



Stephen Seymour, District 1
Mahdad Nassiri, District 1
Deepa Nair, District 2
Aileen Cassinetto, District 2
Belinda Hernandez Arriaga, Dist. 3
Josephine Deciron, District 3
Jeanne Heise, District 4
Farah Yasmeen Shaikh, District 4
Victoria Magbilang, District. 5
Reno Anoa'i, District 5

County Manager's Office
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REGULAR MEETING OF THE ARTS COMMISSION

Wednesday, July 19, 2023 – 3:00 - 5:00 p.m.

455 County Center, 4th Floor, Room 405, Redwood City CA 94063

MINUTES

1. Swearing in of newly appointed District 2 Arts Commissioners, Aileen Cassinetto and Deepa Nair by Supervisor Corzo.
2. **Roll Call** Commissioner Stephen Seymour called the meeting to order at 3:05 with roll call.
In Attendance: Commissioners Seymour, Nassiri, Shaikh, Deciron, Cassinetto, and Nair
Absent: Commissioners Anoa'i, Hernandez Arriaga, Heise, and Magbilang,
Staff: Robin Rodricks, Mara Grimes, Jacki Rigoni
3. **Agenda Amendments**
None
3. **Oral Communications**
None
4. **Consideration of Minutes** of May 17, 2023, regular meeting
Motion made by Commissioner Shaikh to accept the minutes of the May 17, 2023, regular meeting; seconded by Commissioner Mahdad. Roll Call Vote: approved unanimously.
5. **Reports**
 - A. **Staff Reports**

Robin Rodricks: Director stated that in order to save time, she created a written report for the Commissioners that we sent via email and printed and distributed at the meeting outlining the activities of the Office of Arts and Culture since the last meeting. Highlights included:

 - Grants awards have been processed and grantees have received their awards.
 - We have received 6 sponsorship requests, a maximum of \$750 may be awarded and we have set aside \$10,000 in the budget for 2023-24 sponsorship requests.
 - County Poet Laureate is hosting a Children's International Poetry Festival at the Half Moon Bay Library on August 5, 2023.
 - The OAC submitted a grant request to the California Arts Council as one of the State Local Partners.
 - Work continues on the current public art projects, North Fair Oaks Community and Causeway Murals, Veterans and First Responders, and Cordilleras and two new projects are emerging at Flood Park in Menlo Park and the new Navigation Center in Redwood City. Commissioner Shaikh added that she would like to be involved in the Flood Park project as it is in her District.

Public records that relate to any item on the open session agenda for a regular Arts Commission meeting are available for public inspection. Those records that are distributed less than 72 hours prior to the meeting are available for public inspection at the same time they are distributed to all members, or a majority of the members of the Commission. The Commission has designated the Board of Supervisors Office, located at 400 County Center, Redwood City, CA 94063, for the purpose of making those public records available for inspection. The documents are also available to be sent electronically by e-mailing artscommission@smcgov.org. In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), auxiliary aids and services for this meeting will be provided upon request when given three days' notice. For the safety of those sensitive to airborne chemicals, please refrain from wearing chemically based products.

- The Curator has installed several new shows at County Center including glass pumpkins and artwork by artist Elizabeth Gomez.

B. Commissioner Reports

Commissioner Shaikh: She shared that she has been working with Commissioner Magbilang and her dance company, Noorani Dance will perform at Daly City Public Library Associates 2nd annual Art & Lit Festival on September 9th 2023. Commissioner Seymour asked if she would like to perform next year at the San Mateo County Fair and she responded affirmatively.

Commissioner Cassinetto: The commissioner reported that she had been working with the Director since December 2022 to develop the Youth Cultural Ambassador program. The program launched in May, and we received 27 applications from youth ages 15-19 who specialized in one or more genres of the arts. The review panel consisted of the Director, Admin-Manager and her intern, and County Curator. The rubric used was based on creativity and artistic skill and a bonus was given for civic engagement or volunteerism. Of the 27 applicants, 7 were chosen as ambassadors. The students will attend an orientation on August 12 where they will share their ideas for projects which must be completed by March 2024. The projects will have a social justice theme and will be presented in Spring 2024. Ms. Rigoni inquired as to who is the sponsor Supervisor is as and offered to arrange to have them present at a Supervisor meeting. The Director stated that the students could not miss school.

