



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, February 18, 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 3:31 PM with roll call.
In Attendance: Commissioners Magbilang, Fried, Seymour, Aloycius, Anoa'i, Estalilla, and Westendorf
Absent: Commissioner Shaikh and Jones
Staff: Mara Grimes, Aimee Shapiro, Josh Caspillan
Guests: Brian Kulich, Chief Deputy County Attorney, Florence Wong, Chair San Mateo County Commission on Disabilities, and Marcus Young, US Cultural Policy Fellow (Stanford Arts)
2. **Agenda Amendments**
None
3. **Oral Communications**
4. **Consideration of Minutes** of January 21, 2026, regular meeting minutes. Commissioner Magbilang asked that we correct Chloe Chou's pending competition from Western Region Youth Poetry Champion to National Youth Poet Laureate. Motion to approve the minutes with the correction were made by Commissioner Westendorf and seconded by Commissioner Anoa'i. Approved unanimously.
5. **Assignment of a task recorder**
Commissioner Fried 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 thanked the Commissioners for attending and participating in the recent OAC sponsored event, Thrive Alliance's Mix and Mingle.: Arts is Life. There was a cross-section of attendees, and the event focused on the arts which included several performances showcasing the talent in our County.
 - The Director was invited to facilitate a panel on the arts at Leadership Council's annual event this year held at Filoli Gardens. She noted that while neither Thrive nor the Leadership Council's missions are dedicated to the arts, this year it was the focus of their annual events and how the arts are essential in other aspects of our County.
 - The OAC is co-hosting a celebratory event during farmworkers week at the end of March. The artwork hanging in the lobby will be highlighted. Partners include photographer José Luis Aguirre, ALAS, Puente, Coastside Hope, and the County Farmworker's Commission. The event will feature resource tables, performances, and food.
 - The OSC is 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 Racial and Social 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. And we will meet Marcus today.

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.

Admin-Manager

- The San Mateo County Arts & Culture Grantees gathered on February 11th in Manzanita Hall. All but three of the 25 grantees were in attendance. They shared their work, and many connected to others. There was lots of energy in the room.
- The annual Poetry Out Loud competition was held on February 4th with 9 participants. Mahati Vaidyanatha, from Hillsdale High School in San Mateo is the 2026 Poetry Out Loud (POL) champion. Mahati will represent the County in the statewide competition in March in Sacramento.
- The 20th annual Women's View 2026 exhibition is in full swing; we have gotten 90 submissions. We will also display artwork from women in the Maple Street Correctional Center, thanks to Casa Circulo Cultural. The exhibition will take place at Twin Pines Art Center in Belmont, and we will co-host an artist reception with the Commission on the Status of Women on Sunday, March 15 from 1:00 – 3:00pm. We need judges and assistance in hanging the artwork. Commissioners Seymour and Estalilla volunteered to be judges and Commissioners Fried, Westendorf, and Magbilang volunteered to help with receiving and hanging artwork.
- The Admin-Manager also asked for volunteers to help tabling at the OYE Conference on March 28 at Canada College in Redwood City.

7. Discussion Items

A. Presentation by Brian Kulich, Chief Deputy County Attorney, will advise the Commission on the changes to the Brown Act.

Mr. Kulich greeted the Commissioners and noted that there was a new state law in regard to the Brown Act and that he was invited to make sure that the Commissioners understood the changes and how it would affect them. He provided a clear presentation which included information about remote meeting attendance for Commissioners and the differences between telephonic meetings (which must be listed in the agenda outside of the meeting place) and emergency meetings covered under AB2449. He answered questions about social media use and the definition of quorum.

B. Updates on outreach to arts organizations

Commissioner Magbilang announced that all the arts and culture organizations on the spreadsheets have been contacted to by the Commissioners. She asked that the Commissioners check the results for their district on the Google Form and that reminder emails be sent before the February 28 deadline to organizations that had not responded. Commissioner Estalilla asked if it wouldn't be better for the OAC to send a reminder to the grantees that had not responded.

C. Hybrid meeting opportunities

Commissioner Magbilang stated that the information about remote meetings was helpful and that the Commission should consider having limitations on the number of online meeting participation allowed. Commissioner Westendorf shared that the Redwood City Arts Commission has used the hybrid option for a long time and that they never have anyone from the public attend.

Commissioners Seymour and Magbilang stated that they preferred to meet in person.

Commissioner Anoa'i would like to have the opportunity to participate remotely as in person had been an issue for him in the past due to his work responsibilities. He added that he will be able to attend more meetings in the future in person.

Commissioner Estalilla asked if there was a reason that we did not record the meetings which could then get posted. He stated that this could provide an opportunity to include more guest speakers in the future.

Ms. Wong said that the Commission on Disabilities used the hybrid model for commission and committee meetings which held meetings for people with disabilities to participate, people who might not otherwise be able to do so.

The Admin-Manager said that the hybrid had not been requested in the past and that the tech needs could be problematic. Mr. Caspillian advised that he would be happy to be responsible for tech needs in the future. After much discussion, it was decided that the item would be added to the agenda for the March Arts Commission Meeting to vote on the rules around hybrid meetings.

D. Introduction to Marcus Young and his work with County Departments

Mr. Young introduced himself and his past work with imbedding artists and creativity into government work. He stated that as a Stanford Fellow, he was pleased to be working with the OAC and the departments of Community Affairs, Racial and Social Justice, and Sustainability. These departments will be working with three local artists to look at new ways to work and to change the energy around the work. Commissioner Seymour added that he had previously met with Mr. Young who told him about the poetry project he had worked on in St. Paul. He has spoken with his city government, and they are interested in doing a similar project soon.

Mr. Young said that poetry written by St. Paul residents and stamped into the sidewalks by public works have changed the system and given residents a voice. He described next steps - meeting and working with the departments and artists.

Commissioner Magbilang thanked Mr. Young and said she was very interested in learning more.

E. Updates from Commissioners on activities

Commissioner Seymour invited the Commissioners to come and visit his art space in San Bruno at Tanforan Mall, the Atelier for Healing. He will be hosting a big poetry event on February 28th with Poet Laureate Antonio Lopez and several other poets who had previously incarcerated for 30+ years. On March 14th they will be hosting an event called "We Are America." Belinda Arriaga of ALAS will be the keynote speaker. The lineup will include poets, Lyrical Opposition, and many others.

Commissioner Fried added that she is working on the poetry events with Commissioner Seymour and that Belmont was hosting their annual MLK Poetry and Essay Contest for which she is a judge. They had 59 applications, and the event will take place on February 26.

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: March 18, 2026 – 3:30-5:00 PM