



City and County of San Francisco

Daniel Lurie, Mayor

Minutes for Street Artists Committee, July 27, 2026



Minutes

Chair Shiota called the meeting to order at 10:52 a.m.

1. Call to Order, Roll Call, Agenda Changes, Land Acknowledgment (00:00:01)

Commissioners Present

Janine Shiota, Chair

Debra Walker

Al Perez

Nabiel Musleh

Commissioners Absent

Seth Brenzel

Suzie Ferras

Marcus Shelby

Staff Present

Ebon Glenn, Deputy Director of Programs

Denise Pate, Director of Community Investments

Anne Trickey, Senior Program Officer

Maysoun Wazwaz, Program Officer

Jax Blaska, Program Associate

Kingsley Sun, Program Associate

Natalia Perez, Program Associate

No agenda changes were made.

Chair Shiota announced the public meeting instructions.

Program Associate, Jax Blaska, announced the public comment instructions.

Commissioner Perez began the meeting by reading the Arts Commission's land acknowledgement statement.

2. General Public Comment

(00:05:40)

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

3. Overview of Art Vendor Disciplinary Procedures

(00:06:17)

Senior Program Officer Anne Trickey provided an overview of the Street Artist Program's disciplinary procedures, reviewing the process from the initial incident report through the issuance of a final decision. Trickey explained that staff investigated reported violations under Article 24 of the Police Code but do not have law enforcement authority to compel evidence or witness

participation. Serious violations involving violence or threats of violence proceed directly to a disciplinary hearing.

Trickey noted that the Notice to Street Artists and the Code of Conduct govern the program's disciplinary process and outlined the hearing procedures, including public comment, staff presentation of investigative findings, presentations and rebuttals by the parties, commissioner deliberation, and the committee's vote. Trickey explained that the committee may uphold or modify staff's recommended disciplinary action, including suspension or revocation of a vendor's license, depending on the severity of the violation.

Trickey concluded by reviewing the rehearing and appeals process, noting that artists may request a rehearing under limited circumstances. Trickey also shared an update from the Board of Appeals clarifying that the 15-day appeal period begins upon issuance of the Director's formal notice of decision, including any required translated notice.

Commissioner Perez asked for clarification on the hearing procedures, specifically when public comment would occur during the disciplinary process. Trickey explained that public comment takes place after the committee's deliberation and before the vote. In response to a follow-up question, Trickey clarified that all attendees, including the parties involved in the case, are permitted to provide public comment.

Commissioner Musleh requested a recap of the committee's actions from the previous meeting. Trickey summarized that the committee had suspended Yingzhi Ge for two years, suspended Jie Yin for six months, and took no disciplinary action against Jianfu Wei. Trickey noted that the committee would now consider the fourth disciplinary matter involving Zhongyu Wang.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

4. Hearing and possible motion to approve revocation of art vendor license for art vendor ZhongYu Wang (9021):

- **Participating in a violent altercation, threats against art vendor Jianfu Wei (8970) and disrupting the business of the market. (00:15:35)**

Senior Program Officer Anne Trickey presented staff's recommendation to permanently revoke the art vendor license of Zhongyu Wang for violating the Street Artist Program's Code of Conduct.

Trickey summarized the investigation into a physical altercation on November 28, 2025 at Embarcadero Plaza, noting that, because no Arts Commission staff were present, the investigation relied on interviews with the involved parties and witnesses, as well as photographs and video evidence. Although witness accounts varied and the cause of the altercation could not be determined, staff confirmed that a physical confrontation occurred.

Trickey explained that the current disciplinary matter focused on video evidence showing Zhongyu Wang making a threatening statement toward another vendor Jianfu Wei following the incident. While Wang disputed that the statement was a threat, staff concluded that the evidence demonstrated a violation of the Code of Conduct. Based on the investigation and the program's zero-tolerance policy for violence and threats, staff recommended permanent revocation of Zhongyu Wang's art vendor license.

