



San Francisco Arts Commission Meeting

June 02, 2025

Item 1: Call to Order, Roll Call, Agenda Changes, Land Acknowledgement

- Call to order
- Roll call / Confirmation of quorum
- Agenda changes
- Ramaytush Ohlone Land Acknowledgement

Land Acknowledgement

The San Francisco Arts Commission acknowledges that we are on the unceded ancestral homeland of the Ramaytush Ohlone who are the original inhabitants of the San Francisco Peninsula. As the indigenous stewards of this land and in accordance with their traditions, the Ramaytush Ohlone have never ceded, lost nor forgotten their responsibilities as the caretakers of this place, as well as for all peoples who reside in their traditional territory. As guests, we recognize that we benefit from living and working on their traditional homeland. We wish to pay our respects by acknowledging the ancestors, elders and relatives of the Ramaytush Community and by affirming their sovereign rights as First Peoples. As a department dedicated to promoting a diverse and equitable Arts and Culture environment in San Francisco, we are committed to supporting the traditional and contemporary evolution of the American Indian community.



Antone Family (Tohono O'odham), 2019, Photo by Hulleah Tsinhnahjinnie
Left to right: Christine [seated], Melanie, Michelle and Arianna

Item 2: Strategic Plan Update

Discussion

Presenter: Bill Blake, AMS Planning & Research,
Lauren Frankel, AMS Planning & Research

Presentation Time: Approximately 10 minutes

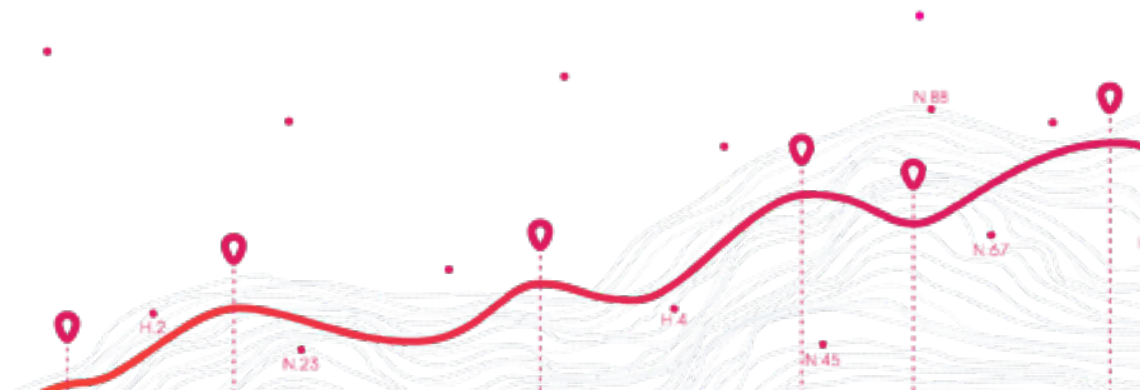
San Francisco Arts Commission Strategic Plan

Full Commission Meeting

June 2, 2025



AMS
PLANNING
& RESEARCH



Five Phase Process

Establish context> gather input> learn from others> envision the future> plan> forecast

**I. Planning
Orientation
& Situation
Analysis**

Aug - Dec 2025

**II. Community
Engagement &
Needs Assessment**

Nov - April 2025

**III. Exemplars,
Peers,
Benchmarks**

April - June 2025

**IV. Envisioning
the Future**



We are here

May – Oct 2025

**V. Business &
Implementation
Planning**

Oct – Q2 2026

Scope of Work: What we've done

The first two phases (of five) concluded with a community survey

I. Planning Orientation & Situation Analysis (mid-August-December)

- ✓ Project Mobilization & Background review
- ✓ Project Kick-Off Meeting
- ✓ 360° Environmental Scan
- ✓ Operational Assessment

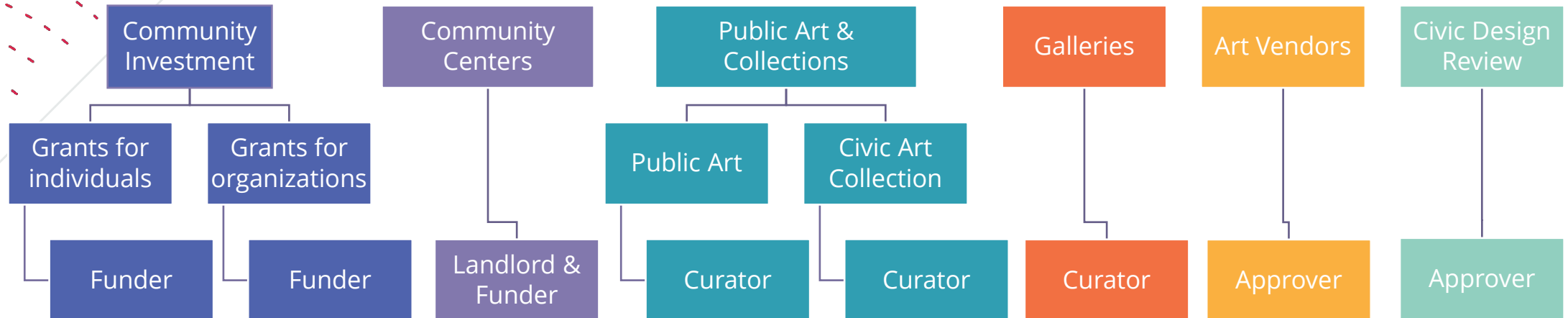
II. Engagement & Needs Assessment (November-April)

- ✓ Key Stakeholder Interviews
- ✓ Key Stakeholder Survey
- ✓ Community Listening Sessions (**March 4th & 5th, 2025**)
- ✓ Constituent Community Survey



Community Open House on March 5th, 2025

Our operational assessment focused on the SFAC's 6 broad program areas



The majority of the SFAC's core programs are subject to legal mandates

Supervise the tax appropriated by the Board of Supervisors to maintain a symphony orchestra (Charter, Sec.16.106)

Administer the Cultural Equity Initiatives Fund (Admin Code, Sec.68.4)

Administer the Arts Impact Endowment (Business and Tax Code, Sec.515.01)

Support the operation, maintenance, and programming of the community cultural centers (Admin Code, Sec. 10.100-26)

Approve the City's acquisition/placement/removal of art works (Admin Code, Sec.2A.150)

Catalog, care for, and maintain public art belonging to the City (Admin Code, Sec.2A.150.1)

Administer the Public Artwork Trust Fund (Planning Code, Sec.429.5)

Expend the Women's Recognition Public Art Fund (Admin Code, Sec.10.100-363)

