



Stephen Seymour, District 1
VACANT, District 1
VACANT, District 2
Lois Fried, District 2
Andrea Jones, Dist. 3
VACANT, District 3
Anna Westendorf, 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, August 20, 2025 — 3:30 PM to 5:00 PM
NEW LOCATION: 400 County Center, 1st Floor,
Criminal Justice Training Room, Redwood City, CA 94063

MINUTES

- 1. Swearing in of Farah Yasmeen Shaikh and Anna Westendorf by Supervisor Gauthier**
- 2. Roll Call** Chair, Commissioner Magbilang called the meeting to order at 3:32PM with roll call.
In Attendance: Commissioners Magbilang, Fried, Shaikh, Anoa'i, Seymour, and Westendorf
Absent: Commissioner Jones
Staff: Mara Grimes, Aimee Shapiro, Jacki Rigoni
Guests: Florence Wong, Commission on Disabilities, and Joshua Caspillan, Supervisor Gauthier's Office
Ms. Wong shared that the Commission on Disabilities is partnering with the Office of Arts and Culture for their annual Disabilities Arts Showcase the month of October. This year it will be held at the Center for Creativity. Supervisor Gauthier's office is underwriting the costs of a reception and artist workshop.
Mr. Caspillan shared that Supervisor Gauthier was partnering with Assemblymember Papan for an art competition for District 4 youth focused on the labor movement. The deadline is August 29, 2025.
- 3. Agenda Amendments**
None
- 3. Oral Communications**
None
- 4. Assignment of a task recorder**
Commissioner Magbilang asked if one of the Commissioners would be willing to be a taskmaster for this meeting and reminded the Commissioners that it is a running list and lives on the Google Drive with other Arts Commission documents. Commissioner Fried volunteered to do so.
- 5. Staff Reports**
Director:
The Director reported:
 - Commissioner Nair has resigned from the Commission. She stated that there are also vacancies in District 1 and 3 and that interviews will be conducted soon. A vacancy notice for District 2 will be posted soon.
 - The Causeway Mural on Winslow Street in Redwood City is going up now and is almost halfway complete. There will be signage on the street, a small reception, and the artwork will be featured on the website soon.
 - With the help of Arts Commissioner Stephen Seymour, skateboard decks that were part of the San Mateo County Fair competition, were installed in the lobby of 555 County Center.
 - The OAC is hosting a reception for the new artwork in the lobby of 500 County Center on August 28, 2025, and the Commissioners are invited to attend. The event is open to the public.

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. 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.

- The public art project at the Cordilleras Medical Facility has changed from outdoor furniture to a sculpture. Details are being worked on.

Admin-Manager

- The application for the 2025-26 Youth Arts Fellows has been posted and the application deadline has been extended to August 24. She asked Commissioners to share the opportunity with their networks.
- She has been working with Ricardo Archilla, the founder of Cultura Fest in South San Francisco on August 23, focused on celebrating the culture of El Salvador. One of the events is a poetry competition for Bay Area teens and the teen who won the competition will recite their poem at the event. She encouraged the Commissioners to attend if possible.
- Work promoting Poetry Out Loud will launch on September 1 and the OAC is looking to grow the program again this year. The Poet Laureate will be a part of the competition. He has presented at several events this year and will be hosting an event on September 6 at Feldman's Books in Menlo Park.

Jacki Rigoni:

- The Board of Supervisors was on recess in the month of July and are back in full swing now. 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 at an event featuring Supervisor Corzo, Gauthier and Speier. The removal of the Sherrif continues to take much of their time. She encouraged the Commissioners to attend future Board of Supervisors meeting either in person or on Zoom and make a public comment about the importance of the arts.

6. Discussion Items

A. Arts Commission representation and public comments at future San Mateo County Board of Supervisors Meetings

Ms. Rigoni encouraged the Commissioners to attend future Board of Supervisors meeting either in person or on Zoom and make a public comment about the importance of the arts. She noted that doing so makes a big impact on the Supervisors and the community.

The Director stated that she received many comments after both Commissioner Magbilang and Commissioner Shaikh made public comments and suggested that the Commissioners could take turns doing so in the future.

B. September Arts & Culture Fest 9-28 Updates

The Admin-Manager stated that the September Arts & Culture Fest planning was going well. In addition to the artists, performing groups, and poetry corner, Commissioners Seymour suggested an idea for a live mural competition.

Commissioner Seymour explained that many local groups are holding "Live Art Battles" around the Bay Area and he has been to several. He shared that they are very exciting, and the audience seems to love them. He suggested that we could do something similar with murals and open a call for 8-12 emerging artists/muralists to participate and paint on 4x8 wood panels. This would give them a chance to get their name out. The audience would be able to vote on their favorite, and the winner would be able to paint a permanent version of their mural on a wall. The Commissioners were all in favor of the idea. Commissioner Seymour volunteered to manage the project and work with the Admin-Manager. She stated that she will need volunteers in all areas of the event and will have a sign-up sheet at the next meeting.

C. Draft email to be sent to Supervisors by Commissioners

It was agreed that Ms. Rigoni and Commissioners Fried and Jones would work on drafting the email to be sent by each Commissioner to their Supervisor. They stated that having an email that all could use would make it easier and more efficient for the group.

Commissioner Shaikh added that we have an option to meet the Supervisor either in person or virtually and be sure to state that we want their input on the survey if they have any.

D. Review Timeline

While reviewing the timeline, it was clear that the emails would need to be sent soon, by September 17. It was suggested that one Commissioner in each district could send it and sign it from both Commissioners representing the District in those that had two Commissioners. Ms. Rigoni suggested that they cc the Staff of the Supervisor in addition to the Director and Admin-Manager.

E. Update and discussion on the progress of survey questions

The draft survey was presented and the Commissioners agreed that it would be most efficient to finalize it at the meeting. Commissioner Shaikh noted that it was important that the survey included questions that got at the heart of the issues and a platform that was easy to use. She added that there should be both an in-person and online option to respond to the survey.

Commissioner Westendorf added that having an online option makes it easier to share the survey with others that we may not know.

Some of the questions related to individual artists and the Admin-Manager noted that we do not have a good list of artists to send to and that those questions would be very different than the ones asked of arts/culture organizations.

Commissioner Shaikh agreed and added that a survey of individual artists of all art forms could be a separate survey later. Commissioner Seymour agreed that an artist focused survey would need very different questions. The Director suggested that maybe the Commission could survey different segments of the arts community in phases.

Commissioner Seymour suggested that they use Survey Monkey as the information that is received is then aggregated easily. Ms. Rigoni agreed and said that making it as easy as possible for people to respond is important and things like drop-down and “click here” choices would be helpful.

The Commissioners agreed that they could work in small groups outside this meeting and come prepared for the next steps at the September meeting.

7. Action Item

A. Cancellation of October 15, 2025, Arts Commission Meeting

Commissioner Magbilang stated that she could not attend the October meeting, and several other Commissioners could not either. She asked that the meeting be cancelled, and the Commissioners agreed unanimously.

8. Adjournment

Commissioner Magbilang thanked everyone for their work and participation and adjourned the meeting at 4:58 pm.

NEXT REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING: September 17, 2025 – 3:30-5:00 PM