



MEETING OF THE VISUAL ARTS COMMITTEE

Wednesday, May 21, 2025

2:00 p.m.

Hybrid Meeting

Draft Minutes

Chair Ferras called the meeting to order at 2:04pm.

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

Commissioners Present:

Susie Ferras

JD Beltran

Mahsa Hakimi

Nabiel Musleh

Debra Walker

Commissioners Absent:

Yiying Lu

SFAC staff in attendance: Deputy Director of Programs Ebon Glenn, Public Art Program and Civic Art Collection Director Mary Chou, Program Associate Tara Peterson, Project Manager Craig Corpora, and Commission Secretary Manraj Dhaliwal.

Commissioner Beltran recused herself from Item 10 as she lives less than 1,000 feet from the project site: Government code 81000 and Political Reform Act of 1974.

2. General Public Comment

(0:06:15)

There was no public comment.

3. Consent Calendar

(0:06:50)

1. Motion to approve *Art for Everyone: Beautifying San Francisco Through Community Art Displays*, a series of paintings by Janet Kai and Elizabeth Libao Francisco. The works will be installed at the SFMTA Parking Garage at 735 Vallejo Street and will be on display for up to one year. The display area is 9 ft. by 18 ft. The artwork will not become part of the Civic Art Collection and the artists will be responsible for the maintenance of the work.
2. Motion to amend RESOLUTION NO. 1202-24-493 to extend the installation of *Heartfulness* by Katy Boynton, by six months. The work will be installed until December 7, 2025.

Moved: Beltran/Hakimi

The motion unanimously carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Ferras, Beltran, Hakimi, Musleh

4. Relocation of Sculptures by Martha Heavenston at Tenderloin Recreation Center

(0:09:05)

Recreation and Park Department Project Manager Keri Ayers detailed the renovations for the outdoor play space at the Tenderloin Recreation Center at 570 Ellis St. The proposal is to bring more nature into the playground area by removing asphalt and planting trees. The sculptures *Dancing in the Sea of Milk* and *African King with Animal Power* by Martha Heavenston are currently installed in a heavily used area, where children treat the sculptures as play structures, causing a high level of wear.

Senior Registrar Allison Cummings stated that the proposed site for relocation is in a planting area, which is meant for a quiet resting zone for reflection and contemplation. The relocation of the sculptures is pending the outcomes of further conservation investigation of the works.

There was no public comment.

Motion: to approve the relocation of *Dancing in the Sea of Milk and African King with Animal Power*, 1995 two sculptures by Martha Heavenston in the Civic Art Collection (Accession #1995.8.1-2) within the playground at Tenderloin Recreation Center, pending the completion of a feasibility and cost analysis

Moved: Beltran/Musleh

The motion unanimously carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Ferras, Beltran, Hakimi, Musleh

5. JFK Promenade

(0:20:46)

Recreation and Park Assistant Director of Partnerships Joel Riddel presented the proposed temporary installation of *Traces in Order to Remember* by Betsabee Romero. Romero's sculptures play with the meanings of materials, signifying the form and function of everyday objects. By carving symbolic designs into recycled tires and etching on convex safety mirrors and other found objects, she creates artworks that reference ancient motifs and evoke reflections on movement. The six sculptures will be installed on JFK Promenade in succession starting at Conservatory Drive West and moving east toward Nancy Pelosi Drive, positioned in the center of the promenade.

There was no public comment.

Motion: to approve the temporary installation of six sculptures *Traces in Order to Remember*, 2024, by Betsabee Romero. The works are fabricated from repurposed tires, paint, mirrors and metal with wooden bases. The sculptures will be installed along JFK Promenade in Golden Gate Park, between Conservatory Drive East and West, from June 3, 2025 – March 2026. The artwork will not become part of the Civic Art Collection and will be maintained by the Recreation and Park Department, with Illuminate the Arts.

Moved: Beltran/Hakimi

The motion unanimously carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Ferras, Beltran, Hakimi, Musleh, Walker

Commissioner Walker entered the meeting at 2:40pm.

