



## SAN FRANCISCO FILM COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

**Monday, June 23, 2025 @ 2PM**

**City Hall, Room 416**

**1 Dr Carlton B Goodlett Pl**

Members of the Commission  
will attend this meeting in person at the location listed above

The Film Commission welcomes public comment and will hear  
in person public comment on each agenda item.

### **AGENDA:**

#### **1. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL**

##### **Film Commissioners Present**

Jack Song, Vice President; Jim Beaumonte, Commissioner; Erin Kahn, Commissioner; Kate Goldstein-Breyer, Commissioner; Devanshu Patel, Commissioner; Carolyn Tyler, Commissioner

##### **Film Commissioners Absent**

Villy Wang, President; Claudine Cheng, Commissioner; Tony Delorio, Commissioner; Franco Finn, Commissioner; Roberto Hernandez, Commissioner

##### **Film SF Staff Present**

Manijeh Fata, Executive Director; Sofia Alicastro, Deputy Director; Zoe Halsne, Senior Production Coordinator/Commission Secretary

##### **Film SF Staff Absent**

Mark Hogains, Production Manager; Ismael Castillo, Senior Production Coordinator

#### **RAMAYTUSH OHLONE LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

Explanatory Document:

<https://sf.gov/sites/default/files/2023-03/Ramaytush%20Ohlone%20Land%20Acknowledgement.pdf>

#### **COMMISSION MEETING AGREEMENTS**





Explanatory Document:

[https://sf.gov/sites/default/files/2023-04/Commission%20Meeting%20Agreements\\_new.pdf](https://sf.gov/sites/default/files/2023-04/Commission%20Meeting%20Agreements_new.pdf)

## 2. FILM SF STAFF REPORT

### DISCUSSION

By Executive Director Manijeh Fata, Deputy Director Sofia Alicastro, and Senior Production Coordinator/Commission Secretary Zoe Halsne.

This report included:

- Report on recent/upcoming meetings, events, festivals, and productions
- Production stats

**Executive Director Fata:** The California State Tax Credit just announced a handful of films that will shoot in San Francisco so we will have a strong fall. Film SF will be moving from OEWD to a new department with Grants for the Arts and the Arts Commission.

#### **Commissioner Comment:**

**Commissioner Goldstein-Breyer:** What will the leadership structure be?

**Chief of Housing and Economic Development Segal:** The goal is to have a unified arts and culture entity. We are bringing together the leaders of these groups and consultants to discuss the work each group does. We don't have a structure yet. The idea is to have one department and for all of the work of each of these groups to sit inside of it, and there will be a leader of this department.

**Commissioner Beaumonte:** Is the goal to put together these departments and figure out a plan from there?

**Chief of Housing and Economic Development Segal:** This new department will do all the work that each of these groups currently do. Because it will be one department, these groups should be better coordinated and easier for the customer of these groups.

**Commissioner Beaumonte:** Has the research been done to see if this new department will be feasible?

**Chief of Housing and Economic Development Segal:** We feel the homework has been done over decades. There is a report from 2005 which makes the case for this new department. We've made some decisions intentionally unmade to include the people who are closest to the work.





**Commissioner Tyler:** What happens to the commissioners and the staff of each department?

**Chief of Housing and Economic Development Segal:** That will be determined in the next few months.

**Commissioner Kahn:** If there is a cost savings, is there a process where we can reassess? How are we prioritizing these three departments? Can we start considering the private sector for funding?

**Chief of Housing and Economic Development Segal:** The work of the Film Commission is tremendously important to our city. Through combining with the other two departments, we hope the work can be elevated. We need to figure out how to give out more film incentives and make it more affordable to film in San Francisco.

**Commissioner Tyler:** I would be worried about Film SF being watered down.

**Chief of Housing and Economic Development Segal:** Film SF as a part of OEWD was another vertical around economic development in the city. This work will be even more successful if it is a vertical within the arts and culture community.

