



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, March 19, 2025 – 3:00 - 5:00 p.m.

455 County Center, 1st Floor, Room 101, Redwood City, CA 94063

MINUTES

- 1. Roll Call** Chair, Commissioner Magbilang called the meeting to order at 3:01 with roll call.
In Attendance: Commissioners Jones, Magbilang, Fried, Shaikh, Heise, and Anoa'i
Absent: Commissioners Nair, Deciron, and Seymour
Staff: Aimee Shapiro, Mara Grimes, Jacki Rigoni
Guest: Florence Wong, Commission on Disabilities
- 2. Agenda Amendments**
None
- 3. Oral Communications**
None
- 4. Consideration of Minutes** of November 20, 2024, January 15, 2025, and February 19, 2025, regular meeting minutes. Admin-Manager noted that she had discussed with County Council the issue of quorum and voting on minutes even if Commissioners were not in attendance. She was advised by Council that the Arts Commission by-laws that quorum was determined by the number of Commissioners in attendance at the meeting but not less than 3. Motion to approve the minutes was made by Commissioner Heise and seconded by Commissioner Fried. Approved unanimously.
- 5. Staff Reports**
Aimee Shapiro: Director thanked the Commissioners for all of their support for the Women's View Art Exhibition. She appreciated help from Commissioner Fried for assisting with the intake of the artworks, Commissioner Deciron for the gallery guide, and all the Commissioners that attended the reception which had over 200 guests. She noted that the Admin-Manager has reserved the space for next year. Updates for OAC:
 - The selection committee interviewed the top two applicants for the 2025-26 Poet Laureate and made their recommendation. We are awaiting approval from the CEO with the goal to notify the poet this week, announce publicly on April 1 and have them appointed at the Board of Supervisor's meeting on April 8, 2025.
 - Supervisor Gauthier opened two seats for Arts Commissioners and encouraged both Commissioners Heise and Shaikh to apply for the positions. Supervisor Speier also posted an opening. Commissioner Heise asked if Commissioner Seymour had not termed out. Director stated that the Supervisor only wants to open the one spot at this time.
 - Two of the five Youth Arts Fellows have hosted their programs; A figure drawing session for high school students and a music program with over 15 youth musicians that entertained the audience for almost 2 hours. There will be three more programs in April.
 - Arts Advocacy Day is on April 23 and will be held in Sacramento. The Director shared that she is a captain and has set up meetings with Diane Papan and Catherine Stefani to advocate for the

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importance of the arts. More information will be coming, and she encouraged the Commissioners to sign up and join us.

Mara Grimes:

- Causeway mural project is still moving forward. We are waiting on permits from Redwood City to get approved soon.
- The Youth Services Center mural has been completed and we attended a very impactful unveiling with the Youth, YSC staff and the muralists. The YSC is so pleased with the results that they would like to add to the mural and the muralists have been asked to submit an additional proposal for review.
- The 2025 Grantee convening is confirmed from Monday, April 7, 4:00 – 5:30pm. Arts Commissioners are invited to attend and meet the grantees.
- The Admin-Manager continues to look for spaces around the County to exhibit the affinity art shows such as CORA, Disability Showcase, Voices of Recovery, etc. A list has been created and she asked the Commissioners to contact her if they have suggestions of venues in their districts.
- 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 have an 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. Lyrical Opposition and Aileen Cassinetta will perform. She noted that the ribbons were available to use later in the meeting.

Jacki Rigoni: Ms. Rigoni reported that it was currently the County's budget season. The Board of Supervisors recently held a retreat to discuss the priorities. She reminded the Commissioners that now was the time to speak up and that public comments at Board meetings and letters were a good way to support their cause.

- She said that the County is focused on making sure that residents know their rights especially immigrants, and she said that we could call the community hotline to report incidences with ICE.
- She said that the County was honoring Transgender Flag Raising on March 26, 9:00am at County Center.
- The deadline for the District 1 Arts Commissioner position is April 4, 2025, and she encouraged the Commissioners to help spread the word. Reaching out personally is the most effective way to recruit people if possible.
- Supervisor Corzo's office will be sponsoring proclamations for both National Poetry Month and Arts, Culture, and Creativity Month. She suggested that this would be a great time for the Arts Commission to step up and accept the award, sharing a short presentation showing the impact of their work.

