

# MEETING OF THE VISUAL ARTS COMMITTEE

Wednesday, November 19, 2025

2:00 p.m.

Hybrid Meeting

**Draft Minutes**

Chair Ferras called the meeting to order at 2:09pm.

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

### Commissioners Present:

Susie Ferras, Chair

JD Beltran

Nabiel Musleh

Al Perez

McKenna Quint

Debra Walker

SFAC staff in attendance: Civic Art Collection and Public Art Program Director Mary Chou, Deputy Director of Programs Ebon Glenn, Director of Cultural Affairs Ralph Remington. Chair Ferras announced two changes to the agenda. Item 3.6 (mistakenly read as 3.7), *“Motion to approve Eyeliner”*, was tabled. Item 8, San Francisco International Airport Terminal 3 West Modernization Public Art Project, Wheelchair Lounge Art Wall, was revised to reflect an amount change on the contract. There were no other changes to the agenda.

## 2. General Public Comment

**(0:06:53)**

There was no public comment.

### 3. Consent Calendar (00:08:57)

Chair Ferras introduced all consent calendar items except subitems 3.1 – 3.5. Chair Ferras is moving subitem 3.1 – 3.5 out of the consent calendar and into its own item for discussion and possible action.

Commissioner Walker, seconded by Commissioner Perez, moved to sever subitems 3.1 – 3.5 as separate items from the Consent Calendar to have discussion.

Commissioner Beltran, seconded by Commissioner Walker, moved to approve all consent calendar items with the exception of subitems 3.1 – 3.5.

3.6. **TABLED:** Motion to approve *Eyeliner*, a mural design by Juan Manuel Carmona. The mural will be installed at 1026 Valencia Street, in District 9. The mural measures approximately H3 ft. by W12 ft. The artwork is funded by San Francisco Artists Grant and will not become part of the Civic Art Collection. The artwork will be maintained by the artist.

3.7. Motion to approve *Dolores*, a mural design by Juan Manuel Carmona. The mural will be installed at 1057 Valencia Street, in District 9. The mural measures approximately H7 ft. by W15 ft. The artwork is funded by San Francisco Artists Grant and will not become part of the Civic Art Collection. The artwork will be maintained by the artist.

3.8. Motion to approve *Friego*, a mural design by Juan Manuel Carmona. The mural will be installed at 635 South Van Ness Ave, in District 9. The mural measures approximately H7 ft. by W22 ft. The artwork is funded by San Francisco Artists Grant and will not become part of the Civic Art Collection. The artwork will be maintained by the artist and the HOA.

3.9. Motion to approve *Big Wave and Carville*, a mural design by Brian Barnecllo. The mural will be installed at Java Beach Café, 1396 La Playa, in District 4. The mural measures approximately H12 ft. by W36 ft. The artwork is funded by SF Shines Grant, a program of the Community Economic Development (CED) division of the Office of Economic and Workforce Development and will not become part of the Civic Art Collection; the artwork will be maintained by Java Beach Café.

3.10. Motion to authorize the Director of Cultural Affairs to review and approve proposals for temporary light projection artwork ("Yerba Buena Lane Projection Art") to be installed on the Humboldt Bank Building, located at 785 Market Street, managed by the Yerba Buena Community Benefit District. This project is funded by the Office of Economic and Workforce Development. Approval is for artwork installations through December 31, 2026. The artwork will be maintained by A3 Visual LLC.

3.11. Motion to rescind RESOLUTION NO. 0905-25-136 and approve the amended list of two-dimensional artworks for purchase and display at Gene Friend Recreation Center Project:

- Cherisse Alcantara, *Victoria Manalo Draves Park*, 2022, Oil on canvas, 30h x 40w inches, \$3,000

- Kimberley Acebo Arteche, *Untitled (Places, Icons, Situations – Memories we must not let fade)*, 2020, Screenprint and digital archival print, 30h x 24w inches, \$1,500

- Rina Ayuyang, *Finding Filipino in SOMA*, 2023, Print, 23h x 16w inches, Limited Edition 1 of 2, \$600

- Leo Bersamina, *Forty-Fives*, 2024, Acrylic stain on wood, 16.5h x 13.5w x 1d inches, \$2,500

- Cristine Blanco, *Kapamilya Yard I and 2*, 2021, House paint and aerosol spray on wood, 42h x 57w inches, \$3,000

- Mel Vera Cruz, *Ligo Sardines*, 2017, Mixed media, 40h x 30w inches, \$2,200

- Kija Lucas, *Birds of Paradise 4*, 2025, Archival pigment print, 30h x 24w inches, \$3,000

- Francesca Villa Mateo (DBA ChiChai Mateo), *Bola Ay Buhay/Ball is Life*, 2025, Mixed textiles and vinyl, 37 x 32.75 inches, \$3,000

- Johanna Poethig, *Corrugated Memories: Malate School Day*, 2022, Ceramic on wood backing, 18h x 14w x 2d inches, \$3,000

- Jerome Reyes, *the horizon toward which we move always recedes before us (Gene Friend Recreation Center)*, 2023, Ink, correction fluid, tape, spray paint, vellum, 21.5h x 34 inches, \$3,000

- Favianna Rodriguez, *Mountain People 4*, 2023, Collage with linoleum block and phototransfer elements, 22.5h x 15w inches, \$800

- Charlene Tan, *Research and Remembering, Ube 2*, 2024, Ube, pigment, photo, acrylic paint, wood, 48h x 37w inches, \$3,000

3.1. Motion to authorize the Director of Cultural Affairs to enter into a contract with Atthowe Fine Art Services under Chapter 21 of the San

San Francisco Administrative Code, in an amount not to exceed \$1,000,000, for as-needed fine art services to support the Public Art Program.