**Commissioner Patel:** Is there a problem with the way things are done now? Do you have examples of other cities that have done this effectively? What is the actual data supporting this as a better way of doing things?

**Chief of Housing and Economic Development Segal:** There are many large cities that have one arts and culture department. If someone is looking for a grant or film something, they can go to one place.

**Commissioner Kahn:** Will these three groups be in the same office at City Hall?

**Chief of Housing and Economic Development Segal:** We haven't decided, but it would be counterintuitive not to have everyone work together in the same office.

**Vice President Song:** What's the general timeline for this? What messaging can Commissioners share about this?

**Chief of Housing and Economic Development Segal:** Over the next few months we will be able to answer all questions asked today. Commissioners can share everything we have discussed in this meeting.





**Vice President Song:** I strongly advocate that Executive Director Fata has a seat at the table in the decision-making process.

**Chief of Housing and Economic Development Segal:** Executive Director Fata is a fierce advocate for the work that Film SF does.

**Commissioner Tyler:** What will be the input of the commissioners in the next few months?

**Chief of Housing and Economic Development Segal:** We don't have a concrete answer yet, but we know we can benefit from your input.

**Public Comment:**  
No comment.

### 3. PRODUCTION SPOTLIGHT: *UNSAVORY ELEMENTS* DISCUSSION

By Chris Martin, Producer. He discussed his recent project, the independent film *Unsavory Elements* and how he utilized Film SF's *Scene in San Francisco* incentive program.

**Executive Director Fata:** *Unsavory Elements* was written and directed by a local filmmaker named Tom Carter. They shot 20 days in San Francisco and hired 25 locals.

**Producer Martin:** The film commission is an ambassador of the local film community to the world. San Francisco relies on the film and television industry to project the city's value and beauty. It would not be good if the day-to-day business of the film commission was impacted. Filming in San Francisco would be very hard without the *Scene in San Francisco* incentive. The Treasure Island hangars are super valuable for film production. We built two sets on Treasure Island for *Unsavory Elements*. The incentive program is also useful for getting office space and parking.

**Commissioner Comment:**

**Commissioner Kahn:** Thank you for being here and advocating for Film SF.

**Public Comment:**  
No comment.





#### 4. SFFILM FILM SPACE GRANT PRESENTATION DISCUSSION

By Executive Director Anne Lai, Masashi Niwano, Artist Development Director; Rosa Morales, Manager of Narrative Films; Joshua Moore, Manager of Documentary Programs; and Erika Arnold, Artist Development Associate Manager. They presented their report on the San Francisco Film Commission Film Space (SFFCFS) grant.

**Executive Director Lai:** SFFILM's use of the Film Space Grant is programmatically driven, but one of the great benefits is FilmHouse's ability to be available year-round to filmmakers consistently. Both young up-and-coming and experienced filmmakers have a desire to be in FilmHouse. The Film Space Grant makes a meaningful difference in our work.

**Director Niwano:** FilmHouse is a multi-use incubator space located in SoMa. We have two editing suites, production rooms, a screening room, and workspaces. Currently we have 23 local filmmakers working on projects in FilmHouse. We had over 70 programs at FilmHouse in the last year.

**Associate Manager Arnold:** One of our offerings is production meetings for our filmmaker residents. In these production meetings residents gather in FilmHouse to share their projects through table reads and rough-cut screenings. These production meetings foster collaboration and creativity.

**Director Niwano:** FilmHouse is a hub for our residents but it's also a space for the wider filmmaking community. We host a lot of events at FilmHouse as well.

**Manager Morales:** The Youth FilmHouse Residency is for local filmmakers between the ages of 16-18. We had 14 residents this past year. One of our Rainin grantees just signed on to produce one of the youth resident's short films. At this year's SFFILM Festival, we had 11 films that were supported through our artist development programs. We also had Industry Days, an event that matches filmmakers with people from the film industry. The San Francisco Stories Pitch Forum was a new event this year. We heard from filmmakers who are in early development on their films. The goal was to highlight San Francisco and what could be made here. The Sound and Cinema Showcase is an event in partnership with the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. 4 filmmakers met with film composers to collaborate and showcase their work.

