



MEETING OF THE VISUAL ARTS COMMITTEE

Wednesday, February 18, 2026

2:00 p.m.

Hybrid Meeting

Draft Minutes

Chair Ferras called the meeting to order at 2:06pm.

1. Call to Order, Roll Call, Agenda Changes, Land Acknowledgment

Commissioners Present:

Suzie Ferras

J. Riccardo Benavides

Nabiel Musleh

Debra Walker

Commissioners Absent:

JD Beltran

Al Perez

SFAC staff in attendance: Civic Art Collection and Public Art Program Director Mary Chou and Deputy Director of Programs Ebon Glenn.

2. General Public Comment

(0:06:08)

There was no public comment.

3. Consent Calendar

(00:06:52)

1. Motion to approve the modification of the loan agreement with Oleg Lobykin for the *Talking Heads* temporary installation in Patricia's Green to extend the loan agreement by six months to now expire on July 31, 2026, and to increase the artist fee by \$3,000, increasing the total loan agreement fee to \$33,000.

Moved: Walker/Musleh

The motion unanimously carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Ferras, Benavides, Musleh, Walker

There was no public comment.

4. Temporary Public Art

(0:8:20)

Program Associate Paris Cotz presented an update to the SFAC Temporary Art guidelines. Any artwork either placed on City property or funded in whole or in part by City funds, regardless of location, requires approval by the San Francisco Arts Commission. These projects are either initiated by other City departments, outside sponsors, or by SFAC.

Ms. Cotz described a number of improvements staff made to the SFAC webpage to streamline the process for applicants, which include creating a new fillable Google form for external sponsors to submit their proposal details; updating contacts for City property owners to help facilitate site approval and permitting; and providing examples of past presentations, sample community support letters and a pdf version of the Google form . Lastly, SFAC staff removed the requirement to submit ADA and structural engineering reports as part of the submittal packet, as these reports are required and reviewed by the property owner. SFAC also provided guidance on time limits for temporary installations. Temporary public art must be installed for less than 1 year; if the installation is proposed for more than a year, sponsors must provide justification for an extended

installation as well as a status report on the maintenance of the artwork. Additionally, the community outreach criteria has been updated to include a checklist in the Google form to ensure that project sponsors have shared the proposed project with constituents and community stakeholders in proximity to the proposed project site (i.e. supervisors, community benefit districts, cultural districts, etc.). The approval criteria for temporary public art on City property and/or funded with City funds is listed on the webpage as well as a checklist that commissioners can use to evaluate proposals, which focuses on the following six areas: mission and policy alignment, community engagement, site relevance and context, artistic merit and public value, feasibility and sponsor capacity, and materials, durability and maintenance.

The commissioners asked clarifying process questions, including SFAC staff's capacity to complete outreach for the temporary projects. Ms. Chou stated that the proposals are presented at the Visual Arts Committee, which are public meetings. But as there is no dedicated budget for SFAC staff administration of temporary art projects, staff is providing resources and guidance to sponsors so that they can complete the recommended outreach.

There was no public comment.

5. Big Art Loop: Embarcadero Plaza – Marco Cochrane **(0:34:30)**

Program Associate Paris Cotz introduced Meredith Winner, COO, Building 180 and artist Marco Cochrane. Meredith Winner gave a brief history of the artwork and its installation. Winner shared on-site survey results of the public's reception of the artwork and the proposed extension of its installation; Winner also shared the current condition and maintenance status of the artwork. Artist Marco Cochrane spoke on his inspiration for the artwork and what it symbolizes to him.

Public Comment

Ben Davis from Illuminate spoke in support of extending the installation of R-Evolution at Embarcadero Plaza and stated that he thought it should stay on site as long as possible.

Phone message received 2/14/2026:

Arlene, a visitor and a former San Francisco resident, called to express strong opposition to the public art sculpture near the Ferry Building. She described the piece as unattractive and said it detracts from the historic character of the area, urging that it be removed.

The commissioners appreciated the private/public partnership and recognized that the private sector is not required to follow the same procedures as the Arts Commission.