7. Discussion Items

A. Arts Commission involvement and role in the County Art Fair

Commissioner Magbilang stated that she wanted to clarify the Arts Commission's role in the County Fair this year. She noted that as it is the largest art event in San Mateo County, the management is a paid position, and that she and Commissioner Seymour did not mean to convey the idea of taking over the management but collaboration and participation in the event. The fair has a huge audience, and this would be a great opportunity for both the Arts Commission and the Office of Arts and Culture to gain visibility. There are specific areas that they would like to invite the Arts Commission to assist.

Commissioner Shaikh said it makes good sense for the Commission to be involved and that she had specific information for dancers which she had already shared with Commissioner Deciron.

Commissioner Jones suggested that Commissioners Magbilang and Seymour create a sign-up sheet with needs listed. Commissioner Magbilang said she would do that as the Commissioners are the advocates and connectors in each district for arts and culture and would be an asset.

Commissioner Heise asked if the Commission could ask the Board of Supervisors for support. Ms. Rigoni stated that they could call a special meeting but that they must follow what is on the agenda.

B. The Climate Ribbon Project and activity

The project was discussed earlier in the Admin-Manager's report and the Commissioners worked on making their own ribbons to be included in the art installation.

C. Updates from Commissioners on activities in their district

Commissioner Anoa'i reported that he had been working in the area of climate justice with kids and on May 2, 2025, will hold an AAPI awards ceremony. He is also working on after-school/work Polynesian cultural arts program titled Ata Mai Cultural Arts, to celebrate their 4th Voyage titled "Le Afi: The Fire Within" serving

families from all throughout the county which will be held on April 26. He invited the Commissioners to attend.

Commissioner Shaikh shared that she attended the SVCCreates South Bay Art Summit. There was a panel, keynote, artists, and arts and culture nonprofits. She has been thinking about the Thrive social/racial justice panel in our region and would like to partner with others in a similar way. She also attended the Thrive social media workshop with the Admin-Manager. She noted that the Center for Creativity was holding an open house on March 20 from 11:30am – 1:30pm.

Commissioner Jones noted that she had been ill much of the month but did attend a film in Palo Alto.

Commissioner Magbilang said that she has been working on the Daly City Youth Poet Laureate program and that they have chosen the next Poet Laureate, thanks to Commissioner Fried who was one of the judges on the selection committee. They will be announcing the event on April 30 in Daly City at City Hall at 6:00pm and encouraged the Commissioners to attend. Max Espinola the, the current Daly City Youth Poet Laureate will be hosting his event at the Kapwa Kultural Center in Daly City. She has also is working with Commissioner Seymour on the San Mateo County Fair.

Commissioner Fried said that she has been focused on poetry and has served as a judge for the Belmont Martin Luther King Poetry and Essay Contest, the Daly City Youth Poet Laureate position, Poetry Out Loud and the San Mateo County Poet Laureate selection committee. She is also working with many County libraries to present her Juneteenth program again this year and hopes the Commission will participate in one of the workshops. She invited the Commissioner's to attend Belmont's monthly poetry night online hosted by their Poet Laureate, Monica Korde.

Commissioner Heise attended the RWCARTs potluck at the Center for Creativity and also attended a tour there. She was impressed on the transformation of the venue. She attended the Women's View reception and the monthly RWCARTS meeting. She is also giving tours at the San Francisco Museums and noted that people are coming looking for community and seeking peace.

8. Action Item

A. *Discussion and potential revisions to meeting schedule for 2025.*

Motion to approve to change the meeting time to 3:30 – 5:00pm was made by Commissioner Anoa'i and seconded by Commissioner Shaikh. Approved unanimously.

Commissioner Magbilang thanked everyone for their work and participation.

9. Adjournment

Chair adjourned the meeting at 4:49 pm.

NEXT REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING: April 16, 2025 – 3:30-5:00 PM