Director of Community Investment Dennise Pate restated staff's recommendation for license revocation for ZhongYu Wang (License No: 9021) due to the violation of Program Code of Conduct.

The accused vendor, Zhongyu Wang, testified that the November 28, 2025, incident began when her tent pole accidentally touched the neighboring tent of Yingzhi Ge during setup. Wang stated that she had no prior conflict with Ge and did not intentionally make contact with the tent. According to Wang, Ge confronted her, entered her booth, and physically assaulted her by pulling her hair. Wang further alleged that Jianfu Wei restrained her during the

altercation, preventing her from defending herself, and that she sustained physical injuries documented with photographs.

Wang stated that she later approached Jianfu Wei in a public walkway to discuss the incident and his alleged offer to take responsibility for her injuries. Wang testified that Yingzhi Ge and her family approached her aggressively, causing her and her son to fear another confrontation. Wang also described experiencing ongoing emotional distress following the incident, and stated that she filed a police report and sought treatment.

Wang disputed staff's finding that she made verbal threats or interfered with another vendor's business, arguing that the video evidence was incomplete and did not capture the full context of the incident. Wang maintained that she remained in a public area, did not disrupt business operations, and was attempting to discuss responsibility with Jianfu Wei rather than threaten anyone. Wang asked the committee to consider all of the evidence, asserting that she did not initiate the conflict or violate the program's Code of Conduct. She also noted that she had not been involved in any prior disciplinary incidents during her years in the Program and stated that she filed a police report after the previous hearing because she believed the other parties had made statements that were inconsistent with the facts.

In response to Zhongyu Wang's testimony, Jianfu Wei disputed her allegations, stating that he never restrained or had any physical contact with Wang. Wei testified that he did not witness how the altercation began because he arrived near the end of the incident and intervened only to help stop the fight. Wei further stated that, following the incident, Wang contacted her son, who came to the market, made verbal threats toward him, and attempted to provoke him. Wei denied ever threatening or assaulting Wang and rejected Wang's claim that he had promised to take responsibility for her injuries. Wei maintained that his actions were intended solely to de-escalate the situation and stated that there were witnesses who could corroborate his account.

In rebuttal to Wei's statement, Zhongyu Wang presented additional testimony and photographic evidence of an arm injury, asserting that the injury was caused by Jianfu Wei restraining her during the altercation. Wang also read a written witness statement from her husband, Yuan, who stated that he witnessed Yingzhi Ge assaulting Wang while Jianfu Wei restrained both of her arms, preventing her from defending herself.

Wang further alleged that Jianfu Wei entered her booth while restraining her, which she argued violated the program's Code of Conduct. Wang also claimed that, following the incident, Wei told her he would take responsibility if she was injured and suggested that she could sue him. Wang stated that she later filed a police report because she believed the statements made by the other parties about the incident were untrue.

In counter-rebuttal to Wang's rebuttal, Jianfu Wei disputed Wang's photographic evidence, arguing that her photo shows her injury must be someone holding her arms tightly, but he claimed that there were a lot of witnesses at the scene, if he had held her arms, there would have been someone willing to testify on Wang's behalf. Wei pointed out there was no witness that could corroborate Wang's claim that Wei holding her arms causing the injury and Wei stressed again he had witnesses that could corroborate his statement and he had never promised Wang that he would be responsible for Wang's injury because he did not harm Wang.

Following the parties' presentations, the Committee entered into discussion. Commissioner Walker summarized the committee's prior disciplinary actions related to the November 2025 altercation. Walker clarified that the Committee was now considering the disciplinary matter involving Zhongyu Wang, based on evidence that included video recorded after the physical altercation. Commissioner Walker emphasized that the Street Artist Program's Code of Conduct establishes a zero-tolerance policy for threats and violence in public spaces. While acknowledging that the committee must determine the appropriate disciplinary action, Walker stated that the Committee's responsibility was to ensure the rules are applied fairly and

consistently to promote a safe and respectful environment for artists and the public.

Chair Shiota asked staff to restate the original disciplinary recommendations for all parties involved in the November 2025 altercation. Staff confirmed that the original recommendation was permanent revocation for each party.

