



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, July 16, 2025 — 3:30 PM to 5:00 PM**  
**NEW LOCATION: 400 County Center, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor,**  
**Criminal Justice Training Room, Redwood City, CA 94063**

**MINUTES**

- 1. Roll Call** Chair, Commissioner Magbilang called the meeting to order at 3:31PM with roll call.  
In Attendance: Commissioners Magbilang, Fried, Shaikh, Jones, and Seymour  
Absent: Commissioners Deciron, Anoa'i, and Nair  
Staff: Mara Grimes, Aimee Shapiro, Jacki Rigoni  
Guest: Florence Wong, Commission on Disabilities, Stanley Logwood and Malia Fonongaloo, Hoover Summer Interns  
The Director introduced Stan and Malia who are working over the summer as interns for the OAC, the Office of Community Affairs and the Office of Social and Racial Justice. She added that they had been helping all the departments catch up on work that is sometimes hard to get to during the year but essential.
- 2. Agenda Amendments**  
None
- 3. Oral Communications**  
None
- 4. Consideration of Minutes** of May 15, 2025, regular meeting minutes. Motion to approve by Commissioner Seymour and seconded by Commissioner Shaikh. Roll call vote and approved unanimously.
- 5. Staff Reports**  
**Aimee Shapiro:**  
The Director reported:
  - New artwork has been installed in the lobby at 500 County Center, representing the County and the greater Bay Area with artwork from artists from East Palo Alto, Atherton, Pacifica, San Jose, and Kentfield.
  - With the help of Arts Commissioner Stephen Seymour, skateboard decks that were part of the San Mateo County Fair summer competition, were installed in the lobby of 555 County Center.
  - The application for the 2025-26 Youth Arts Fellows has been posted and applications are due on August 3. One youth from each supervisorial district will be selected. She asked that the Commissioners help promote the opportunity to youth in the district.
  - She is working on a public art policy that would provide 1% of the cost from County capital building projects either new or remodeled, up to \$250K. The 1% would be used to support public art at the project site.

*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 500 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](mailto: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.*

**Admin-Manager:**

- Working with a group in South San Francisco hosting an event, Cultura Fest in August. She is helping with the Bay Area youth poetry competition, promoting to youth and as a judge. The SMC Poet Laureate and a representative from Bay Area Creative will also be judges.
- Most of her time has been focused on the September Arts & Culture Fest (see below.)

**Jacki Rigoni:**

- The Board of Supervisors is on recess in the month of July. They are using the time off to catch up and to do some big thinking and planning for the future. Supervisor Corzo will be the board president in January. She reported that the Board passed a balanced budget with special care for programs like childcare, transportation, and housing. They are also advocating for the arts and the family justice center. August 26 is Women's Equality Day and will be recognized by the Board in addition to an event hosted by the Commission on the status of Women.

**Arts Commission:**

- Commissioner Magbilang introduced Anna Westendorf who will be sworn in as the newest Arts Commissioner from District 4 in August. She also reported that Commissioner Deciron from District 3 had resigned as she was moving out of the country. She asked if one of the Commissioners would be willing to be a taskmaster who would take notes on what needed to get done between meetings. The notes would be provided to the Admin-Manager to send to the Commissioners. Commissioner Shaikh volunteered to do so. She indicated it would be a running list and live on Google Drive with other Arts Commission documents.

**6. Discussion Items****A. 2025-26 Survey Project Timeline Update, Subcommittee Formation, and work time**

Commissioner Magbilang suggested that the group review the timeline and update it as needed. Upon review it was decided that the group form two subcommittees, one to work on an email to the supervisors and one to work on the survey questions. The goal of these subcommittees is to ensure good communication and accountability for the project.

Ms. Rigoni added that with many commissions, most of the work is done in subcommittees, based on their work plan.

Commissioner Shaikh suggested that the Commission work towards building strong recommendations for the Supervisors and help them to see the impact that the arts have on the County. The surveys should provide numbers and concrete data to support the recommendations.

The Director said the report could be like a state of the arts in the County, providing data and personal anecdotal stories.

Ms. Rigoni stated that it was important to give the Supervisors data and tie the arts to being an economic driver in the County by including the number of artists and arts/culture organizations, lowest paid, biggest issues, etc. She reminded the Commissioners that it was their job to advise the Supervisors of the needs of the art community. It is important that they let the Supervisors know what they are working on.

The Director reminded the Commissioners that they need not wait until the survey; that they can show up either in person or online to make a public comment at the Board of Supervisors' meetings.

**B. September Arts & Culture Fest 9-28 Updates**

The Admin-Manager said that the September Arts & Culture Fest planning is going well. She continues to work closely with partners, The San Mateo Area Chamber of Commerce and the Downtown Association of San Mateo. In addition to the performing and visual artists, this year we will include a Poetry Corner hosted at Chill Spot Rendezvous near the venue which is being managed by Arts Commissioner Fried. She asked that Commissioners share the information with artists, poets and arts/culture organizations in their district as the deadline to apply to participate has been extended to August 1, 2025. Additionally, she asked them to make sure that the date was on their calendar and that she would have a volunteer sign-up sheet with ways the Commissioners could support the event.

**C. Reschedule of October 15, 2025, Arts Commission meeting**

Commissioner Magbilang stated she and several of the other Arts Commissioners are not available to meet on the scheduled October 15, 2025, meeting and asked to change or skip the meeting. The Commission agreed to add this item to the September agenda as an action item so that it could be voted on.

**D. Updates from Commissioners on activities in their district**

Commissioner Shaikh wanted to make sure that the Commissioners knew that the National Endowment for the Arts budget was cut by \$37M, 35% of the total from the previous budget.

Time ran out and the Commissioners could not report on their activities.

**7. Action Item**

- A. None

**8. Adjournment**

Commissioner Magbilang thanked everyone for their work and participation and adjourned the meeting at 4:59 pm.

**NEXT REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING: August 20, 2025 – 3:30-5:00 PM**

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