



Stephen Seymour, District 1
Rachel Aloycius, District 1
John Estalilla, District 2
Lois Fried, District 2
VACANT, District 3
Andrea Jones, District 3
Anna Westendorf, District 4
Farah Yasmeen Shaikh, District 4
Victoria Magbilang, District. 5
Reno Anoa'i, District 5

County Executives's Office
500 County Center
Redwood City, CA 94063

www.smcgov.org/ceo/arts-commission



REGULAR MEETING OF THE ARTS COMMISSION
Wednesday, January 21, 2026 — 3:30 PM to 5:00 PM
LOCATION: Boards and Commissions Meeting Room
400 County Center, Redwood City, CA 94063

MINUTES

1. **Roll Call** Chair, Commissioner Magbilang called the meeting to order at 3:34PM with roll call.
In Attendance: Commissioners Magbilang, Fried, Seymour, Aloycius, Estalilla, and Jones
Absent: Commissioner Anoa'i, Shaikh, and Westendorf
Staff: Mara Grimes, Aimee Shapiro, Josh Caspillan
Guests: Frieda Edgette: Partnership Opportunity, Chair, Futures Commission Initiative, Florence Wong, Chair Commission on Disabilities
The Chair welcomed and introduced the newest Commissioner from District 2, John Estalilla. Commissioner Estalilla introduced himself and his work. The other Commissioners introduced themselves.
2. **Agenda Amendments**
None
3. **Oral Communications**
4. **Consideration of Minutes** of November 19, 2025, regular meeting minutes and December 1, 2025, special meeting minutes Motion to approve the minutes were made by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Fried. Approved unanimously.
5. **Assignment of a task recorder**
Commissioner Jones agreed to be the task recorder. The Commissioners can access the document in the Arts Commission folder on the OAC Google Drive.
6. **Staff Reports**
Director: The Director welcomed Commissioner Estalilla and introduced Josh Caspillan, the liaison to Supervisor Gauthier's office. She explained that each year the liaisons to the County Commissions are reviewed and often reassigned and that we will now work with Mr. Caspillan and Supervisor Gauthier.
 - Supervisor Gauthier has gifted the OAC with an art space in North Fair Oaks (NFO). It is a County owned building that has been used by Community Affairs, Job Train, and the Renaissance Entrepreneurship Center. We will take over the former Community Affairs space, and the other two organizations will remain. We held a listening session this month and will hold one on Saturday, January 24 with food, interpreters, and childcare by Casa Circulo Cultural. We presented to the NFO Council and met with RWC Together.
Mr. Caspillan added that he hopes the Arts Commissioners will share the information and attend if they are interested. He said that he sees this as one of the "art hubs" that seem to be picking up steam in the County.
Director stated that much like Center for Creativity and the Atelier for Healing, the NFO art space will become part of the proof of concept that these centers and wanted and needed in the County.
 - The five Youth Arts Fellows have been busy planning their community projects ranging from

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murals made of puzzle pieces by youth, a music and movement workshop for youth, an online arts and design magazine, and more. The projects will take place in the spring.

- Working with Marcus Young, a Visiting Artist and U.S. Cultural Policy Fellow at Stanford University to provide artists-in-residence in three County departments, Community Affairs, Sustainability, and the Office of Social and Racial Justice. Each artist will work with their assigned department for up to 40 hours over 2-4 months to integrate the arts into their work.
- Congratulations to Commissioner Jones and Danika Gonzalez Johnston (a former Youth Arts Fellow) for being inducted into the County's Women's Hall of Fame in March.