Motion: to amend RESOLUTION NO. 0303-25-028 to amend the duration of installation, to now read as: Motion to approve the temporary installation of a 48 ft. tall sculpture by Marco Cochrane, titled *R-Evolution*, fabricated from steel rod and tubing with two layers of geodesic triangles and covered by stainless steel mesh, to be installed in Embarcadero Plaza from mid-March 2025 - October 9, 2026. The installation is sponsored by the Sijbrandij Foundation, pending final approval from the Recreation and Park Department.

Moved: Walker/Benavides

The motion unanimously carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Ferras, Benavides, Musleh, Walker

6. Geneva Car Barn Temporary Mural Project (44:15)

Project Manager Craig Corpora presented the project plan for the Geneva Car Barn temporary mural project. The Geneva Car Barn, originally

constructed in 1901 as part of the City's electric streetcar infrastructure, is now a City Landmark, leased and operated by the Community Arts Stabilization Trust (CAST), with Performing Arts Workshop (PAW) as an anchor tenant in the Ocean View-Merced Heights-Ingleside area. SFAC, in collaboration with the Recreation & Parks Department (RPD) and CAST, is developing a community-engaged temporary exterior artwork project on the west façade of the building to support neighborhood visibility, cultural identity, and community storytelling.

The temporary mural will measure approximately 800 sq. ft. and will be installed along the west-facing façade and turret on the first and second-level exterior windows. The mural design will be printed on ACM DiBond with an anti-graffiti clear coat. The artwork will be on display for a maximum of 3 years, beginning Winter/Spring 2027. The total artwork budget for this project is \$90,000. The design only contract, inclusive of all artists' fees and associated expenses for design, community engagement activities and consultation during fabrication and installation, is \$20,000. The implementation allocation of the project is \$70,000 for the fabrication, installation, maintenance, and deinstallation which will be managed by SFAC under a separate contract. The goals of the project are to honor the historic and cultural significance of the Geneva Car Barn; establish the site as an art and culture center and youth arts educational hub; provide a community benefit by supporting artist(s) with a meaningful connection to the Excelsior/Outer Mission/OMI neighborhoods; and to develop the artwork through a series of community engagement activities with local community members and organizations.

There was no public comment.

Motion: to approve the Project Plan for the Geneva Car Barn Temporary Mural Public Art Project.

Moved: Walker/Benavides

The motion unanimously carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Ferras, Benavides, Musleh, Walker

7. Central Subway Chinatown-Rose Pak Station – Tomie Arai (0:58:30)

Project Manager, Arianne G. Davidian presented the artwork *Arrival* by Tomie Arai as installed at Chinatown-Rose Pak Station. The station is one of four new subway stations that opened to the public in November 2022. The stations were built along the 1.7-mile alignment and feature ten site-specific works of art by twelve artists, located both inside and outside of the stations. *Arrival* is the tenth and final artwork completed for the Central Subway Public Art Program.

For *Arrival*, Tomie Arai presents the story of San Francisco’s Chinatown. The architectural glass with color interlayer artwork is located on the exterior parapet of the station’s headhouse and inside the station on the north and south platforms. The parapet artwork extends like a scroll, starting with the California coast and San Francisco Bay—a historic port of entry for immigrants from Asia. A vibrant and harmonious mix of native and non-native trees and flora suggests a cityscape that has been transformed by migration and change. The promise of planting roots in a new world is a reference to the Ping Yuen (Peaceful Garden) public housing project and the legacy of Chinatown tenant organizers. Maps of local streets, the broader city, and the world beyond form an evolving backdrop for portraits of students from Gordon J. Lau Elementary School and multiple generations of community members. *Arrival* signifies a neighborhood in transition, rich with history and moving towards a more global future.

On the north and south walls of the platform, historic images are framed within a circle and a square, the traditional Chinese symbols for heaven and earth. This harmonized world view is set against a backdrop of waves suggesting journey, movement and change. The north wall acknowledges the ancestral homelands of the original stewards of the land, the Ramaytush Ohlone, and presents images of early regional settlements, the

California Gold Rush, and San Francisco harbor. The south wall celebrates the resiliency of Chinatown and the City of San Francisco through a montage of images that span from historic 20th-century events to the present, including the 1906 San Francisco earthquake, the Angel Island Detention Center and the landmark fight to preserve the I-Hotel, a low-income single-room occupancy residence in San Francisco's Manilatown.

