



MEETING OF THE FULL ARTS COMMISSION

Monday, March 2, 2026

2 p.m.

Hybrid Meeting

Minutes

President Collins called the meeting to order at **2:06 p.m.**

1. Call to Order, Roll Call, Agenda Changes, Land Acknowledgment (0:23)

Commissioners Present

Charles Collins, President

Janine Shiota, Vice President

JD Beltran

Seth Brenzel

Patrick Carney

Suzie Ferras

McKenna Quint

Nabiel Musleh

Al Perez

Debra Walker

Jessica Rothschild

Marcus Shelby

Commissioners Absent

Riccardo Benavides

Lydia So

Staff Present:

Sarah Hollenbeck, Deputy Director of Administration and Finance

Ebon Glenn, Deputy Director of Programs

Veronica Limcaco, Acting Chief of Staff
Manraj Dhaliwal, Commission Secretary

No agenda changes were made.

President Collins announced the public meeting instructions.

Commission Secretary Dhaliwal announced public comment instructions.

Commissioner Ferras began the meeting by reading the Arts Commission's land acknowledgment statement.

Public Comment(s)

Michael Petrelis (Friends of Jane Warner Plaza)

Petrelis stated that the Commission's public comment procedures — specifically the 150-word written summary option and ADA remote participation request process — are not clearly posted on the Arts Commission website. He argued that requiring written comments to be submitted by 5:00 PM the day before the meeting limits public access and disadvantages people who learn about agenda items on the day of the meeting. He requested that the Commission agendaize the issue, apologize to the public and disabled community

**2.Approval of the Minutes
(24:56)**

Commissioner Beltran, seconded by Commissioner Shiota moved to approve February 2, 2026, minutes.

Public Comment(s)

Michael Petrelis, Friends of Jane Warner Plaza

stated that the draft minutes were not accessible through the link posted on the Commission's website and instead directed users back to the agenda. He said this was part of an ongoing pattern of minutes not being properly

posted online. He expressed concern about transparency and said the public cannot review meetings.

Ace Washington, Fillmore Corridor Ambassador

Mr. Washington echoed concerns about the availability of minutes and said access to them is important for accountability. He also referenced his own funding application issue, stating that he relies on the public record to confirm what was discussed. He urged the Commission to ensure minutes are consistently posted and accessible.

There was no additional public comment.

The motion was unanimously approved.

RESOLUTION NO. 0302-26-029: Motion to approve February 2, 2026, Full Commission minutes.

3. General Public Comment
(17:46)

Public Comment(s)

Erris Edgerly, Western Addition resident

Edgerly raised concerns about leadership, programming, and communication at the African American Art & Culture Complex. He said there has been little transparency from the board and a lack of community programming. Edgerly stated that leadership has been unstable, and communication with the community has been lacking. Edgerly requested a public hearing and more oversight from the Arts Commission.

Geoffrey Grier, San Francisco Recovery Theatre

Grier spoke about funding delays related to Dream Keeper Initiative (DKI) funds intended for Black theater organizations. He stated that \$500,000 has not been distributed after more than two years. He urged the Commission to help resolve the issue so theater groups can continue serving the community.

Vin Seaman, former employee of SF foundation and Queer Cultural Center and community organizer

Seaman shared survey results from artists and cultural workers showing increased financial hardship, burnout, and difficulty accessing funding and space. He stated that many respondents feel the Arts Commission has not effectively supported the arts community. He urged the Commission to protect Cultural Equity Grants and direct more funding straight to artists.

Maria Jensen, Executive Director, SOMArts Cultural Center

Jensen emphasized that cultural centers are long-standing public assets and community anchors. Jensen said when they become unstable or close, the impact spreads to artists, workers, and neighborhoods. Jensen warned against treating them as simple grant recipients rather than civic infrastructure. Jensen urged the Commission to prioritize communication, coordination, and long-term stewardship.

Susana Rojas, Executive Director, Calle 24 Latino Cultural District

Rojas spoke in support of Mission Cultural Center for Latino Arts and described strong community efforts to stabilize it. Rojas said over 300 people attended a community meeting and committees have been formed to address key issues. Rojas mentioned an emergency board process and possible temporary relocation space. Rojas invited commissioners to attend a community meeting and work collaboratively toward solutions.

Nancy Pili Hernández, Artist and Community Organizer, District 9

Pili raised concerns about Mission Cultural Center's closure and the impact on Indigenous cultural groups who used the space. Pili said Aztec dance groups were locked out and forced to pay for temporary space. Pili criticized reimbursement-only grant models, explaining that nonprofits and artists often front costs on personal credit cards. Pili urged the Commission to provide partial upfront grant payments to prevent financial strain.