Commissioner Perez asked whether the Committee could revisit the disciplinary decisions made at the previous hearing based on the testimony presented today. Staff responded that the Committee could only reconsider those decisions through a formal rehearing request and, because no such request had been submitted, the prior decisions could not be revisited.

In response to questions about witness testimony, staff noted that only one witness, Xiu, provided an account that corroborated Zhongyu Wang's version of events. Staff explained that the remaining witnesses either could not recall how the altercation began or declined to participate in interviews. Staff also confirmed that Wang's husband, was interviewed but stated that his account was not considered an independent witness statement due to his relationship with Wang.

Commissioner Musleh asked staff to clarify the key evidence supporting the current disciplinary matter, noting that the committee had previously taken no disciplinary action against Jianfu Wei.

Staff clarified that the committee was not reconsidering Wei's case but was instead evaluating Zhongyu Wang's conduct, specifically her alleged verbal threats toward Wei. Staff emphasized that the Street Artist Program maintains a zero tolerance policy for violence and threats, stating that both physical and verbal altercations disrupt the marketplace and constitute violations of the program's Code of Conduct.

Chair Shiota noted that Zhongyu Wang had participated in the Street Artist Program for approximately 20 years and referenced a letter of support signed by multiple art vendors. Shiota stated that the letter was relevant to the committee's consideration of Wang's history in the program and invited any

present art vendors, particularly those who signed the letter, to provide comments.

Several active art vendors who signed a letter of support for Zhongyu Wang addressed the Committee.

Gohar Yepremyan, Peter O'Loughlin , Xiu Hua Shi , and Maria Sky all told the committee about their reasons for signing the support letter.

Commissioner Perez asked Xiu Hua Shi whether she witnessed Wei physically restraining Wang during the altercation. Xiu responded that, by the time she arrived, Wang had already been assaulted and Wei was standing near the booth. She later clarified that she did not witness Wei physically restraining Wang.

At the Committee's request, Zi Jie Mei, a witness for Jianfu Wei, provided testimony. Mei stated that he is a friend of Wei and recalled following him to the scene after the altercation had begun. He testified that he, Wei, and his wife attempted to separate the parties and de-escalate the situation. Mei described the scene as chaotic, with individuals taking sides, and spoke positively about Wei's character.

Mei's wife, who is not a licensed art vendor, also addressed the Committee. There were no other witnesses or program participants present to speak on behalf of Jianfu Wei.

During deliberations, Chair Shiota acknowledged the program's zero-tolerance policy on violence while noting the challenges of determining responsibility when staff were not present and do not have law enforcement authority. Shiota stated that she was hesitant to revoke Wang's license when the committee had not revoked the licenses of the other parties involved, and considered the support letter from fellow vendors as evidence of Wang's positive history in the program. Chair Shiota emphasized that threats and violence must have consequences but expressed uncertainty about the appropriate penalty and invited input from other commissioners. Shiota also

noted that future cases involving violence should be addressed consistently among all involved parties.

Commissioner Musleh stated that the committee had previously taken a measured approach in disciplinary actions and noted that Wei was not disciplined because his intent was to intervene and stop the altercation. Musleh expressed a similar view regarding Wang, noting her positive standing in the community and the uncertainty surrounding how the conflict began. Musleh supported a balanced disciplinary response rather than a severe penalty.

Commissioner Walker emphasized the seriousness of the program's rules while noting broader concerns about market safety and the need to evaluate security resources. Walker stated that the situation should be considered consistently with prior disciplinary actions and recommended a two-month suspension for Wang's license.

Commissioner Perez expressed that he viewed Wang as having been victimized during the original altercation but acknowledged that the program's rules prohibit engagement in conflicts. Perez supported disciplinary action but felt the penalty should be less severe than previous recommendations.

Staff clarified that the Committee was not reconsidering the original altercation, but rather Wang's actions afterward, including statements captured in the video that appeared threatening toward Wei.

