

MINUTES
WAR MEMORIAL BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, June 11, 2026

The Board of Trustees of the War Memorial of San Francisco met in regular session on Thursday, June 11, 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 Pelosi, Trustee Rocco, Trustee Wright

Absent: Trustee Lam, Trustee Newstat

Staff Present: Kate Sofis, Managing Director; Rob Levin, Assistant Managing Director; Celestine Ratsch-Rivera, Interim Board Secretary

Board Secretary Ratsch-Rivera 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

On motion of Trustee Muduroglu, seconded by Trustee Rocco, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

RESOLUTION NO. 26-13

RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees approves the minutes of the May 14, 2026 meeting as amended. The resolution was unanimously adopted.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Wilsey acknowledged the San Francisco Opera on the opening of its season and congratulated the San Francisco Symphony on the appointment of their new Music Director, Elim Chan.

MANAGING DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Managing Director Sofis reported on the department's budget presentation to the Board of Supervisors, highlighting strong support and anticipated minor adjustments. She noted the progress of the Mansard Roof project and praised the ongoing collaboration with the resident companies during construction. Managing Director Sofis announced the addition of microphones to the Board room for better sound in the room during the meeting.

ASSISTANT MANAGING DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Assistant Managing Director Levin reported on the Symphony's June block party and recent events, noting successful community participation.

BOARD SECRETARY'S REPORT

Board Secretary Celestine Ratsch-Rivera introduced herself as the interim secretary to the Board of Trustees.

REGULAR ITEMS

Request for Use of the Memorial Court and Fee Waiver for Proposed 4th of July Veterans Event

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 Open Doors to Future Possibilities. She noted that Trustees also received an information memo regarding this event. She invited the Chair of the American Legion War Memorial Commission Mario Benfield and Open Doors to Future Possibilities, Development Director Chris Hughes to present the grounds

usage and fee waiver request. Mr. Hughes presented a proposal for a large-scale July 4 event including exhibits, performances, and community engagement activities for veterans and military families as well as the public. The celebration aims to honor those who have served and their families on the nation's birthday. Trustees discussed planning details.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 26-14

RESOLVED, By the Board of Trustees of the War Memorial of San Francisco, use of the Memorial Court grounds and the fee waiver requested by the American Legion War Memorial Commission for the event scheduled for July 4th, 2026, is hereby approved and waiver approved in the amount of \$815.

Popcorn At the Movies Assistant Managing Director Levin presented a proposal to introduce popcorn and related concessions for select film events at Davies and Herbst. Trustees discussed operational considerations including cleanup, container design, and venue suitability. A motion to approve the pilot program was adopted.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 26-15

RESOLVED, By the Board of Trustees of the War Memorial of San Francisco, the pilot program of offering popcorn for purchase to be consumed in the auditoriums of Davies Symphony Hall and Herbst Theatre during select movies, is hereby approved.

Waste Management in the War Memorial Buildings

Assistant Managing Director, Rob Levin reported on research into replacing campus waste receptacles, noting cost challenges, aesthetic considerations, and compliance with Recology waste stream audits. Trustees discussed potential design strategies and next steps to review current options.

Charter Reform

Managing Director Kate Sofis presented two proposed citywide charter reform measures affecting commissions and departmental oversight. Trustees asked questions regarding timelines, signature thresholds, Board of Supervisors actions, and implications for the War Memorial. Trustees expressed interest in additional information and monitoring future developments.

Department and Foundation Memorandum of Understanding

Managing Director Kate Sofis provided a detailed report on changes affecting departmental support for the San Francisco Performing Arts Center Foundation, including transition from city-provided accounting support to Foundation-employed staffing, classification and labor law considerations restricting department staff from hiring or supervising Foundation personnel, proposed creation of full-time Foundation-funded positions to manage event staff and ushers, and clarification of financial flows and booking responsibilities.

Trustees discussed concerns regarding reporting clarity and ensuring that financial movements are fully documented. Trustees requested improved reporting and the option for deeper review of Foundation finances.

Following discussion on motion of Trustee Horn, seconded by Trustee Pelosi, the following resolution was adopted with eight in favor and one abstention from Trustee Wright:

RESOLUTION NO. 26-16

RESOLVED, By the Board of Trustees of the War Memorial of San Francisco, to certify that the Managing Director and Assistant Managing Director are serving in roles and performing duties and functions for the San Francisco Performing Arts Center Foundation (as currently enumerated in the MOU, specifically Exhibit C and Section 4.1), as part of their official City duties, is hereby approved.

On motion of Trustee Muduroglu, seconded by Trustee Pelosi, the following resolution was adopted with eight in favor and one abstention from Trustee Wright:

RESOLUTION NO. 26-17

RESOLVED, By the Board of Trustees of the War Memorial of San Francisco, to direct the Managing Director and her staff to review and work with the Foundation to clarify and update the terms of the Memorandum of Understanding (dated June 12, 2025) between the War Memorial Department and the San Francisco Performing Arts Foundation to better reflect the changing operational constraints and emergent business needs of the Department, is hereby approved.

GOOD AND WELFARE

General trustee comments and discussion regarding capacity, partnerships, and operations.

PUBLIC COMMENT

City Attorney for the War Memorial & Performing Arts Department, Lauren Curry provided clarification on deadlines for submission of signatures and Board of Supervisors action on charter amendments.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:10 p.m.

Celestine Ratsch-Rivera

Interim Board Secretary

DRAFT