

MEETING OF THE VISUAL ARTS COMMITTEE

Wednesday, January 21, 2026

2:00 p.m.

Hybrid Meeting

Draft Minutes

Chair Ferras called the meeting to order at 2:02pm.

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

Commissioners Present:

Susie Ferras

Al Perez

McKenna Quint

JD Beltran

Nabiel Musleh

Commissioners Absent:

Debra Walker

SFAC staff in attendance: Civic Art Collection and Public Art Program Director Mary Chou, Director of Cultural Affairs Ralph Remington, and Deputy Director of Programs Ebon Glen. Chair Ferras announced two changes to the agenda. Item 8 and Item 11 were tabled. There were no other changes to the agenda.

2. General Public Comment

(00:05:44)

There was no public comment.

3. Consent Calendar

(00:06:18)

1. Motion to amend RESOLUTION NO. 0906-24-380 to approve a new location so that new motion reads as: Motion to approve East Cut Beale Tile Stairway, a mosaic artwork design by Wilma Wyss. The mosaic will be installed on Privately-Owned Public Open Space at 388 Beale Street in District 6. The design includes 49 stair risers, measuring approximately 6 in. tall by 8 ft. wide each, a total of 172 sq. ft. The artwork is funded by a Community Challenge Grant and will not become part of the Civic Art Collection. The artwork will be maintained by the Embarcadero Lofts HOA.

Moved: Beltran/Quint

The motion unanimously carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Beltran, Ferras, Musleh, Perez, Quint

There was no public comment.

4. Big Art Loop: India Basin Waterfront Park - Zulu Heru (00:08:02)

Program Associate Paris Cotz introduced Annabelle Lee, Project Manager, Building 180 and Big Art Loop, who presented *Whispers of Waste* by San Francisco-based artist Zulu Heru. The artist presented the conceptual framework, emphasizing its connection to African mask traditions and its role as a symbolic guardian within the waterfront landscape.

Commissioners had questions about safety risks, such as climbing, tipping, and the sharpness of the thorns along the base. The artist reassured that the sculpture is over-engineered and that the 2,500 pound base was more than secure and could not be tipped over. The artist also confirmed that the cement thorns have dull, rounded tips and are not sharp whatsoever.

Motion: to approve *Whispers of Waste*, a sculpture by Zulu Heru at India Basin Waterfront Park, at the intersection of Griffith Street and Hudson Ave. The sculpture is composed of scrap metal, industrial parts, and cement. The sculpture measures H13 ft. by W5 ft. The sculpture will be

installed for one year and will be maintained by Big Art Loop and will not become part of the Civic Art Collection.

Moved: Beltran/Quint

There was no public comment.

The motion unanimously carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Beltran, Ferras, Musleh, Perez, Quint

5. SFPUC Millbrae Operations Center Improvements Public Art Project (00:23:46)

Project Manager Arianne Davidian presented the public art project plan for the SFPUC Millbrae Operations Center, a 17-acre facility serving as a hub for water quality testing and emergency response. The plan includes two major art opportunities: a monumental exterior sculpture, that may occupy a footprint of up to approximately 275 square feet, at the main entrance and a series of pedestrian-scaled artworks along El Camino Real. The project goals emphasize themes of water stewardship, ecological and cultural context, and community engagement. The RFQ will be issued January 23, 2026, with artist selection anticipated by October 2026.

*Please note: Chair Ferras left the meeting at 2:30pm and Commissioner Beltran took over as chair. At 2:41pm, Chair Ferras returned, and left again, for the entirety of the meeting, at 2:43pm.

There was no public comment.

Motion: to approve the Project Plan for the SFPUC Millbrae Operations Center Improvements Public Art Project.

Moved: Musleh/Perez

The motion unanimously carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Beltran, Musleh, Perez, Quint

6. Mission Bay School Public Art Project (00:34:27)

Ms. Davidian presented the completed installation of *Zawa Zawa Buzz Buzz* by artist Harumo Sato at the Mission Bay School's east entrance. This 330-square-foot porcelain enamel tile mural celebrates the biodiversity of Mission Creek and the San Francisco Bay, featuring marine life imagery integrated with vibrant colors to inspire curiosity among young students. The mural was fabricated by Windsor Fireform and installed by Certified Tile and Stone.

There was no public comment.

Motion: to approve as installed the completed artwork titled *ZAWA ZAWA BUZZ BUZZ*, 2025, by Harumo Sato for the Mission Bay School Project at 1415 Owens Street. The artwork is a porcelain enamel tile, approximately 330 sq. ft., installed on the East entrance of the Mission Bay School. The artwork is owned by SFUSD and will not become part of the Civic Art Collection.

Moved: Quint/Musleh

The motion unanimously carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Beltran, Musleh, Perez, Quint

7. San Francisco International Airport Terminal 3 Connector, Two-Dimensional Artwork Program (00:45:53)

Ms. Davidian presented 11 two-dimensional artworks installed in the public connector corridor between Terminals 2 and 3 at SFO. The artworks in this 2D program are located on two wall niches that flank artist Alison Saar's sculptural installation, *Flourish*, commissioned by SFAC in 2021. The selected works are by Adia Millet, Erica Deeman, Adam Delphine Fawundu, Keisha Scarville, Sydney Cain, yétúndé ọlágbaajú, Taller SANAA, Eve Sandler, Olomidara Yaya (Kenyatta A.C. Hinkle), Trina Michelle Robinson, and Myra Greene. The artworks feature a diversity of media,

including photography, mixed media, and works on paper.