6. Solar Arch by Fnnch on JFK Promenade

(0:35:44)

Ben Davis of Illuminate the Arts presented the temporary installation and relocation of *Solar Arch* by Fnnch. Originally approved administratively by the Director of Cultural Affairs on October 2, 2024, the proposal is to move the work to a new location on JFK Promenade at Conservatory Drive East and for the Betsabee Romero work to be installed its place.

There was no public comment.

Motion: to approve the temporary installation of *Solar Arch, 2024* by Fnnch. The sculpture is fabricated from stainless steel, aluminum, acrylic, and LED lighting and will be installed along JFK Promenade in Golden Gate Park, at the intersection of JFK Promenade and Conservatory Drive East from June 1, 2025 – June 2026. It will be maintained by the Recreation and Park Department, with Illuminate the Arts. The artwork will not become part of the Civic Art Collection.

Moved: Beltran/Walker

The motion unanimously carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Ferras, Beltran, Hakimi, Musleh, Walker

7. SFAC Galleries

(0:40:20)

Director of Galleries & Public Programs Carolina Aranibar-Fernandez announced the group exhibition *To Bright Disturbances* organized by Assistant Curator Jackie Im. The show explores land use, and the particular the ways in which we utilize the land that can be extractive, devastating, and restorative. The work in the exhibition will delve into

stories of activism in reclaiming the land from harmful entities, how we adapt to new realities as the land changes, and the demands we make of nature and the land for our needs. The title comes from the poem "Crowd Source" by Canadian poet Cecily Nicholson, which draws parallels to the movement and adaptation of crows with that of humans. Artists in the exhibition are: Carmen Argote, Sky Hopinka, Kija Lucas, Aspen Mays, and Bonnie Ora Sherk. The show will open on Thursday, September 25, 2025 and runs through Saturday, December 13, 2025.

There was no public comment.

Motion: for the Director of Cultural Affairs to approve the artist honorarium in the amount of \$4000 to Kija Lucas; \$4000 to Aspen Mays; \$3200 to Carmen Argote; and \$800 to Sky Hopinka for the research and development of artwork for *To Bright Disturbances* on view at the SFAC Main Gallery, September 25 – December 13, 2025.

Moved: Walker/Beltran

The motion unanimously carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Ferras, Beltran, Hakimi, Musleh, Walker

8. 2026 Art on Market Street Poster Series

(0:48:36)

Program Associate Paris Cotz presented the selected finalists for the 2026 Art on Market Street Kiosk Poster Series. The review panel met on Wednesday, April 30, 2025 and recommended: Colin Choy Kimzey, Amir Khadar, Vida Kuang, Thad Higa, Patricia Wakida, and Adrian Arias to create conceptual proposals.

The 2026 Art on Market Poster Series is titled *Now & Then: Living Memories* and will focus on previously unrecorded, newly unearthed and unconventional San Francisco histories.

There was no public comment.

Motion: to approve Colin Choy Kimzey, Amir Khadar, Vida Kuang, Thad Higa, Patricia Wakida, and Adrian Arias as finalists for the 2026 Art on

Market Poster Series, as recommended by the Artist Review Panel.
Moved: Beltran/Hakimi

The motion unanimously carried by the following vote:
Ayes: Ferras, Beltran, Hakimi, Musleh, Walker

9. San Francisco Fire Department Division of Training (1:01:17)

Project Manager Marcus Davies presented the Project Plan for the San Francisco Fire Department Division of Training public art project. The art opportunity consists of an integrated design for both a grouping of sculptures located on Carrol Avenue and approximately 120 linear feet of sculptural or two-dimensional artwork integrated along niches built within the concrete planter walls fronting the facility. The goals of the project are: to connect viewers to the facility's functions and reflect the mission of the Fire Department; integrate the facility into the neighborhood with meaningful connections to the community; be fabricated from durable and maintainable materials, suitable for an exterior location along a publicly accessible, pedestrian right-of-way; and to preserve pedestrian access and sightlines into the facility.

The artist contact is \$1,403,800, inclusive of all artist fees and associated expenses for artwork design, engineering, fabrication, insurance, transportation, and consultation during installation. The RFQ will be issued on Monday, June 2, 2025 and the deadline to apply will be Friday, August 1, 2025.

