



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, April 16, 2025 – 3:30 - 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 3:32 with roll call.
In Attendance: Commissioners Magbilang, Fried, Shaikh, Seymour, and Deciron
Absent: Commissioners Anoa'i, Jones, Heise, and Nair
Staff: Mara Grimes, Jacki Rigoni
Guest: Florence Wong, Commission on Disabilities
2. **Agenda Amendments**
None
3. **Oral Communications**
None
4. **Consideration of Minutes** of March 19, 2025, regular meeting minutes. Commissioner Deciron noted that she was not at the March 19, meeting and asked to have the minutes corrected. Motion to approve the minutes with the correction was made by Commissioner Shaikh and seconded by Commissioner Fried. Approved unanimously.
5. **Staff Reports**
Mara Grimes:
 - The 2025 Grantee convening on Monday, April 7 was very inspirational. Thanks to the Arts Commissioners that attended. The participants had a very good, and the grantees are already talking about ways to partner and would like more gatherings like this one.
 - The Admin-Manager thanked the Commissioners for an outstanding presentation of their work at the Board of Supervisors meeting on April 8. She reported that it was well received and exciting to see them set up and receive the proclamation for Arts Culture and Creativity Month. It was exciting to have the new Poet Laureate present an original poem and accept the proclamation for National Poetry Month. The Poet Laureate celebration will be held on May 5, 2025.
 - 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 partnered with the County Office of Sustainability to hold a Climate Ribbon event on April 10 which focused on the question of, "What are you afraid of losing to climate change." The event featured an interactive art installation and performances by Aileen Cassinetto and Lyrical Opposition. It was well attended and well received.
 - Causeway mural project is still moving forward. We are waiting on permits from Redwood City to get approved soon.
 - We are working on an RFP for the Cordilleras Mental Health Facility for original outdoor landscape furniture. We will need an Arts Commissioner to serve on the selection committee.

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.

Jacki Rigoni: Ms. Rigoni congratulated the Arts Commission on their presentation at the Board of Supervisors meeting on April 8, 2025. She stated that the presentation was very moving, especially with the presentation of the new Poet Laureate, Antonio López, following them. She is very excited for the energy he will bring to the County. Supervisor Corzo was happy to sponsor proclamations for both National Poetry Month and Arts, Culture, and Creativity Month. She announced that that Measure K grants were open in District 1 for issues such as immigrant resources, housing, emergency resources, etc. and recommended that potential applicants check the website for more information on the focus areas.

6. Discussion Items

A. Arts Commission surveying of arts and culture organizations in their district; set goals and timeline for survey results

Commissioner Magbilang stated that she wanted to clarify the goals, timeline and potential questions regarding the survey.

Commissioner Shaikh noted that some work had already been done by the Commissioners in this area. She added that the Advocacy Toolkit on the website has outdated information and was maybe more information than was needed. The survey should assess what they nonprofits are currently doing and what are the needs. The purpose of gathering this information would be to help advocate for their needs to the Supervisors. Ms. Rigoni reminded the group that it would help to empower them and the organizations to make public comments in person or virtually at Board of Supervisors to make their needs and the services/programs they provide known.

The Admin-Manager specified that the recent Art & Culture grant applications clearly indicated some of the needs such as rent, fair wages and health benefits for employees, basic needs, not new programming.

Ms. Rigoni suggested that the group have clear needs such as 43% of the nonprofits surveyed need funds to pay rent, etc. She noted that the Commission should look at the report generated by the Center for Creativity as it revealed much of this information. She reminded the group that the County government exists to provide a safety net for the most vulnerable and questions around those needs will help to strengthen the case for additional funding. Connecting the arts to jobs, taxes, income and mental health is important.

Commissioner Seymour added that it would be important to determine needs and obstacle for success, what are the benefits and impact of the organization. Commissioner Shaikh stated that it is often difficult to define success, as impact can be both tangible (tickets sold) and intangible (life changing for some.) She went on to say that it was important that we capture all of the artistic genres as needs and impact are often different.