Michael Petrelis, Friends of Jane Warner Plaza

Petrelis called for the removal of "The Seed" sculpture in Jane Warner Plaza, stating it was approved as temporary but has remained past its term.

Petrelis described the sculpture as deteriorated and poorly maintained. Petrelis criticized the Commission for not ensuring compliance and asked that the issue be placed on a future agenda. Petrelis also questioned whether other temporary artworks have overstayed their approval.

Sunny Angulo

Angulo urged the Commission to treat arts and culture as essential civic infrastructure rather than focusing only on economic return. Angulo encouraged collaboration with other City departments to secure sustainable funding sources beyond the hotel tax. Angulo emphasized the need for stronger partnerships and proactive support for cultural centers. Angulo also encouraged using audits and oversight as tools to strengthen, not punish, nonprofits.

Remi Tan, Architect

Tan supported continued funding for community murals and public art projects. Tan said murals help reduce graffiti and bring people together. Tan raised concerns about maintenance of public art and historic preservation at Hunters Point Shipyard. Tan also suggested using vacant storefronts and office spaces for temporary arts uses.

Rachelle Axel, Director, Arts for a Better Bay Area

Axel raised concerns about new reimbursement policies and their impact on artists and small organizations. Axel noted that the Controller's policy allows departments some flexibility and encouraged the Arts Commission to use that authority. Axel urged the Commission to provide more upfront funding to grantees. She emphasized the importance of protecting cultural equity mandates during policy changes.

There was no additional public comment.

4. Committee Reports and Committee Matters (48:09)

4.1 Civic Design Committee Report (48:16)

Chair Carney reported that The Civic Design Review Committee approved two projects at its February 19, 2026 meeting. The first was the Yerba Buena Island/Treasure Island road improvement project, which includes roadway upgrades and integrated public artwork, along with a new pedestrian and bike pathway. Commissioners emphasized the importance of ensuring materials and colors match the artist's intended design. The second project approved was Phase 2 of the San Francisco International Airport Westfield garage, a seven-level employee parking structure with sustainability features and kinetic architectural elements. Carney mentioned the committee also asked for a broader landscape and public art master plan for the entire SFO campus to ensure future projects are coordinated.

Public Comment

Remi Tan, Architect

Tan supported the committee's work and emphasized the importance of maintaining the artistic intent of public art projects. Tan suggested the Commission use City architects to help artists select materials and ensure accurate construction details. Tan also encouraged involving the community in future mural projects to build public ownership and reduce vandalism.

There was no additional public comment.

4.2 Visual Arts Committee Report (1:05:39)

Chair Ferras reported that the Visual Arts Committee approved two new public art project plans and one completed artwork at its February 18, 2026 meeting. The first project is a temporary mural installation at the Geneva Car Barn in the Oceanview neighborhood, intended to activate the building with community-focused artwork. The second project is the 2027 Art on Market

Street poster series, which will invite artists to imagine the future of Market Street over the next 175 years. Ferras mentioned the committee also approved the completed public artwork at the Rose Pak Chinatown Station, which highlights the history and resilience of Chinatown. In addition, staff provided an update that a lawsuit has been filed regarding the proposed removal of the Vaillancourt Fountain, and the City will wait for a court decision before taking further action.

Public Comments

Remi Tan, Architect

Tan spoke about the importance of maintaining public art after it is installed. Tan shared an example of artwork at the Embarcadero BART station that deteriorated due to lack of maintenance and had to be removed. Tan encouraged the City to ensure there are resources and plans to properly maintain public artworks.

Nancy Pili Hernandez (Artist and Muralist)

Pili raised concerns about ensuring accurate Indigenous representation in public art. Pili asked the Commission to consult with Native communities when artworks depict Indigenous people or culture. Pili suggested having a local Indigenous representative review designs to avoid cultural inaccuracies or harm.

There was no additional public comment.

4.3 Executive Committee Report (1:19:23)

Chair Collins reported on two policy updates discussed at its February 25, 2026 meeting. Deputy Director Sarah Hollenbeck presented a new city Controller policy that sets standardized procedures for processing payments to community-based organizations. The committee also received an update on the Commission's ticket distribution policy to align with changes in local ethics laws. Collins noted a more detailed presentation on the ticket distribution policy will be brought to the full Commission at the April meeting.

There was no public comment.