3.2. Motion to authorize the Director of Cultural Affairs to enter into a contract with Atthowe Fine Art Services under Chapter 6 of the San Francisco Administrative Code, in an amount not to exceed \$1,500,000, for as-needed fine art services to support the Public Art Program.

3.3. Motion to authorize the Director of Cultural Affairs to enter into a contract with Atthowe Fine Art Services under Chapter 21 of the San Francisco Administrative Code, in an amount not to exceed \$1,500,000, for as-needed fine art services to support the Civic Art Collection.

3.4. Motion to authorize the Director of Cultural Affairs to enter into a contract with Atthowe Fine Art Services under Chapter 6 of the San Francisco Administrative Code, in an amount not to exceed \$1,000,000, for as-needed fine art services to support the Civic Art Collection.

3.5. Motion to authorize the Director of Cultural Affairs to enter into a contract with ARG Conservation Services, Inc. under Chapter 6 of the San Francisco Administrative Code, in an amount not to exceed \$2,000,000, for as-needed fine art services, including conservation of various large-scale artworks in the Civic Art Collection.

Commissioners discussed the as-needed contracts, and Director of Public Art and Civic Art Collection Mary Chou shared that these contracts support ongoing work of both new commissions and works in the Civic Art Collection for the next two years.

Commissioner Beltran, seconded by Commissioner Walker, moved to approve subitems 3.1 – 3.5 on the consent calendar.

There was no public comment.

**Moved: Beltran/Walker**

The motion unanimously carried by the following vote:

**Ayes:** Ferras, Beltran, Musleh, Perez, Quint, Walker

#### **4. 2026 Art on Market Street Poster Series**

**(0:15:15)**

Program Associate Paris Cotz presented the final designs by artist Adrian Arias for the 2026 Art on Market Street Poster Series. The overall theme for the year, “Now and Then: Living Memories,” focuses on underrepresented and unconventional histories of San Francisco. Arias’ six posters, styled as oversized “forever stamps,” honor everyday community figures from the Mission District, such as Aztec dancers, paleteros, flower vendors, and lowriders. Each design is rich in symbolism and cultural references, tying them to a larger ancestral map, with QR codes linking to bilingual web pages that provide deeper context, including interviews, articles, and videos.

There was no public comment.

**Motion:** to approve the six final designs by Adrian Arias for the 2026 Art on Market Street Poster Series.

**Moved: Beltran/Quint**

The motion unanimously carried by the following vote:

**Ayes:** Ferras, Beltran, Musleh, Perez, Quint, Walker

#### **5. San Francisco Main Library – Temporary Atrium Mural**

**(0:25:08)**

Project Manager Craig Corpora presented the installed and completed temporary mural *atemtuhe*, 2025, by artist Belen Islas, installed in the atrium of the San Francisco Main Library. Created in partnership with the Association of Ramaytush Ohlone, the mural is a large-scale printed vinyl piece that spans approximately 500 square feet. It illustrates the intergenerational sharing of knowledge from an Indigenous perspective, featuring native flora and fauna, children learning through play, and a harmonious natural landscape.

Commissioners asked whether it was possible to extend the installation duration.

There was no public comment.

## **6. Chinatown Him Mark Lai Branch Library Renovation Project (0:31:51)**

Project Manager Craig Corpora presented the three finalists recommended by the Artist Review Panel: Christine Wong Yap, Bijun Liang, and Wendy Chien, for the public art project at the renovated Chinatown Him Mark Lai Branch Library. The library is undergoing a major renovation to improve safety, energy efficiency, and community access. The public art component will be installed in five arched niches along the west wall of the historic reading room, each measuring approximately 9 feet tall by 6.5 feet wide, totaling around 300 square feet of display space. The project aims to reflect Chinatown's cultural identity and history while enhancing the library's atmosphere and architectural features.

There was no public comment.

**Motion:** action to approve Christine Wong Yap, Bijun Liang, and Wendy Chien as finalists for the Chinatown Him Mark Lai Branch Library Public Art Project, as recommended by the Artist Review Panel.

**Moved: Beltran/Musleh**

The motion unanimously carried by the following vote:

**Ayes:** Ferras, Beltran, Musleh Perez, Quint, Walker

## **7. Mission Branch Library Project (0:39:52)**

Project Manager Arianne Davidian presented the final design and construction documentation for *Nopal de la Misión*, a backlit glass mural by Juana Alicia for the Mission Branch Library. The artwork, inspired by Aztec mythology and the Mission District's cultural identity, features a monumental prickly pear cactus (nopal) surrounded by symbolic elements like Quetzalcoatl and Xochitl. The piece will be installed in a formerly windowed archway above the library's main staircase and will be

illuminated with a lighting system to simulate natural light. There will be a multi-layered window jamb that will protect the artwork from the historic wood mullions or the frame of the archway – this is essential for absorbing any minor shifts in the building structure over time. The fabrication process combines traditional and digital glass techniques, with hand-laid colored glass fused into layered panels. The mural is expected to be installed in summer 2026.