Admin-Manager

- The Poetry Out Loud is in coaching mode for the 9 SMC high school students who will compete on February 4, 2026. The students will receive 2-3, 1-hour small group coaching sessions with experienced poets. The Poet Laureate, Commissioner Fried, and Chloe Chou will be the judges.
- She continues to work closely with Antonio Lopéz, the County Poet Laureate, who has been in demand, and he has performed at many events already. He will also be holding workshops at the Maguire Facility for incarcerated men bi-monthly beginning in February. The OAC is collaborating with the County Libraries, and he will host workshops in English and Spanish in Half Moon Bay, North Fair Oaks, and East Palo Alto.
- Poetry Out Loud launched on September 1 and the OAC is looking to grow the program again this year. We hope that the teens from Youth Services Center will be able to participate again this year. She asked that the Commissioners help spread the word to their networks.
- She also added that she is working on securing performers for the Thrive Mix & Mingle event on January 29, 2026, and the Boards & Commissions Celebration on January 28, 2026. She encouraged the Commissioners to attend if possible.

7. Discussion Items

A. Presentation by Frieda Edgette: Partnership Opportunity, Chair, Futures Commission Initiative

Ms. Edgette introduced herself and the concept behind the Futures Commission Initiative. The initiative they are spearheading in San Mateo County is to reimagine mental health beyond individual coping skills and crisis response to growing spaces where hope, agency, purpose and connection thrive: the arts, learning, sports and civic participation. They are proposing concrete actions to improve residents' well-being for current and future generations -- through long-term thinking, intergenerational fairness principles and youth co-leadership. The effort includes local action toward the [UN Declaration on Future Generations](#) -- the first in the nation.

On December 9, 2025, the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors' adoption of the "[Resolution Affirming a Commitment to Current & Future Generations by Supporting the UN Declaration on Future Generations](#)" -- making them the first place in the United States to adopt the UN Declaration on Future Generations, a landmark commitment to foresight, intergenerational fairness & youth co-leadership for futures-resilient governance.

As part of the Futures Commission initiative, they are launching a countywide campaign (February-April) to gather 10,000 Youth Futures—collecting visions, hopes, and ideas directly from young people about the future they want to see. Results will be synthesized into a "Reimagining Mental Health Agenda" and presented in May, Mental Health Month. We're committed to ensuring this effort reaches *all* young people in our County and brings together wisdom and needs across all ages and stages of life.

She invited the Office of Arts and Culture and the Arts Commission to sign up as founding partners and attend the launch party on January 30, 2026, 5:30-7:30 pm at the Center for Creativity in Redwood City.

B. Updates on meetings with Supervisors

None.

C. Review events on timeline and progress

Commissioner Estalilla asked about the goal and the timeline of the outreach and surveys. The Commissioners shared the background with the Commission stating that the survey would provide data that could be used to develop a report of needs to the Supervisors. They had hoped to do so in April, Arts & Culture month, but it was suggested and agreed upon that they move out the date to the May 5, 2026, Board of Supervisors meeting to make the presentation.

Commissioner Jones stated that she would review the questions one last time and work with Commissioner Seymour to finalize the survey and have it ready for the Commissioner to send out on February 1, 2026. She would also create a short email for Commissioners to use when sending the surveys so they communications to the nonprofits was consistent.

D. Updates on outreach to arts organizations

None.

E. Updates from Commissioners on activities

Commissioner Magbilang shared that former Daly City Poet Laureate, 2024 San Mateo County Poetry Out Loud Champion, and CA Youth Poet Laureate, Chloe Chou has been selected as the Western Region Youth Poetry Champion and will be competing against the other 3 regional champions for the National Youth Poet Laureate. This is the position that made Amanda Gorman famous. She also noted that her Daly City Public Library Associates launched their search for the next Daly City Youth Poet Laureate.

Commissioner Seymour invited the Commissioners to come and visit his art space in San Bruno at Tanforan Mall, the Atelier for Healing. They have affordable studio space for artists, healing spaces for events like sound healing, and exhibition and performance space. He noted that he is working with Lyrical Opposition to document the space through a short film and hopes to add a podcast and tiny desks.

8. Action Item

A. None

9. Adjournment

Commissioner Magbilang thanked everyone for their work and participation and adjourned the meeting at 5:07 pm.

NEXT REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING: February 18, 2026 – 3:30-5:00 PM