



San Francisco Arts Commission Meeting

April 06, 2026

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 4: Committee Reports and Committee Matters

Discussion

Item 4.1

Visual Arts Committee Report

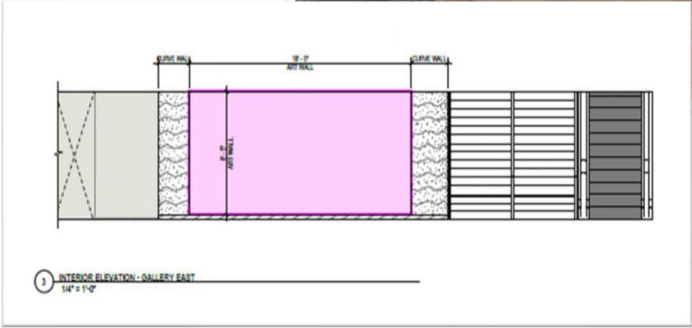
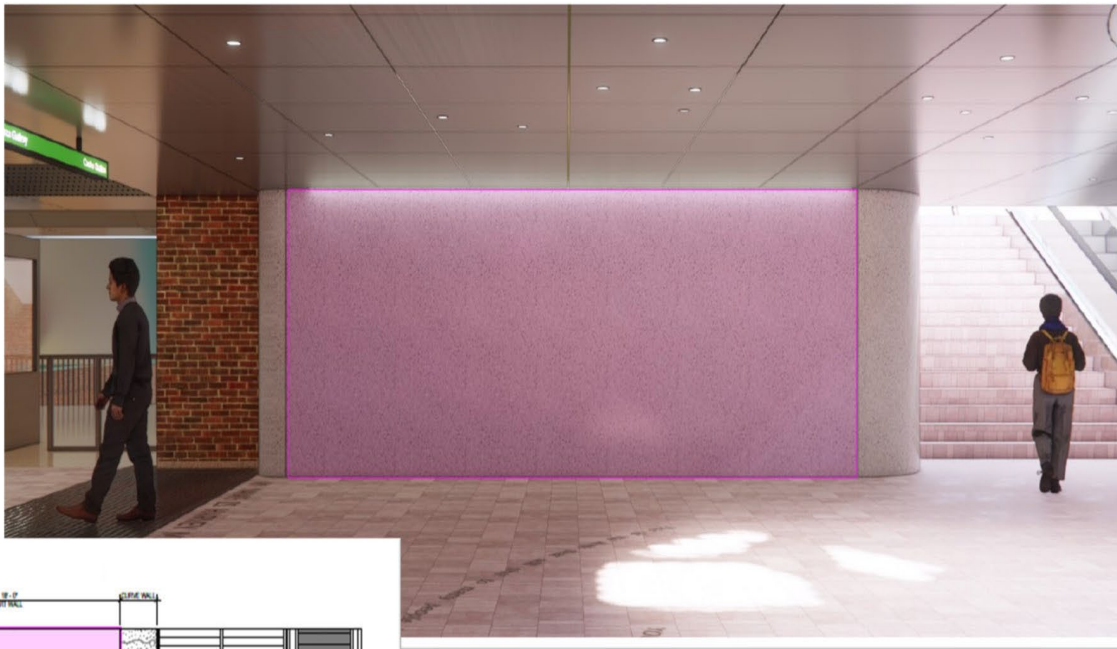
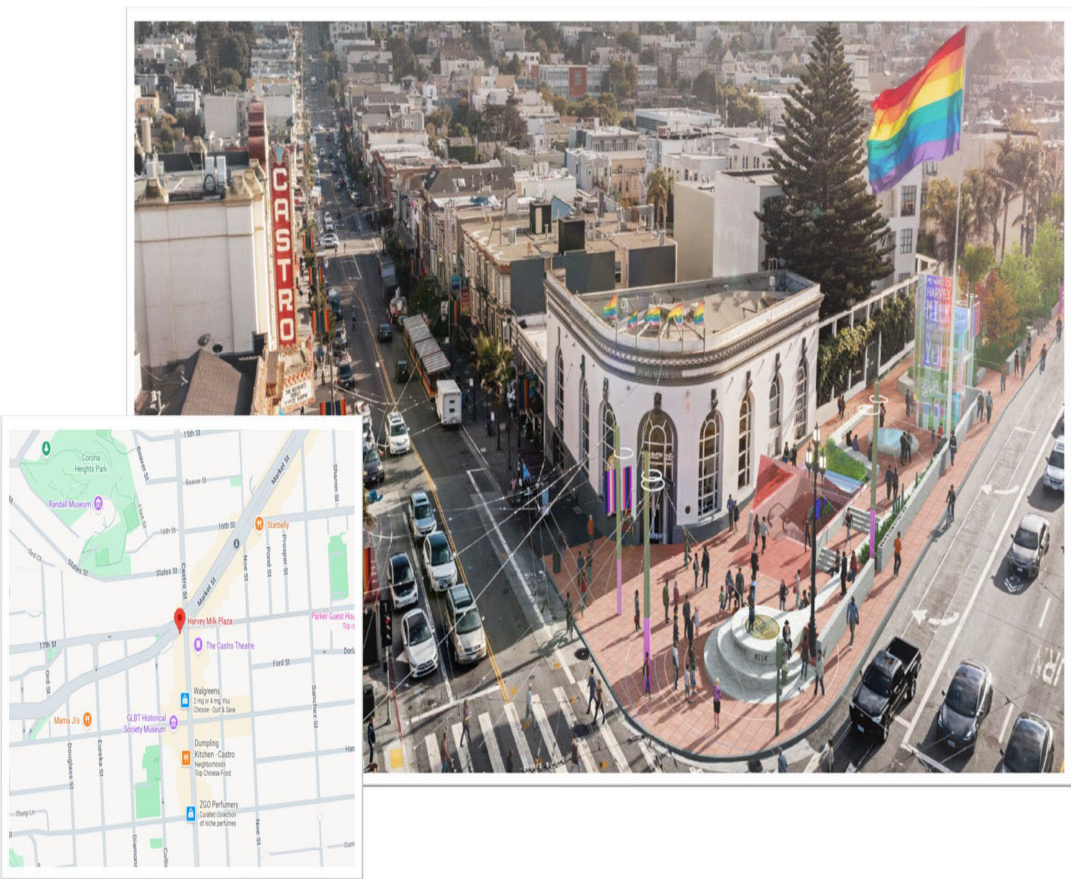
Discussion