**Manager Moore:** Elena Oxman's *Outerlands*, a local film, was the closing night film at the SFFILM Festival.

**Executive Director Fata:** *Outerlands* also used the *Scene in San Francisco* incentive.





**Manager Moore:** Julie Wyman's *The Tallest Dwarf* is a documentary that was developed in our FilmHouse residency and a recipient of our Filmmakers with Disabilities grant. The film had its San Francisco Bay Area premiere at the SFFILM Festival. Kyle Chiu's *After What Happened at the Library* is a short film based on a true story and was also showcased the SFFILM Festival.

**Commissioner Comment:**

**Commissioner Kahn:** Thank you so much for being here.

**Vice President Song:** What kind of program do you have to educate filmmakers about the business side of filmmaking?

**Director Niwano:** We do events and meetings throughout the year. Our residents are working on a variety of different projects at different stages of production. We advise residents when they are ready to shoot in the San Francisco Bay Area, and the SFFILM Festival is a great space to discuss incentives and ways to shoot here. We use the time during Industry Days to spotlight our local filmmaking community, build networks, and talk through how to shoot in San Francisco.

**Executive Director Fata:** We are allocating funds to extend the Film Space Grant contracts for both SFFILM and BAVC by one year.

**Public Comment:**

No comment.

## 5. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

### ACTION

Presentation of and action to approve the minutes of the May 22, 2025 Commission meeting.

Supporting document: <https://www.sf.gov/meeting--june-23-2025--june-23-2025-film-commission-meeting>

**Motion to approve:** Commissioner Beaumonte

**Second:** Commissioner Kahn

**Commissioner Comment:**

No Comment.





**Public Comment:**

No comment.

**Unanimous vote to approve the minutes.**

**6. COMMISSIONER DISCUSSION AND NEW BUSINESS**  
DISCUSSION

Allowed Vice President and Commissioners to report on recent film activities and make announcements that are of interest to the film and media community. Allowed Commissioners to introduce new agenda items for future consideration by the Commission.

**7. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT**  
DISCUSSION

Members of the public can comment generally on matters within the Commission's purview as well as to suggest new agenda items for the Commission's consideration.

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

Adjourned at 3:00pm due to lack of quorum. The remaining commissioners continued discussing commissioner new business and general public comment.

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Any materials distributed to the members of the Film Commission within 72 hours of the meeting or after the agenda packet has been delivered to the members are available for inspection at 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 473, San Francisco, CA 94102, during regular business hours. Info: Zoe Halsne, 415-554-6740

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Copies of the Sunshine Ordinance can be obtained from the Clerk of the Sunshine Ordinance Task Force, at the San Francisco Public Library, and on the City's website at <http://www.sfgov.org>.

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如對會議有任何疑問，請致電 415-554-6241 查詢。當會議進行時，嚴禁使用手機及任何發聲電子裝置。會議主席可以命令任何使用手機或其他發出聲音裝置的人等離開會議場所。

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地址：City Hall – Room 244 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place

San Francisco, CA 94102-4683

電話號碼:415-554-7724 ; 傳真號碼415- 554-5163

電子郵箱: SOTF@sfgov.org

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San Francisco, CA 94102-4683  
415-554-7724 (Oficina); 415-554-5163 (Fax);  
Correo electrónico: [SOTF@sfgov.org](mailto:SOTF@sfgov.org)

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pulong. Paalala po na maaring palabasin ng Tagapangulo ang sinumang may-ari o responsible sa ingay o tunog na mula sa cell-phone, pager o iba pang gamit na lumilikha ng tunog o ingay.

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