



MEETING OF THE FULL ARTS COMMISSION

Monday, November 3, 2025

2 p.m.

Hybrid Meeting

Draft Minutes

President Collins called the meeting to order at **2:03 p.m.**

1. Call to Order, Roll Call, Agenda Changes, Land Acknowledgment (0:09)

Commissioners Present

Charles Collins, President
Janine Shiota, Vice President
JD Beltran
Seth Brenzel
Patrick Carney
Suzie Ferras
Jessica Rothschild
Debra Walker
Marcus Shelby
J. Riccardo Benavides
McKenna Quint
Al Perez
Nabiel Musleh

Commissioners Absent

Lydia So

Staff Present:

Ralph Remington, Director of Cultural Affairs
Sarah Hollenbeck, Deputy Director of Finance and Administration
Ebon Glenn, Deputy Director of Programs



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

Due to the anticipated volume of public comment, the time allocated for each speaker was 2 minutes instead of 3 minutes. No additional agenda changes were made.

President Collins announced the public meeting instructions.

Commission Secretary Dhaliwal announced public comment instructions.

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

2.Approval of the Minutes (7:34)

Commissioner Shiota, seconded by Commissioner Beltran moved to approve October 6, 2025, minutes.

There was no public comment.

The motion was unanimously approved.

RESOLUTION NO. 1103-25-189: Motion to approve October 6, 2025, Full Commission minutes.

3. General Public Comment (8:47)

Public Comment

Jack McCarthy (Docomomo NOCA): Submitted public documents regarding the Vaillancourt Fountain, however was advised to reserve comments specific to the Vaillancourt Fountain for Agenda Item 8.

Matt Joseph (Resident): Began to comment on the Civil Code but was advised to reserve comments specific to the Vaillancourt Fountain for

Agenda Item 8.

There were no additional public comments.

4. Director's Report **(13:15)**

Director of Cultural Affairs Ralph Remington reported on recent initiatives and events that continue to strengthen San Francisco's arts and cultural landscape. He shared highlights from the World Cities Summit, where he represented the City alongside other cultural leaders, discussing the role of arts in leadership and urban resilience. He also spoke at the Grantmakers in the Arts Conference, which focused on racial equity and cultural investment, and attended a Race Forward Board meeting. Remington announced that the Board of Supervisors approved legislation creating a new artist certification process for affordable housing, ensuring that working artists can access the 90-unit housing development on Market Street.

He also celebrated the announcement of Per Sia as San Francisco's second Drag Laureate, who will serve as a cultural ambassador for the drag and LGBTQ+ communities. Remington noted the success of the Arts Community Convenings, co-hosted with the Mayor's Office, Grants for the Arts, and the Film Commission. These gatherings allowed local artists and organizations to share feedback on unifying citywide arts efforts. He encouraged the public to participate in upcoming virtual convenings to ensure that community voices continue to shape future planning.

Additional updates included the ongoing exhibition *Too Bright Disturbances* at the SFAC Main Gallery, new public art projects such as a mural by Belem Islas at the Main Library, and the Shaping Legacy Initiative, a Mellon Foundation-funded effort to reimagine the City's monuments and memorials through a more inclusive lens. Remington reminded artists of the upcoming Arts Impact Endowment grant deadline and invited the public to attend the Smart Vendor Holiday Market on December 2. He concluded by welcoming George Lee, the new Capital Project Manager, who will oversee cultural facility improvements at San Francisco's community arts centers.

There was no public comment.

5. Committee Reports and Committee Matters (30:23)

5.1 Civic Design Committee Report (30:30)

Chair Deborah Walker reported that the Civic Design Review Committee reviewed and approved two projects at its recent meeting. The first was the SFO Westfield Campus Cargo Buildings 720.1 and 742 Phase 3 review, which feature a coordinated design with metal finishes, enhanced natural light, and improved pedestrian safety; the project was unanimously approved. The second was the Moccasin Materials Management Warehouse, a new durable and energy-efficient facility with sawtooth roofs for natural daylight and solar panels, which was also unanimously approved for conceptual design.

There was no public comment.

5.2 Community Investment Committee (33:20)

Vice President Jeanine Shiota reported that the Community Investments Committee approved two Special Project Grants—one for the Filipino American Development Foundation to support cultural placemaking in the SOMA Pilipinas Cultural District, and another for Circuit Network to curate the next three years of the Night of Ideas event with the SF Public Library. The committee also approved two grants for the American Indian Cultural Center of San Francisco—a \$300,000 space grant to help develop its new office and a \$300,000 operating grant to support its programs, following resolution of compliance issues.