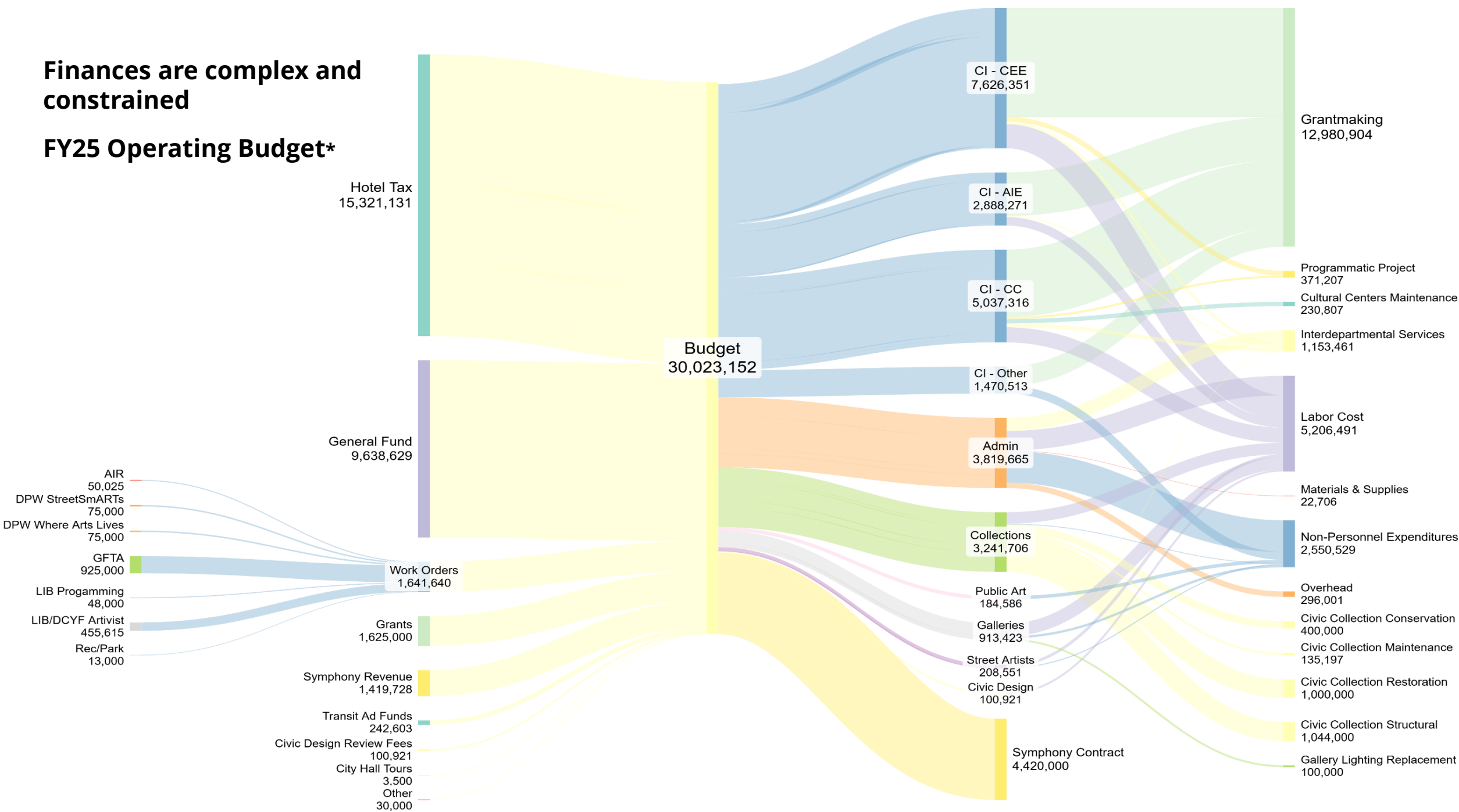
Administer the Art Vendor program (Police Code, Article 24)

Approve the design for all public structures (Charter, Sec.5.103)

The SFAC Galleries program has no legal mandates

Finances are complex and
constrained

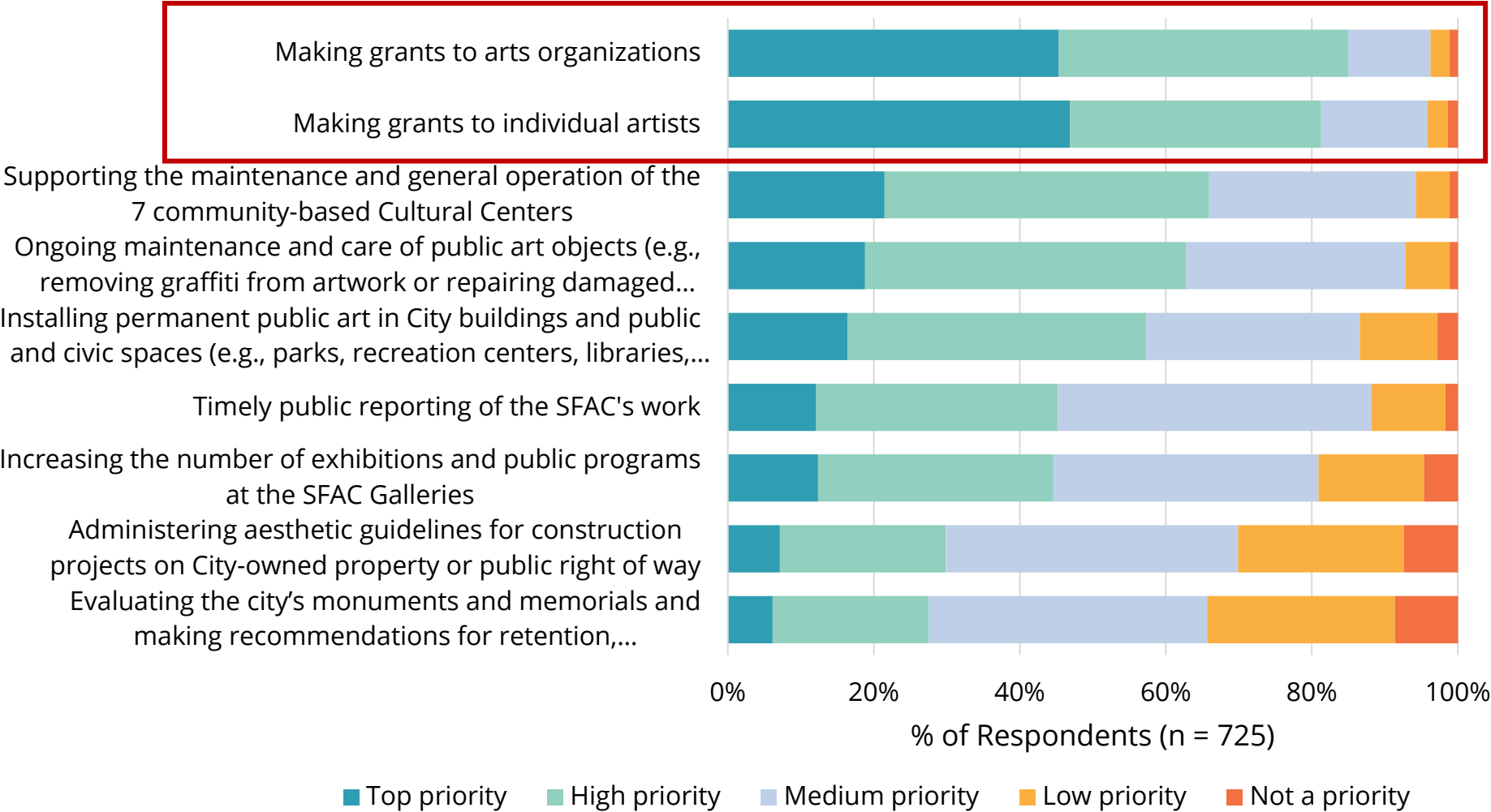
FY25 Operating Budget*



*Public art figures exclude Art Enrichment funds budgeted in other departments; In FY24 those funds were roughly \$7.9M

Community survey respondents felt grantmaking should be the SFAC's top priority

How should the SFAC prioritize the following aspects of its work?



Scope of Work: Where we are now

Phases III and IV are being finished concurrently

III. Exemplars, Peers, Benchmarks (April - June)

- ✓ Peer Municipalities
- ✓ Benchmarking Key Performance Indicators
- Trends & Best Practices in Agency Governance Structures

IV. Envisioning the Future (May - October)

- ✓ Purpose, Vision, Mission, and Goals: Commissioner & Staff Retreats (**May 5th & 6th, 2025**)
- **Gaps, Goals, and Strategies**
- Strategic Plan
- Socializing the Plan



Staff Retreat on May 6th, 2025

Three cities that have highly consolidated arts departments are among those being studied

Austin, TX

Consolidation Level: **High**

- Consolidated functions from five City departments into the **Office of Arts, Culture, Music, and Entertainment** (ACME) in February of 2025
- Director reports to the Chief of Staff in the City Manager's Office
- Two divisions:
 - **Arts, Music & Events:** Cultural Arts Funding Program, Art in Public Places, Heritage Tourism, Airport Music/Arts, PARD Special Events, Music & Entertainment, and Austin Center for Events
 - **Cultural Education & Programs:** multiple cultural centers, museums, and a theater
- Austin **Film Commission** remains outside of the City, as a department of Visit Austin

Chicago, IL

Consolidation Level: **High**

- Merged the Mayor's Office of Special Events with the Department of Cultural Affairs to create the **Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events** (DCASE) in 2010
- Cultural Commissioner reports to the Mayor and is advised by the 30-member Cultural Advisory Council
- Program areas:
 - **Presents** festivals, performance, other events
 - Provides **event permitting** assistance
 - Administers **Public Art**
 - Administers **Cultural Grants Program**
 - Hosts **Artists-in-residence**
 - Rents out two **venues**
 - Houses **Chicago Film Office**