6. Report on Mission Cultural Center for Latino Arts (1:21:45)

The Arts Commission received an update on the Mission Cultural Center for Latino Arts (MCCLA), including its finances, building status, and future plans. Staff reported that the center closed in December 2025 after the executive director left and the organization experienced financial difficulties. While the organization had been in compliance with grant reporting requirements earlier in the year, the sudden closure led the City to secure the building, maintain utilities, and provide 24-hour security while monitoring the site.

Staff also shared updates about a major seismic retrofit planned for the building. Construction is expected to begin in early 2027 and will require the building to be completely vacated during the work. The project is intended to improve the safety and infrastructure of the building and ensure it can continue serving the community in the future.

Staff explained that MCCLA is a nonprofit organization that operates in a City-owned building through a lease and annual operating grants from the Arts Commission. The City maintains the building's structural systems and major infrastructure, while the nonprofit is responsible for daily operations, programming, and internal management. Commissioners discussed how the City can support the center moving forward while recognizing that it does not control the nonprofit's leadership or governance. Staff noted they are continuing to coordinate with other City departments, the Mayor's Office, and community members to determine possible paths forward for the organization.

Commissioners discussed the challenges facing the Mission Cultural Center for Latino Arts and asked questions about the organization's finances, leadership changes, and grant compliance. They clarified that the Arts Commission owns the building and provides grants but does not

control the nonprofit's internal management or board decisions. Several commissioners emphasized the importance of working with the community to find a path forward and protect the center's cultural role in the Mission District. They also noted the need for better communication and oversight to help prevent similar issues at other cultural centers.

Public Comment(s)

Mary Jean Robertson, American Indian Cultural District Board Member

Robertson shared historical context about the Mission Cultural Center and its connections to different cultural communities since the 1970s.

Robertson emphasized the importance of remembering the center's history and the collaborative work that built it. Robertson said cultural centers have survived past challenges and expressed hope that the building will continue to serve the community in the future. Robertson encouraged the Commission to protect the center and its legacy.

Susana Rojas, Executive Director, Calle 24 Latino Cultural District

Rojas said the community wants to move forward collaboratively rather than in conflict with the Arts Commission. Rojas suggested a possible solution of finding a fiscal sponsor to help stabilize MCCLA and rebuild operations. Rojas explained that the community is organizing meetings and fundraising efforts to support the center and protect the archive. Rojas also noted that several plans are being explored at the same time to secure the center's future.

Vin Seaman, former employee of SF foundation and Queer Cultural Center and community organizer

Seaman said the relationship between the Arts Commission and MCCLA appears strained and lacks trust. Seaman urged the Commission to strengthen communication and build stronger relationships with community organizations. Seaman encouraged commissioners to meet more often with arts groups outside of formal meetings to better understand their challenges. Seaman said stronger engagement could help prevent issues like this in the future.

Ani Rivera, Executive Director of Galería de la Raza

Rivera called for mutual accountability between the Arts Commission and cultural center leadership. Rivera said the community needs transparency about what went wrong at MCCLA in order to move forward. Rivera also questioned whether the retrofit project and future plans for the building are clearly aligned with community needs. Rivera emphasized that the center belongs to the broader community and should serve future generations.

Maria Jensen, Executive Director of SOMArts

Jensen thanked Arts Commission staff for their work but said there are larger communication and transparency issues between the Commission and cultural centers. Jensen described the heavy responsibilities placed on nonprofit leaders who must manage programming, finances, and building operations. Jensen said funding has not kept pace with rising costs, making it difficult for organizations to stay stable. Jensen encouraged the Commission to rebuild stronger communication and support systems with cultural centers.

There was no additional public comment.

**6. New Citywide CBO Payment Processing Policy
(2:25:01)**

The Arts Commission received an update on a new City Controller policy that establishes standardized procedures for processing payments to community-based organizations (CBOs). The policy requires organizations to submit supporting documentation for all invoiced expenses and outlines specific requirements for reviewing and approving payments. While the policy applies citywide, departments are allowed to develop their own procedures as long as they follow the Controller's general guidelines.

Arts Commission staff explained that they are working on a departmental policy that better fits the needs of artists and arts organizations. Staff

acknowledged that the new requirements could create additional administrative work for both staff and grantees, so they plan to conduct community outreach and gather feedback before finalizing the policy. The goal is to create a system that meets City requirements while remaining workable for the arts community.

The Commission discussed the importance of clearly explaining the policy changes and gathering input from grantees before implementation. Staff indicated that the policy would likely apply to the next grant cycle beginning in fiscal year 2027, giving time for outreach, education, and adjustments before it is fully implemented.

