



City and County of San Francisco

Daniel Lurie, Mayor

Draft minutes for Visual Arts Committee, October 21, 2026



Draft Minutes

Chair Ferras called the meeting to order at 2:02 pm.

1. Call to Order, Roll Call, Agenda Changes, Land Acknowledgment (0:00:05)

Commissioners Present:

Suzie Ferras, Chair

JD Beltran

Randi Fisher

Debra Walker

Commissioners Absent:

Riccardo Benavides

Nabiel Musleh

Al Perez

Staff Present:

Mary Chou, Civic Art Collection & Public Art Program Director

Commissioner Ferras announced that item 6.1 has a typo and the installation date should read as December 2026, not December 2027.

2. General Public Comment

(00:05:47)

There was no public comment.

3. Consent Calendar

(00:06:22)

Commissioner Ferras introduced all items on the consent calendar. There were no recusals.

Commissioner Beltran, seconded by Commissioner Fisher, moved to approve all consent calendar items.

1. Motion to approve a Sole Source contract with Soft Concrete Designs, Inc. for fine art conservation services for corrective concrete work at Walter Kitundu's "Ruupaywa: Songs of the Watershed" at the Alameda Creek Watershed Center, pursuant to San Francisco Administrative Code Chapter 21, Section 21.5(b), in an amount not to exceed \$21,655.00. Soft Concrete Designs, Inc. possesses specialized expertise in concrete repair in the context of public art conservation, with direct knowledge of this sculpture's materials, construction, and site conditions acquired through on-site assessment of the work. These qualifications make the services not reasonably available from another provider without risk of damage to the artwork, duplicative costs, or schedule delays.
2. Motion to approve "Debajo del mismo cielo/Under the same sky", a painted mural by Sergio de la Torre. The mural will be

located at 83 Wiese Street. The mural measures a total of 16 ft. by 24 ft, with six panels today, two measuring 4 ft. by 8 ft. and four measuring 4 ft. by 6 ft. The mural is supported by a Community Challenge Grant. The artwork will not become part of the Civic Art Collection.

3. Motion to approve “A Primera Luz/At First Light”, a painted mural by Joseph Lopez and Vanessa Solari Espinoza. The mural will be located at 3048 16th Street. The mural measures 20 ft. by 85 ft. The mural is supported by a Community Challenge Grant. The artwork will not become part of the Civic Art Collection.
4. Motion to approve “Untitled”, a painted mural by Claudio Talavera-Ballón. The mural will be located on the street at Cortland Avenue at Gates Street, at the south side of the intersection. The mural measures 52 ft. and 6 in. by 5 ft. and 7 in. The artwork will not become part of the Civic Art Collection.
5. Motion to approve “Bernal Pride”, a painted mural by Pablo Mica. The mural will be located on the street at Cortland Avenue at Bennington Street, at the northeast side of the intersection. The mural measures 7 ft. by 14 ft. The artwork will not become part of the Civic Art Collection.

There was no public comment.

Commissioner Walker asked a clarifying question about motion 3.1, Director Chou stated that the proposed work should fix the problem and prevent ongoing issues.

The motion was unanimously approved.

4. SFO Terminal 3 West Modernization Public Art Project: Wheelchair Lounge Art Wall

(00:08:39)

Project Manager Arianne Davidian presented the final design for the San Francisco International Airport Terminal 3 West Wheelchair Lounge Art Wall by artist Teresa Baker in the pre-security section at Departures Level 2. The overall design concept for the Terminal 3 West capital improvement project is “A Day in the Life of San Francisco”. The artwork will be located in a wheelchair accessible lounge with a reception area for wheelchair assistance and travelers with disabilities. It occupies a double-height space with a clerestory window that creates a living room/waiting room environment.

Teresa Baker, the artist commissioned for this opportunity, is an alum of California College of the Arts (CCA) whose mixed media practice combines artificial materials with natural elements. She creates abstract landscapes that explore vast space, and how humans move within them. Baker’s artwork design is inspired by her time spent in the Bay Area as a graduate student at CCA and as a Tournesol resident at the Headlands Center for the Arts. The work captures her memories of the Pacific, colors from the greens of trees, pinks, mints and yellows of San Francisco’s houses, and grays and blues of the ocean and sky.