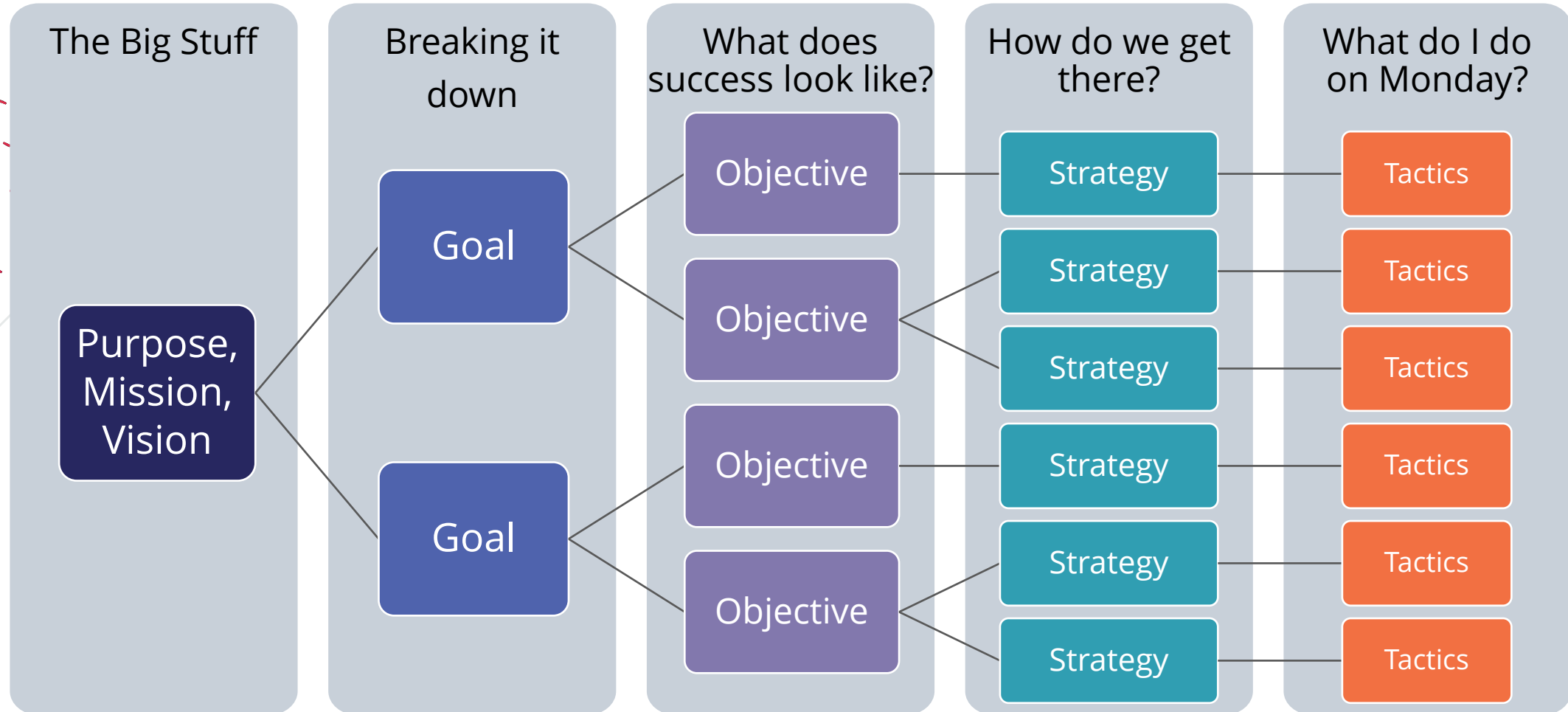
Denver, CO

Consolidation Level: **High**

- 2011 merger between Denver Office of Cultural Affairs and Division of Theatres and Arenas created **Denver Arts & Venues** (DAV)
- Executive Director is appointed by the Mayor, as are the members of the Denver Commission on Cultural Affairs, which serves in an advisory capacity
- Operates a large portfolio of **major venues**, generating around \$90M annually
- Program areas:
 - Administers **Denver Public Art**
 - Houses Denver County Cultural Council, grants out Scientific and Cultural Facilities District sales and use tax funds, and runs other **granting programs**
- **Parks & Rec** has its own Arts & Culture division, which provides community classes and special events

The Long and Winding Road...

Role of Governance



Role of Management

Scope of Work: Completing Phase IV

Staff working groups will spend July and August working independently

Gaps, Goals, and Strategies

- **June 10th**: Steering Committee Meeting
- Finalization of Goals phrasing and development of tools for staff working groups
- **July 10th**: Working Group Kick-off

Strategic Plan & Socializing the Plan

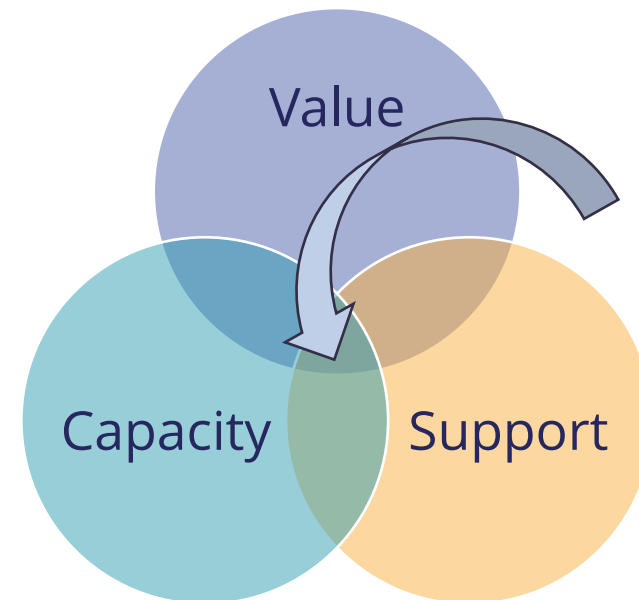
- **September 1st**: Working groups submit objectives, strategies, and tactics to AMS
- **September 18th**: Steering Committee Meeting
- Review and revision of draft plan
- **November 3rd**: Draft plan presented at full commission meeting

Scope of Work: Final phase

Phase V will run from Q4 2025 through Q2 2026

V. Business & Implementation Planning (October onward)

- Institutional Impacts
- Business Planning
- Business Case for Change
- **Measuring & Monitoring**



"Strategic Triangle" – Herman 'Dutch' Leonard / Mark Moore
Kennedy School of Government – Harvard University

Item 5: Director's Report

Discussion

Staff Presenter: Director of Cultural Affairs Ralph Remington

Presentation Time: Approximately 10 minutes

Item 5: Director's Report

Recent Highlights

Item 5: Director's Report

Gallery Updates

Item 5: Director's Report

Public Art Updates

Item 5: Director's Report

Other Announcements & Updates

Item 5: Director's Report

Questions & Public Comments

Item 6: Committee Reports and Committee Matters

Discussion

Item 6.1

Civic Design Review Committee Report

Discussion

Presenter: Commissioner Walker

Presentation Time: Approximately 5 minutes

Report from the Civic Design Review Committee regarding activities of the Committee and the Program.

Item 6.1



SFO West Field
Campus: Cargo
Building 626.1:
Phase 1 Review

Item 6.1

Phase I + Phase II



View looking West from West Field Rd



Office Entry View



Office Entry View Evening

**SFO West Field
Campus: Cargo
Building 626.1:
Phase 1 Review**

Item 6.1

SFAC CDRC PHASE 2

720.1 North Lobby View



**SFO West Field
Campus: Cargo
Building 720.1 and
742: Phase 2 Review**

Item 6.1

SFAC CDRC PHASE 2

742 Arrival view



**SFO West Field
Campus: Cargo
Building 720.1 and
742: Phase 2 Review**

Item 6.1

SFAC CDRC PHASE 2

742 Arrival view



**SFO West Field
Campus: Cargo
Building 720.1 and
742: Phase 2 Review**

Item 6.1

Approach



**SFO Recycled
Water System
Project:
Phase 2 & 3
Review**

Item 6.1

Action Item Decision (Window Orientation)

- Function: provide view from each workstation
- Horizontal windows reinforces CMU banding and canopy.
- Vertical windows reflect interior program and appear more modern.