Commissioners had questions about how the lighting equipment would be replaced and had clarifying questions on the glass making process.

There was no public comment.

**Motion:** action to approve the final design and construction documentation of *Nopal de la Misión*, a wall-integrated artwork by Juana Alicia Araiza for the Mission Branch Library Public Art Project, located at 24th and Bartlett Streets in the Mission District.

**Moved: Beltran/Walker**

The motion unanimously carried by the following vote:

**Ayes:** Ferras, Beltran, Musleh, Perez, Quint, Walker

## **8. San Francisco International Airport Harvey Milk Terminal 1 Underpass Lighting Project (1:08:06)**

Project Manager Marcus Davies shared the reasons for a contract increase of \$120,681 for Lite Brite Neon Studio, bringing the total to \$1,750,588 for the fabrication and installation of Andrea Bowers' neon artwork *We've Got to Give Them Hope* at SFO's Harvey Milk Terminal 1. The immersive installation, inspired by the Castro Theatre marquee, features neon signage, disco balls, and quotes from Harvey Milk. It aims to create a celebratory and inclusive welcome for travelers arriving in San Francisco.

The increase covers unanticipated costs such as structural revisions, replacement of discontinued disco ball rotors, and the addition of a maintenance and conservation package with spare parts and templates.

Commissioners had questions about the maintenance and conservation package, and whether a local neon company will be a future partner in the

maintenance. Commissioners emphasized the importance of public recognition for SFAC's role in the project and discussed opportunities for media coverage and possible collaboration with SF Travel.

There was no public comment.

**Motion:** to approve an increase of Lite Brite Neon Studio LLC's contract from \$1,630,907 to \$1,771,505 (an increase of \$140,598) to include revised scope for fabrication, transportation, and consultation during installation of an artwork by Andrea Bowers (DBA Radical Patience Inc.) for the San Francisco International Airport: Harvey Milk Terminal 1 Underpass Lighting Project.

**Moved: Beltran/Quint**

The motion unanimously carried by the following vote:

**Ayes:** Ferras, Beltran, Musleh, Perez, Quint, Walker

## **9. Staff Report**

**(1:33:37)**

Civic Art Collection and Public Art Program Director Mary Chou announced an open Request for Proposals (RFP) for existing sculpture to be temporarily installed at Civic Center in 2026. The selected work will be displayed for 6 to 12 months and is intended to complement the Shaping Legacy initiative, which focuses on inclusive histories and civic memory. The deadline for submissions is January 12, 2026.

There was no public comment.

## **10. New Business and Announcements**

**(1:35:24)**

Commissioners shared several announcements, including the upcoming Commission Streamlining Task Force meeting on December 3, where the structure and governance of the Arts Commission will be discussed. Commissioners were encouraged to attend and voice support for the Commission's role. Additionally, the SFAC holiday celebration and employee recognition event is scheduled for December 1.



Other announcements included the opening of the “KAWS: Family” exhibition at SFMOMA.

There was no public comment.

## **11. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:49 p.m.

Posted 12/05/2025, 11:20am pc

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### **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=152](https://sanfrancisco.granicus.com/ViewPublisher.php?view_id=152)

### **Language Accessibility**

Translated written materials and interpretation services are available to you at no cost. For assistance, please notify Paris Cotz, 415-539-6213, [paris.cotz@sfgov.org](mailto:paris.cotz@sfgov.org).

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**Re: Apologies for late remote public comment link**

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**From** [REDACTED]  
**Date** Thu 11/20/2025 6:56 AM  
**To** Cotz, Paris (ART) <paris.cotz@sfgov.org>

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Hello,

Here is my written comment.

The Art Commission has the responsibility for taking care of the artwork in the civic art collection. Some of this artwork is on Rec and Park buildings. In order to preserve these murals, the Art Commission needs to take a more proactive approach in seeing these buildings and art work are protected, and that the Rec and Park and or the Art Commission needs to fix these buildings up so that the murals can be preserved. I am specifically talking about the Mother's Building at the San Francisco zoo.

Thanks

Richard

On Wed, Nov 19, 2025 at 4:22 PM Cotz, Paris (ART) <[paris.cotz@sfgov.org](mailto:paris.cotz@sfgov.org)> wrote:

Hi Mr. Rothman,

Our apologies for sending you the remote public comment link after the start of the Visual Arts Committee Meeting today. We sent it directly from Webex, so perhaps it went to your spam folder.

You may submit a written public comment that will be shared with the Visual Arts Committee members and included in the public record for today's meeting.

Please let me know whether you have any questions.

Thank you,  
Paris



**Paris Cotz**

Program Associate, Public Art

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**San Francisco Arts Commission**

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