

MEETING OF THE VISUAL ARTS COMMITTEE

Wednesday, March 18, 2026

2:00 p.m.

Hybrid Meeting

Minutes

Chair Ferras called the meeting to order at 2:06pm.

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

Commissioners Present:

Suzie Ferras

J. Riccardo Benavides

Al Perez

Debra Walker

Commissioners Absent:

JD Beltran

Nabiel Musleh

SFAC staff in attendance: Civic Art Collection and Public Art Program
Director Mary Chou and Deputy Director of Programs Ebon Glenn (arrived
at 2:10pm).

2. General Public Comment

(0:05:50)

There was no public comment.

3. Consent Calendar

(00:06:26)

1. Motion to authorize the Director of Cultural Affairs to enter into a contract with Neon Works, Inc. under Chapter 21 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.
2. Motion to approve and accept into the Civic Art Collection, 2026.04, *Ligo Sardines*, 2017, mixed media on canvas, H40 in. by W30 in. by Mel Vera Cruz. The artwork was purchased as part of the two-dimensional artwork program for the Gene Friend Recreation Center and its purchase was approved under Resolution Number 1201-25-226.
3. Motion to approve and accept into the Civic Art Collection, 2026.05, *Victoria Manalo*, 2022, Oil on canvas, H30 in. by W40 in. by Cherisse Alcantara. The artwork was purchased as part of the two-dimensional artwork program for the Gene Friend Recreation Center and its purchase was approved under Resolution Number 1201-25-226.
4. Motion to approve and accept into the Civic Art Collection, 2026.06, *Finding Filipino in SOMA*, 2023, print, H23 in. by W16 in., Edition 1 of 2, by Rina Ayuyang. The artwork was purchased as part of the two-dimensional artwork program for the Gene Friend Recreation Center and its purchase was approved under Resolution Number 1201-25-226.
5. Motion to approve and accept into the Civic Art Collection, 2026.07, *Bola Ay Buhay / Ball is Life*, 2025, mixed textiles and vinyl, H37 in. by W32 3/4 in. by Francesca ("ChiChai") Villa Mateo. The artwork was purchased as part of the two-dimensional artwork program for the Gene Friend Recreation Center and its purchase was approved under Resolution Number 1201-25-226.
6. Motion to approve and accept into the Civic Art Collection, 2026.08, *Untitled (Places, Icons, Situations - Memories we*

must not let fade), 2020, screenprint & digital archival print, H30 in. by W24 in. by Kimberley Arteché. The artwork was purchased as part of the two-dimensional artwork program for the Gene Friend Recreation Center and its purchase was approved under Resolution Number 1201-25-226.

7. Motion to approve and accept into the Civic Art Collection, 2026.09, *Corrugated Memories: Malate School Day, 2022*, ceramic on wood, H18 in. by W14 in. by D2 in. by Johanna Poethig. The artwork was purchased as part of the two-dimensional artwork program for the Gene Friend Recreation Center and its purchase was approved under Resolution Number 1201-25-226.
8. Motion to approve and accept into the Civic Art Collection, 2026.10, *Mountain People 4, 2023*, Collage with linoleum block and phototransfer elements, H22 1/2 in. by W15 in. by Favianna Rodriguez. The artwork was purchased as part of the two-dimensional artwork program for the Gene Friend Recreation Center and its purchase was approved under Resolution Number 1201-25-226.
9. Motion to approve and accept into the Civic Art Collection, 2026.11, *the horizon toward which we move always recedes before us (Gene Friend Recreation Center), 2023*, ink, correction fluid, tape, spray paint on vellum, H21 1/2 in. by W34 in. by Jerome Reyes. The artwork was purchased as part of the two-dimensional artwork program for the Gene Friend Recreation Center and its purchase was approved under Resolution Number 1201-25-226.
10. Motion to approve and accept into the Civic Art Collection, 2026.12.1-2, *Kapamilya Yard I and 2, 2021*, diptych, house paint and aerosol spray on wood, combined overall dimensions H42 in. by W57 in. by Cristine Blanco. The artwork was purchased as part of the two-dimensional artwork program for the Gene Friend Recreation Center and its purchase was

approved under Resolution Number 1201-25-226.