CURRENT



ALTERNATE

**SFO Recycled
Water System
Project:
Phase 2 & 3
Review**

Item 6.2

Visual Arts Committee Report

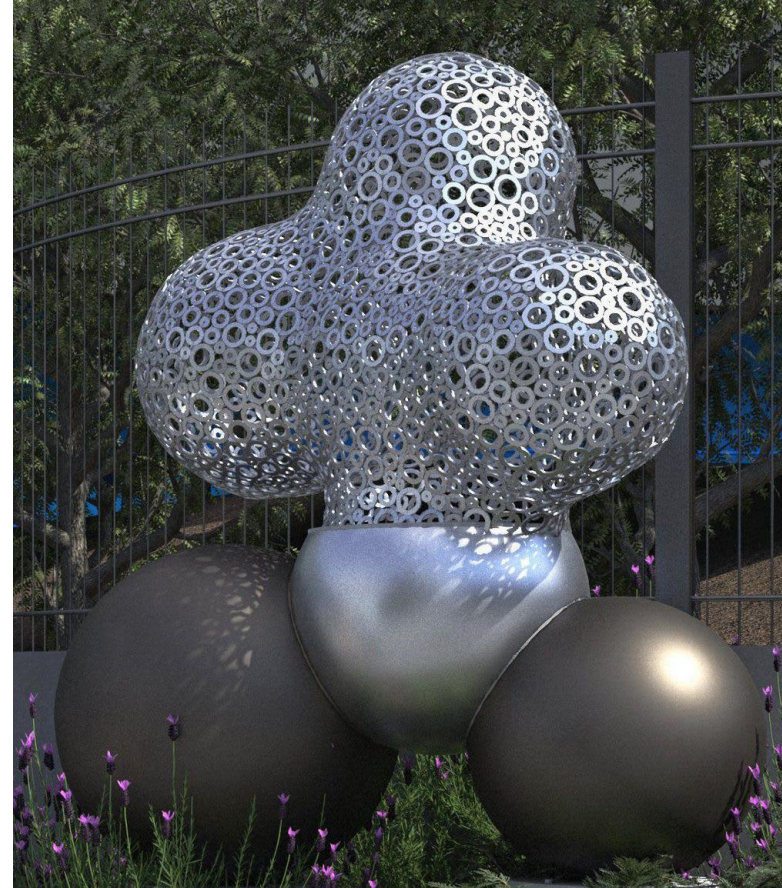
Discussion

Presenter: Commissioner Ferras

Presentation Time: Approximately 5 minutes

Report from the Visual Arts Committee regarding activities of the Committee and the Program.

Potrero Gateway



San Francisco Fire Department Division of Training



Item 6.3

Community Investment Committee Report

Discussion

Presenter: Commissioner Shiota

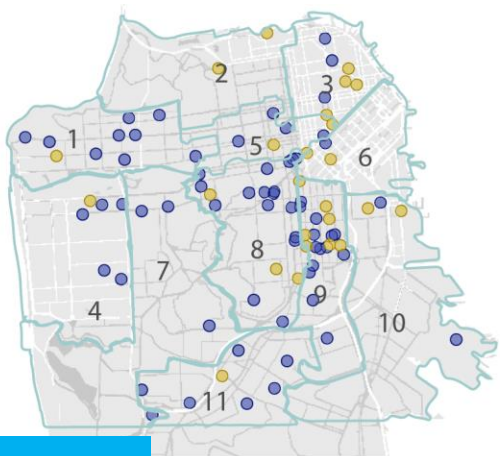
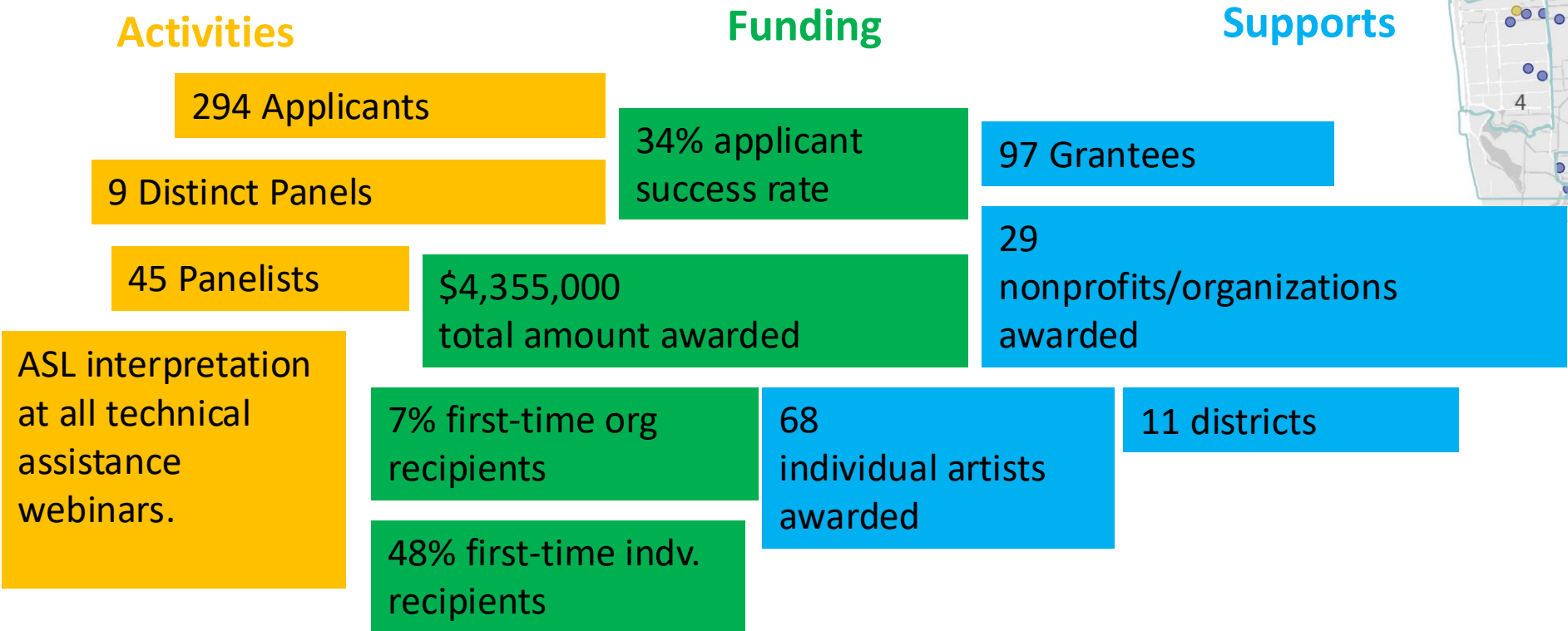
Presentation Time: Approximately 5 minutes

Report from the Community Investment Committee regarding activities of the Committee and the Program.

Item 6.3

Community Investment Committee Report

Cultural Equity Endowment Fund Impact by the Numbers 2025



Item 6.3

Community Investment Committee Report

Arts Impact Endowment Fund Impact by the Numbers 2025

Activities

236 Applicants

6 Distinct Panels

28 Panelists

ASL interpretation
at all technical
assistance
webinars.

