



MEETING OF THE VISUAL ARTS COMMITTEE

Wednesday, October 15, 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

Al Perez

McKenna Quint

Debra Walker

Commissioners Absent:

JD Beltran

Nabiel Musleh

SFAC staff in attendance: Civic Art Collection and Public Art Program Director Mary Chou. Chair Ferras announced two changes to the agenda. Item 7, Mission Branch Library Project, was tabled. Item 8.2, San Francisco International Airport Terminal 3 West Modernization Public Art Project, Wheelchair Lounge Art Wall, had a typo in the dollar amount of the contract motion; the amount is \$300,000, not \$200,000. There were no other changes to the agenda.

2. General Public Comment

(0:06:52)

There was no public comment.

3. Consent Calendar

(00:07:34)

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. 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.

4. 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.
5. 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.

Moved: Walker/Quint

The motion unanimously carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Ferras, Perez, Quint, Walker

4. Big Art Loop
(0:8:56)

Civic Art Collection and Public Art Program Director Mary Chou gave a brief introduction to the Big Art Loop, the CEO of Big Art Loop Aliza Marks and COO of Building 180 Meredith Winner. Director Chou explained that this was an informational item only and that Marks and Winner would return in the future for approvals of specific artworks.

Aliza Marks gave a brief background of the Big Art Loop officially launched in September 2025. Big Art Loop is a three-year initiative to bring up to 100 large-scale sculptures (over 10 feet high or wide) across San Francisco and to strategically place them throughout the city to form a walkable and bikeable art trail. The project is a privately funded project by the Sijbrandij Foundation with curation and operations led by Building 180. Marks gave a brief overview of the eight artworks they have already installed and shared



that they have twelve more artworks in process for 2025, eleven along the waterfront on Port property and one in Golden Gate Park.

Meredith Winner discussed the curation and operations of the Big Art Loop. Winner presented the open call for artists, the selection process and the community engagement process of the program. Building 180 will engage all necessary city agencies for the correct permits and processes for the various locations throughout the city. Winner and Marks both indicated that the Big Art Loop is meant to be a gift to the city.

Commissioner Perez asked if the project would sunset or be ongoing, if the artwork would be on both public and private property and how long the artwork would be displayed. Marks responded that the loop is currently designed as a three-year program, but it could potentially be expanded and that currently the sites chosen are public property but there is a possibility of some being on private property as the plan is further developed. Each artwork will be on display for a minimum of one year but may be extended longer. Commissioner Perez also asked if any artwork would be in the south of the city in the Excelsior or Visitation Valley. Marks responded that they are currently exploring sites on that side of the city.

Commissioner Quint asked if the project would shift to commissioning artists. Winner replied that at this point, they are focusing on proof of concept but if things go well, they may expand the project to include commissions. Commissioner Quint also inquired about data, metrics and tracking the impact of the project. Winner shared that they are tracking data and will share with the city at completion of the project.

There was no public comment.

5. SFAC Galleries Mentorship and Exhibition Fellowship (0:32:05)



Acting Director of Galleries and Public Programs Jackie Im presented the selected emerging artists and mentor for the second mentorship and exhibition fellowship. Im gave a brief overview of the program and a summary of last year's exhibition before giving a brief background about each artist and the mentor/curator. The program is designed to give support to emerging artists in the Bay Area by providing resources and space for meaningful professional development culminating in an exhibition in the SFAC main gallery. Earlier this summer a request for qualifications was posted for two emerging Bay Area artists, one from San Francisco and one from the Greater Bay Area, 124 applications were received. The two artists selected are Kelley Finley and Tricia Rainwater. Kelley Finley is an interdisciplinary artist who primarily works in sculpture, textiles, and performance. Tricia Rainwater is a multimedia artist whose portfolio includes self-portraiture, sculpture, large-scale murals, and installations. Shirin Makaremi is the mentor for this program and will curate the culminating exhibition opening May 28, 2026.

There was no public comment.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Moved: Walker/Perez

The motion unanimously carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Ferras, Perez, Quint, Walker

6. Gene Friend Recreation Center Project

(39:38)

Project Manager Arianne G. Davidian gave a brief background on the Gene Friend Recreation Center renovation located in SoMa's Filipino Cultural Heritage District on 6th and Folsom Streets. In addition to the integrated wall artwork opportunity there is a 2D artwork purchase program, with framed works on permanent display along the Center's two interior corridors, and in the main reception office.