The title of the artwork, “The wind leaves its voice scattered in the wheat”, is inspired by the poem “Remanso” by Federico Garcia Lorca. “Remanso” means backwater, still water, or a calm and peaceful place. The textile artwork will be comprised of a series of cast bronze yarn elements that are mounted vertically down the center of the artwork and a variety of synthetic yarns sewn onto astroturf in tight patterns. The textile will be displayed within a 6-inch-deep wall niche, in a fully enclosed frame with Optium acrylic glazing and white powder-coated steel framing. The artwork is projected to be installed in September 2027.

Commissioners inquired about the longevity of the materials. Davidian replied that the materials and framing have been reviewed by art conservators whose recommendations inspired changes to the materials and fabrication process as well as to the framing process. In response to a commissioner question, Davidian stated that the artists' words describing the artwork would be included in the plaque, perhaps via a QR code.

Commissioner Beltran, seconded by Commissioner Walker, moved to approve the following motion.

Motion to approve the Final Design of a textile artwork titled "The wind leaves its voice scattered in the wheat" by Teresa Baker for the SFO Terminal 3 West Modernization Public Art project, located at the Departures Level in Terminal 3 at the San Francisco International Airport.

There was no public comment.

The motion was unanimously approved.

5. Public Art & Collections Annual Report

(00:31:01)

Civic Art Collection & Public Art Program Director Mary Chou and Senior Registrar Allison Cummings presented the Fiscal Year 2026 Public Art and Civic Art Collection annual report. Chou gave a summary of art expenditures in 2026, listed the new commissions of 2026, shared the demographics of newly commissioned artists, and listed the completed art projects of 2026.

Cummings presented a history of Civic Art Collection care expenditures including those for Fiscal Year 2026, a list of completed conservation projects, a list of relocated and removed artworks, and statistics of the year of collection management including the number of vandalism abatements, number of accessions, number of research requests handled, and number of archive records made and/or modified.

Next Chou gave a forecast for Fiscal Year 2027 including working on a strategic plan for the new merged agency, new public art and conservation projects, and Shaping Legacy next steps. Chou closed out the presentation by recognizing and thanking the Public Art and Civic Art Collection staff.

The Commissioners commented on the tremendous amount of work completed by staff in fiscal year 2026 and gave them a round of applause. Commissioner Walker wondered about possible private sector funding sources. Commissioner Fisher inquired about a deaccession policy and if new positions will be identified by the strategic plan. Cummings stated that the Civic Art Collection Policy and Guidelines includes a section on deaccession. Chou stated that she expects the new strategic plan would identify new positions in the agency.

There was no public comment.

The motion was unanimously approved.

6. Illuminate: Golden Gate Park JFK Promenade

(01:16:59)

Program Associate Paris Cotz shared the approval checklist for temporary public art with the commissioners and introduced Illuminate Founder & Chief Visionary Officer Ben Davis. Davis presented a new temporary art installation on JFK Promenade in Golden Gate Park and the extension of two existing temporary sculpture installations currently located on JFK Promenade. The new artwork, “The Friendship Bench”, a cast bronze sculpture featuring a “dog man”, “rabbit woman” and grizzly bear sitting together on a bench, by artist team Gillie & Marc, is proposed to be installed on JFK Promenade in front of the Conservatory of Flowers. The artwork would be along the same path as the other two Gillie & Marc artworks currently installed on JFK Promenade; “They had a big whale of a time” and “Swimming with a flamingo”, whose current installation will be extended so as to have these three artworks in conversation with each other. Davis shared that Illuminate has a volunteer group of 500 people who help maintain the artwork. Davis

also discussed the public's enjoyment and engagement with the existing artwork.

The commissioners were very complimentary of Illuminate and the work they do. Commissioners inquired about the safety/climb-ability of the artworks. Davis discussed the risk factors, the current safety record of the artworks and liability.