Funding

20% applicant
success rate

\$3,217,250
total amount awarded

17% first-time org
recipients

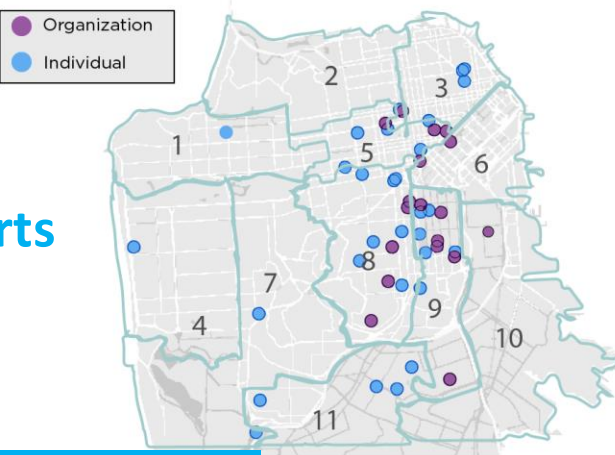
17% first-time indiv.
recipients

Supports

48 Grantees

18
nonprofits/organizations
awarded

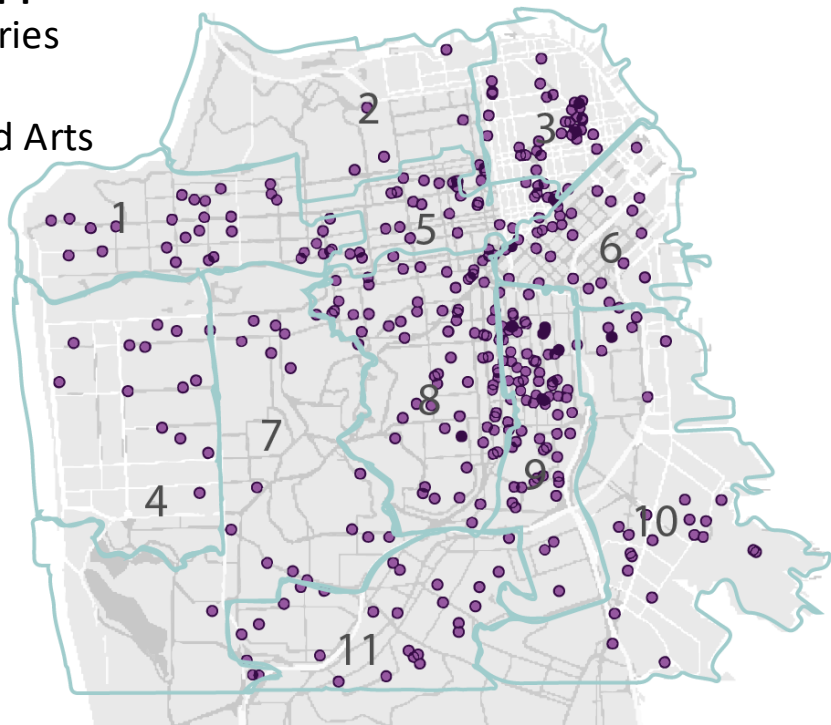
30
individual artists
awarded



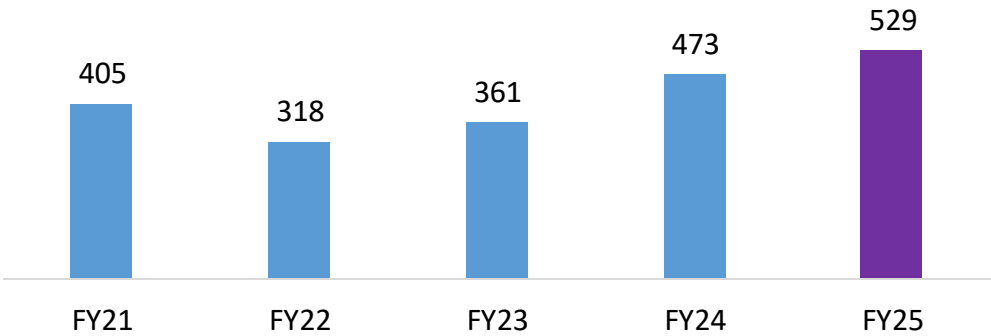
Item 6.3

Community Investment Committee Report

All FY25 SFAC **Applicants:**
All SFAC Categories
Cultural Equity
Endowment and Arts
Impact
Endowment



Grant Applications by Fiscal Year
(Total = 2086)



- Record number of applications (529) in last five years of SFAC acquisition.
- Implementation of new grants management software (Smart Simple) supporting capacity of record intake.

All FY25 SFAC applicants by contact address provided. The above images represent both eligible and non-eligible applications that were submitted by the grant deadline.
San Francisco Arts Commission

Item 6.4

Executive Committee Report

Discussion

Presenter: Commissioner Collins

Presentation Time: Approximately 5 minutes

Report from the Executive Committee regarding activities of the Committee and the Program.

Item 7: Shaping Legacy Update

Discussion

Presenter: Angela Carrier, Senior Program Manager

Presentation Time: Approximately 8 minutes



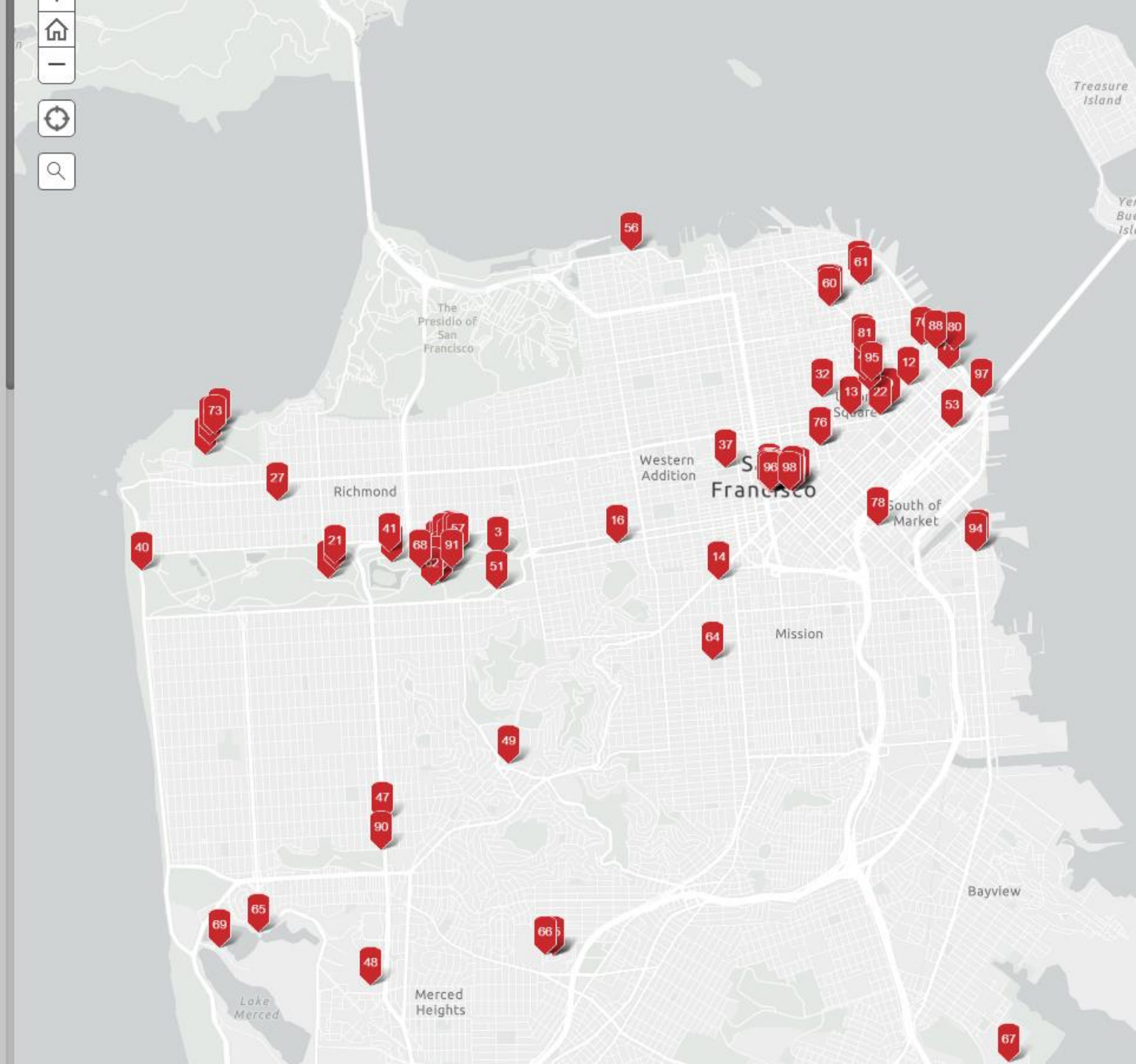
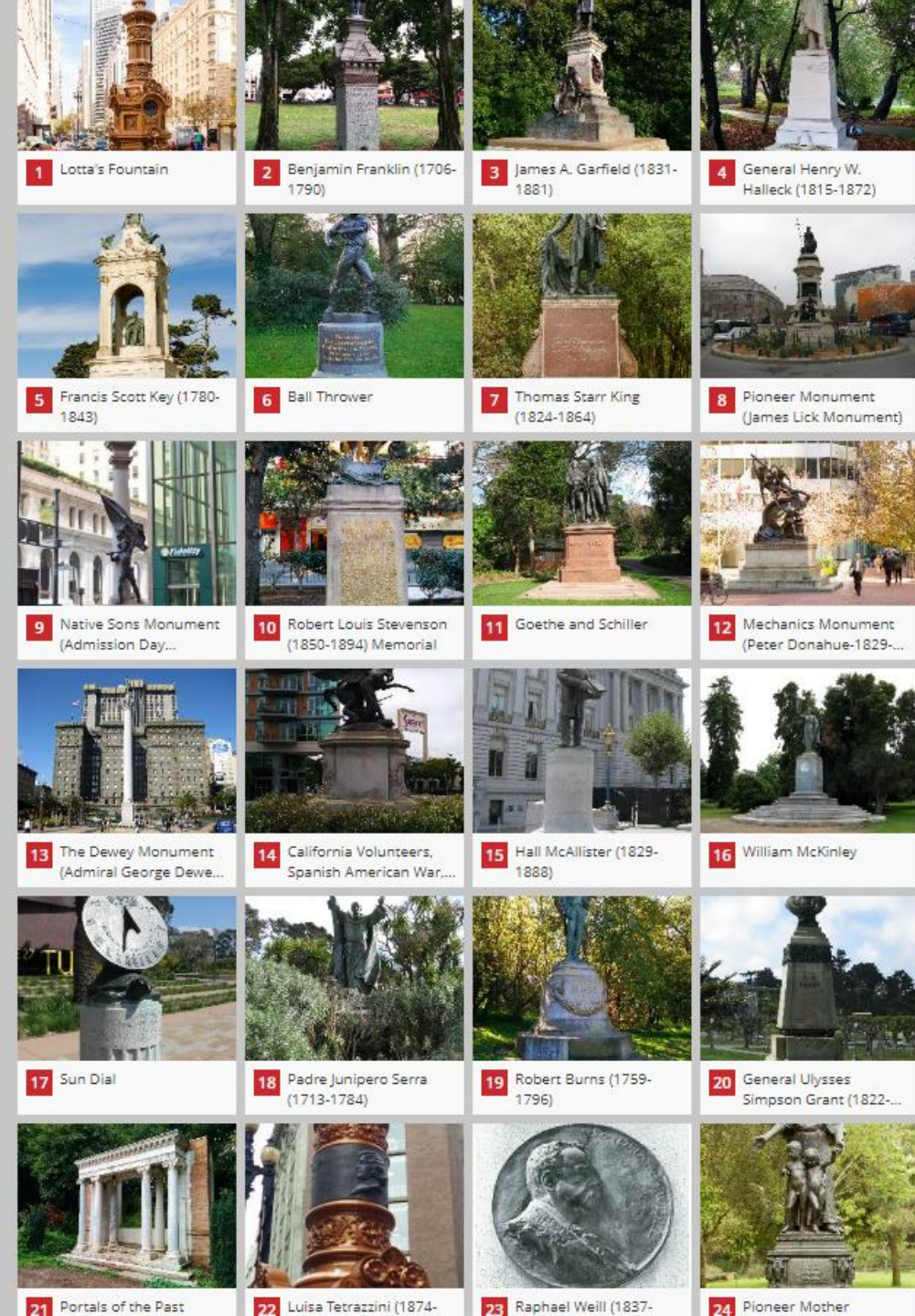
**SHAPING
LEGACY**

