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 Office500 County Center
Redwood City, CA 94063
www.smcgov.org/ceo/arts-commission

REGULAR MEETING OF THE ARTS COMMISSION
Wednesday, October 21, 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 Estalilla called the meeting to order at 3:31 PM with roll call.
   In Attendance: Commissioners Magbilang, Fried, Estalilla, Shaikh, Jones, Aloycius, Davesar, and Westendorf
   Absent: Commissioners Jones and Seymour
   Staff: Aimee Shapiro, Mara Grimes, Travis Dunn, Sydnee Robinson
   Guests:
   Florence Wong, Chair of the Commission on Disabilities – Ms. Wong shared that the Commission on Disabilities held their annual reception for the Disabilities Arts Showcase and it was a big success. She thanked the Director and Admin-Manager for their partnership in the event.
   Larisa Vaserman – Ms. Waserman noted that the September Arts & Culture Fest conflicted with other events and made it difficult for many to attend.
   Chache Kalamu
   Elisabeth Aurora Jensen
2. **Agenda Amendments**
   None
3. **Oral Communications**
4. **Consideration of Minutes** of September 18, 2026, regular meeting minutes, to be considered at November 18, 2026, meeting
5. **Assignment of a task recorder**
   Chair Estalilla said he was wondering if this job was effective and needed and would like to consider it at the next meeting.
6. **Staff Reports**
   Director:
   - Artists in Residence: Naomi Shintani is embedded in the Office of Racial and Social Justice, conducting art workshops with community-based organizations to create large beads representing values from the economic mobility action plan; these will be displayed at 500 County Center.

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- Arts Education Conference: A day-long event was co-presented with the County Office of Education at the beginning of the month.
- Staff Art Show: Installation is scheduled for the week after next, with a reception on November 5 from 3:30–5:00 PM; 22 works are included.
- Community Activation Plan: Working with the 2027 Leadership Council of San Mateo County to expand on a previous survey, with approximately 80 hours of support from the emerging leadership group over five months.

Admin-Manager:

- Youth Arts Fellows: Five fellows have been selected and will be promoted shortly.
- Youth Poet Laureate: The contract is finalized and awaiting approval.
- Poet Laureate Convening: Scheduled for January 16, with a morning session for Poets Laureate and afternoon poetry readings; California Poet Laureate Lee Herrick is confirmed.
- Poetry Out Loud: Six sign-ups so far; the deadline is November 2, with a competition planned for January 28.
- Incarcerated Poets Anthology: Poet Laureate Antonio Lopez is working on an anthology of incarcerated or formerly incarcerated poets, with publication expected late spring or early summer via Paloma Press.
- Grants: The grants workshop was held online, and eight applications have been received so far; the deadline is October 29 at 5:00 PM.

Travis Dunn:

- Student Art Contest: The annual contest for students ages 11–18 in the 4th District is running through November 6, themed "The American Experience, as reflected in San Mateo County."
- Veterans Luncheon is to be held on November 9, 2026, and the Commission is invited to attend.

8. Discussion Items

A. *Arts Commission and OAC Goal Setting*

The Commission aligned on moving forward with three subcommittees—Programs and Projects, Events, and Advocacy—to structure its work and avoid over-committing members. The group also shifted its framing from "goals" to "commitments" to better reflect ongoing, non-quantitative aspirations like strengthening an equitable arts ecosystem.

Subcommittee Structure: The Commission will use three subcommittees with a maximum of four members each to comply with the Brown Act.

Programs and Projects: Lead, Commissioner Westendorf, members Commissioners Shaikh and Jones.

Events: Lead, Commissioner Magbilang, members Commissioners Fried and Aloycius.

Advocacy: Lead, Commissioner Davesar, members Commissioners Seymour and Estalilla.

The group will use the term commitments rather than "goals" for its high-level vision statements, as they are intended as guiding principles rather than quantitative benchmarks.

Website Review: The proposed website review will be handled under the Programs and Projects subcommittee rather than as a separate subcommittee.

B. *Update from Grants Subcommittee*

Grant Review Panel: The panel will likely include two commissioners, a previous grantee, and Sinjin from SV Creates; the final composition and dates for review and approval are pending.

C. Commissioner check-in, limit of 2 minutes each

The Commissioners shared their work in the community, attendance at events, and news in their districts.

9. Adjournment

Commissioner Estalilla thanked everyone for their work and participation and adjourned the meeting at 4:46 pm.

NEXT REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING: November 18, 2026 – 3:30-5:00 PM

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