Commissioner Beltran, seconded by Commissioner Walker, moved to approve the following motion.

Motion to approve the temporary installation of "The Friendship Bench" by Gillie & Marc, that measures H87 4/5 in. by W137 4/5 in. by D54 3/10 in., fabricated from cast bronze, located in Golden Gate Park on JFK Promenade, in front of the Conservatory of Flowers. The artwork will not become part of the Civic Art Collection. The artwork will be maintained by Illuminate and will be installed for a period of one year, from date of installation, which is estimated to be December 2027.

Motion to extend the installation by one year of "They had a big whale of a time" and "Swimming with a flamingo" by Gillie and Marc, installed along JFK Promenade in Golden Gate Park, previously approved under RESOLUTION NO. 0911-23-159 so that the total installation period is from September 2023 through September 30, 2027. The artworks will not become part of the Civic Art Collection and will be maintained by Illuminate.

There was no public comment.

The motion was unanimously approved.

7. Staff Report

(01:34:57)

Director of Public Art Mary Chou announced several recent public art events

and community programs that occurred since the last Visual Arts Committee meeting. CRANE project artists transformed the giant Shipyard Crane into an after-dark theater of light, sound and memories. They hosted in-person watch parties and a livestream broadcast that could be viewed from anywhere in the world over the previous two weekends. On October 7, the Shaping Legacy Power & Public Program Series in collaboration with the SFPL had an Artist Panel in tandem with the SFAC Galleries exhibition, “Both Space and Time, a Black Feminist Continuum”. The program “Stories That Connect Us” with Clarion Alley Mural Project, in Clarion Alley with artists and poets celebrating the legacy of the murals and community stories was on October 15th.

Chou shared the following upcoming Shaping Legacy programs. Artist Afatasi will unveil “Memory Portal: 1945” next week, on view through February 2027 at 451 Galvez Ave in Bayview Hunters Point. In November the final installment of the series Evolving the Archive will occur. Saturday, October 24, in collaboration with SFPL, Mid-Market Business Association Foundation and YBCA, there will be a “Murals & Monuments Walking Tour” from Civic Center to Yerba Buena Gardens.

Chou announced the reopening of the Mission District library on Saturday, Nov. 14, with a ribbon-cutting at 1pm. The opening celebration will include the unveiling of a new public artwork commissioned by SFAC in 2021 titled “NOPAL DE LA MISIÓN”, by artist Juana Alicia Araiza. NOPAL is a glass artwork that depicts a monumental nopal (prickly pear) cactus—a symbol of resilience and sustenance that carries profound significance for those of Mesoamerican heritage. Additionally, the opening will present a recently conserved triptych, “Deities of Knowledge, Culture, and Literature”, by artist Emmanuel C. Montoya, which was commissioned by SFAC for the Mission Branch in 1999. This triptych brings together three cultural representations of learning—“Quetzalcoatl”, “Wen Ch’ang”, and “Egypt’s contribution to European civilization”—to celebrate libraries as places where knowledge is saved, shared, and renewed.

Chou asked the Commissioners to share the open job opportunity for a Gallery Program Associate, a part-time permanent exempt position, the deadline to apply is Friday, October 23rd.

Chou shared that the Art Commission Gallery exhibition: “Excavating Uranus, A Psalm for Nyota Uhura” is currently on view in the SFAC Gallery in the Veteran’s building. The exhibit opened Thursday, October 8th and was well attended. On Thursday, November 12, SFAC Gallery will host a talk with the artists from Excavating Uranus, moderated by exhibition curator Ashara Ekundayo. More details will be posted on the Arts Commission website.

Commissioner Beltran expressed excitement for the new artwork at the Mission Branch library.

There was no public comment.

8. New Business and Announcements

(01:40:35)

Commissioner Walker encouraged the public to see the new ACT musical.

Commissioner Beltran encouraged the public to visit the symphony and opera as the current shows are very different from past shows.

Chair Ferras encouraged the public to visit the de Young Museum’s current Egypt exhibition.

There was no public comment.

9. Adjournment

(01:45:30)

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:48 pm.