PROJECT UPDATE

SAN FRANCISCO MONUMENTS & MEMORIALS

2 JUNE 2025

sfac san francisco
arts commission





Mellon Foundation

\$500M

The Monuments Project

A commitment to transform the nation's commemorative landscape by supporting public projects that help represent the complexity of American stories.

NEWS RELEASE

Mayor London Breed Announces The San Francisco Arts Commission Is One of Nine Municipalities Nationwide That Has Received A Portion of a \$25 Million Mellon Foundation Grant to Support Its Work on Monuments and Memorials Initiative

The \$3 million Monuments Project grant will fund and support "Pulse Check: Accountability and Activation of Future SF Monuments"



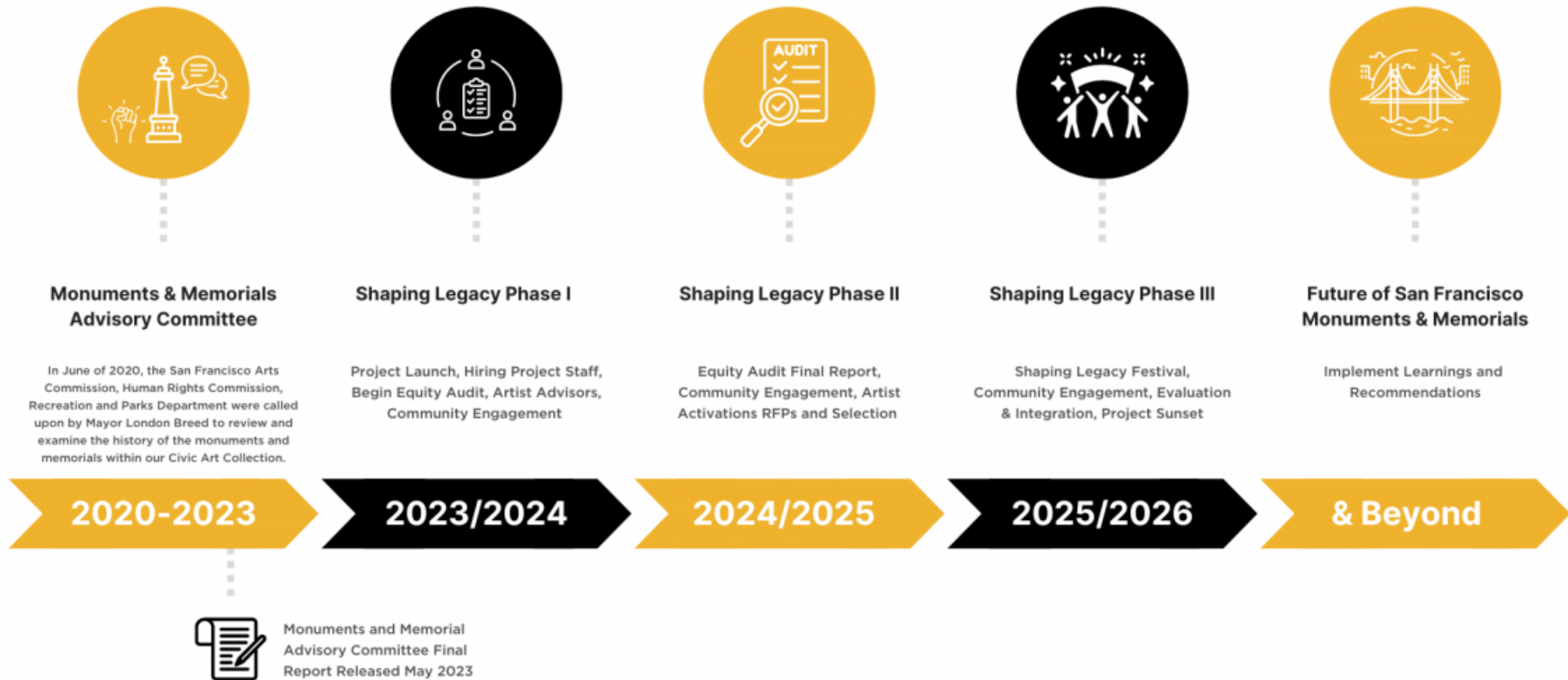


SHAPING LEGACY
SAN FRANCISCO
MONUMENTS & MEMORIALS

Shaping Legacy is a three-year grant funded project that aims to critically examine the monuments and memorials in San Francisco's Civic Art Collection and to reimagine the future of monuments and memorial in the City.

We believe artists and their communities can guide us towards a future where monuments and memorials are spaces of inclusion, belonging and recognition of our shared humanity.

BRIEF PROJECT OVERVIEW





PROJECT GOALS

1. Engage communities underrepresented in the City's commemorative landscape.
2. Produce an Audit report on the monuments and memorials in the San Francisco's Civic Art Collection.
3. Create opportunities for artist-led activations in public space and support temporary installations that reimagine future monuments and memorials in our city.

The project prioritizes meaningful community engagement to holistically assess the Civic Art Collection, build awareness around the civic process, rectify current power imbalances, and engage community in a sustained, relevant way.

PROJECT GOAL

Engage communities underrepresented in the City's commemorative landscape.