The committee received an update on the **FY26 grants outreach** from staff, highlighting 65 one-on-one consultations, over 240

inquiries, and thousands reached through social media and public events. Director Denise Pate reported on expanded outreach, new accessibility efforts through partnerships like the SF Disability Cultural Center, and recent grantee site visits. She emphasized the importance of grantees acknowledging SFAC funding and noted new guidelines for large organizations and cultural centers receiving over \$200,000 annually.

There was no public comment

5.3 Visual Arts Committee Report (41:05)

Chair Suzy Ferras reported that the Visual Arts Committee reviewed and approved two new public art proposals for the SFO Terminal 3 West Modernization Project. The first, by artist Theresa Baker, is a colorful mixed-media landscape for the wheelchair lounge featuring innovative materials like yarn, beadwork, and bronze branches. The second, by Jennifer Wolford, is a large mosaic mural depicting open-water swimmers in the Bay, celebrating local heroes and the city's natural beauty. She also shared an update on the Big Art Loop Initiative, which will bring large-scale sculptures to public spaces citywide, highlighting public and private collaboration to make San Francisco's landscape more vibrant and accessible.

There was no public comment.

6. SFAC Galleries Mentorship and Exhibition Fellowship (46:00)

Acting Director of Galleries Jackie Im presented the upcoming SFAC Galleries Mentorship and Exhibition Fellowship, which supports emerging Bay Area artists through mentorship and a final exhibition at the SFAC

Main Gallery. The program received 124 applications, and two fellows were selected for 2026: Kelly Finley, an interdisciplinary artist who explores mixed identity and immigration history through textiles and performance, and Tricia Rainwater, a Choctaw multimedia artist whose work addresses identity, loss, and cultural resilience.

Im announced that Shirin Makaremi, an Iranian American artist and curator, will return as mentor after successfully guiding the previous fellowship. The program continues the Commission's commitment to nurturing local talent, offering resources, professional development, and exhibition opportunities that connect emerging artists with San Francisco's broader arts community.

7. Consent Calendar (51:18)

President Collins introduced all items on the consent calendar.

Commissioner Shiota, seconded by Commissioner Ferras moved to approve all consent calendar items.

There was no public comment.

The motion was unanimously approved.

RESOLUTION NO. 1103-25-190: that this Commission does hereby adopt the following items on the Consent Calendar and their related Resolutions:

- 1. RESOLUTION NO. 1103-25-191:** Motion to approve the October 20, 2025, [Civic Design Review Committee Meeting Minutes.](#)
- 2. RESOLUTION NO. 1103-25-192:** Motion to approve the October 28, 2025, [Community Investments Committee Meeting Minutes.](#)
- 3. RESOLUTION NO. 1103-25-193:** Motion to approve the October 15, 2025, [Visual Arts Committee Meeting Minutes.](#)

Civic Design Review Committee Recommendations (October 20,

2025, [link to agenda](#))

4. **RESOLUTION NO. 1103-25-194:** Motion to approve Phase 3 Review for West Field Cargo 720.1 and 742.
5. **RESOLUTION NO. 1103-25-195:** Motion to approve Conceptual Review for Moccasin Warehouse Building.

Community Investments Committee Recommendations (October 28, 2025, [link to agenda](#))

6. **RESOLUTION NO. 1103-25-196:** Motion to approve Special Project Grant, and to authorize the Director of Cultural Affairs to enter into grant agreements with SOMA Pilipinas Cultural District Support – Filipino-American Development Foundation, \$145,000 for 25 months for an arts and culture nonprofit located in the SOMA Pilipinas cultural district that is dedicated to a long-term programming vision for a new narrative focused on culturally relevant placemaking. Funding will be used to support temporary public art, storefront art, arts festivals, art and education programming throughout SOMA Pilipinas, addressing the cultural district’s economic recovery and narrative change, or arts and education programming in the geographic area.

RESOLUTION NO. 1103-25-197: Motion to approve Special Project Grant, and to authorize the Director of Cultural Affairs to enter into grant agreements with Citywide Night of Ideas – Circuit Network, \$120,000 for 31 months for a nonprofit arts and cultural 501(c)(3) organization or fiscally sponsored entity to curate performances for the San Francisco Public Library’s Night of Ideas, scheduled for dates in Spring 2026, 2027 and 2028. The organization is responsible for partnering with the SF Public Library to curate approximately six (6) performances for the evening.