Presenter: Chair Ferras

Presentation Time: Approximately 5 minutes

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

Harvey Milk Plaza Improvements Project



Item 4.2

Community Investment Committee Report

Discussion

Presenter: Chair Walker

Presentation Time: Approximately 10 minutes

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

Item 5.3

Community Investment Committee Report

FY26 Grant Program By the Numbers

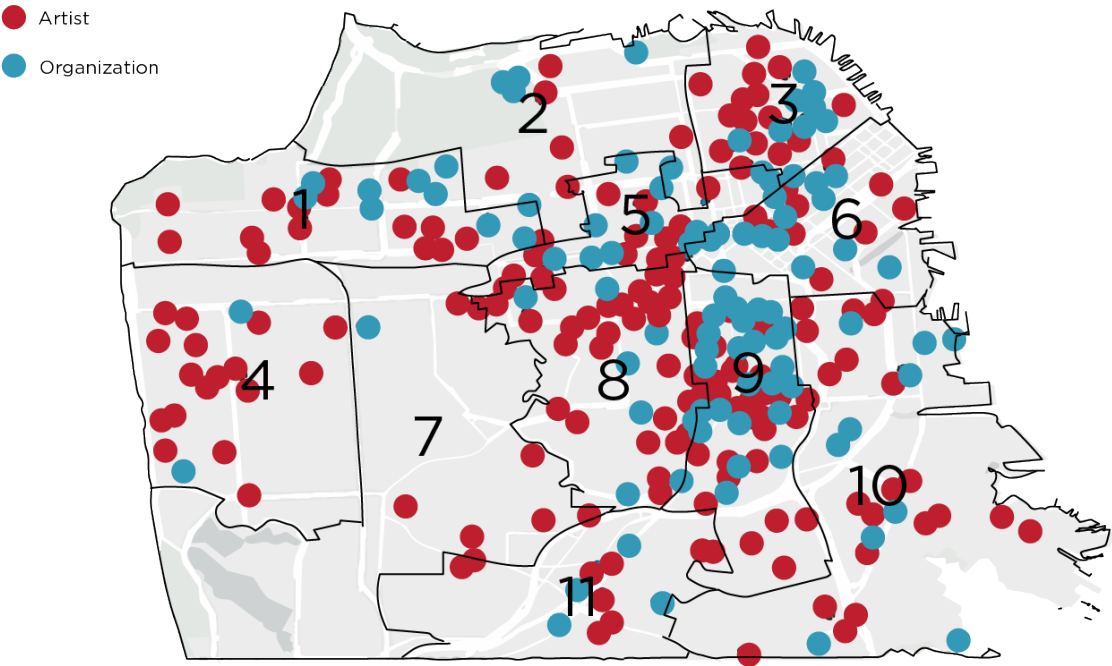
326 Eligible Applications	110 Grantees Recommended	Total Amounts Awarded
128 Organizations 198 Artists	49 Organizations 25% First Time Recipients 38% Applicant Success	\$7,320,268 Total \$ Allocated
All Districts Represented	61 Artists 42% First Time Recipients 31% Applicant Success	\$4,225,000 Organizations
7 Technical Assistance Webinars Conducted	All Districts Represented	\$3,095,268 Artists
7 In-Person Outreach Info Sessions Held	34% Overall Applicant Success Rate	All Cultural and Supervisor Districts Represented
10 Distinct Review Panels 20 Panel Days 49 Panelists		

