

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING—WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2025
ATRIUM CONFERENCE ROOM—500 CASTRO STREET
6:00 P.M.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chair Susi Merhar.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Committee members Cliff Bryant, Joe Medwid, Lacy Rathbun (arrived at 6:02pm), Stephanie Spaid, Vice Chair Regina Sakols, and Chair Susi Merhar.

Absent: Committee member Tootoo Thomson.

Staff Present: Kirstin Hinds, Economic Development Strategist; Amanda Rotella, Economic Vitality Manager

3. MINUTES APPROVAL

The minutes from the June 11, 2025 meeting were distributed prior to the meeting and approved as distributed.

Motion—M/S Sakols/Bryant—Carried 5-0-2; Rathbun and Thomson absent—To approve the minutes of the June 11, 2025 meeting as presented.

4. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC—None.

5. UPCOMING AGENDA TOPICS

None.

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

6.1 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM PUBLIC ART PROJECT UPDATES

Staff provided an update on the public art contracts for public art at Evelyn Park, Villa-Chiquita Park, Rengstorff tennis and maintenance buildings, and Shoreline Boathouse.

Public Comment: None.

6.2 UPDATE AND DISCUSSION ON PUBLIC ART STRATEGY EFFORTS

Amanda Rawson with consulting firm Art Builds Community presented on the efforts to engage the community and develop a public art strategy. Staff asked the Visual Arts Committee (VAC) to provide feedback on the draft strategy that they had developed, including whether staff should consider any changes in priority.

The VAC's feedback was to continue building on the draft strategy. Additional comments included:

- Reviewing the VAC 2023 draft vision statement and the City Council October 2024 Study Session vision statement against the goals and strategies.
- Consider how we can add more functional art, such as bike racks.
- Consider how public art can be included when the Downtown Castro Street Pedestrian Mall is redone.

Public Comment: None.

6.3 VISUAL ARTS, DOWNTOWN, PERFORMING ARTS AD HOC SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATE

Staff and subcommittee members Sakols and Spaid provided an update on the Visual Arts, Downtown, and Performing Arts ad hoc subcommittee efforts to plan a pilot artist reception on February 17, 2026 with artist Donald Hershman.

Public Comment: None.

7. NEW BUSINESS

7.1 AUTHORIZE 2025-26* CALL FOR ARTIST EXHIBITIONS

**Correction – Title of item 7.1 should read “2026-27 Call for Artist Exhibitions”*

Staff asked the committee to discuss the upcoming 2026-27 Call for Artist Exhibitions at the Mountain View Center for Performing Arts. VAC requested to share the call for artists with local schools, including Freestyle Academy, to invite any students who have materials to apply for the upcoming year and to consider a future collaboration for a student-led exhibit.

Public Comment: None.

Motion—M/S Spaid/Sakols—Carried 6-0-1; Thomson absent—To authorize the Call for Artist Exhibitions as is.

7.2 2026 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS

Staff requested that the VAC approve the 2026 calendar year meeting schedule as follows: the second Wednesday of February, March, April, May, June, September, October, and December at 6:00 p.m. For the month of November 2026, staff propose the Committee meet on Wednesday, November 4, 2026, at 6:00 p.m., as the second Wednesday is a City-observed holiday (Veterans Day – November 11).

Public Comment: None.

Motion—M/S Sakols/Medwid—Carried 6-0-1; Thomson absent—To approve the 2026 calendar of meetings as presented by Staff to include the following dates in 2026: February 11, March 11, April 8, May 13, June 10, September 9, October 14, November 4, and December 10.

8. COMMITTEE/STAFF COMMENTS, QUESTIONS, COMMITTEE REPORTS

Lacy Rathbun inquired about the process for painting or adding art to the Permanente Creek trail bridge near Crittenden School.

Staff provided the following updates:

- Senate Bill 456, exempting muralists from Contractor State Licensing Board requirements, passed in September 2025, effective January 1.
- The Bollard Beautification project will be reinstated in the new year.

- The Train Depot art project with Arts Mountain View continues; it requires collaboration across multiple entities, including Valley Transportation Authority and CalTrain. Installation is expected to occur early in the new year, weather permitting.

Chair Merhar stated that Open Studios Silicon Valley is having its last East Bay Open Studios exhibits on December 6, 7, 13, and 14 in Berkeley.

Public Comment: None.

9. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

These Minutes are hereby submitted for approval by Kirstin Hinds, Recording Secretary.

Approved on _____.

KH/6/CDD
~~816-05-14-25mn~~