Commissioner Walker emphasized that individuals are responsible for their own actions and stated that, regardless of intent, the statements were inappropriate.

Chair Shiota stated that she supported staff, the program rules, and enforcement but recommended a six-month suspension for consistency with the committee's prior decision regarding Jie Yin. Staff confirmed that a six-month suspension would align with that previous action.

Commissioners Musleh and Walker expressed support for a three-month suspension of Zhongyu Wang's vendor license rather than a six-month suspension.

Chair Shiota asked staff to update the motion language. Program Associate Jax Blaska restated the proposed amendment to replace revocation with a three-month suspension. Commissioner Walker moved to amend the disciplinary action to a three-month suspension, and Commissioner Musleh seconded the motion. After the public comments, Chair Shiota called for a final vote on the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Comments

Tad Sky, a longtime street artist, spoke in support of Zhongyu Wang, stating that although he did not witness the incident, he had known Wang for many years. Sky stated that he believed it was out of character for her to instigate violence and expressed his view that she was the victim of the altercation. Sky commended staff's investigation and supported the committee's proposed three-month suspension, stating that it was more appropriate than revocation.

Crisostomo Ibarra, attorney for Wang, argued that Wang's statement following the incident was not a threat of physical violence but an expression of her intent to seek compensation if she suffered injuries. Ibarra contended that the evidence showed Wang had been injured, including by Wei allegedly restraining her, and asserted that imposing a three-month suspension on Wang would be unfair. Ibarra also argued that Wang's husband's testimony should not be discounted solely because he is Wang's husband, but instead weighed alongside the other evidence.

Xiu Hua Shi urged the Committee not to suspend Wang's vendor license, stating that doing so would impose a hardship on Wang and her family. Xiu reiterated her belief that Wang was the victim of the assault and asked the Committee to render a fair and impartial decision.

An intern representing Crisostomo Ibarra, attorney for Zhongyu Wang, urged the Committee to base its decision solely on the specific Code of Conduct violations identified in the notice of violation. They argued that the evidence should be evaluated as a whole rather than relying on isolated photographs, video clips, or statements, noting that the video did not capture the physical altercation itself. The intern also asked the Committee to consider the full record before reaching a decision.

Jianfu Wei addressed the Committee, stating that it was not his role to determine who was right or wrong in the incident. Wei reiterated that he did not harm Wang and denied the allegations made against him. Wei also disputed Wang's claim that he apologized or admitted responsibility for her injuries, maintaining that he had done nothing wrong.

Xingzhi Yuan, Zhongyu Wang's husband, addressed the Committee and stated that he witnessed Jianfu Wei restraining Wang's arms inside her booth while Yingzhi Ge assaulted her. Yuan argued that Wei violated the program's Code of Conduct by entering Wang's booth without permission and should be considered complicit in the assault. Yuan asserted that Wang's injuries would not have been as severe without Wei's involvement and urged the Committee to render a fair decision.

There was no additional public comment.

5. Adjournment

(01:50:37)

The meeting was adjourned at 12:44 p.m.

Minutes posted 8/7/2026, 4:00 pm, KS

Policies

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Ang mga kaganapan ng miting ay maaring isalin sa ibang wika matapos ito ay aprobahan ng komisyon.

Sa mga ganitong uri ng kahilingan, mangyari po lamang makipag ugnayan kay Commission Secretary Manraj Dhaliwal sa 415-252-

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- Ethics.Commission@sfgov.org

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2. Public comment will be taken before or during the Committee's consideration of each agenda item. Each speaker will be allowed to speak for the time allotted by the Chair at the top of the meeting or up to three (3) minutes.

3. During General Public Comment, members of the public may address the Commissioners on matters that are within the Arts Commission's jurisdiction and are not on the agenda.

4. Persons who spoke during the public comment period at a meeting of the Arts Commission may supply a brief written summary of the comments to be included in the minutes if it is 150 words or less. The Arts Commission may reject the summary if it exceeds the prescribed word limit or is not an accurate summary of the speaker's public comment.

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