

MINUTES
WAR MEMORIAL BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
Thursday, March 12, 2026

The Board of Trustees of the War Memorial of San Francisco met in regular session on Thursday, March 12, 2026, at 2:00 p.m., in the Trustees’ Board Room, War Memorial Opera House, President Wilsey presiding.

ROLL CALL

- Present: President Wilsey, Vice President Horn, Trustee Gatti Trustee Kopp, Trustee Lam, Trustee Makras, Trustee Muduroglu, Trustee Newstat, Trustee Rocco and Trustee Wright
- Absent: Trustee Pelosi
- Staff Present: Kate Sofis, Managing Director; Rob Levin, Assistant Managing Director; and Francesca Cicero, Board Secretary

Board Secretary Cicero made an opening announcement related to remote public comment. She stated that remote public comment, except as necessary for disability accommodations, has been discontinued. She noted that members of the public are invited to observe the meeting in-person or online, but only members of the public attending the meeting in-person will have an opportunity to provide public comment.

Requests for accommodation for remote public comment should be made at least 48 hours prior to the meeting, by email or voicemail (WarMemorialBoard@sfgov.org or 415-554-6377).

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

After Trustee Kopp offered some non-substantive grammatical amendments to the minutes, on motion of Trustee Gatti, seconded by Trustee Newstat, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

RESOLUTION NO. 26-09

RESOLVED, By the Board of Trustees of the War Memorial of San Francisco the minutes of the Budget and Finance Committee meetings of January 27, 2026 and February 12, 2026, and the February 12, 2026, Regular meeting, are hereby approved.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT

No updates.

MANAGING DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Managing Director Kate Sofis reported on the War Memorial nightlife “takeover” of the California Academy of Sciences on February 26, 2026, in partnership with the Ballet, Symphony and Opera. The event brought over 700+ attendees to engage with interactive exhibits. She also reported on the interview process currently in the final stage for the Director of Public Safety role. Director Sofis and Board Secretary Cicero also reported on the two overlapping Charter reform amendments that have been circulated by the Commission Streamlining Commission (Prop. E) and the Mayor’s office. The Board discussed attending the Board of Supervisors meeting which will discuss the Prop. E proposed charter amendment on Tuesday, March 17 at 3pm.

ASSISTANT MANAGING DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Assistant Managing Director Rob Levin updated the Board on the mansard roof replacement. He also reported that the American Legion War Memorial Commission completed the request to update the organizational information and tax identification numbers for the veterans organizations occupying space on the second floor of the Veterans Building, as requested in the January Board meeting.

BOARD SECRETARY'S REPORT

Board Secretary Francesca Cicero reported on the upcoming Ethics filings due in April.

REGULAR ITEMS

Departmental Budget Updates. Director Sofis updated the Board on the submission of the budget to the Mayor's office, which included recommendations on how the Department might be able to make up the \$750,000 in targeted cuts to general fund support. She explained that the Department has worked with Real Estate to optimize cleaning schedules, to focus primarily on public-facing spaces and venues. She noted that this should save the Department approximately \$750,000 from the work order with Real Estate. She also explained that the City is looking to reduce the structural costs of salaries and benefits, which will lead to an overall reduction in the number of positions across the City. She noted that the Mayor's office has recognized the Department for outsourcing the Department's human resources function to the Department of Human Resources and the IT function to the Department of Information Technology. She explained that no decisions have been made by the Mayor's office yet.

War Memorial and Performing Arts Center Branding: President Wilsey stated that as part of the ongoing work to look at the best ways to market the performing arts venues, she referred discussion of the War Memorial and Performing Arts Center's brand identity and strategy to the Marketing and Community Engagement Committee and requested that the Committee meet to review and consider recommendations to the full Board.

Proposal for Banners in the Veterans Building Lobby: Assistant Managing Director Rob Levin presented a concept proposed by Ken Maley, a veteran who has worked on previous banners in the Veterans Building, of "*Postcards as Wartime Influencers*." The display would include two 90 x 90 banners to be mounted in the Veterans Building lobby by Memorial Day and will be up in the lobby for a period of 30 days. Director Sofis noted this project would be utilizing the final remaining funds in the restricted account for World War I and II commemoration being held in the San Francisco Performing Arts Center Foundation.

Following discussion, on motion of Trustee Kopp, seconded by Vice President Horn, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

RESOLUTION NO. 26-10

RESOLVED, By the Board of Trustees of the War Memorial of San Francisco, the proposed banner display "*Postcards as Wartime Influencers*" to be displayed in the Veterans Building Lobby for a period of 30 days, inclusive of Memorial Day, is hereby approved.

MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE

None.

GOOD AND WELFARE

Trustee Gatti raised a question regarding the feasibility of closing off Grove Street for the Ballet to hold a Nutcracker holiday market. The Board decided it was better to agendize this topic for discussion next month. There being no further comment, President Wilsey closed good and welfare.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There being no public comment, President Wilsey closed public comment.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, President Wilsey adjourned the meeting at 3:03 p.m.

/s/ Francesca Cicero
Board Secretary