11. Motion to approve and accept into the Civic Art Collection, 2026.13, *Forty-Fives*, 2024, acrylic stain on wood, H16 1/2 in. by W13 1/2 in. x D1in. by Leo Bersamina. The artwork was purchased as part of the two-dimensional artwork program for the Gene Friend Recreation Center and its purchase was approved under Resolution Number 1201-25-226.
12. Motion to approve and accept into the Civic Art Collection, 2026.14, *Research and Remembering, Ube 2*, 2024, Ube, pigment, photo, acrylic paint, wood, H48 in. by W37 in. by Charlene Tan. The artwork was purchased as part of the two-dimensional artwork program for the Gene Friend Recreation Center and its purchase was approved under Resolution Number 1201-25-226.
13. Motion to approve and accept into the Civic Art Collection, 2026.15, *Birds of Paradise 4*, 2025, archival pigment print, H30 in. by W24 in. by Kija Lucas. The artwork was purchased as part of the two-dimensional artwork program for the Gene Friend Recreation Center and its purchase was approved under Resolution Number 1201-25-226.

Moved: Walker/Benavides

The motion unanimously carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Ferras, Benavides, Perez, Walker

There was no public comment.

4. Sunset Dunes Temporary Artwork Extension

(0:07:30)

Program Associate Paris Cotz introduced Lucas Lux, President of Friends of Sunset Dunes, who provided a presentation requesting an extension of the installation period for four temporary sculptures located in Sunset

Dunes. Ms. Cotz reminded commissioners that these artworks were originally approved under Resolution No. 0106-25-014, which authorized the Director of Cultural Affairs to administratively approve temporary public artworks in coordination with the closure of the Great Highway to vehicular traffic.

Mr. Lux summarized the goals of the original initiative: to celebrate the opening of the emerging park space; to complement rather than overshadow the natural coastal environment; and to offer interactive, family-friendly art that supports placemaking, encourages lingering, and reflects community identity.

Mr. Lux described a multilingual community feedback process undertaken in partnership with the Recreation and Parks Department (RPD). Outreach consisted of two in-person open houses, six months of online surveys, paper surveys, and targeted notification through local cultural and neighborhood organizations. Materials were provided in English, Chinese, and (in person) Russian and Tagalog. Approximately 3,000 community responses were collected, with 89–90% expressing positive sentiment toward the installations and their impact on the environment. Negative feedback generally concerned preferences for untouched nature, environmental concerns, or objections to expenditures on public art.

Artist Sarah McCarthy Grimm, of the *Ocean Calling* artist-duo, spoke about the origin of the artwork, created from shared personal experiences of loss. She described how the piece has become a communal site for grief and connection, with hundreds of visitors writing to the artists to express how the installation has supported their healing processes and relationship with the ocean.

Jack Avery, RPD Manager of Policy & Public Affairs, affirmed RPD's support for the continuation of temporary art at Sunset Dunes. He emphasized that public art attracts a wider and more diverse public to the shoreline and has strengthened RPD's partnership with SFAC, Friends of Sunset Dunes, Building 180, and local artists.

Commissioners asked about long-term planning for the Great Highway park design; RPD indicated that updated technical studies and a full community process would resume in late 2026. Commissioners asked about a site

map and location details; RPD indicated an updated map is available and can be shared with SFAC staff to amplify through SFAC channels.

There was no public comment.

Motion:

- A) Big Art Loop - *Rock Spinner* by Zack Coffin and *Octavius* by Peter Hazel

To extend the duration of installation for a period of one year for the following sculptures: *Rock Spinner* by Zack Coffin at Lawton Street, and *Octavius* by Peter Hazel at Sloat Boulevard, as installed along the Great Highway in Sunset Dunes, so that the installation period is from April 2025 - April 2027. The artwork will be maintained by Friends of Sunset Dunes and Big Art Loop.