The Integrated Wall Artwork Opportunity is located along the north-facing interior wall of the gym. Cece Carpio's conceptual proposal, *Barrio Fiesta*, was approved by the Arts Commission in April 2024. The title refers to a neighborhood celebration that brings communities together. This artwork depicts both recognizable community leaders alongside "everyday heroes". The artist created a ¼ scale painting, 4'high x 24' wide. It was then scanned and digitally organized into fabrication ready print files. The artwork will be roughly 16 ft. to 26 ft. above ground level. It will be comprised of 16 sections, each section will consist of 4 smaller panels, joined and cleat-mounted to the wall. The dye-sublimated aluminum panels will be printed with a matte finish and a UV coating. Physical samples of the printed material were shared with the Commissioners for review. The artist is currently in the process of interviewing community members for the documentary about the artwork and its process that is part of the project and will be displayed online and possibly on site at the recreation center.

The Commissioners appreciated how well integrated the art is in the recreation center and that it can be viewed from multiple locations due to the design of the building.

There was no public comment.

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.

Moved: Walker/Perez

The motion unanimously carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Ferras, Perez, Quint, Walker

THE FOLLOWING ITEM WAS TABLED

7. Mission Branch Library Project

Discussion and Possible Action

Discussion and possible action to approve the final design 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.

Staff Presenter: Project Manager Arianne G. Davidian

Presentation Time: Approximately 6 minutes

Explanatory Document: Final Design

8. San Francisco International Airport Terminal 3 West Modernization Public Art Project

(1:04:36)

Senior Program Manager Amy Owen gave a brief overview of the greater



San Francisco International Airport Terminal 3 West Modernization project before focusing on the Arrivals Wall and Wheelchair Lounge. The design theme for the overall terminal is “A Day in the Life of San Francisco.”

The Wheelchair lounge occupies a double-height space with an art wall space of approximately 224 square feet and a project budget of \$300,000. Artist Teresa Baker’s proposal was recommended by the review panel for this opportunity. Teresa Baker, a Los Angeles based artist and alum of California College of the Arts, has a mixed media practice that combines artificial materials with natural elements. Baker’s proposal captures her memories of the Pacific, colors from greens of the trees, the pinks, mints and yellows of the painted SF houses, to the grays and blues of the ocean and sky. The proposed artwork draws from the artists’ typical palette of materials including yarn, acrylic paint, beads, bronzed willow, and aluminum casted seed pods on astroturf.

The Arrivals Art Wall occupies a transitional space between the International Terminal Building and Terminal 3 West. The art opportunity is for a 7 ft. high by 20 ft. wide (approximately 140 square foot) space and a project budget of \$200,000. Artist Jenifer Wofford’s proposal *You’re Here* was recommended for this opportunity. Wofford is a San Francisco based artist and educator whose practice spans a range of media but is rooted in painting and drawing. The proposal consists of two comic book panels depicting a mixed group of open-water swimmers at the shore at Crissy Field East Beach in Presidio National Park wading into the water as the sun hangs low, reflecting the color into the bay’s waters. Local heroes of the artist who engage in open water swimming, such as artist Joan Brown and SFAI archivist Jeff Gunderson, are included in the imagery. The work will be fabricated in Byzantine glass smalti adhering as closely as possible to the proposed palette as the colors are intended to further enhance a feeling of well-being, calm and joy.

If approved, the artists will be under contract by December with design development and fabrication from January 2026 thru mid-2027 with the goal of the artwork being installed and accessible to the public by October 2027.

Commissioner Walker inquired about the glazing for the Baker artwork. Owen replied that the artwork will be fully encased, but the final details of the glazing and maintenance schedule are still to be determined as some of the materials of the artwork may change through the fabrication process.

There was no public comment.

A) Arrivals Art Wall

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.

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.

B) Wheelchair Lounge Art Wall

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.

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.

Moved: Walker/Quint

The motion unanimously carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Ferras, Perez, Quint, Walker

9. Staff Report

(1:28:50)

There were no items for the staff report.

There was no public comment.

10. New Business and Announcements

(1:29:43)

Chair Ferras welcomed the two new commissioners, Al Perez and McKenna Quint to the committee.

Commissioner Perez wished everyone a happy Latino Heritage Month and a happy Filipino American Heritage Month and gave a brief history of Filipino American Heritage Month.

There was no public comment

11. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 3:43 p.m.

Posted 10/27/2025, 2:50pm TP

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

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