There was no public comment.

Motion: to approve as installed the completed artwork, *Arrival*, 2025, by Tomie Arai for the Central Subway Chinatown-Rose Pak Station Public Art Project at 943 Stockton Street. The artwork is architectural glass, approximately 726 sq. ft. installed along three walls of the street-level parapet, and approximately 548 sq. ft. installed on the North and South walls of the platform level.

Moved: Walker/Benavides

The motion unanimously carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Ferras, Benavides, Musleh, Walker

8. 2026 Art on Market Street Poster Series

(0:58:30)

Program Associate Paris Cotz presented the final designs by Colin Kimzey for his 2026 Art on Market Street Poster Series titled *Dreaming People's History*, the second project for the 2026 series, *Now & Then: Living Memories*. For this poster series, Kimzey illuminates instances of activists in the 1960s and 70s Asian American Movement combining history, art, and politics. He has drawn on his nine years of research in the archives of Kearny Street Workshop (KSW), the longest-running Asian American interdisciplinary arts organization.

The posters are designed as five sets of pairs, with one poster featuring a specific theme or series of events that will be installed on the exterior of the bus shelter, and the companion poster featuring a didactic text about the

theme that will be installed on the interior of the bus shelter. Each didactic poster will feature a QR code that links to a website that hosts the text translated into Spanish, Chinese, and Filipino. The posters depict the Third World Liberation Front (TWLF), Combined Asian American Resource Project (CARP), Manilatown Manongs, Angel Island, and the Internment of Japanese Americans. The series will be on display from April through June 2026.

There was no public comment.

Motion: to approve the 10 final designs by Colin Kimzey for the 2026 Art on Market Street Poster Series.

Moved: Walker/Musleh

The motion unanimously carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Ferras, Benavides, Musleh, Walker

9. 2027 Art on Market Street Poster Series (0:58:30)

Program Associate Paris Cotz presented the 2027 Art on Market Poster Series, entitled *Market Street: The Next 175 Years*. Built in 1851 as the “spine” of San Francisco, Market Street has seen many transformations over its 175+ year history and the series asks artists to imagine what the next 175 years hold for this major thoroughfare, from now to the start of the 23rd Century.

This project also intersects with the 2027 Further Triennial, whose mission is to “animate the cultural history and celebrate the creative present of Northern California.” Artists are invited to look *further* ahead, imagining the future of Market Street while grounding their work in the region’s legacy of “unorthodox thinking, offbeat creativity, and unconventional identities that continually seek new horizons.”

The RFQ will be issued Friday, February 20th pending approval and will close on April 17th. The recommended semi-finalists will be on the May

VAC for review and the recommended finalists for review in July. The four artists/artist-teams will be under contract by September 2026. The total budget for the design of the poster series is a not-to-exceed amount of \$12,000 for each selected artist. This amount includes the artist fee, design and all preparation work necessary to complete the poster designs to the printer's specifications.

There was no public comment.

Motion: to approve the Project Plan for the 2027 Art on Market Street Poster Series.

Moved: Walker/Musleh

The motion unanimously carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Ferras, Benavides, Musleh, Walker

10. Staff Report

(1:57:18)

Ms. Chou shared information on the SFPUC Millbrae Operations Center Improvements Public Art Project Request for Qualifications. There are two art opportunities located along the western edge of the site, an exterior large sculpture and a series of pedestrian-scaled artworks. The deadline to submit proposals is March 20, 2026.

There was no public comment.

11. New Business and Announcements

(1:59:46)

Chair Ferras welcomed Commissioner Benavides to the Visual Arts Committee.

There was no public comment

12. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 3:49 p.m.

Posted 3/2/2026, 1:00pm TP

Archives Available

A recording of this meeting will be available online after the meeting at the following address:

https://sanfrancisco.granicus.com/ViewPublisher.php?view_id=152

Language Accessibility

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