Draft minutes posted 10/30/2026, 12:30pm tp

Policies

Accessibility Meeting Policy

Per the American Disabilities Act and the Language Access Ordinance, Chinese, Spanish, Tagalog, and/or American Sign Language interpreters will be available upon request. Additionally, every effort will be made to provide a sound enhancement system, meeting materials in alternative formats, and/or a reader. Minutes may be translated after they have been adopted by the Commission. For all these requests, please contact Program Associates Tara Peterson & Paris Cotz at least 48 hours before the meeting at 415-252-2219 or 415-539-6213, tara.peterson1@sfgov.org or paris.cotz@sfgov.org. Late requests will be honored if possible. The meeting room is wheelchair accessible.

利便參與會議的相關規定

根據美國殘疾人士法案和語言服務條例，中文、西班牙語、和/或美國手語翻譯人員在收到要求後將會提供翻譯服務。另外，我們將盡力提供擴音設備。同時也將會提供不同格式的會議資料，和/或者提供閱讀器。此外，翻譯版本的會議記錄可在委員會通過後提供。上述的要求，請於會議前最少48小時致電415-252-2219向 Tara Peterson, tara.peterson1@sfgov.org 提出。逾期提出的請求，若可能的話，亦會被考慮接納。聽證室設有輪椅通道。

POLITICA DE ACCESO A LA REUNIÓN

De acuerdo con la Ley sobre Estadounidenses con Discapacidades (American Disabilities Act) y la Ordenanza de Acceso a Idiomas (Language Access Ordinance) intérpretes de chino, español, y lenguaje de señas estarán disponibles de ser requeridos. En adición, se hará todo el esfuerzo posible para proveer un sistema mejoramiento de sonido, materiales de la reunión en formatos alternativos, y/o proveer un leedor. Las minutas podrán ser traducidas luego de ser aprobadas por la Comisión. Para solicitar estos servicios, favor contactar a Tara Peterson I, por lo menos 48 horas antes de la reunión al 415-252-2219, tara.peterson@sfgov.org. Las

solicitudes tardías serán consideradas de ser posible. La sala de audiencia es accesible a silla de ruedas.

Patakaran para sa pag-access ng mga Miting

Ayon sa batas ng American Disabilities Act at ng Language Access

Ordinance, maaring mag-request ng mga tagapagsalin wika sa salitang Tsino, Espanyol at/o sa may kapansanan pandinig sa American Sign

Language. Bukod pa dito, sisikapin gawan ng paraan na makapaglaan ng gamit upang lalong pabutihin ang inyong pakikinig, maibahagi ang mga kaganapan ng miting sa iba't ibang anyo, at/o isang tagapagbasa.

Ang mga kaganapan ng miting ay maaring isalin sa ibang wika matapos ito ay aprobahan ng komisyon.

Sa mga ganitong uri ng kahilingan, mangyari po lamang makipag ugnayan kay Tara Peterson sa 415-252-

2219, tara.peterson@sfgov.org. Magbigay po lamang ng hindi bababa sa 48 oras na abiso bago ng miting. Kung maari, ang mga late na hiling ay posibleng tanggapin. Ang silid ng pagpupulungan ay accessible sa mga naka wheelchair.

Agenda Item Information/Materials Available

Each item on the agenda may include the following documents:

- 1) Department or Agency or report;
- 2) Public correspondence;
- 3) Other explanatory documents.

Explanatory documents listed above, as well as documents created or distributed after the posting of this agenda to the Arts Commission will be available only electronically, please contact: Program Associate Tara Peterson at tara.peterson@sfgov.org or 415-252-2219 or Program Associate Paris Cotz at paris.cotz@sfgov.org or 415-539-6213. PLEASE NOTE: The Arts Commission often receives documents created or submitted by other City officials, agencies or departments after the posting of the Arts Commission

agenda. For such documents or presentations, members of the public may wish to contact the originating agency if they seek documents not yet provided to the Arts Commission.

Archives Available

A recording of this meeting will be available online, 48 hours after the meeting.

Cell Phone Or other Electronic Device Use at Hearings

Please silence all cell phones, pagers, and other sound-producing devices before the meeting begins.

