



Stephen Seymour, District 1
Rachel Aloycius, 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
500 County Center
Redwood City, CA 94063
www.smcgov.org/smcac



SPECIAL MEETING OF THE ARTS COMMISSION
Wednesday, December 1, 2025 — 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM
SPECIAL LOCATION: Center for Creativity
800 Main Street, Redwood City, CA 94063

MINUTES

1. **Roll Call** Chair, Commissioner Magbilang called the meeting to order at 6:04PM with roll call.
In Attendance: Commissioners Magbilang, Fried, Shaikh, Seymour, Aloycius, Westendorf, and Jones
Absent: Commissioner Anoa'i
Staff: Mara Grimes, Aimee Shapiro
2. **Agenda Amendments**
None
3. **Oral Communications**
None
4. **Action Item**
 - A. Discussion and Approval of Recommended 2026 Grant Awards
The Director explained that the Office of Arts and Culture received 47 grant applications. Additionally, they received nearly \$70,000 in unanticipated funds from the California Arts Council allowing the OAC to award 25 nonprofit arts and culture organizations with \$7,000 each. She thanked Commissioners Shaikh and Seymour for reviewing and rating the grant applications.
Commissioner Westendorf asked if the OAC had considered both tiered funding and needs-based vs. merit-based funding. The Redwood City Arts Commission provides both large grants (\$55K total) and small grants (\$20K total).
The Director stated that there were multiple ways to disburse the funding, but she felt that giving all organizations the same amount for general operations was most equitable.
Commissioner Jones shared that when she worked with CZI they were very specific in the application process, no schools or government agencies and the OAC might consider doing that as well so that we do not waste anyone's time. She went on to say that they used an eligibility link and only after an organization was confirmed eligible did they receive a link to apply. They also only fund organizations for 2 years and then ask them to wait another year before reapplying. She volunteered to help with the application in the future.
After a final review of the suggestions for funding from the OAC, Commissioner Jones moved that the Arts Commission accept the list of the 25 organizations to be funded for the 2026 Arts and Culture Grants Program. Commissioner Westendorf seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.
5. **Adjournment**
Commissioner Magbilang thanked everyone for their work and participation and adjourned the meeting at 6:46 pm.

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

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.