- B) *Wave Heart* by Wes Skinner and *Ocean Calling*, Jamae Tasker & Sarah McCarthy Grimm

To extend the duration of installation for a period of one year for the following sculptures: *Wave Heart* by Wes Skinner at Noriega Street, and *Ocean Calling*, Jamae Tasker & Sarah McCarthy Grimm between Noriega Street and Ortega Street, as installed along The Great Highway in Sunset Dunes, so that the installation period is from April 2025 - April 2027. The artwork will be maintained by Friends of Sunset Dunes and the artists.

Moved: Walker/Benavides

The motion unanimously carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Ferras, Benavides, Perez, Walker

5. SFPUC Water Division Campus

(0:45:11)

Program Manager Jackie von Treskow presented the final artwork design for *Those Who Carry Water*, an architecturally integrated public artwork for the SFPUC Water Division Campus at 2000 Marin Street. The campus will

serve as the headquarters for more than 300 Water Division employees. The site is located in Bayview-Hunters Point.

The artwork consists of 388 large-scale laminated glass panels, comprising 19 separate images across the north, west, and south facades of the parking structure. The glass will feature ceramic-printed imagery laminated within the panels for long-term durability and colorfastness. The artwork replaces portions of the building's aluminum fin system, resulting in an architectural credit toward the artwork budget.

Project artist Walter Kitundu described the artwork as a narrative tapestry honoring the people, histories, ecologies, and water systems that sustain San Francisco. Through a two-year research and engagement process, the artist photographed water sources throughout the Tuolumne River watershed, reservoirs, hydropower stations, pipelines, testing labs, and city distribution facilities. He also conducted engagement in Bayview-Hunters Point, including collaborations with artist Joanna Haigood, the Bayview Senior Center, local musicians, schoolchildren at Meadows-Livingston School, and neighborhood residents whose silhouettes and quoted reflections appear throughout the artwork. These are intended to accompany employees and the public as daily reminders of shared responsibility and interconnectedness.

The north façade focuses on the natural environment, watersheds, and the origins of the city's drinking water. The west façade highlights the work of those who carry, test, maintain, and steward water infrastructure. The south façade presents future-looking imagery, including a West African mask signifying transformation and solar panel reflections referring to the city's renewable future.

Commissioners requested opportunities to review upcoming full-scale mockups and material samples; staff confirmed these will return to the Commission following fabricator selection. Commissioners also encouraged developing audio or QR-based interpretive materials so the public can access the stories and hidden elements within the work.

Blair Randall, SFPUC Arts & Education Program Manager, expressed the agency's support, praising the artwork's thoughtfulness, and noting that it represents the highest standard of SFPUC-SFAC interagency collaboration.

Motion: to approve the final design of *Those Who Carry Water*, an architecturally integrated glass artwork by Walter Kitundu (Kitundu LLC), for the SFPUC Water Division Campus (formerly San Francisco Water Department at 2000 Marin), located at 2000 Marin Street in the Bayview neighborhood.

Moved: Walker/Perez

The motion unanimously carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Ferras, Benavides, Perez, Walker

10. Staff Report

(1:29:45)

Director Mary Chou announced four open Requests for Qualifications (RFQs):

- SFPUC Millbrae Operations Center Improvements. Deadline: March 20, 2026.
- Geneva Car Barn Temporary Mural Project. Deadline: April 6, 2026.
- 2027 Art on Market Street Poster Series- Market Street: The Next 175 Years. Deadline: April 17, 2026.
- 2026–2028 StreetSmARTS Mural Program Artist Pool. Deadline: May 1, 2026.

There was no public comment.

11. New Business and Announcements

(1:34:29)

There was no new business. Commissioner Perez announced that it is Women's History Month.

There was no public comment

12. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 3:42 p.m.

Posted 3/30/2026, 9:00am pc

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

Language Accessibility

Translated written materials and interpretation services are available to you at no cost. For assistance, please notify Tara Peterson, 415-252-2219, tara.peterson@sfgov.org.

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