



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, July 15, 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, Estalilla, Shaikh, and Westendorf
Absent: Commissioners Aloycius, Seymour, Jones
Staff: Aimee Shapiro, Mara Grimes, Travis Dunn, Alisa Villanueva,
Guests:
Florence Wong, Chair of the Commission on Disabilities
Manisha Davesar, soon to be appointed as Arts Commissioner to District 3
Chache Kalamu said that she wanted to know more about San Mateo County Schools who she has been told is not in compliance with the arts education requirements. The Director stated that Proposition 28 has not helped as much as the proponents had hoped. The Admin-Manager offered to connect her to the Visual and Performing Arts Coordinator for San Mateo County Office of Education who could give her accurate information.
2. **Agenda Amendments**
A motion was made to postpone the election of officers for the 2026-27 term by Commissioner Estalilla and seconded by Commissioner Fried, as there was no quorum.
3. **Oral Communications**
4. **Consideration of Minutes** of May 20, 2026, regular meeting minutes. A quorum was not available, and the minutes will be considered at the August 19, 2026, meeting.
5. **Assignment of a task recorder**
Commissioner Estalilla 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 introduced Alisa Villanueva, the OAC summer intern who has helped get the OAC caught up on many projects. She also announced that Commissioner Anoa'i resigned from the Commission. Supervisor Canepa's term is up December 31, 2026, and asked that the position would be filled by the newly elected District 5 Supervisor in January 2027. Additionally, Manisha Davesar has been selected by Supervisor Mueller to represent District 3 and will be sworn in before the next Arts Commission meeting.
- The Director noted that although there are five Commissioners in attendance at the meeting, Commissioner Westendorf is attending remotely and would not be able to vote. She further explained that the Commission does not qualify as one of the Commissions that can have members vote remotely and should not have been considered for remote participation by the County.
- The Director updated the Commission on the upcoming programs and events including the Youth Arts Fellowship 2026-27 launch, the unveiling of the San Mateo mural, and the progress of the Artists @Work program.

Admin-Manager:

- 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. Applications for performing artists and visual arts vendors are in full swing. Mural Madness and the Open Mic for the Poetry Corner opened July 1. She asked the Commissioners to help promote the opportunities in their districts. More to come and said she hoped that all the Commissioners will participate this year.

7. Action Item

A. Election of Officers was postponed until the August meeting as there was not a quorum.

8. Discussion Items

A. Next steps for the report and survey findings

Commissioner Magbilang asked if the presentation could be posted on the website and went on to say that she felt like the Commission was having more interactions with the arts organizations. Commissioner Shaikh reminded the group that the Commission had done a lot of work after the retreat in 2024. She suggested that the Commissioners revisit the work and that it could be discussed at the next Arts Commission meeting.

B. Update from Grants Subcommittee

Commissioner Shaikh stated that Commissioner Estalilla has joined her and Commissioner Jones on the grants subcommittee. He will help make sure that the Commissioners stay on task. The subcommittee will review the 2025 application and make suggestions to make this year's application more straightforward and clearer for applicants and panelists. The OAC and subcommittee plan to hold a series of focus groups to ensure that we meet the needs of our arts and culture organizations. Once the grant application is launched on October 1, 2026, there will be a big focus on outreach. The OAC will hold a grants workshop both virtual and in person to walk applicants through the application and what we are looking to fund at the beginning of October. The budget requirements will be simplified, and a tiered funding program will be offered this year. Arts Commissioners will be invited to be on the panel in addition to community members outside the County to ensure there is no bias. The Arts Commission will review and vote on the grants at their November meeting, and the awardees will be notified in December.

C. Updates on San Mateo County Fair

Commissioner Magbilang thanked the Commissioners for their support of the Fine Arts area of the SMC Fair. She stated that this area will be expanded next year, and they hope to include more artists from other cultures in addition to Latinx artists. She called out Commissioner Fried's literary area and the poetry readings which had a huge audience this year. The Director added that it was exciting to see how the Arts Commission had a bigger presence. She thanks the Commission for their commitment to showing the community that arts and culture are thriving in our County.

D. Commissioner check-in

Commissioner Fried said that she was pleased with the results of the Poetry event at the SMC Fair this year which included all but one of the SMC Poets Laureate, youth poets, and community poets. The event was very well attended, and she looks forward to next year. She worked with the Redwood City and Foster City libraries to provide her individual Juneteenth presentation.

Commissioner Estalilla thanked Commissioner Fried and shared that he wrote his first haiku poem at the fair. He said that the Foster City Community Center will open soon and will feature an art gallery, two dance rooms and a ceramics studio. He has been meeting with community members about ways they can collaborate with the Arts Commission.

Commissioner Westendorf stated that the Redwood City Arts Commission had 15 applicants for three seats on the Arts Commission. Three were selected. She has also been speaking with the Redwood City Parks & Art Foundation on ways to better engage volunteers.

Commissioner Shaikh wrapped up her work on SV Creates grants panel and encouraged others to participate on grants panels when possible. Noorani Dance will hold a show in 2027 at EPACENTER in East Palo Alto and is currently involved with the World Arts West Dance Festival at Yerba Buena Gardens in San Francisco. She would also like to find ways to collaborate more with other local arts commissions.

Commissioner Magbilang said that there will be a new mural in Daly City at the Top of the Hill Fest with artist Venazir. The Daly City Public Library Associates will hold their Arts & Lit Fest on September 26 providing a platform for Daly City artists. She added that she wished that this event did not conflict with the OAC's September Arts & Culture Fest. The Director said that it was a great idea and way to activate a mall.

9. **Adjournment**

Commissioner Magbilang thanked everyone for their work and participation and adjourned the meeting at 4:47 pm.

NEXT REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING: August 19, 2026 – 3:30-5:00 PM