



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, March 18, 2026 — 3:30 PM to 5:00 PM

LOCATION: Manzanita Hall

500 County Center, Redwood City, CA 94063

MINUTES

1. **Roll Call** Chair, Commissioner Magbilang called the meeting to order at 3:37 PM with roll call.
In Attendance: Commissioners Magbilang, Fried, Seymour, Aloycius, Anoa'i, Estalilla, and Westendorf
Absent: Commissioner Jones
Staff: Mara Grimes, Aimee Shapiro, Josh Caspillan
Guests: Florence Wong, Chair San Mateo County Commission on Disabilities
2. **Agenda Amendments**
None
3. **Oral Communications**
4. **Consideration of Minutes** of February 18, 2026, regular meeting minutes. Motion to approve the minutes was made by Commissioner Fried and seconded by Commissioner Westendorf. 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 shared that one of the Youth Arts Fellows, Ryan Chou, was featured in an article in the San Mateo Daily Journal about his project called For(e)thought. He was responsible for contacting the reporter and pitching his story which also included two of the other Fellows and a quote from her. The other projects are coming along, and the first one will be held at Art Bias on April 12 called Music for the Youth Mind. He is partnering with a dance/movement therapist, and he will use his viola to share ways to relax under the stress that high school students face.
 - The OAC is co-hosting a celebratory event during farmworkers week March 26, 5:30-7:00pm. The artwork hanging in the lobby will be highlighted. Partners include photographer José Luis Aguirre, ALAS, Puente, Coastside Hope, and the County Farmworker Advisory Commission. The event will feature resource tables, performances, and food. She encouraged the Commissioners to attend.
 - The OAC met with County Deputy Executive, DPW and Mr. Caspillan to talk about renovations for the Arts Space in North Fair Oaks. We will next meet with an architect that can help with the plans.
 - We have been accepted into a cohort called the Arts & Culture Evaluation Lab to learn more about effective ways to evaluate programs and the organization itself.
 - Next month is Arts, Culture and Creativity Month. She noted that she will be attending the convening in Sacramento in April and invited the Commissioners to consider attending too.

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 20th annual Women's View 2026 exhibition and artist reception was held on Sunday, March 15 from 1:00 – 3:00pm at Twin Pines Art Center in Belmont. She thanked Commissioners Seymour, Westendorf, and Estalilla for acting as judges and attending the event. Over 300 guests attended the reception.
- The Admin-Manager also asked for volunteers to help tabling at the OYE Conference on March 28 at Canada College in Redwood City.
- The Admin-Manager stated that she had been asked by artists from Art Bias to sit on a committee to discuss the uses of AI in the arts. The committee hopes to create a policy for Art Bias and the Admin-Manager would like to develop guidelines for the County and a template for arts/culture organizations. Art Bias has applied for a grant to support a convening in the fall to discuss it further.

7. Discussion Items

A. Updates on outreach to arts organizations

Commissioner Westendorf asked the group how many responses they had received for the survey they had launched. The Director stated that the responses were available to all the Commissioners and that there were 21 respondents. The Admin-Manager advised that she could send through her email that might be more recognizable and ask the organizations to respond.

B. Compilation of survey results

Commissioner Shaikh inquired as to who was going to compile the data. Commissioner Westendorf volunteered to do so. She said that she would analyze the information and provide data points to be discussed at the next Arts Commission meeting.

C. Next steps towards a report for the Board of Supervisors

Commissioner Magbilang noted that Commissioner Jones stated that while she could not attend the meeting, she would help in other ways. She went on to say that she would ask her to create the presentation for the May 5, 2026, Board of Supervisors meeting. She stated that she would make the presentation, and Commissioner Shaikh said she would like to be part of the presentation.

Commissioner Shaikh added that it will be important that they connect the data points to show that the arts are an economic driver in the County. She suggested that the report highlights the work they are currently providing and what they could do with more funding in the future.

The Director recommended that the Commission coordinate with her as she too will be making a presentation about the progress of the Office of Arts and Culture in the five years of existence.

D. Updates from Commissioners on activities, limit of 2 minutes each

Commissioner Shaikh shared that Noorani Dance had partnered with Art Bias at their March Open Studios. A good collaboration and mixing of both communities. They also performed at the Magical Bridge playground. She reminded the group that World Arts West Dance Fest applications were still open and asked the Commissioners to share with their networks.

Commissioner Aloycius stated that she has been working for many years in visual arts education and that programs in the schools are lacking. She reiterated the benefits of arts education for youth and proposed that the Arts Commission support art stations at local libraries to fill the gap.

