



COMMUNITY INVESTMENTS COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE ARTS COMMISSION

Tuesday, October 28, 2025

1:00 p.m.

City Hall, Room 416

1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place

Minutes (Approved)

Chair Shiota called the meeting to order at 1:04 p.m.

1. Call to Order, Roll Call, Agenda Changes, Land Acknowledgment (0:00)

Commissioners Present:

Janine Shiota, Chair

Charles Collins

Nabiel Musleh

Marcus Shelby

Commissioners Absent:

J. Riccardo Benavides

Seth Brenzel

Al Perez

Staff Present:

Ralph Remington, Director of Cultural Affairs

Ebon Glenn, Deputy Director of Programs

Denise Pate, Director of Community Investments

Molly Barrons, Senior Compliance Officer

Anne Trickey and Jonell Molina, Senior Program Officers

Jennifer Atwood, Jennifer Chu, and Coco Duhon-Kelley, Program Officers

Jax Blaska, Kingsley Sun, and Natalia Perez, Program Associates

Manraj Dhaliwal, Commission Secretary



Also Present:

Nihan Roth, Cultural Ambassador

There were no changes to the agenda.

Chair Shiota announced public meeting instructions.

Program Associate Blaska announced public comment instructions.

Commissioner Shelby read the Arts Commission's land acknowledgment statement.

2. General Public Comment

(6:14)

There was no public comment.

3. Special Project Grants

(6:50)

Senior Program Officer Anne Trickey presented the item and provided background on the Special Project Grants category. They explained that these grants are funded through sources separate from the Arts Commission's endowments, such as work orders from other City departments, "Addbacks" during the budget process, or the Public Art Trust. Trickey shared the two grants that were recommended for approval by a recent internal panel process.

The first grant, in the amount of \$145,000 over 25 months, was recommended for the Filipino-American Development Foundation to support cultural placemaking in the SOMA Pilipinas Cultural District. The second grant, in the amount of \$120,000 over 31 months, was recommended for Circuit Network to curate performances for the San Francisco Public Library's Night of Ideas in 2026, 2027, and 2028.



Commissioners expressed appreciation for the clarity of the presentation.

Chair Shiota asked for clarification on how the funds were designated for the SOMA Pilipinas Cultural District. Senior Program Officer Anne Trickey and Deputy Director of Programs Ebon Glenn explained that under the City's "1% for Art" program, private construction projects are required to contribute 1% of their total development costs to public art. These funds can be used for public art on site or can be donated to the Public Art Trust, and through the trust designated for projects within the same neighborhood where the development occurred.

Deputy Director Glenn added that the grant for SOMA Pilipinas would specifically support community engagement efforts and help the community envision cultural placemaking in the district.

Commissioner Musleh, seconded by Commissioner Shelby, moved to approve the funding recommendations.

There was no public comment.

The motion was unanimously approved.

Motion to approve the funding recommendations to award two (2) Special Project Grants, to the organizations as presented, and to authorize the Director of Cultural Affairs to enter into grant agreements with each organization not to exceed the amounts as presented at this time.

4. The American Indian Cultural Center of San Francisco Grant – Space (14:02)

Director of Community Investments Denise Pate and Senior Program Officer Jonell Molina presented the item. The grant, in an amount not to exceed \$300,000, will support office and space renovations at 1863



Mission Street for the American Indian Cultural Center of San Francisco. The organization had previously been awarded the grant but required time to resolve compliance issues, which have now been addressed, paving the way for the funding to be released.

Commissioners expressed support for the organization's progress and the establishment of a physical space. Commissioner Musleh inquired whether this was the Center's first physical location, and staff confirmed that the organization had previously operated without a brick-and-mortar location. Commissioner Musleh, seconded by Commissioner Shelby, moved to approve the grant as described.

There was no public comment.

The motion was unanimously approved.

Motion to approve the grant of up to \$300,000 to The American Indian Cultural Center of San Francisco to support office and space renovations for programming for San Francisco artists; and to authorize the Director of Cultural Affairs to enter into a grant agreement with the American Indian Cultural Center not to exceed \$300,000 at this time, as permitted under Section 21G.3(a)(3) for grants made for improvements to property by a property owner.

