



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, May 20, 2026 — 3:30 PM to 5:00 PM
Manzanita Hall, 500 County Center, Redwood City, CA 94063

This meeting of the Arts Commission will be held in-person. **NEW: Remote participation is an option.**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://smcgov.zoom.us/j/3506989474?pwd=ditucU5NSFBWTW14NzNNZ2ZJamdRQT09>

Meeting ID: 350 698 9474; Passcode: 4P0r6q

Written public comments may be emailed to artscommission@smcgov.org and such written comments should indicate the specific agenda item on which you are commenting. **Please see instructions for written and spoken public comments at the end of this agenda.**

MINUTES

1. **Roll Call** Chair, Commissioner Magbilang called the meeting to order at 3:32 PM with roll call.
In Attendance: Commissioners Magbilang, Fried, Seymour, Aloycius, Jones, Estalilla, and Westendorf
Absent: Commissioner and Anoa'i
Staff: Aimee Shapiro, Mara Grimes, Chris Hunter
Guests:
Elizabeth Aurora Jensen
Florence Wong stated that she was attending the meeting on behalf of the Commission on Disabilities. The Commission is hosting the Inclusion Festival on July 16, 10am-1pm at County Center. July is Disability Pride Month, and she invited the Commissioners to attend the event which has resources, including a table hosted by the OAC. Her group, the Southside Lemon Thieves played at the San Mateo County Fair, and she thanked the Commission for making the option to attend their meetings on Zoom.
Allison Gamlen said that she was here to listen and learn. She is the Visual & Performing Arts Coordinator for the SMC Office of Education. The OAC has partnered with her office in the past and at the upcoming Arts Education Conference on September 30 and the second annual Mariachi/Folklorico event in spring 2027.
Chache Kalamu said that she was happy for the Zoom option as now she and others will be able to attend the meetings.
2. **Agenda Amendments**
None
3. **Oral Communications**
4. **Consideration of Minutes** of April 15, 2026, regular meeting minutes. Motion to approve the minutes was made by Commissioner Westendorf and seconded by Commissioner Fried. 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.

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.

6. Staff Reports

Director:

- The Director shared that the OAC has received a \$300,000 budget for each of the next five years. The Admin-Manager added that the Arts Commission presentation to the Board of Supervisors made an impact and helped them to see the need for additional and steady funding. She also noted that later in the meeting, Supervisor Mueller referred to the report and the possibility of an arts center. Supervisor Corzo and Gauthier have also been supportive.
- In past years, May was the month that the Arts Commission typically elects new leadership, however both the OAC and Arts Commission forgot to add it to the agenda before it was too late. Elections will be held at the July 15 meeting. Commissioner Westendorf asked if Commissioners Magbilang and Shaikh would be interested in continuing in the role. Both Commissioners said they are but would also be open to new leadership.
- The Youth Arts Fellows have done a great job this year and we are very proud of them. The last two events will be by Taryn who is hosting a photo exhibition, Objects of Belonging, at the Center for Creativity on June 6 and Kat whose project will culminate in a group art puzzle project, Every Piece Matters, at the Pride Celebration in San Mateo on June 13. The OAC is hosting a year end celebration on June 3, and Commissioners are invited to attend.

Admin-Manager:

- The Admin-Manager has been focused on managing the San Mateo mural project which was a result of the Mural Madness event at the 2025 September Arts & Culture Fest. She is working with the artist and the store owner to solidify logistics. The mural will be painted in June and the OAC will host a celebration in early July.
- The 2026 September Arts & Culture Fest will be held on September 26, 11am-6pm in downtown San Mateo. We will partner again with the San Mateo Area Chamber of Commerce and the Downtown San Mateo Association. We will be launching applications for performing artists and visual arts vendors in June. Mural Madness and the Open Mic for the Poetry Corner will launch in July. More to come and we hope that all the Commissioners will be able to participate this year.

Mr. Hunter:

- Mr. Hunter said that Supervisor Gauthier was happy that the OAC has a more stable and robust budget. He said that the Supervisor is a big supporter of the arts as is he, and that additional funding may be available in the future.

7. Discussion Items

A. Report on Arts Commission Presentation to the Board of Supervisors

Commissioner Magbilang said that the presentation went very well. She was grateful to Commissioner Shaikh and the Director for their help assembling the Power Point Presentation and to the Commissioners for their work on the survey. Commissioner Shaikh added that originally, they felt the need to make an ask of the Supervisors but realized that instead of the ask it would be better at this time to share survey results and anecdotes and more specific data and needs in the future.