Commissioners Magbilang and Fried, and the Director wondered if she has spoken to anyone at any of the libraries. They recommended that if she started at her local library and approached them with the idea, they might be interested.

Commissioner Fried stated that she had worked with the libraries before providing her Juneteenth poetry workshop and they were agreeable. Commissioner Seymour suggested that she speak with Tim Wallace the manager of the San Bruno Library and that she could also make a public comment at the next San Bruno Arts and Cultural Commission meeting. The Admin-Manager also noted that San Mateo County Schools have many art programs, many of which are unseen such as the recent Mariachi/Folklorico Fest. Most libraries in the County have arts programming of all kinds and she advised that the Commission investigate them first. Commissioner Magbilang reminded the Commissioners that this topic was not agendaized and in future if a Commissioner had something they wanted to discuss, that they asked to have it added to the agenda. Commissioner Anoa'i shared that his organization was gearing up for their summer arts programs. They will be hybrid this year as they are partnering with San Joaquin County. They will also have a Pacific Islander art performance in May that he will share soon.

Commissioner Magbilang stated that she had attended both Commissioner Shaikh's event at Art Bias and Commissioner Seymour's event at the Atelier for Healing and both events were great. Applications are open for the Daly City Library Associates' Art & Lit Festival, and they will be paying the performers this year. The San Mateo County Fair is gearing up, and they would love help at the Fine Arts area with intake on May 22-23. Commissioner Fried has been busy with the MLK literary event in Belmont where she served as a judge for their youth poetry and essay competition. She is one of the featured poets at the Center for Creativity's Dial-a-

Poet exhibit in the phone booth gallery. The exhibition is all about water and will be on display until April 29. The Atelier for Healing hosted a poetry reading by poets that had been previously incarcerated and Poet Laureate Antonio Lopez. She added that she had helped with intake for the Women's View Exhibition and gave a storytelling workshop for women in Pasadena. She is working on the poetry space at the County fair in June. Commissioner Westendorf has also been attending many events mentioned and added that the Redwood City Arts Commission has three vacancies.

Commissioner Seymour has been working on hosting and participating in numerous events including Boogiedown Brisbane (with Lyrical Opposition), a film fest with artist Na Omi Shintani of the Sansei Granddaughters and a tour of her public art project at the San Bruno BART Station based on the incarceration of Japanese Americans at Tanforan. Working on planning for the County Fair too.

Commissioner Estalilla has been attending most of the events already mentioned and was a judge for the Women's View Exhibition. He attended the Holi Fest in Foster City and added that they will be opening their new Recreation Center soon which includes a dance space and ceramic studio. He has been talking to possible financial sponsors for the work of the Arts Commission.

8. Action Item

A. Hybrid meeting opportunities

Commissioner Magbilang stated that the Admin-Manager advised her that the Arts Commission was now eligible to provide hybrid meetings and that the Commission should make some rules around participation in this way. She noted that her preference was that the members meet in person.

Commissioner Shaikh said that the Commission needed to provide clarity for new Commissioners on what the expectations are.

Commissioner Westendorf noted that the Redwood City Arts Commission has had a hybrid policy for many years. Most of the Commissioners attend in person and she felt it was good to have another option when needed. She would rather people attend on Zoom than not at all.

Commissioner Anoa'i shared that in the past, attending in person was not always an option due to his work schedule. He previously thought about stepping down but realized that many people who he felt would be a good replacement would be in the same situation. He said that the makeup of the Commission has changed since we last polled the group about the time of day for the meetings and that maybe consideration be made that we revisit that.

Commissioner Magbilang added that it is important that Commissioners not only show up but that they are also engaged and active.

Commissioner Westendorf noted that we can always revisit if people only attend meetings on Zoom.

Commissioner Seymour reminded the Commission that it was important to have a framework of expectations and agreed we could change it in the future if the Commissioners do not show up.

Commissioner Westendorf moved that Commissioners were required to attend 10 meetings per year, were permitted 2 absences, and 2 meetings remotely. Commissioner Fried seconded the motion. Approved unanimously except for Commissioner Estalilla who abstained.

The director added that there are two versions of the by-laws and asked for a volunteer to reconcile them so we could also add the new language regarding hybrid meetings to the by-laws. Commissioner Fried volunteered to do so.

9. Adjournment

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

NEXT REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING: April 15, 2026 – 3:30-5:00 PM