



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



REGULAR MEETING OF THE ARTS COMMISSION
Wednesday, November 19, 2025 — 3:30 PM to 5:00 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 3:30PM with roll call.
In Attendance: Commissioners Magbilang, Fried, Shaikh, Seymour, Aloycius, Westendorf, and Jones
Absent: Commissioner Anoa'i
Staff: Mara Grimes, Aimee Shapiro, and Jacki Rigoni
Guests: Kent Manske, Center for Creativity
The Chair welcomed and introduced the newest Commissioner from District 1, Rachel Aloycius. Commissioner Aloycius introduced herself and her work. The other Commissioners introduced themselves too.
- 2. Agenda Amendments**
None
- 3. Oral Communications**
- 4. Consideration of Minutes** of July 16, 2025, August 20, 2025, and September 17, 2025, regular meeting minutes. Motion to approve the minutes was made by Commissioner Jone and seconded by Commissioner Westendorf. Approved unanimously.
- 5. 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 Jones volunteered to do so. Task recorder to remind Admin-Manager to send to the Commissioners, one week after posted.
- 6. Special Guest, Kent Manske, Center for Creativity**
Mr. Manske provided a short introduction of his personal background and artwork. He described the background of the Center for Creativity (CfC) and mentioned that after many years, they were finally able to open their doors in May 2025. The CfC is still in the proof-of-concept phase. They offer group art shows only, and they must be San Mateo County artists. All the bookings can be made online, and CfC takes 20% of any sales. The cost to book an event is only \$10 and can also be done online. Events can be meetings, workshops, performances, poetry readings, etc. They hope that the center can be a hub with hubs around the County in the future. They are open to collaboration, sharing resources such as the data from the feasibility study they commissioned a few years ago.
- 7. Staff Reports**
Director:
The Director reported:
 - The September Arts and Culture Fest was a huge success. She thanks the Admin-Manager for all her work and the Commissioners for their support. She added that Mural Madness, the live mural competition, was a big hit and gave special thanks to Commissioner Seymour for his vision to make

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the event successful. The murals will be on display at the Atelier for Healing at Tanforan and through December and then moved to the Center for Creativity. The winner, chosen by the fest attendees, will be asked to paint his mural on a wall in San Mateo.

- 17 artists who are also County employees have their work displayed in the Alcove Gallery at 500 County Center. The exhibition features the artwork representing 13 different County departments. It has been successful, and she hopes to make it an annual event. This ties nicely to a project called Artists @Work, with Marcus Young, a Visiting Artist and U.S. Cultural Policy Fellow at Stanford University.
- The OAC received 47 grant applications for this cycle. She stated that the OAC will be able to fund 25 organizations for \$7,000 each as we received additional funding from the CA Arts Council
- The Youth Arts Fellows program is in full force. Staff has held several meetings, and the youth are learning to plan community programs using the arts to create engagement.

Admin-Manager

- The application for the 2025-26 Youth Arts Fellows has been posted and applications were due on August 24 and this year there were 23 applicants. One youth from each supervisorial district will be selected. Interviews will take place next week.
- Antonio Lopéz, the County Poet Laureate, 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 b-monthly beginning in January. 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. The Poet Laureate, Commissioner Fried, and Chloe Chou will be the judges.

Jacki Rigoni

- The County appointed a new Sheriff, Ken Binder. The Sheriff will continue to support the County's position on ICE and the community.
- There are many vacancies on Boards and Commissions in District 2 as well as the other districts and she encouraged the commissioners to help promote the issue to their networks.
- She noted that the County has updated their legislative priorities and that the Boards and Commissions help to advocate for those priorities. She added that she would make the document with the County Legislative Priorities available to the Commission.

7. Discussion Items

A. Updates on meetings with Supervisors

Commissioner Shaikh stated that she had met with Supervisor Gauthier. She was very open to speaking with the Commission. The Supervisor advised that when the Commission presents their findings to the Board that they highlight the economic impact of the arts.

Commissioner Seymour noted that he had not received a response back from the emails to Supervisor Speier but he ran into her at the St. Paul's Rummage sale. He was able to update her on the Commission's work. She suggested that he follow up with her staff to have a more official meeting to which he agreed.

Commissioner Jones said that she had tried several times to meet with Supervisor Mueller but had not been able to connect. The Director said she would try to help with that.

B. Review events on timeline and progress

Commissioner Westendorf stated that as the Commission finalized the survey questions at the September meeting that she would be able to enter the information into Survey Monkey in the following week. She said that the Commissioners could then review the survey and suggest any needed changes. She noted that she would send the link to the Admin-Manager and then she could send it to the Arts Commissioners. This would allow the Commissioners to be ready to discuss at the December 1, 2025, Arts Commission special meeting. She further agreed to write a short email introduction that the Commissioners could use to send the survey to the arts and culture organizations from their district.

C. Updates on outreach to arts organizations

None

D. Updates from Commissioners on activities

Commissioner Shaikh shared that she had been busy reviewing the Arts and Culture grant applications. She went on to say that CZI had reopened their community space and that she was working with them on an upcoming dance program. She recently accepted a new part-time job working with dance artists. She will not be able to attend the January Arts Commission meeting as she will be out of town for a dance performance. Commissioner Jones said that she has attended the artist reception at the Center for Creativity.

Commissioner Fried said that she recently walked for a fundraiser for NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness). She attended the book launch for a writer at the Center for Creativity. The Poetry Corner at the September Arts & Culture Fest was very successful. They had 21 poets read their work and many of them said they would like to do it again. She did a reading at Belmont Poetry night and was one of the poets included in Monica Korde's online poetry book.

Commissioner Westendorf said she had been corresponding to a resident in Menlo Park that was frustrated by the city of Menlo Park and their arts programs. The resident wanted to paint some of the city's utility boxes. The Commissioner has been trying to help her. Commissioner Shaikh suggested she reach out to Springline. Ms. Rigoni reminded the Commission that city property is not in the Arts Commission's jurisdiction. Commissioner Aloycius shared that she had been working with a group of youth around issues of race. She showed them how these issues can be addressed using the arts to express their feelings and concerns. Commissioner Seymour celebrated Dia de los Muertos in San Miguel de Allende. Upon his return he reviewed grant applications for the County's Arts and Culture Grants program. He is also working on plans for San Bruno's 2026 Unity Day Celebration and the 2026 Fine Arts Exhibition for the San Mateo County Fair. Commissioner Magbilang hosted another successful Daly City Arts & Lit Fest through her nonprofit, Daly City Public Library Associates (DCPLA.) The organization has launched their search for the next Daly City Youth Poet Laureate.

8. Action Item

A. None

9. Adjournment

Commissioner Magbilang thanked everyone for their work and participation and adjourned the meeting at 5:05 pm.

NEXT SPECIAL COMMISSION MEETING: December 1, 2025 – 6:00-7:00 PM