Commissioner Nair: She stated that she is passionate about films and film-making. She would like the Commissioner to consider a program that would support youth documentary filmmakers. She noted that both San Francisco and Oakland have programs for local filmmakers and maybe we could provide a mini or micro grant. The Director stated that our grant program did include filmmakers like Bravemaker. The Commissioner declared that documentaries could take years to make and seed money, even small amounts can make a big difference.

Commissioner Deciron: She shared that she has been doing outreach and research for the Countywide Celebration of the Arts to submit applications as performers and also information about tents.

Commissioner Nassiri: He stated that people he had talked to in Hillsborough were not aware of the Office of Arts and Culture or the Arts Commission. He went on to say that with the exception of art in the schools, there is nothing else going on related to the arts. He remarked that in Alameda County there is a project supported by Bloomberg Philanthropy focused on asphalt art and the rise of the sea water. He noted that San Mateo County has water on both sides, and we have a big exposure too. He wondered if maybe the Arts Commission wanted to tackle a similar issue using the arts as a catalyst.

Commissioner Cassinetto added that her recent eco-poetry project highlighted climate issues and received national exposure. Commissioner Seymour suggested that maybe the Commission could use Commissioner Nair's film connections and develop a film on this topic, It seems like Bloomberg Philanthropy has an interest and maybe we could find a way to connect with them and get some funding too.

Commissioner Nassiri asked, "What is the message that we want to convey?" He remarked that we could employ all of the art forms and create a larger project including a film which could tie it all together.

Commissioner Seymour said that he has had discussions with Tanforan cinema to rent and show films there at a reasonable and affordable rate. This is something the Commission could consider.

The Director reminded the Commissioners that the County has no jurisdiction over city land or projects, only unincorporated land. District 3 has the most unincorporated land and District 5 only has two streets. She further stated that we could always try to partner with a city if we had a project on city land.

Commissioner Seymour noted that he works with local cities, social clubs, arts organizations, artists, and school districts advocating for the arts and looking for ways to advance them. He went on to mention that he manages three artists' studios at Tanforan including an open art day free to all on Wednesdays and is responsible for the fine arts area of the San Mateo County Fair which included 13 bands, 250 visual artists and three dance groups. He also works closely with Dragonfly Community Arts which sponsored a mural that was donated to the city of Half Moon Bay in honor of the farmworkers.

Commissioner Cassinetto suggested that the Commission could choose an unincorporated area that would potentially be under water in 40 years and create an art project to bring attention to climate issues in our County. Commissioner Seymour added that we should consider holding events throughout the County and suggested that maybe the Commission could form a subcommittee to take a deeper dive into the ideas.

Commissioner Nair remarked that many people and organizations are already working on climate issues and maybe we can collaborate with them. She is also interested in the climate change effects on birds and

wondered if that might be part of what the Commission focuses on. We can look for artists that are working in these areas.

6. Discussion Items

A. Countywide Celebration of the Arts Events

The Administrator-Manager stated that the event is shaping up nicely. Although we have about 10 artist and arts organizations signed up already, we would like to get to 20 and she asked that the Commissioners make a push to their networks to be sure all the districts are represented. We have several groups that will provide arts activities for the participants and will include a table for information from arts organizations and art exhibits from Art Bias and AZ Gallery. We have hired Nathan Cottam of Mannakin Dance to help with stage management and plan compensate performers. We hope that the Commissioners' will all attend if possible and also promote to their communities.

B. Selection of Date for Meeting to Discuss the Future of the Strategic Plan

The Director stated that at the next Arts Commission meeting in September, we will have a wrap up of the Countywide Celebration of the Arts and discuss the potential future art/culture project regarding sea level rise if the group wants to pursue that. At that time, we could form sub-committees if needed.

She added that it is necessary for the Commission to set a date in October to discuss next steps for the Strategic Plan and that the County had a facilitator that we could work with to guide us through this process. She recommended October 10 or 11 from 3:00-5:00 and that we would treat it as a special meeting open to all. She noted that since there were so many Commissioners absent from this meeting, she would poll the entire Commission on future date and notify them of the results at a later date. Commissioner Shaikh suggested that we wait until the October meeting to determine bigger issues and projects. An assessment is needed and then the Commission can decide on things like sub-committees.

8. Adjournment

Acting Chair adjourned the meeting at 4:56 pm.

NEXT REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING: September 20, 2023 – 3:00-5:00 PM

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