Item 5.3

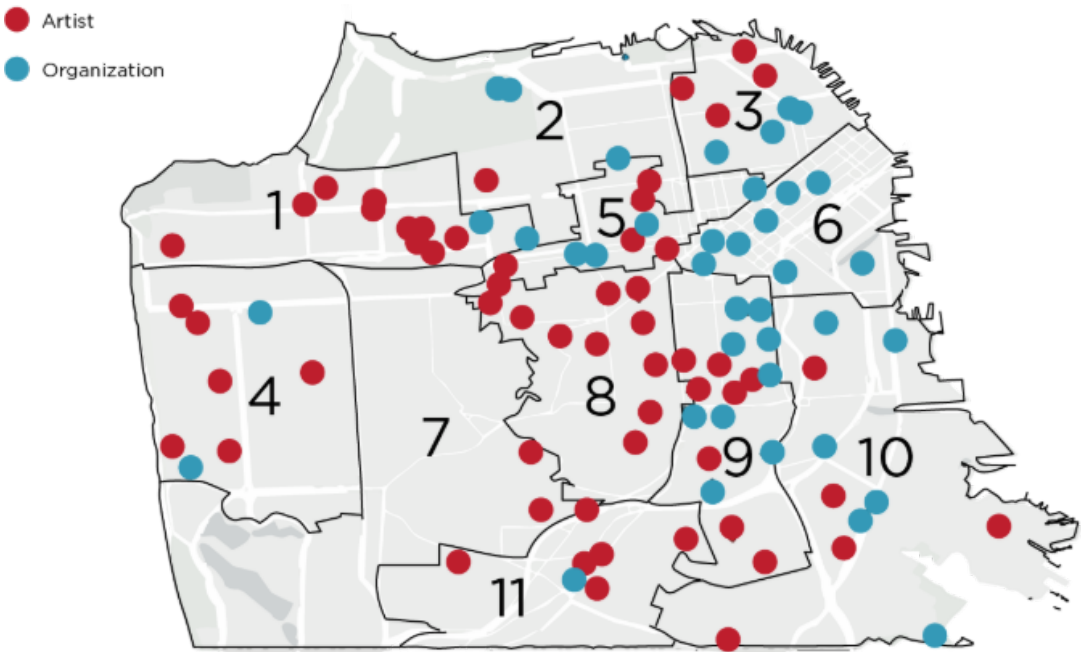
Community Investment Committee Report

Mapping Applicants and Grantees for Organizations and Artists

Total Applicants=412



Total Grantees=110



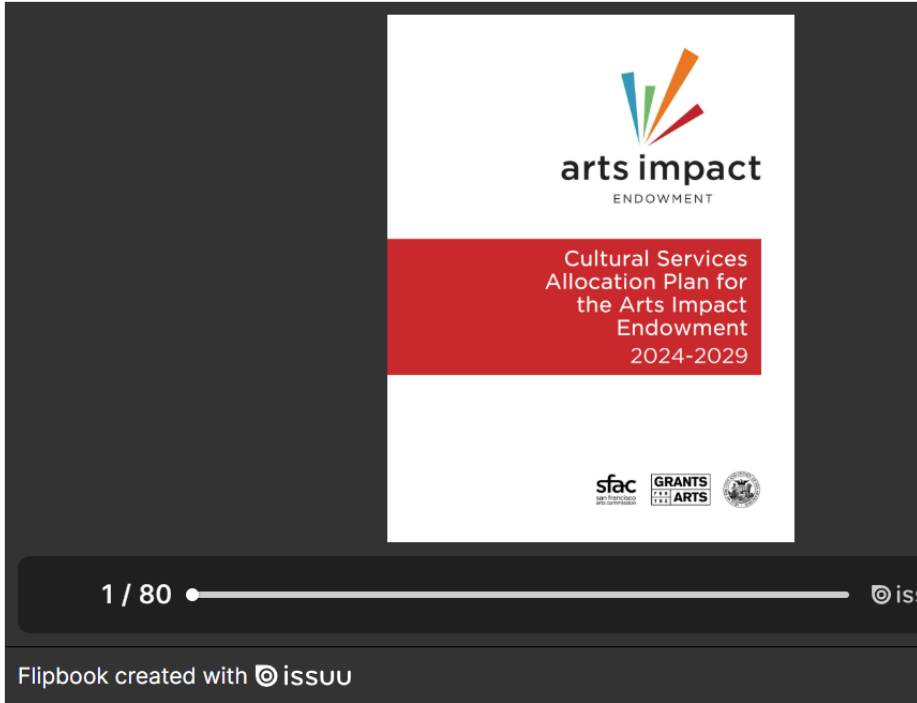
Item 5.3

Community Investment Committee Report

Funding Channels:	Applications Submitted: Request Amount (\$)	Applications Submitted: Total Number	Applications Reviewed: Request Amount (\$)	Applications Reviewed: Total Number	Applications Funded: Award Amount (\$)	Applications Funded: Total Number
TOTAL (Orgs and Individuals)	\$27,780,438	412	\$21,168,119	327	\$7,320,268	110

Item 5.3

Community Investment Committee Report



Item 6

Arts Impact Endowment Year One Survey Findings: Background



Artillery Ceramics Apprenticeship Cohort September 2024 by Alexa LexMex Treviño

Background:

- Fiscal Year 2025 was Year One of the 2024 – 2029 Cultural Services Allocation Plan (CSAP).
- Iterate process and incorporate feedback from stakeholders: Applicants, Grantees, Panelists, Commissioners and Staff.
- Build Community Investments staff capacity for data analysis.
- Engage community input as directed by legislation.

READ THE 2024-2029 CSAP REPORT!

Item 5

Community-based Cultural Centers provide accessible arts opportunities for all San Franciscans, comprised of **four City-owned facilities and three virtual* Cultural Centers** that are operated by nonprofit arts organizations and provide cultural and arts programming. The center facilities are available for rent and offer free or low-cost performances, gallery exhibitions, and classes.