7. **RESOLUTION NO. 1103-25-198:** Motion to approve a grant of up to \$300,000 to The American Indian Cultural Center of San Francisco to

support office and space renovations for programming for San Francisco artists; and to authorize the Director of Cultural Affairs to enter into a grant agreement with the American Indian Cultural Center not to exceed \$300,000 at this time as permitted under Section 21G.3(a)(3) for grants made for improvements to property by a property owner.

8. **RESOLUTION NO. 1103-25-199:** Motion to approve the update to resolution number 1101-21243 and authorize \$300,000 be granted directly to The American Indian Cultural Center of San Francisco as the organization is now a compliant 501c3 nonprofit entity; to support administration and operations over two years and to authorize the Director of Cultural Affairs to enter into a grant agreement with The American Indian Cultural Center of San Francisco not to exceed \$300,000 at this time.

Visual Arts Committee Recommendations (October 15, 2025, [link to agenda](#))

9. **RESOLUTION NO. 1103-25-200:** Motion to approve *When One Sees A Rainbow*, a mural design by Leah Rosenberg. The mural will be installed on the facade of Contemporary Jewish Museum, located at 736 Mission Street, between 3rd and 4th streets in District 6. The mural covers 6 windows (four H 99 in by W57 in.; one 120 in. by 101 in.; one 88 in. by 99 in.) and 34 steps (8 ft. by 14 in.). The artwork is funded by Art All Around Program of the Office of Economic and Workforce Development and will not become part of the Civic Art Collection. The artwork will be maintained by the Yerba Buena Community Benefit District.
10. **RESOLUTION NO. 1103-25-201:** Motion to approve *Jaguar Creativo*, a mural design by Ivan Lopez. The mural will be installed at Artillery Ceramics, 2751 Mission Street, in District 9. The mural measures approximately H18 in. by W17 ft. 5 in. 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 the artist as well as Artillery Ceramics.

11. **RESOLUTION NO. 1103-25-202:** Motion to approve and accept into the Civic Art Collection 2024.1, *Whorl Whirl: Our Circular Nature* by Norie Sato. The painted aluminum and stainless-steel sculpture on the north façade of the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission Southeast Wastewater Treatment Plant on Evans Avenue measures approximately 31 ft. high by 335 ft. wide.
12. **RESOLUTION NO. 1103-25-203:** Motion to approve and accept into the Civic Art Collection 2025.12, *Pacific Transit*, 2024, by Jesse Schlesinger at Judah St. and 43rd Ave. and Judah St. and Lower Great Highway. The artwork is composed of ten sculptures made of concrete, stone, and bronze. Seven sculptures are located at 43rd Ave., and three are located at Lower Great Highway. The sculptures range in size from 4 ft. to 7 ft. tall and 1 to 1-1/2 ft. wide.
13. **RESOLUTION NO. 1103-25-204:** Motion to retroactively approve and accept into the Civic Art Collection 2019.59, *W.F.T. (San Francisco)*, 2019, by Joseph Kosuth, a text-based illuminated neon artwork installed on the western-facing façades of the Bill Graham Civic Auditorium.
14. **RESOLUTION NO. 1103-25-205:** Motion for the Director of Cultural Affairs to approve an honorarium in the amount of \$5000 to Shirin Makaremi to be a mentor of the two selected mentorship and exhibition fellowship artists for the period of November 2025 – March 2026.
15. **RESOLUTION NO. 1103-25-206:** Motion for the Director of Cultural Affairs to approve a curator honorarium in the amount of \$5000 to Shirin Makaremi for the development of the fellowship exhibition (title TBD) and public programs to be held in the SFAC Main Gallery from

May 28 – August 22, 2026.

16. **RESOLUTION NO. 1103-25-207:** Motion for the Director of Cultural Affairs to approve a fellowship honorarium in the amount of \$5000 to Kelley Finley and \$5000 to Tricia Rainwater for the period of November 2025 – March 2026.
17. **RESOLUTION NO. 1103-25-208:** Motion for the Director of Cultural Affairs to approve the artist honorarium in the amount of \$3000 to Kelley Finley and \$3000 to Tricia Rainwater for the development of artwork for the fellowship exhibition (title TBD) to be held in the SFAC Main Gallery from May 28 – August 22, 2026.
18. **RESOLUTION NO. 1103-25-209:** Motion to approve the final design and construction documentation of *Barrio Fiesta*, an integrated-wall artwork by Cece Carpio for the Gene Friend Recreation Center Public Art Project, located at 6th and Folsom Streets in SOMA.
19. **RESOLUTION NO. 1103-25-210:** Motion to approve the conceptual design proposal *You're Here* by Jenifer Wofford for the Terminal 3 West Arrivals Art Wall Public Art Project, as recommended by the Artist Review Panel.
20. **RESOLUTION NO. 1103-25-211:** Motion to authorize the Director of Cultural Affairs to enter into contract with Jenifer Wofford for an amount not to exceed \$200,000 for the design, fabrication, insurance, transportation, and consultation during installation of an artwork for the Terminal 3 West Arrivals Art Wall Public Art Project.
21. **RESOLUTION NO. 1103-25-212:** Motion to approve the conceptual design proposal by Teresa Baker for the Terminal 3 West Wheelchair Lounge Art Wall Public Art Project, as recommended by the Artist Review Panel.

