



Stephen Seymour, District 1
Rachel Aloycius, District 1
John Estalilla, District 2
Lois Fried, District 2
Manisha Davesar, District 3
Andrea Jones, District 3
Anna Westendorf, District 4
Farah Yasmeen Shaikh, District 4
Victoria Magbilang, District. 5
VACANT, 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, August 19, 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. Remote participation is available.

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 3:31 PM with roll call.
In Attendance: Commissioners Magbilang, Fried, Estalilla, Shaikh, Jones, Aloycius, Davesar, Jones, and Westendorf
Absent: Commissioner Seymour
Staff: Aimee Shapiro, Mara Grimes, Travis Dunn
Guests:
Florence Wong, Chair of the Commission on Disabilities
Christopher Phillips
2. **Agenda Amendments**
A motion was made to move up the election of officers for the 2026-27 term to the first item on the agenda by Commissioner Westendorf and seconded by Commissioners Fried and Jones. Approved unanimously.
3. **Action Item**
A. Election of Officers – Chair and Vice-chair positions are a one-year term. Commissioners Magbilang and Shaikh stated that they are agreeable to serving another year in their positions. Commissioner Fried nominated Commissioner Estalilla for Chair and herself for Vice-chair. Commissioner Estalilla accepted the nomination. A vote resulted in Commissioner Estalilla as Chair and Commissioner Fried as Vice-chair.
3. **Oral Communications**
4. **Consideration of Minutes** of May 20, 2026, and July 15, 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 Westendorf 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 advised that the Youth Arts Fellowship application's deadline is August 28 and asked the Commissioners to help promote the opportunity to youth in their district. She asked for 2 volunteers to review the applications and one Commissioner from each district to interview finalists. Commissioners Jones and Estalilla volunteered to review the applications. Interviews: D1 – Commissioner Aloycius; D2 – Commissioner Fried; D3 – Commissioners Jones and Davesar; D4 Commissioner Shaikh; D5 – Commissioner Magbilang.
- The Director stated that the OAC is working with the grants subcommittee. The grant cycle will be open from October 1 – 29, 2026. We will host a grants workshop for nonprofits to ensure access and equity which will be held on Zoom during the first week of October. The grants panel will consist of Commissioners Shaikh, Jones, and Estalilla, an outside arts professional, and OAC staff.

Admin-Manager:

- The 2026 September Arts & Culture Fest will be held on September 26, 11am-6pm in downtown San Mateo. She stated that the spaces for the artist vendors and the lineup for performing artists are confirmed. She is working with Commissioner Fried on the Poetry Corner to be held at Fog Bird this year and with Commissioner Seymour on the mural competition. There are still openings for both events, and the deadlines have been extended until September 2. She asked the Commissioners to help promote the opportunities in their districts and to volunteer.
- We are excited to announce that the OAC and Poet Laureate, Antonio Lopez will be hosting a Bay Area Poets Laureate convening on January 16, 2027. California Poet Laureate, Lee Herrick has confirmed that he will attend the event. More details soon.
- The OAC is working on launching a San Mateo County Youth Poet Laureate in 2027. More details soon.

8. Discussion Items

A. Presentation by Laura McHugh, Quilt Block Trail Public Art Project

Laura McHugh and Nancy Fontana of the San Mateo County Quilt Block Trail (Quilt Block Trail) presented information on this project, inviting the Arts Commission to play a role in promoting the project. This project is a community-based public art initiative that celebrates the region's agricultural heritage, creative spirit, and local businesses by displaying colorful quilt blocks painted onto small wooden panels on participating buildings throughout the community. She described the project in detail and encouraged the Commissioners to engage in the project. The Admin-Manager said she would follow up sending the presentation and contact information to the Commissioners.

B. Presentation by Debbie Schechter, Arts Commission and OAC Goal Setting

The Director introduced Ms. Schechter who worked with the Arts Commission in 2024. Ms. Schechter has been asked to help determine three shared goals of the OAC and Arts Commission and help define the different roles in achieving these goals. Ms. Schechter reviewed the mission, vision, and goals from 2024. Commissioner Westendorf noted that while goals are good to have at a high level, they are often not tangible or measurable.

Commissioner Estalilla said that these were more like mandates and goals needed to be more specific. He added that goals can sometimes become performative and lose their meaning.

Commissioner Fried stated that the Commission needs more exposure, so the audience knows who they are and what we do.

Discussion followed around community needs, how to reach the community, and addressing the gaps.

Commissioner Davesar asked, "What does the community need?" She stated that many people are looking for safe spaces.

The Director brought the conversation back to branding of the two organizations, delineating roles, and a shared mission and vision.

The Commission agreed that the need was to make goals more specific, that there should be one mission statement, and the roles needed to be delineated.

The Director thanked the Commissioners and Ms. Schechter for a good meeting and was pleased that there was alignment between the Commission and the OAC. She added that she could see impact of the Commission work and the fact that Ms. McHugh brought her project to the Commission was a testament to their work.

Commissioner Shaikh added that the Commission would benefit from having more subcommittees for their work like the grants subcommittee in the future.

C. Update from Grants Subcommittee

Commissioner Shaikh stated that the subcommittee was waiting on the draft grant application for review. The Director stated that it would be shared soon. Commissioner Estalilla added that the Commissioners should review their lists of arts and culture organizations and add to them if possible, so that the Commission can be ready and helpful with outreach.

9. Adjournment

Commissioner Magbilang thanked everyone for their work and participation and adjourned the meeting at 5:00 pm.

NEXT REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING: September 16, 2026 – 3:30-5:00 PM