ARTIST CIRCLE COMMUNITY COLLABORATORS



yétúndé olabaju
Mildred Howard
Dewey Crumpler
Tricia Rainwater



Skywatchers
Ramekon O'Arwisters
Mattie Loyce
Preehti Ramaprasad



GRAY AREA

AmbroseTrataris
Lucia Gonzales Ippolito
Morehshin Allahyari
Marcrowaves



Sophia Tupuola
Spencer (SPULU) Pulu
Epi Aumavae
Leora Kava



Set in Stone: A Self-Monumentalizing Workshop with Ambrose Trataris at Gray Area

Monumentalizing Community

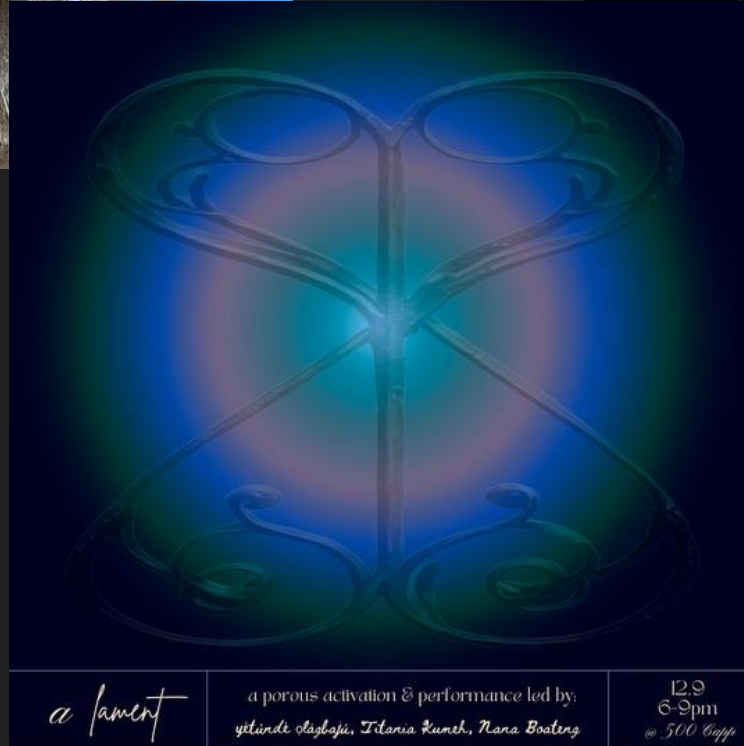
film screening, discussion, & co-creation

Ft. Skywatchers' documentary

Reimagining the City as Our Own: Towards an Architecture of Inclusion



Monumentalizing Community with Skywatchers & Preethi Ramaprasad at Tenderloin Museum



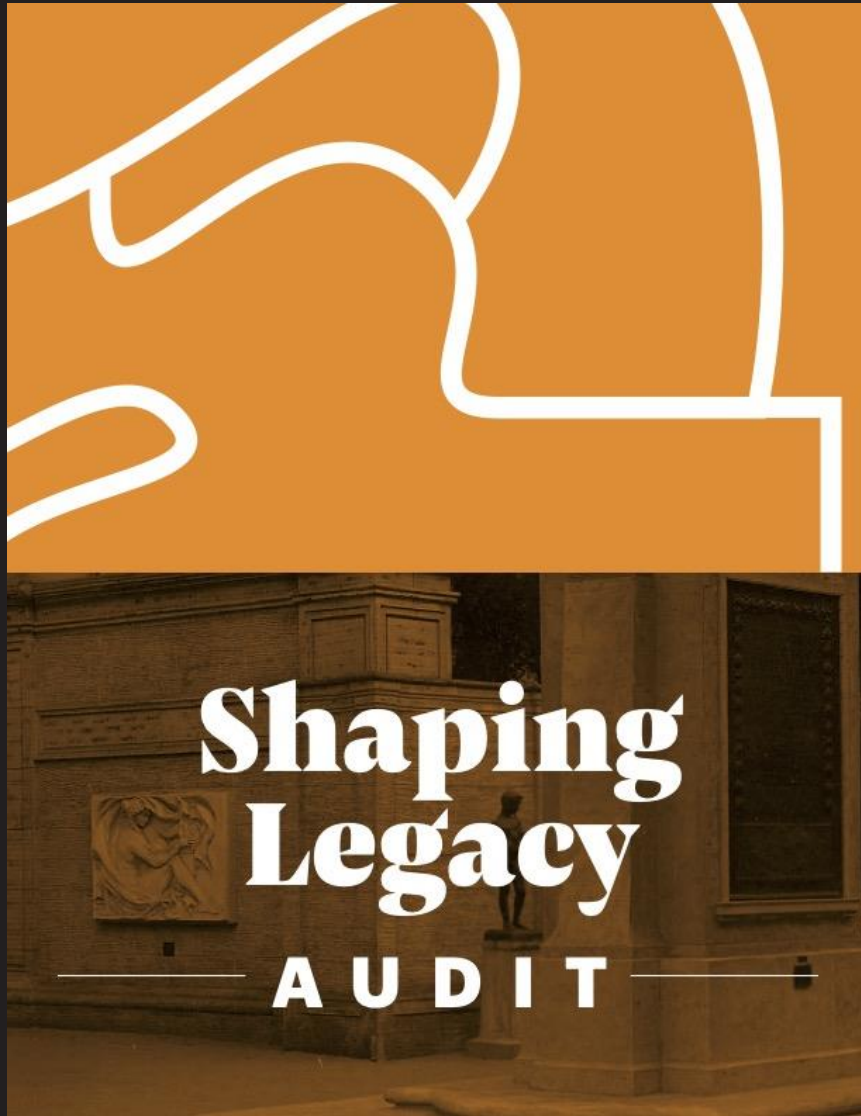
a lament with yétúndé olágbajú at 500 Capp Street



Speculations on Capture with Morehshin Allahyari at Gray Area

PROJECT GOAL

Produce an Audit report on the monuments and memorials in the San Francisco's Civic Art Collection.



EVOLVING THE ARCHIVE & EXPANDING PUBLIC MEMORY

The Shaping Legacy Audit compiled, verified, and analyzed information about each of the City's 105 monuments and memorials to develop recommendations for SFAC's planning for new monuments, engagement around existing monuments, and policies and programs.

The Audit's extensive historical research, engagement, data collection and analysis serve as a significant resource to understand the current landscape of public monuments and memorials in the Civic Art Collection.

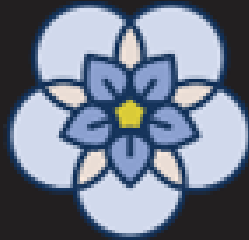
AUDIT RECOMMENDATIONS

Future Monuments & Memorials	1. Commission new monuments and memorials that share histories previously untold, marginalized, and erased. 2. Commission or support the installation of temporary commemorative works in addition to permanent works. 3. Design new monuments and memorials that are accessible, interactive, and encourage opportunities for social interaction.
Current Monuments & Memorials	4. Update the SFAC's Policies and Guidelines to reflect the Audit's findings regarding recontextualization. 5. Update the SFAC's Policies and Guidelines to reflect the Audit's findings on removing artwork from public display or decommissioning artwork. 6. Create a participatory, community-based process for contentious monuments and memorials to plan for their futures. 7. Utilize creative forms of recontextualization for greater impact, including temporary installations and performances. 8. Address connections to themes of patriarchy through increasing representation, rather than expending resources on removal.
Other Policies & Programs	9. Invest in partnerships to create educational programming and tools around monuments and memorials. 10. Make monument data and processes more transparent and accessible to the public. 11. Coordinate with other City initiatives and efforts to address harmful or unequal representation in the commemorative landscape.

PARTNERS & COLLABORATORS



THE JUSTICE COLLECTIVE



PROJECT GOAL

Create opportunities for artist-led activations in public space and support temporary installations that reimagine future monuments and memorials in our city.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & CASE STUDY COLLABORATORS



CASE STUDIES



sfac san francisco
arts commission



CALL FOR ARTISTS!