B. Next steps for the report and survey findings

Discussion suggestions included adding the report to the Arts Commission website and in the OAC newsletter, follow up with arts nonprofit organizations that responded to the survey, maximize collaborations, and hold additional convenings. Find ways to work with business as well as the nonprofits.

C. Presentation by Commissioner Aloycius regarding potential collaboration with San Mateo County Libraries

Commissioner Aloycius recommended that the Arts Commission create and coordinate a program to work with local libraries to provide visual arts programming to youth that do not have these opportunities. She said that she would work with responsible and talented high school students to teach the classes which would provide them with an opportunity to give back to the community.

Commissioner Westendorf asked if the goal of the program was to serve as a community connector and questions where the classes would take place as the Redwood City Library Maker Space had limited space and thought that others might too. She suggested that the Commissioner start with one library and see if they are interested and can accommodate the program.

Admin-Manager stated that while using students might be advantageous, the libraries would probably require an adult and/or library staff to be onsite.

The Director noted that the Commission needed to think about whether this was an Arts Commission pilot program or the Commissioner's project. It would be important to make this decision before the Commissioner approached any library with the idea.

Commissioner Magbilang thanked Commissioner Aloycius for her idea and enthusiasm and reminded the Commission that they would need to vote as a group if they wanted to take on this project.

D. Updates on San Mateo County Fair

Commissioners Seymour and Magbilang advised that the Fine Arts area of the SMC Fair was in full force getting ready for the opening on June 4. This year the area is growing, especially the literary arts section thanks to Commissioner Fried. She will host a live poetry reading on June 10 and local 25 poets have signed up for the open mic. There will also be 200+ art skateboards on view, many performances, Fernando Escartiz' Dia de los Muertos artworks, and tattoo artists in addition to the traditional artforms. Commissioner Seymour was excited that more Arts Commissioners were involved this year. Ms. Wong stated that her group, the Southside Lemon Thieves, are playing at the Fair on June 11, 7-8pm.

E. Update from Grants Subcommittee

An ad hoc committee has been formed to assist the OAC staff to study and update the 2027 grants application process. The committee will consist of Commissioners Jones, Aloycius, and Shaikh. They will meet with OAC to create a timeline and review the current application and process. Staff will use information learned and techniques from the Evaluation Lab Cohort they were part of this spring. Commissioner Shaikh has experience as a panelist and nonprofit and Commissioner Jones has experience as a funder. The Admin-Manager added that one of the goals was to convene grantees, past, present and future in focus groups to gather data about what we do well and what we could do better.

F. Commissioner check-in on activities, limit of 2 minutes each

Commissioner Seymour reported that in addition to managing the Fine Arts area at the SMC Fair, he has been working on public art murals in San Bruno. He is also working with San Francisco General to get an art heart in addition to meeting with Assemblymember Mullin to help secure space in San Bruno for an art center. Atelier for Healing has many events and hopes that the Commissioners will attend and enjoy them.

Commissioner Estalilla met with the nonprofit, Chance to Excel, that specializes in supporting the arts, sports and mentorships to see if there is any synergy between them and the Commission. He also met with the Dean of UCLA regarding his work on how the next generation is engaging with AI. The Admin-Manager said that she is working with an AI Task Force and asked to be connected.

Commissioner Fried attended the closing for Making Waves, the poetry exhibition at the Center for Creativity. She met with Peninsula Book Collaborative to discuss a future poetry event. In addition to working on the literary section at the SMC Fair, she attended Soul Scroll at Coyote Point along with Supervisor Corzo, an event focused on health.

Commissioner Shaikh attended and was part of the featured panel at the SV Creates Town Hall.

Commissioner Westendorf stated that it was a great time to be in Redwood City as there are so many events happening downtown this summer. She shared that she will be curating an exhibition and events focused on grief at the Center for Creativity in January.

Commissioner Magbilang said that presenting the data from the survey to the Board of Supervisors gave the Commission a good opportunity to understand the work of the Commission and invite them to engage more with the Commission and arts and culture community. The Daly City Public Library Associates held their youth poet commencement and the mural at the library will be done at the end of the week.

8. Action Item

None

9. Adjournment

Commissioner Magbilang thanked everyone for their work and participation and adjourned the meeting at 4:50 pm.

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