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, 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 Estalilla called the meeting to order at 3:31 PM with roll call.
   In Attendance: Commissioners Magbilang, Fried, Estalilla, Shaikh, Jones, Aloycius, Davesar, Seymour, Jones, and Westendorf
   Staff: Aimee Shapiro, Mara Grimes, Travis Dunn, Rashida Bryant, Sydnee Robinson
   Guests:
   Florence Wong, Chair of the Commission on Disabilities
   Debbie Schechter, consultant
2. **Agenda Amendments**
   None
3. **Oral Communications**
4. **Consideration of Minutes** of August 19, 2026, regular meeting minutes Motion to approve the minutes was made by Commissioner Magbilang and seconded by Commissioner Jones. Approved unanimously.
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:
   - The Director advised that she has been working on the Artists in Residence Program and that the Department of racial and Social Justice has hired artist Na Omi Shintani for her Beads of Connections Project. The project supports the department's Prosperity for All initiative. We are holding workshops throughout the County with the OSRJ partners. Once the beads are created, they will be displayed in the lobby at 500 County Center.
   - The OAC is partnering with the San Mateo County Office of Education's Visual and Performing Arts Department to hold an Arts Education Conference on September 30.

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.

- The SMC Arts and Culture Grants Program will launch on October 1. Commissioner Jones will lead a grants workshop on Zoom on October 6, 2026, 12:00 – 1:30 pm. Please share with the nonprofit arts and culture organizations in your district.

Admin-Manager:

- The 2026 September Arts & Culture Fest will be held on September 26, 11am-6pm in downtown San Mateo. Everything is confirmed and she thanked the Commissioners that are helping.
- We have selected the 2026-27 Youth Arts Fellows. The group is very inspiring, and we look forward to working with them.
- 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. A save the date went out and we are getting a good response from poets.
- The OAC is working on launching a San Mateo County Youth Poet Laureate in 2027. More details soon.
- Signups SMC's 2027 Poetry Out Loud competition are open until November 2, 2026, and asked that the Commissioners share with their districts.

8. Discussion Items

A. *Follow up by Debbie Schechter, Arts Commission and OAC Goal Setting*

The Directors stated that the OAC and the Arts Commission should have the same goals, but the roles of each group would be different. Because the roles are different , the mission vision statements might need to be slightly different too.

Ms. Schechter stated that the agenda for the meeting would be to: 1) Agree on the goals; 2) Decide if three statements are needed and if so, what are they; 3) Create a clear distinction and understanding of the roles; and 4)Form subcommittees.

The Commissioners discussed possible wording and goals.

Ms. Schechter reiterated the idea of roles and the Director noted that the creation of subcommittees would allow the Commission to talk about and discuss issues without the consideration of the Brown Act. The subcommittees would then be able to report on their progress at the Commission meetings.

It was agreed that the three subcommittees would consist of Program, Advocacy, and Events. The chair asked that the formation of the subcommittees be added to a future Arts Commission Meeting and agendized.

B. *Update from Grants Subcommittee*

Commissioner Jones stated that the committee and the OAC had solidified the requirements for the grants program for 2027. This year we will offer tiered funding based on the budget size of the applicants. We will offer a grants workshop on October 6, 2026, to provide best practices for grant writing and answer any questions. Commissioner Estalilla added that the Commission revisits the list of organizations in each district and reach out to those and hopefully find others that are not already at the table.

C. *Public Engagement and adding recordings of the meetings to the*

Commissioner Estalilla asked the group what they thought about recording the meetings and adding them to the website. The group suggested we table this for a future meeting as time was short.

D. 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 5:07 pm.

NEXT REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING: October 21, 2026 – 3:30-5:00 PM