SHAPING LEGACY: MONUMENTS & MEMORIALS TEMPORARY PUBLIC ART PROJECTS

**DEADLINE TO SUBMIT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS:**

June 30, 2025 by 4:59 PM PT



SCAN QR CODE OR VISIT [BIT.LY/SFACRFQ](https://bit.ly/sfacrfq)
TO LEARN MORE AND APPLY



Photo by Rich Lomibao



Photo courtesy of Gray Area and the artist



Photo courtesy of Preethi Ramaprasad

ONGOING & UPCOMING

- Shaping Legacy Audit Report
- Art on Market Poster Series
- Artist Circle & Community Collaborators' programming - through September 2025
- Community Engagement Consultants' case study artist activations - through March 2026
- Temporary Public Art Projects – April to October 2026

SAN FRANCISCO MONUMENTS & MEMORIALS

Item 8: SFAC Galleries Fall 2025 Exhibition

Discussion

Presenter: Carolina Aranibar-Fernandez, Director of Galleries and Public Programs,
and Jackie Im, Associate Curator

Presentation Time: Approximately 5 minutes

SFAC Galleries

Fall 2025 Exhibition



To Bright Disturbances

SFAC Main Gallery

**September 25 – December 13,
2025**

**Curated by
Jackie Im**

Carmen Argote



Sky Hopinka



Kija Lucas



Aspen Mays



Bonnie Ora Sherk

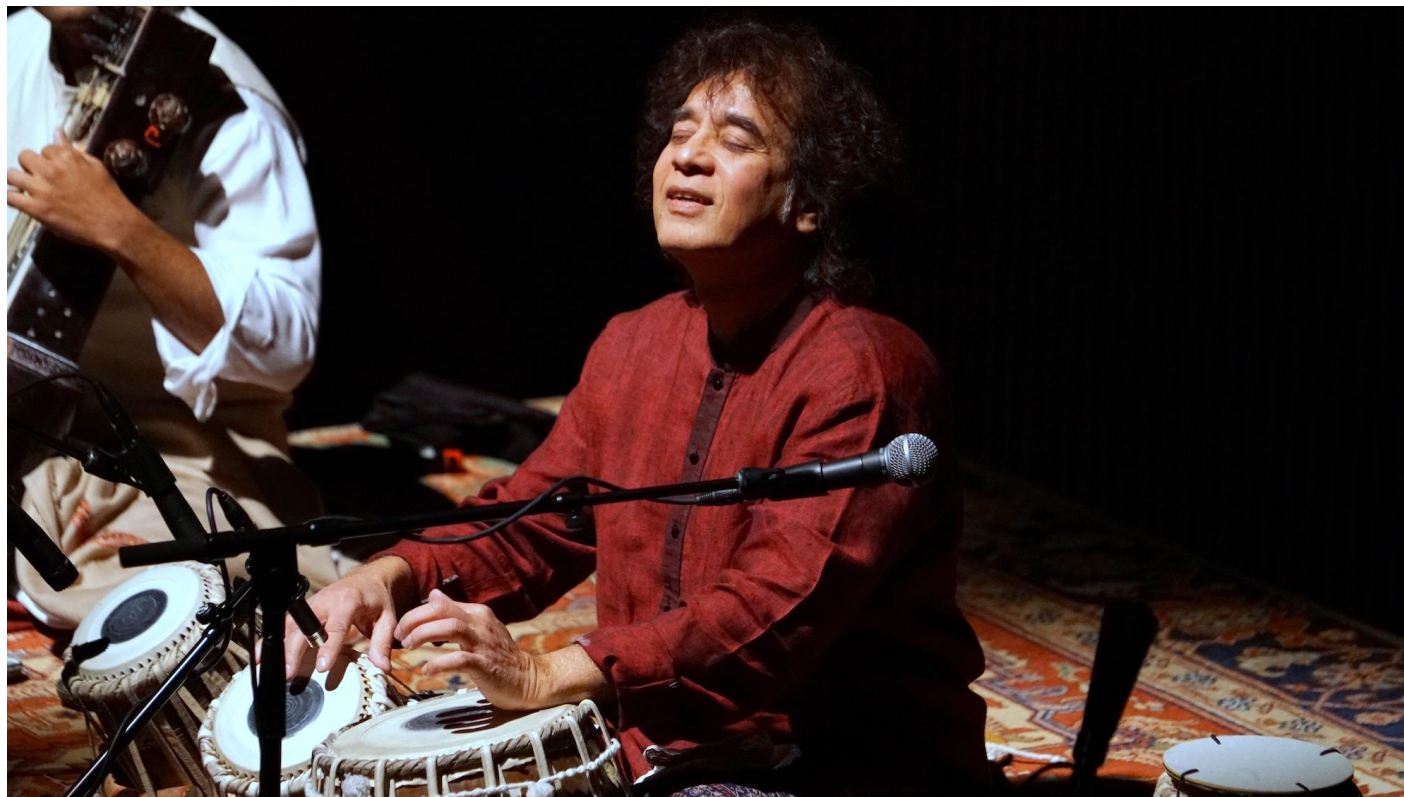


Item 8: In Memoriam

Discussion



Mark Izu, composer, musician, performer, community leader
September 30, 1954 – January 12, 2025, age 71



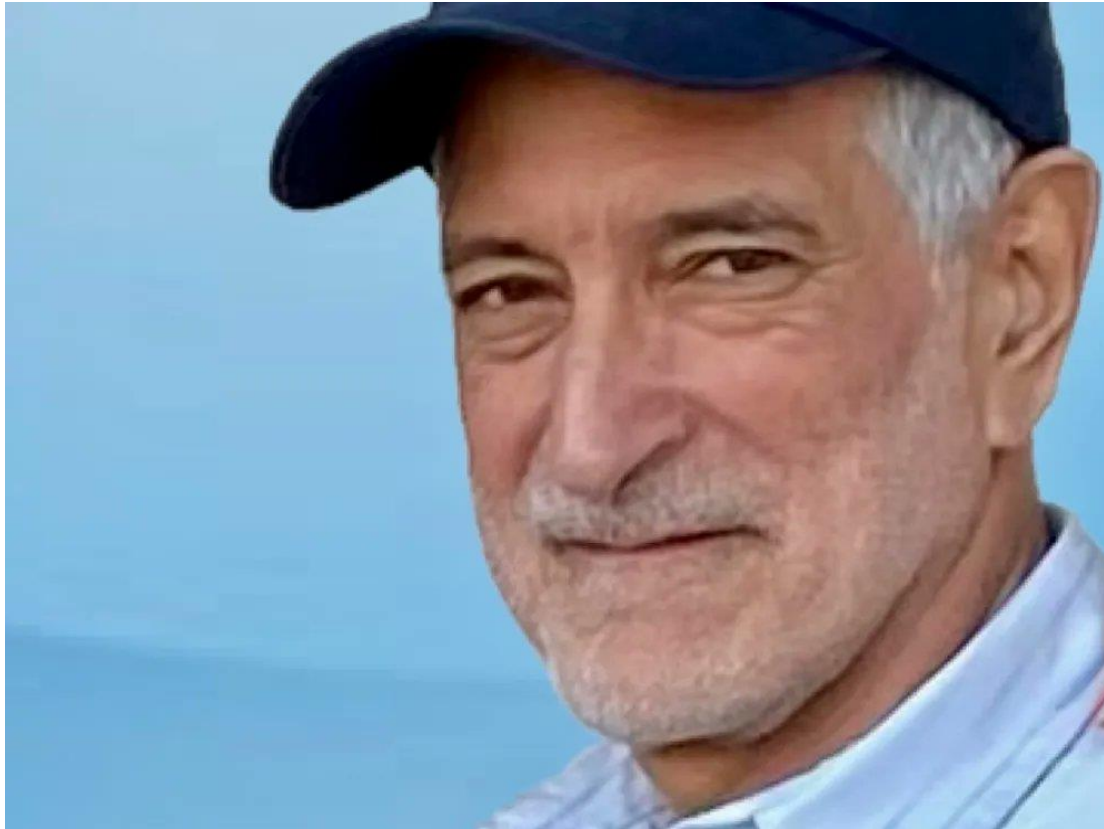
***Zakir Hussain, Tabla visionary & musical bridge-builder
March 9, 1951 – December 15, 2024, age 73***



***Fred Eversley, light and space sculptor
August 28, 1941 – March 14, 2025, age 83***



***Scott Nielsen, Arts Administrator and advocate for creative equity
April 4, 1968 – March 14, 2025, age 56***



Alan Wayne Martinez, Architect & advocate for preservation and cultural heritage

1955 – April 21, 2025, age 69