22. **RESOLUTION NO. 1103-25-213:** Motion to authorize the Director of Cultural Affairs to enter into contract with Teresa Baker for an amount not to exceed \$300,000 for the design, fabrication, insurance, transportation, and consultation during installation of an artwork for the Terminal 3 West Wheelchair Lounge Art Wall Public Art Project.

8. Removal of Vaillancourt Fountain (52:36)

Mary Chou, Director of Public Art and Civic Art Programs, introduced Eoanna Goodwin from the Recreation and Park Department who presented the proposal to remove and store the Vaillancourt Fountain due to serious safety concerns. Recent inspections found severe structural damage, including cracked concrete, corroded steel, missing support rods, and hazardous materials like lead paint and asbestos. The underground pump vault is flooded and unsafe for maintenance, and one of the fountain's massive concrete arms has partially failed. The Department of Building Inspection confirmed these dangers and directed the City to act immediately to protect public safety.

The proposed plan calls for carefully disassembling the fountain, documenting and labelling each piece, and storing it securely for up to three years while engineers assess its condition and explore restoration, relocation, or repurposing options. The work would begin after a required 90-day notice to the artist under the California Art Preservation Act. Recreation and Park would fund the removal and storage, estimated at \$4.4 million, compared to \$29 million for full restoration. The City Planning Department deemed the action an emergency safety measure exempt from CEQA, and the proposal aims to prevent further deterioration while preserving options for the fountain's future.

Commissioner Walker thanked staff and city departments for their collaboration, recognizing the fountain's artistic and historical importance but emphasizing the City's duty to protect public safety. She viewed the

removal as a responsible step that allows for future discussion and learning about long-term stewardship of public art. Commissioner Quint clarified that the action before the Commission was not deaccessioning the artwork but a temporary removal for safety and assessment. Commissioner Carney voiced hesitation, warning that removal without a clear restoration plan or funding could lead to the fountain's permanent disappearance and urged caution before dismantling a major artwork. Commissioner Brenzel questioned why the Arts Commission needed to approve an emergency safety measure, and legal counsel explained that under the City Charter, any removal of public art from City property requires Commission approval. Commissioner Musleh asked whether the structure's condition met the threshold of being "red-tagged," to which legal counsel clarified that public property cannot be red-tagged but confirmed the site poses serious safety risks.

Commissioner Walker, seconded by Commissioner Benavides, moved to approve the removal of the Vaillancourt Fountain.

Public Comments

Joel Koppel (SF Electrical Contractors Association): Supported removal for public safety, citing risks to pedestrians and workers and the importance of maintaining a safe and inviting downtown environment.

Bridget Boylan (Resident, Gateway Apartments): Opposed removal, saying the fountain is a meaningful public artwork that symbolizes San Francisco's history and should be preserved despite its current condition.

Jack McCarthy (Docomomo US/NOCA): Opposed removal, arguing the City's CEQA process was flawed and that the fountain's issues stem from neglect, not an emergency.

Allegra Fisher (Artist/Resident): Opposed removal, calling the fountain a valuable part of the city's artistic legacy that should be restored, not dismantled.

Chanelle Vaillancourt (Granddaughter of Artist Armand Vaillancourt): Opposed removal, describing the fountain as an iconic piece of public art representing creativity, freedom, and Vaillancourt's family heritage.

Bernadette Kim (Resident, District 3): Supported removal, sharing concerns about safety and wanting a more vibrant, welcoming waterfront space.

Jackson Nutt-Beers (speaking on behalf of the SF Chamber of Commerce): Supported removal, stating the project would improve safety, accessibility, and downtown revitalization.

Cord Struckmann (Architect/Docomomo Board Member): Opposed removal, saying Rec & Park's safety claims are exaggerated and long-term maintenance issues were ignored.

