

**MINUTES**  
**WAR MEMORIAL BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**Thursday, May 14, 2026**

The Board of Trustees of the War Memorial of San Francisco met in regular session on Thursday, May 14, 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 Makras, Trustee Muduroglu, Trustee Newstat, Trustee Pelosi, Trustee Rocco, Trustee Wright

Absent: Trustee Lam

Staff Present: Kate Sofis, Managing Director; Rob Levin, Assistant Managing Director; 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 Kopp, seconded by Trustee Rocco, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

RESOLUTION NO. 26-13

RESOLVED, By the Board of Trustees the minutes of the April 9, 2026 Regular meeting and Marketing & Community Engagement Committee meeting are hereby approved.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

President Wilsey congratulated the San Francisco Ballet on the conclusion of its season and acknowledged the upcoming Opera summer season.

**MANAGING DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Managing Director Sofis provided updates on the final budget from the Mayor's office, highlighting capital projects approved including the North and South freight elevators in the Opera House as well as additional funds allocated for the dimmer system in Davies Symphony Hall. She reported that the Mansard Roof project at the Opera House remains on schedule. Managing Director Sofis announced the hiring of a new Director of Public Safety, Rakeem Taylor. Board Secretary Cicero delivered farewell remarks and Celestine Ratsch-Rivera was named interim Board Secretary.

**ASSISTANT MANAGING DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Assistant Managing Director Levin reported on the AIDS Memorial Quilt installation in the Opera House. He also reported there would be an additional panel this year displayed in the Veterans Building lobby. He reported on the Ballet Festival Dinner catered by Global Gourmet. Director Levin updated the Board on the pilot program launched by the War Memorial, Global Gourmet, the Opera, and the Ballet on transforming the former Opera Shop into a Champagne Bar "Standing Ovation" for the duration of the Opera season. It will return back to the Ballet shop for ballet season.

**REGULAR ITEMS**

**Fee Waiver Request – American Legion War Memorial Commission**

President Wilsey stated that the Board received a request from the American Legion War Memorial Commission for a fee waiver for an event sponsored by the San Francisco Photographers Alliance to be held in the Veterans Building Gallery and the Green Room. She

invited the Chair of the American Legion War Memorial Commission Mario Benfield and Gallery Director Yolanda Faye to present the fee waiver request.

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 26-14**

RESOLVED, By the Board of Trustees of the War Memorial of San Francisco, the fee waiver requested by the American Legion War Memorial Commission for the event scheduled for June 7, 2026, is hereby approved in the amount of \$1225.

**Revenue Expansion Strategy Presentation** Managing Director Sofis introduced Theresa Von Klug, a consultant brought on to support the revenue expansion strategy for the venues. Ms. Von Klug was Chief Operating Officer of the San Francisco Opera and brings years of experience in presenting and venue operations. Director Sofis opened the presentation with current facility rental revenue numbers for the year-to-date and the key performance metrics. Assistant Managing Director Rob Levin and consultant Theresa von Klug presented a comprehensive venue activation and revenue growth strategy, covering availability, pricing, nontraditional rentals, outreach, and contracting improvements. Director Sofis shared details on how the Department collaborates with the San Francisco Performing Arts Center Foundation.

**SPECIAL PRESENTATION**

**Nutcracker Market Concept – San Francisco Ballet**

Executive Director of SF Ballet, Branislav Henselman outlined a proposal for a European-style Nutcracker Market in the Horseshoe Courtyard. His presentation highlighted the importance of the Nutcracker to San Francisco, as the place where the production took off, and its positive impact to the community. Detailed plans are in the works and will be presented again to the Board in future meetings.

**REGULAR ITEMS**

None.

**MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE**

None.

**GOOD AND WELFARE**

There being no good and welfare, President Wilsey closed good and welfare.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Chris Hughes, a representative from Open Doors & Future Possibilities announced plans for a Fourth of July event in the Memorial Court celebrating America 250. He noted a rental waiver request will be brought forward at the next Board meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

Celestine Ratsch-Rivera

Interim Board Secretary