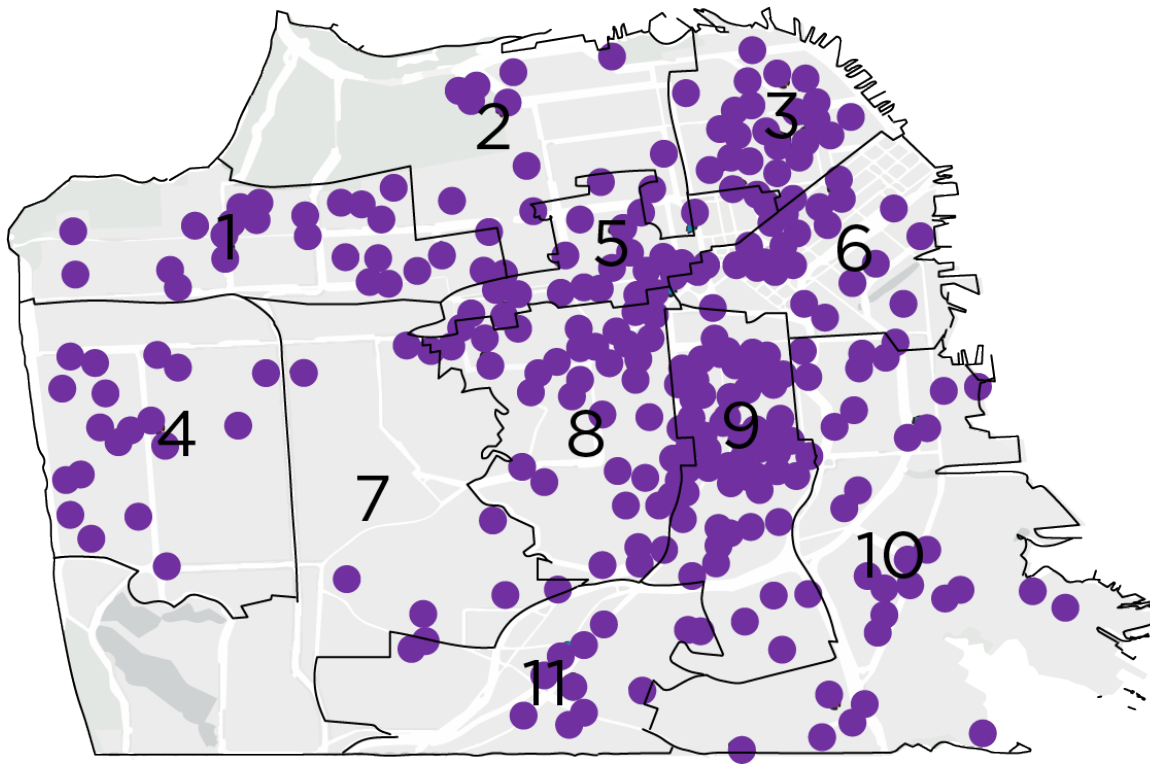


(* indicates virtual center)

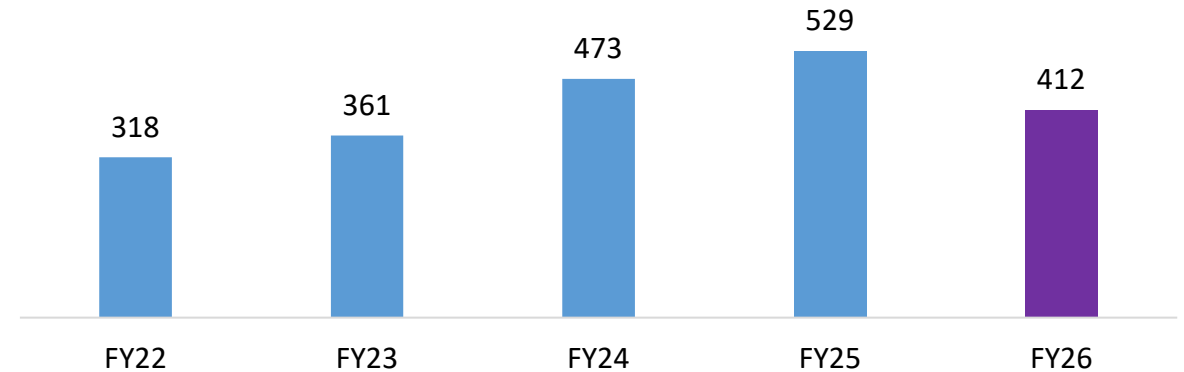


Item 3 Applicants Over the last Five Years

Total Applicants=412



All Grant Applications by Fiscal Year
(Total = 2093)



Item 5: Cultural Center Presentation – Ruth Williams (Bayview) Opera House

Discussion

Presenter: *Theo Ellington*, Executive Director, Ruth Williams (Bayview) Opera House

Presentation Time: Approximately 10 minutes

RUTH WILLIAMS OPERA HOUSE

BAYVIEW

www.rwoh.org

[@bvoperahouse](https://www.instagram.com/bvoperahouse)



SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO
OPERA HOUSE.

1888

BOB BECHTER
COLOR
CONSULTANT
415.722.7514

A Legacy of Strength and Community

When you walk through the doors of the Ruth Williams Opera House (RWOH), you're stepping into a living piece of history. Built by Freemasons in 1888, it's San Francisco's most historic theater—a resilient space that has stood strong through the 1906 earthquake, the Great Depression, the civil rights struggles of the '60s, and, most recently, the COVID-19 pandemic. Today, it's not just surviving—it's thriving.

Honoring the Past, Building the Future

Recognized on the National Register of Historic Places alongside San Francisco landmarks like Coit Tower, the RWOH is more than a historic gem—it's a cultural heartbeat for the Bayview. Operated by the nonprofit Bayview Opera House, Inc., it's where history meets innovation, offering arts education programs and creative opportunities that inspire all generations.



SF Historic Landmark No. 8

National Register of Historic Places (2011)

WHAT WE DO



Bay Area artists gain hands-on training in production and performance through **Tools of the Trade**. We've launched a live event and production company featuring program graduates.

