

Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco Board of Trustees

**Wednesday, January 21, 2026
de Young Museum - Koret Auditorium
50 Hagiwara Tea Garden Drive
San Francisco, CA 94118**

This meeting was duly noticed and the agenda was posted in accordance with the San Francisco Sunshine Ordinance.

Draft Meeting Minutes

Call to order - Diane B. Wilsey, Chair Emerita, Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco Board of Trustees

Action: The meeting was called to order at 3:04 p.m.

Calling of the Roll - Jenny Sonnenschein, Executive Assistant to the Director and CEO and Board Administrator

Board Members Present:

Tobi Adamolekun

Jack Calhoun

Thomas Horn

Dorka Keehn

Carl Pascarella

David Spencer, President

Diane Wilsey, Chair Emerita

Board Members on Zoom:

None

Board Members Absent:

Jamie Bowles, Vice President

Margaret Conley

Also present: Lisa Grove, Chief of Staff and Strategy; Jason Seifer, Chief Financial & Administrative Officer; Jenny Sonnenschein, Executive Assistant to the Director & CEO and Board Administrator.

Quorum: A quorum was present

Approval of the Minutes - Diane B. Wilsey, Chair Emerita, Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco Board of Trustees

Mrs. Wilsey called for approval of minutes for the October 15, 2025 Board of Trustees meeting (**Attachment A** in the Board packet, circulated to Trustees in advance and posted online as part of the publicly noticed agenda).

Motion: Made and seconded

Discussion Among Trustees: None

Vote: All in favor; none opposed

Action: The minutes of the October 15, 2025 meeting of the Board of Trustees were unanimously approved.

Report of the President – David Spencer, President, Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco Board of Trustees

President Spencer welcomed the trustees and thanked the City for their support of the museums and called on Lisa Grove to give the Report of the Director and CEO on behalf of Thomas P. Campbell.

Report of the Director and CEO – Lisa Grove, Chief of Staff and Strategy Officer, on behalf of Thomas P. Campbell, Director and CEO

Lisa Grove provided a report on the highlights of the 2025 Year End Gifts. A full list of 2025 Year End Gifts was included as Appendix B on the agenda.

Ms. Grove introduced the next order of business: the consideration and possible action to approve the loan requests listed in **Appendix C** of the meeting packet.

Motion: Made and seconded

Discussion Among Trustees: None

Public Comment: None

Vote: All in favor; none opposed

Action: The motion passed unanimously

Museum updates

Ms. Grove provided updates on the Legion of Honor's 100th anniversary celebration, which concluded at the end of 2025. The centennial celebration included public programs, the *A Closer Look* lecture series, and a successful *Gifts of Art* campaign that resulted in over 1,000 works of art from 275 donors.

Exhibition updates

Ms. Grove provided an update on current and upcoming exhibitions at the de Young and Legion of Honor. *Art of Manga* opened at the de Young in September and has been very successful, with over 135,000 visitors and more than 3,000 students on school group visits. At the Legion, the critically-acclaimed *Manet & Morisot* exhibition is entering its final month before it travels to the Cleveland Museum of Art. This exhibition has secured major national press coverage and generated significant scholarly contributions to the field, as noted in the recent symposium and study day. Ms. Grove highlighted two upcoming exhibitions: *Monet and Venice*, on view at the de Young from March 21-July 26, 2026, and *The Etruscans*, on view at the Legion from May 2-September 20, 2026.

Education Updates

Ms. Grove reviewed the museum's educational programs, highlighting their reach and impact, with over 200,000 attendees last fiscal year and 103,388 so far this year. Successes of initiatives such as the *Free Saturdays* program, which has welcomed more than 790,000 visitors since 2019, were noted, as well as the new fourth grade tour curriculum created for the new Arts of Indigenous Americas galleries. Ms. Grove noted that the Museum's School Programs were recognized by the California Department of Education and the California Association of Museums with a 2025 Superintendent's Award for Excellence in Museum Education, a prestigious award recognizing outstanding impact. The upcoming *Youngsters Day Out* event on May 16th, which raises funds to support field trips and programs for Title One schools, was also highlighted.

Building Updates

Ms. Grove reported on the need for ongoing maintenance of the museum's two architecturally significant buildings, the Legion and the DeYoung, and mentioned that Jason Seifer would speak about capital requests in the upcoming budget hearing.

Budget Hearing Introduction

Noting that today's meeting serves as the first of two official budget hearings, Ms. Grove thanked Mayor Lurie and his administration for their ongoing commitment to stabilizing the City's budget and for their partnership in identifying arts and culture as one of their 2026 priorities. Ms. Grove noted that the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco are the 10th most highly attended art museum in the U.S., welcoming over 1.25 million visitors in 2025, a 10% increase over 2024. She emphasized the Museums' role as a top attraction in San Francisco for both local residents and tourists, which directly contributes to the City's priority of economic revitalization. She emphasized FAMSF's role as a brand ambassador for San Francisco, as well as the Museums' positive impact on the quality of life for our community through quality programming and free access opportunities. Ms. Grove

closed by noting that FAMSF is proud to be the City's art museum, and grateful for the City's ongoing support of our institution.

Report of the Chief Financial and Administrative Officer - Jason Seifer, Chief Financial and Administrative Officer

Jason Seifer focused on the city's fiscal outlook, budget instructions, and the Fine Arts Museum's budget. He noted that the City continues to face significant budget challenges, but that FAMSF had not received any specific budget reduction directions at this time. Mr. Seifer provided an overview of the FAM Based Operating Budget and the list of Capital and COIT improvement requests. The City budget process has changed to an outcome-based approach, with the museum collaborating closely with the mayor's office to review key programs and performance metrics. The second FAM Board budget hearing is February 11, and the FAM Operating Budget is due to the Mayor's Office on February 23.

Mr. Seifer introduced consideration and possible action to adopt a Resolution Acknowledging Funding Expended by the Corporation of the Fine Arts Museums during the period July 1, 2025 – September 30, 2025, as set forth under **Item VI.B.** of the publicly posted agenda and included in the Board packet for trustee review.

Motion: Made and seconded

Discussion Among Trustees: None

Public Comment: None

Vote: All in favor, none opposed

Action: Resolution Number 1968 is hereby adopted and recorded in the official minutes

Commission Streamlining Task Force Update

Mr. Seifer reported on the Streamlining Task Force's recommendations for the Fine Arts Museums Commission, which include reducing the maximum number of trustees from 65 to 20 and maintaining the commission's unique characteristics as a charitable trust department. The group also touched on the broader context of charter reform and the upcoming vote on city charter changes, which could impact the commission's structure and operations.

General Public Comment - Diane B. Wilsey, Chair Emerita

Mrs. Wilsey called for members of the public to address the Board of Trustees.

Public Comment: None

Adjournment - Diane B. Wilsey, Chair Emerita

Action: The meeting was adjourned at 4:12 p.m.

Submitted by,

Jenny Sonnenschein

Executive Assistant to the Director & CEO | Board Administrator

These draft minutes are to be reviewed and approved by the Board of Trustees at its next regularly scheduled meeting.