B. Form subcommittees for survey questions, handouts to give organizations, and advocacy toolkit updates

Commissioner Magbilang recommended that the Commission set up subcommittees to further their work.

Commissioner Seymour suggested that they create a timeline to capture milestones.

Ms. Rigoni noted that the Commission on the Status of Women created a timeline and that the tasks needed to get to the goal of creating a report of their findings and presenting them to the Board of Supervisors took over a year. She went on to state that April seems like the best time for the Arts Commission to aim for since that is when Arts, Culture, and Creativity Month and National Poetry Month take place.

Commissioner Fried added that it is important that they keep the momentum going that started in April.

Commissioner Deciron said that she would create a timeline for the group.

Commissioner Shaikh said she would be willing to work on finalizing survey questions. She added that it would be helpful create a handout (both digital and paper) with the goals of the survey and information about the Arts Commission and the Office of Arts and Culture which could be sent with the survey questions.

Commissioner Seymour stated that he would be responsible for creating the handouts.

Ms. Rigoni recommended that when the Commissioners have their initial meeting with their Supervisor, that they ask them how they would like to be updated in the future.

Commissioners Fried and Shaikh agreed to work on the updating of the toolkit.

Commissioner Magbilang advised that she would reach out to the other Commissioners that were not in attendance at this meeting about serving on subcommittees.

C. Updates from Commissioners on activities in their district

Commissioner Fried said that she has continues to be focused on poetry, now at the San Mateo County Fair. She is working on the Daly City Youth Poet Laureate Commencement for which she served as a judge and is also workers as a mentor with one of the finalists. She attended the Belmont monthly poetry night online hosted Belmont Poet Laureate, Monica Korde, and the featured guest was California Poet Laureate, Lee Herrick. She is also doing a reading on April 27 at the Domini Hoskins Museum.

Commissioner Seymour noted that this was the first year that the San Mateo County Fair was adding poetry and dance to their programming. He is focusing his efforts now on building out the fine arts at the fair. He also worked with Nounie Siy of Atelier for Healing to curate a women's show with eleven artists at One Love Café in San Bruno. Ms. Siy is hoping to work with him to set up a residency for artists at his house in San Miguel.

Commissioner Deciron created the Gallery Guide for the Women’s Show and also the presentation for the Board of Supervisors. She shared that she personally stepped out of her comfort zone and took a writer’s workshop which included a discussion about the use of AI. She noted that upcoming events on the coast include Music at Winter’s Tavern and the Left Coast Art Show at Sanchez Art Center in Pacifica and the Pelican Fest and Dream Machines.

Commissioner Shaikh shared that she was heading to Sacramento for the Dance West Event and Arts, Culture and Creativity Summit and Advocacy day. She attended the Arts RWC meetings. The Center for Creativity and Art Bias is hosting fundraisers hosting paint and sip nights with local artists and encouraged participation.

Commissioner Magbilang said that she has been working on the Daly City Youth Poet Laureate Commencement event on April 30 in Daly City at City Hall at 6:00pm and encouraged the Commissioners to attend. San Mateo County Poet Laureate Antonio López, and Chloe Chou, the CA Youth Poet Laureate will be there. Max Espinola the, the current Daly City Youth Poet Laureate will be hosting his event at the Kapwa Kultural Center in Daly City. She also attended Daly City’s Arts and Culture Commission’s 10th anniversary and a dance show at Skyline College. She has also is working with Commissioner Seymour on the San Mateo County Fair and is looking for volunteers to help with intake but also to take turns at tabling for the Arts Commission and will send information soon.

7. Action Item

A. None

8. Adjournment

Commissioner Magbilang thanked everyone for their work and participation and adjourned the meeting at 5:10 pm.

NEXT REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING: May 21, 2025 – 3:30-5:00 PM