There was no public comment.

Motion: to approve the Project Plan for the San Francisco Fire Department Division of Training public art project.

Moved: Walker/Beltran

The motion unanimously carried by the following vote:
Ayes: Ferras, Beltran, Hakimi, Musleh, Walker

Commissioner Beltran recused herself from Item 10 Potrero Gateway as she lives less than 1,000 feet from the project site: Government code 81000 and Political Reform Act of 1974. She left the room at 3:20pm.

10. Potrero Gateway **(1:15:33)**

Project Manager Marcus Davies presented the completed artwork titled *Metamorphosis* by Futureforms, an artist team of Nataly Gattegno and Jason Kelly Johnson. The artwork consists of four stacked spherical stainless steel figures, which emerge from the terraced plantings flanking the underpass. The sculptures transform and dematerialize into intricate lattices as they reach the sky. The work is part of Potrero Gateway, a new streetscape improvement project located on 17th Street at the corners of San Bruno Avenue and Vermont Street, on the north side of Potrero Hill in District 10. The project was sparked by a community initiative to improve the ignored space around and under the freeway.

The dedication event on April 28, 2025 was attended by Mayor Daniel Lurie, Supervisor Shamann Walton, Deputy Director of Programs Ebon Glenn, Commissioner JD Beltran, and city partners and community leaders to celebrate the opening of the gateway and the collaborative effort it fostered.

There was no public comment.

Motion: to approve as installed the completed artwork titled *Metamorphosis* by Futureforms (Nataly Gattegno and Jason Kelly Johnson) located at Potrero Gateway on 17th St. at San Bruno Avenue and 17th St. Vermont Street. The artwork is composed of four sculptures made of stainless steel and range in size from 10 ft. 2 in. tall by 3 ft. 6 in. wide to 7 ft. 3 in. tall by 5 ft. 1 in. wide. The work will be maintained by Public Works, Dogpatch and Northwest Potrero Hill Green Benefit District and will not become part of the Civic Art Collection.

Moved: Walker/Hakimi

The motion unanimously carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Ferras, Beltran, Hakimi, Musleh, Walker

Commissioner Beltran returned to the meeting at 3:25pm.

11. Shaping Legacy

(1:20:49)

Senior Program Manager Angela Carrier presented an update of the Shaping Legacy Program. 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.

In August 2024, SFAC selected four Artist Circle Community Collaborators to host a circle of artists to advise on the Audit Community Workshops and produce public programming to engage local arts and culture community. In February 2025, SFAC selected 5 Community Engagement Consultants to guide community engagement and artists' activations for selected case studies.

The Shaping Legacy Audit, which is now publicly available on the SFAC website, 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.

Additionally, SFAC released the RFP Shaping Legacy Temporary Public Art Projects, inviting artists and artist teams residing in the United States to submit proposals for up to five opportunities to create temporary public art projects that reimagine the landscape of monuments and memorials in the City. The selected works will represent a variety of artforms, sited in different parts of San Francisco and are anticipated to take place from April 2026 to October 2026. The deadline to apply is June 30, 2025.

There was no public comment.

12. Staff Report
(1:40:24)

Civic Art Collection & Public Art Program Director Mary Chou thanked the team for all their work assembling the Shaping Legacy Audit Report, particularly Senior Program Manager Angela Carrier, Senior Registrar Allison Cummings, Project Manager Grace Weiss, and Program Associate Tara Peterson.

Ms. Chou reiterated that the Shaping Legacy Request for Proposals for Temporary Art Public Art Projects is currently open and the deadline to apply is Monday, June 30, 2025.

She also uplifted and acknowledged the restoration and re-installation of both *Invocation* by Pepe Ozan at Palega Park and *Whales* by Robert B. Howard at the new Student Success Center on City College of San Francisco's Main Campus. Both projects will have a more thorough report at a later Visual Arts Committee Meeting.

Ms. Chou also announced Craig Corpora's promotion from Program Associate to Public Art Project Manager.

13. New Business and Announcements
(1:47:19)

There was no New Business and Announcements and there was no public comment.

14. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 3:52 p.m.

Posted 5/29/2025, 9:50am CC



Archives Available

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