arts organizations, etc. which she referred to earlier in the meeting. She suggested that the OAC would send a list of organizations including contact information to each Arts Commissioner by district with rubric questions. She noted that each Commissioner would be asked to speak with the organizations preferably in person using survey questions supplied by the OAC. She stated that she would like to start the last week of January and have the surveys completed by the end of February. This would help to gather the data that the Commissioners need to make their case to the Board of Supervisors for funds.

Commissioner Magbilang agreed that this would give the Arts Commissioners the opportunity to get out and meet with the arts organizations in their district and understands their needs.

Ms. Rigoni reiterated that the work done by the CSW, was a long process that could not be rushed; they took a lot of time gathering the important data to support their claims to the Board of Supervisors. Their surveys were in person and online and they used a comprehensive tracking system to make sure the data was complete. She again suggested that we invite them to present at the next Arts Commission meeting.

Director assured the group they had been invited and had accepted.

### **B. Discussion of Arts Commission involvement in the County Fair**

Commissioner Magbilang revealed that she was taking a bigger role in the County Fair this year and asked if the Commissioners would like to be more involved. She went on to say that Commissioner Seymour has really built up the fine arts section of the fair and that it was really fun and rewarding to support his efforts. She asked those in attendance if they were interested in being more involved and they all agreed. She noted that this would also be a good way for the Arts Commission to get more visibility and that they could even have a booth there.

### **C. Updates from Commissioners on activities in their district**

Commissioner Jones shared that she had recently attended an event at Sound Union in Redwood city. She said it was a really fun event which featured Karaoke. She said she was new to this venue which has practice studios for musicians and a great venue space and would definitely recommend it to others.

Commissioner Fried stated that she has been and will be busy with poetry in many different forms such as the County Poet Laureate search and serving on the selection committee, Poetry Out Loud as a judge, the City of Belmont's MLK Poetry and Essay event for youth, a memorial event for poet Nikki Giovanni. She also plans to be a judge for Art Takes a Bus Ride.

Commissioner Deciron noted that she promoted the get together hosted by Supervisor Mueller at his district office on the coast. She also added that she would very much like to finalize the toolkit and send the final version to Ms. Rigoni for review. Ms. Rigoni said she would be happy to take another look.

Commissioner Magbilang suggested that the partnership document needs to be finalized too. She shared that the Daly City Youth Poet Laureates were invited to read in Half Moon Bay at their Make it Main Street event and there was a good turnout. She has plans to check out the new Kapwa Center in Daly City which is a wellness space addressing the needs of the Filipino Community. She reminded the group that Mission Fusion's Dance event was February 6-8.

## **7. Action Item – topics were not considered as there was not a quorum in attendance. Will be voted on at the February 19, 2025, meeting.**

- A. Discussion and potential revisions to meeting schedule for 2025
- B. Revise the by-laws to change the meeting schedule

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Commissioner Magbilang thanked everyone for their work and participation.

**8. Adjournment**

Chair adjourned the meeting at 4:45 pm.

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