The **Black Arts Grant** supports Black and BIPOC artists with grants, space, and resources to create community events. Artists in Residence develop original projects like concerts and film screenings, bringing their visions to life.

We excel in **Live Event Production**, from concerts to art exhibits, our diverse events showcase local talent and renowned artists. The theater's intimate setting creates a unique connection between performers and audiences.



A Stage for Everyone

The RWOH is where stories are shared, and communities come together. With over **60+ events a year, \$400,000 in grants awarded to artists**, and **1,500 hours of hands-on training in event production**, we're not just hosting performances—we're building a brighter, more creative future. Whether it's music, theater, film, or family events, there's always something magical happening on our stage.



3rd & Palou



SF Sounds x MeloDious



Coretta's King: An Artist's
 Perspective



SF Sounds, 2026

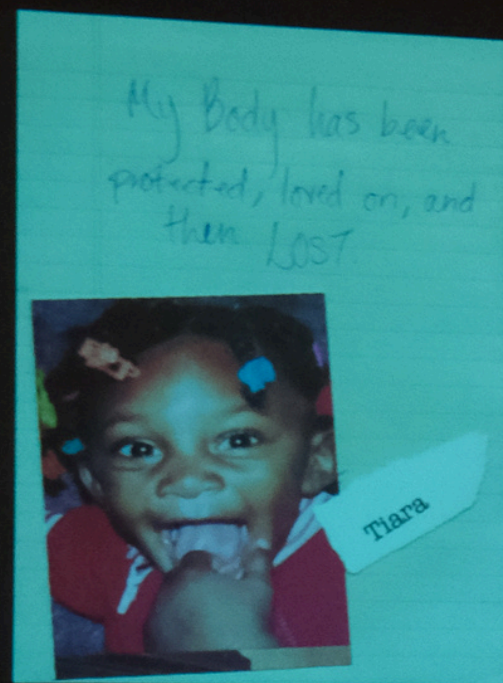
Black on Both Sides is a multidisciplinary collaboration between changemakers & cultural architects leveraging Black Art to build community power, shift narratives, and reimagine urban spaces in San Francisco and Oakland. This effort is being powered by Ruth Williams Opera House and Black Citizen.



A Changemaker is a leader actively working to challenge existing systems to make impact and transform their community through advocacy, entrepreneurship, community organizing, and/or philanthropy.

A Cultural Architect is an artist or creative that influences and shapes a way of life in a defined geographic space with the intention of preservation, development, or transformation of identities, beliefs, or societal norms.





RUTH
WILLIAMS
OPERA
HOUSE

THE RACE FOR
CALIFORNIA
GOVERNOR

FOX LOCAL



**XAVIER
BECERRA**

THE RACE FOR
**CALIFORNIA
GOVERNOR**

FOX LOCAL

Black Action Alliance
Putting The Bay Area's Future First



**STEVE
HILTON**

THE RACE FOR
**CALIFORNIA
GOVERNOR**

FOX LOCAL

Black Action Alliance
Putting The Bay Area's Future First



**MATT
MAHAN**

THE RACE FOR
**CALIFORNIA
GOVERNOR**

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**TOM
STEYER**

THE RACE FOR
**CALIFORNIA
GOVERNOR**

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**TONY
THURMOND**

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**ANTONIO
VILLARAIGOSA**

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**CALIFORNIA
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Black Action Alliance
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**BETTY
YEE**

THE RACE FOR
**CALIFORNIA
GOVERNOR**

FOX LOCAL

Black Action Alliance
Putting The Bay Area's Future First



Candlelight Concert Series,





Studio Red's
DJ GROOVE LOUNGE

MARCH
30
2024

12
TO
7
PM

Bayview
Opera House

BAYVIEW OPERA HOUSE
4705 3RD ST SAN FRANCISCO, CA



SAN FRANCISCO
OFFICE OF ECONOMIC &
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

BLACK ON
BOTH SIDES

POWERED BY RWOH BLACK CITIZEN



DREAM KEEPER





Bayview Opera House Interior

RWOH outdoor space







Ruth Williams Bayview Opera House Exterior



Meet The Team



Theo
Ellington



Cydney Nunn



David Saenz



Ayanna King



Genevieve
Leighton- Armah

David Saenz

RUTH WILLIAMS OPERA HOUSE
BAYVIEW

THANK YOU

www.rwoh.org

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