If a device does go off during the meeting, please note that the Chair or President may ask the person responsible to step out of the room.

Disability Access

To obtain a disability-related modification or accommodation, including auxiliary aids or services, to participate in the meeting, please contact Tara Peterson at tara.peterson@sfgov.org or 415-252-2219, at least 48 hours before the meeting, except for Monday meetings, for which the deadline is 4:00 p.m. the previous Friday.

- Wheelchair accessible entrance is at Van Ness Avenue and Grove Street.
- There are elevators and accessible restrooms located on every floor.

Lobbyist Ordinance

Individuals and entities that influence or attempt to influence local legislative or administrative action may be required by the San Francisco Lobbyist Ordinance (San Francisco Campaign and Governmental Conduct Code sections 2.100-2.160) to register and report lobbying activity.

For more information about the Lobbyist Ordinance, contact the [Ethics Commission](#).

- 25 Van Ness Avenue, Suite 220, San Francisco, CA 94102

- (415) 252-3100
- Ethics.Commission@sfgov.org

Meeting Procedures

1. Agenda items will normally be heard in order. Please note, that on occasion a special circumstance may necessitate that an agenda item be taken out of order. To ensure that an agenda item is not missed, it is advised to arrive at the beginning of the meeting. All agenda changes will be announced by the Chair at the top of the meeting.

2. Public comment will be taken before or during the Committee's consideration of each agenda item. Each speaker will be allowed to speak for the time allotted by the Chair at the top of the meeting or up to three (3) minutes.

3. During General Public Comment, members of the public may address the Commissioners on matters that are within the Arts Commission's jurisdiction and are not on the agenda.

4. Persons who spoke during the public comment period at a meeting of the Arts Commission may supply a brief written summary of the comments to be included in the minutes if it is 150 words or less. The Arts Commission may reject the summary if it exceeds the prescribed word limit or is not an accurate summary of the speaker's public comment.

5. Persons unable to attend an Arts Commission meeting may submit correspondence to the Arts Commission in connection with an agenda item. The Commission Secretary will post these documents adjacent to the agenda if they are one page in length. If they are longer than one page, the Arts Commission will make such documents available for public inspection and copying. Please note, correspondence submitted to the Arts Commission will NOT be read aloud during the meeting. Names and

addresses included in these submittals will be public. Submittals may be made anonymously. Written comments pertaining to this meeting should be submitted to art-info@sfgov.org.

Public Comment

Public comment in regard to specific agenda items will be taken before or during consideration of the item. Each speaker may speak for up to three minutes per agenda item, unless the Chair has announced a different length of time at the beginning of the meeting. Speakers may not transfer their time to another person. Any person speaking during a public comment period may supply a written summary of their comments to be included in the minutes if it is 150 words or less.

NOTE: The San Francisco Arts Commission is discontinuing remote public comment for all public meetings starting in December 2023. Public comment will be taken in-person, with remote access provided for those who require an ADA accommodation. Requests for accommodation must be made at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting, pursuant to Administrative Code Section 97.7. Late requests will be honored if possible. Please reach out to art-info@sfgov.org or by calling 415-252-2255 with any questions or to make an accommodation request

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In order to assist the City's efforts to accommodate persons with severe allergies, environmental illnesses, multiple chemical sensitivity, or related disabilities, attendees at public meetings are reminded that other attendees may be sensitive to various chemical-based products. Please help the City accommodate these individuals.

Sunshine Ordinance

Government's duty is to serve the public, reaching its decision in full view of the public. Commissions, boards, councils and other agencies of the City and

County exist to conduct the people's business. This ordinance assures that deliberations are conducted before the people and that City operations are open to the people's review.

Citizens interested in obtaining a free copy of the Sunshine Ordinance can request a copy from by printing Chapter 67 of the San Francisco Administrative Code on the Internet, <http://www.sfgov.org/sunshine/>

For more information on your rights under the Sunshine Ordinance or to report a violation of the ordinance, contact by mail to Administrator, Sunshine Ordinance Task Force.

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