Public Comment(s)

Maria Jensen, Executive Director of SOMArts

Jensen said the proposed reimbursement policy is concerning because many arts organizations are still recovering financially from the pandemic. Jensen explained that many nonprofits are already operating with limited cash flow and cannot front large expenses before being reimbursed. Jensen warned that the policy could cause organizations to fail if they do not have reserves. Jensen urged the Commission to analyze the financial realities of arts organizations before implementing the policy.

Susana Rojas, Executive Director, Calle 24 Latino Cultural District

Rojas said the policy could make it harder for cultural organizations to carry out the work the City is asking them to do. Rojas emphasized the need for stronger partnerships between the City and arts organizations when making policy decisions. Rojas also encouraged the Commission to advocate to City leadership about the impact the policy will have on the arts sector. Rojas said organizations need more support and capacity building, not additional financial barriers.

Vin Seaman, former employee of SF foundation and Queer Cultural Center and community organizer

Seaman said the reimbursement model negatively affects individual artists as well as organizations. Seaman explained that artists may be required to

front thousands of dollars for projects and wait months to be reimbursed. Seaman said this creates financial hardship, especially for artists from communities targeted by cultural equity programs. Seaman expressed disappointment that the policy is being considered without stronger protections for artists.

7. Consent Calendar (2:46:03)

President Collins introduced all items on the consent calendar with the exception of subitem 7.

Commissioner Beltran, seconded by Commissioner Ferras moved to approve all consent calendar items with the exception of subitem 7.

There was no public comment.

The motion was unanimously approved.

President Collins introduced subitem 7 on the consent calendar.

Commissioner Walker, seconded by Commissioner Ferras moved to approve subitem 7 on the consent calendar

There was no public comment.

The motion was approved.

Ayes: Charles Collins, Janine Shiota, Seth Brenzel, Patrick Carney, Suzie Ferras, McKenna Quint, Nabel Musleh, Al Perez, Debra Walker, Jessica Rothschild, Marcus Shelby

Nays: JD Beltran

RESOLUTION NO. 0302-26-030: that this Commission does hereby adopt the following items on the Consent Calendar and their related Resolutions:

1. **RESOLUTION NO. 0302-26-031:** Motion to approve the February 19, 2026, [Civic Design Review Committee Meeting Minutes](#).
2. **RESOLUTION NO. 0302-26-032:** Motion to approve the February 18, 2026, [Visual Arts Committee Meeting Minutes](#).
3. **RESOLUTION NO. 0302-26-033:** Motion to approve the February 25, 2026, [Executive Committee Meeting Minutes](#).

Civic Design Review Committee Recommendations (February 19, 2026, [link to agenda](#))

4. **RESOLUTION NO. 0302-26-034:** Motion to approve Small Project Review for YBI Treasure Island Road Improvement.
5. **RESOLUTION NO. 0302-26-035:** Motion to approve Phase 2 Review for SFO West Field Garage 2.

Visual Arts Committee Recommendations (February 18, 2026, [link to agenda](#))

6. **RESOLUTION NO. 0302-26-036:** 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.
7. **RESOLUTION NO. 0302-26-037:** 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.

8. **RESOLUTION NO. 0302-26-038:** Motion to approve the Project Plan for the Geneva Car Barn Temporary Mural Public Art Project.
9. **RESOLUTION NO. 0302-26-039:** 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.
10. **RESOLUTION NO. 0302-26-040:** Motion to approve the 10 final designs by Colin Kimzey for the 2026 Art on Market Street Poster Series.
11. **RESOLUTION NO. 0302-26-041:** Motion to approve the Project Plan for the 2027 Art on Market Street Poster Series.

8. New Business and Announcements (2:51:53)

President Collins highlighted a recent community event at SFMOMA related to the Mapping Genocide project, which focuses on documenting the history of violence against Native communities. Collins praised the organizers and noted the importance of continuing this work. Collins also asked staff to bring a report back to the Commission in the future and begin planning for a larger convening later in the year.

Public Comment(s)

Mary Jean Robertson, American Indian Cultural District Board Member

Robertson thanked the Commission for highlighting the Mapping Genocide project and the related community event. Robertson explained that the project is important because it brings attention to the historical trauma and experiences of Native communities in California. Robertson noted that the work helps educate the public and acknowledge past injustices. Robertson expressed appreciation for the effort to continue this conversation and support Native communities.

9. Adjournment

(2:54:46)

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:02 p.m.

Posted 03/16/2026, 10:45 a.m., msd

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=147.

Language Accessibility

Translated written materials and interpretation services are available to you at no cost. For assistance, please notify Commission Secretary Manraj Dhaliwal, 415-252-2247, manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org

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