5. The American Indian Cultural Center of San Francisco Grant – General Operating (18:42)

Director Pate and Senior Program Officer Molina presented the second of two grants for the American Indian Cultural Center of San Francisco (AICC). Director Pate noted the grant had been previously awarded to AICC's former fiscal sponsor, Intersection for the Arts, but the funds had never been released. Director Pate shared AICC is now a compliant



501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Molina added that now that AICC is compliant the grant will go directly to the organization.

Commissioners discussed the organization's transition away from fiscal sponsorship and emphasized the importance of supporting its operations now that it is fully compliant and able to receive the previously awarded grant funds directly.

Commissioner Shelby, seconded by Commissioner Musleh, moved to approve the grant as described.

There was no public comment.

The motion was unanimously approved.

Motion to update Resolution No. 1101-21-243 and authorize \$300,000 to be granted directly to the American Indian Cultural Center of San Francisco as the organization is now a compliant 501c3 nonprofit entity; to support administration and operations over two years, and to authorize the Director of Cultural Affairs to enter into a grant agreement with the American Indian Cultural Center of San Francisco not to exceed \$300,000 at this time.

6. Grant Outreach Update (22:53)

Senior Program Officer Jonell Molina, Program Officer Jennifer Chu, and Cultural Ambassador Nihan Roth presented an update on the Community Investments team's outreach efforts for the FY26 grant cycle.

Staff emphasizing expanded in-person engagement, hybrid information sessions, and strong community response. Since launching in September 2025, staff have held over **60 one-on-one consultations** with artists and organizations, responded to more than **240 inquiries**, and hosted outreach events at the **SF Disability Cultural Center, Southeast Community Center**, and other community hubs. The team's outreach also included



collaboration with major fiscal sponsors and new partnerships with cultural centers across San Francisco, ensuring accessibility and inclusivity for artists from diverse communities.

The team also highlighted the success of three Instagram Live sessions, which collectively reached over 5,800 unique viewers, 40% of whom were not previously following SFAC's Instagram account. These sessions featured Cultural Ambassadors and staff discussing grant opportunities and application tips. In addition, the team produced video spotlights of FY25 grantees to promote the impact of Arts Commission funding. The grant applications are also being promoted by JC Decaux kiosks throughout downtown San Francisco.

Staff commended the four current Cultural Ambassadors for the breadth and depth of their outreach efforts. Cultural Ambassador Nihan Roth reflected on her experience, highlighting the value of building lasting relationships with artists and communities. She described her role as a bridge between SFAC and the broader arts community—one that continues even after the formal end of the ambassador program. Roth also encouraged commissioners to view social media not only as a tool for promoting the current grant cycle, but as part of a long-term strategy to raise awareness of SFAC's programs and impact.

Commissioners commended the outreach efforts and discussed strategies for increasing visibility among musicians and other disciplines.

Commissioner Shiota also inquired about further collaboration with the Cultural Centers to promote grant applications.

There was no public comment.

7. Staff Report (57:44)



Director Pate delivered the staff report. She noted the team's continued outreach and technical assistance efforts, including the launch of new relationships with organizations such as the San Francisco Disability Cultural Center. She reported on internal planning for staff to manage increased application volume and the implementation of a new disbursement policy. This is important as the workload for the team will increase with the implementation of quarterly reporting.

Director Pate shared highlights from recent site visits to grantee performances, including Lorraine Hansberry Theatre's "Sunset Baby," SFBATCO's "The Day the Sky Turned Orange," and the GLBT Historical Society's reunion gala. She emphasized the importance of grantees acknowledging Arts Commission funding support in programs and from the stage.

She also reported on a recent meeting with Cultural Center directors to discuss new guidelines for organizations whose grants are over \$200,000. She encouraged center leaders to advocate for the support they need from staff, and encouraged collaboration amongst the center cohort.

Commissioners expressed appreciation for the staff's efforts and reiterated the importance of public recognition of Arts Commission funding.

There was no public comment.

8. Adjournment

(1:07:12)

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:11 p.m.