There was no public comment.

Motion: to approve as installed 2025.1-2025.11, eleven two-dimensional artworks purchased for SFO Terminal 3 Connector, located in the public connector corridor between SFO Terminals 2 and 3.

Moved: Perez/Musleh

The motion unanimously carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Beltran, Musleh, Perez, Quint

THE FOLLOWING ITEM WAS TABLED:

8. SFO Airport: West Field Campus

(00:55:12)

Discussion and possible action to approve updates to the preliminary Project Plan for the West Field Campus Public Art Program Plan of Approach, including West Field Garage 2 (670), Cargo Building 626.1, Cargo Building 720.1 and GSE 742.

Staff Presenter: Senior Program Manager Amy Owen

Presentation Time: Approximately 5 minutes

Explanatory Documents: Preliminary Project Plan

9. Pier 27 Cruise Terminal Plaza

(00:55:22)

Project Manager Marcus Davies presented the sculpture *Mareas* by artist Ana Teresa Fernández, as installed at Pier 27 Cruise Terminal. This is the artist's first permanent sculpture with the San Francisco Arts Commission. The artwork is composed of stainless steel and polycarbonate resin tiles and measures approximately 13' high by 26' wide by 7' deep. The sculpture's vibrant palette and flowing form evokes the movement of water and offers a welcoming gateway that contrasts with the surrounding, vertical skyline.

There was no public comment.

Motion: to approve as installed the completed artwork titled *Mareas* by Ana Teresa Fernández located at Pier 27 James R. Herman Cruise Terminal Plaza on The Embarcadero between Chestnut and Lombard streets. The artwork is composed of Tnemec-painted stainless-steel tubing and polycarbonate resin tiles and measures 13'-3 ¾" high by 26'-9 ¾" wide by 6'-10 7/8" deep.

Moved: Quint/Musleh

The motion unanimously carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Beltran, Musleh, Perez, Quint

10. Herz Recreation Center

(01:01:25)

Mr. Davies presented *Reflection and Projection*, by Sanjay Vora, as installed at the new Herz Recreation Center. The artwork is composed of mirrored stainless steel and porcelain enamel tiles and is located at the main entrance to the recreation center. Inspired by the artist's family's dream of finding a welcoming, culturally diverse community, *Reflection & Projection* celebrates belonging, inclusion, and shared joy. Embodying the spirit of the Herz Recreation Center as a place for gathering, play, and connection, the artwork features playful, abstract figures that reflect viewers and their surroundings, inviting everyone to see themselves as part of a vibrant, collective narrative.

There was no public comment.

Motion: to approve as installed the completed artwork titled *Mareas* by Ana Teresa Fernández located at Pier 27 James R. Herman Cruise Terminal Plaza on The Embarcadero between Chestnut and Lombard streets. The artwork is composed of Tnemec-painted stainless-steel tubing and polycarbonate resin tiles and measures 13'-3 ¾" high by 26'-9 ¾" wide by 6'-10 7/8" deep.

Moved: Perez/Quint

The motion unanimously carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Beltran, Musleh, Perez, Quint

THE FOLLOWING ITEM WAS TABLED

11. Temporary Public Art

(01:08:32)

Discussion and review of SFAC Temporary Public Art Guidelines.

Presenter: Program Associate Paris Cotz

Presentation Time: Approximately 5 minutes

Explanatory Document: Presentation

12. Staff Report

(01:08:38)

Director Chou shared information on the Civic Center Plaza Temporary Sculpture: Request for Proposals. The San Francisco Arts Commission invites artists and artist teams residing in the United States to submit proposals for the temporary display of an existing freestanding sculpture, or series of sculptures, of prominent scale in San Francisco's Civic Center Plaza, located in front of City Hall. Organized in support of *Shaping Legacy*, a Mellon Foundation funded initiative to critically examine and reimagine San Francisco's monuments and memorials, this project supports a creative exploration of how public art can foster a more inclusive and representative civic narrative. The selected sculpture should embody inclusive histories, invite community dialogue, and enrich the collective understanding of civic memory and belonging. It should also demonstrate a strong visual presence that responds to the scale and formality of Civic Center Plaza. The deadline to submit proposals is February 2, 2026.

Director Chou also shared that Harvey Milk Terminal 1 at San Francisco International Airport has been awarded the 2025 Prix Versailles for the World's Most Beautiful Airport, presented at UNESCO headquarters in Paris. The award highlights the terminal's sustainable design, local art integration, and commitment to enhancing the passenger experience. The terminal achieved a 79% reduction in carbon emissions and a 59%

decrease in energy usage, underscoring its leadership in sustainability. Director Chou commended the public art team and former director Susan Pontious for their contributions to this achievement and emphasized the importance of the Arts Commission's partnership with SFO in making the airport a globally recognized cultural destination.

There was no public comment.

9. New Business and Announcements

(01:12:53)

Commissioner Beltran announced that it was San Francisco Art Week, which highlights a series of events and exhibitions across the city.

There was no public comment

10. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 3:16 p.m.

Posted 2/4/2026, 9:40am, pc

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

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