Dan Rabinowitz (Resident): Supported temporary removal and storage, comparing it to standard museum preservation practices to protect artwork.

Keith Ferris (Resident): Supported permanent removal, arguing the City should not spend money to restore a deteriorating structure.

Jeff Brink (DCI Engineers): Supported removal, explaining that disassembly is necessary to safely inspect and address the internal corrosion and structural issues.

Adam Lynch (Business Owner): Supported removal, saying it would improve public safety and help revitalize the area for workers and businesses.

Tita Bell (Chief of Staff to Office of Supervisor Danny Sauter): Supported removal, citing DBI's safety directive and public support for redeveloping the area.

Chris Wright (Behalf of Advance SF): Supported removal and plaza redesign to make downtown more active, welcoming, and connected to the waterfront.



Andrew Sullivan (Landscape Architect): Opposed removal, criticizing the process as disingenuous and warning that disassembly likely means permanent loss of the fountain.

Aaron Fenton (BXP): Supported removal, stating the structure is unsafe and must be dismantled to prevent injuries and allow thorough inspection.

Robbie Silver (President of Downtown SF Partnership): Supported removal and redevelopment, calling it an opportunity to create a world-class public park for San Francisco.

Kaïs (Restaurant Owner): Supported removal, saying the area feels unsafe and underused and that revitalization would benefit local businesses.

Jillian Sobol (Resident): Opposed removal, urging maintenance instead and suggesting public and private funding could help restore the fountain.

Crystal B. (Fitness SF Manager): Supported removal, saying redevelopment would create a space for public fitness and community events.

William McLeod (Photographer/Resident): Opposed removal, sharing personal memories and emphasizing that the fountain is an irreplaceable public experience.

Bob Pullum (Board Member Docomomo US Northern California): Opposed removal, saying the City exaggerated safety risks to push redevelopment and failed in long-term maintenance.

Ted Barrow (Docomomo NOCA): Opposed removal, urging restoration to preserve the fountain's role in skateboarding culture and San Francisco's history.

Alec Bash (Gateway Tenants Association): Supported removal, saying the fountain no longer fits the site and the new park would better connect public spaces.



Michele Hennessy (Board Member of Barbary Coast Neighborhood Association): Supported removal, calling it a chance to revitalize the area and create a more accessible waterfront.

Matt Joseph (Resident): Opposed removal, alleging the City preplanned demolition to bypass legal review and calling for transparency and proper process.

Terry Krause (Resident Gateway Tenants Association): Supported removal, saying the change would revitalize the neighborhood and create a safer, more beautiful park.

Barbara Wentworth (Resident): Supported removal, citing the fountain's danger to children and the City's moral responsibility to prevent accidents.

Nicholas David (Reporter/Writer): Opposed removal, recalling fond childhood memories playing in the fountain and describing it as safe.

There was no additional public comment.

Commissioner Benavides voted nay and a motion was retaken.

Commissioner Walker, seconded by Commissioner Quint, moved to approve all consent calendar items.

The motion was approved by the following vote 8-5:

Ayes: Brenzel, Quint, Walker, Ferras, Shiota, Collins, Beltran, Perez

Nay: Carney, Benavides, Rothschild, Musleh, Shelby

RESOLUTION NO. 1103-25-214: Motion to approve the removal of the Embarcadero Fountain by Armand Vaillancourt (SFAC Accession No. 1971.46) to protect the health and safety of residents and visitors from the identified structural deterioration and move it to storage, following the provision of required notice to the artist and interested members of the community under the California Art Preservation Act, to allow for further investigation of the extent of deterioration to the physical structure, and consideration of possible restoration, repair, relocation, repurposing or other future actions relating to

the fountain; and to affirm the Planning Department's determination under the California Environmental Quality Act that this action is statutorily exempt from further review under Section 15269 of the CEQA Guidelines. This action constitutes the Approval Action for the project for the purposes of CEQA, pursuant to San Francisco Administrative Code Section 31.04(h).

9. New Business and Announcements (2:48:20)

No new business and announcements were made.

There was no public comment.

9. Adjournment (2:51:40)

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

Posted 11/14/2025, 5:00 p.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

我們將為閣下提供免費的書面翻譯資料和口譯服務。如需協助, Commission Secretary Manraj Dhaliwal, 415-252-2247, manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org.

Materiales traducidos y servicios de interpretación están disponibles para usted de manera gratuita. Para asistencia, notifique a Commission Secretary Manraj Dhaliwal, 415-252-2247, manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org.