



**San Mateo County
Board of Supervisors meeting
May 5, 2026**



WHO WE ARE

OUR MISSION

The San Mateo County Arts Commission champions the arts as essential for a healthy and vibrant community by shaping innovative cultural policies, creating inclusive and diverse programming, investing in the creative economy, and ensuring access to arts and culture for all.

District 1
Stephen Seymour
Rachel Aloycius

District 2
John Estalilla
Lois Fried

District 3
VACANT
Andrea Jones

District 4
Anna Westendorf
Farah Yasmeen Shaikh

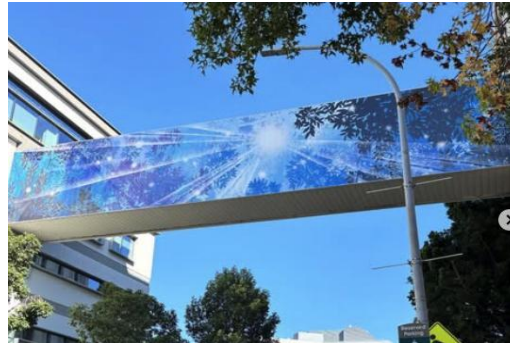
District 5
Victoria Magbilang
Reno Anoa'i



WHAT WE'VE DONE

Accomplishments

- County-wide arts and cultural non profit survey
- September Arts and Culture Fest
- San Mateo County Fair
- Poetry Out Loud
- Public art review
- \$855,000 in grants to SMC arts and cultural organizations since 2021
- Facilitated collaborations across disciplines between artists, organizations, cultural communities
- Attend arts events to support and deepen relationships with artists throughout the county

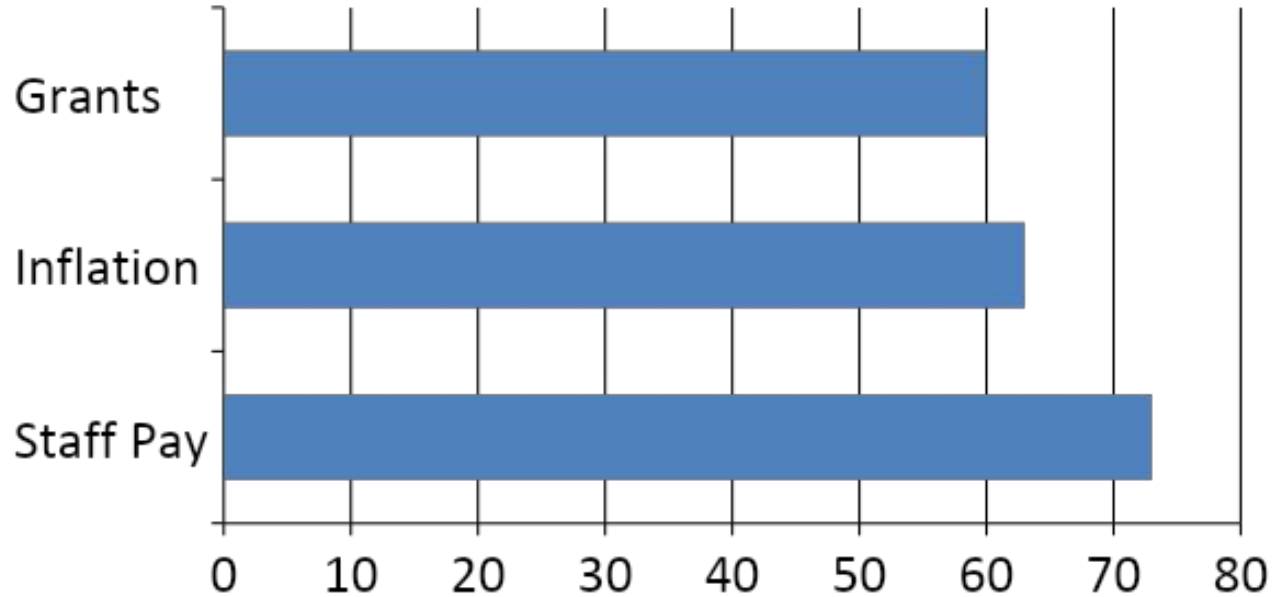


SURVEY & RESULTS

In 2025-26, the Arts Commission surveyed arts and cultural nonprofits to understand their unique needs and how to best support them.

- **38 arts organizations responded**
- **Each city is represented**
- **All artistic disciplines are represented**
- **Many organizations provide programs for all ages**
- **68% partner with small businesses**

KEY CHALLENGES



OTHER FINDINGS

- **Arts provide education, jobs, cultural and community connections**
- **Beyond funding, support needed with:**
 - **Marketing & public relations**
 - **Business or organization support**
 - **Networking opportunities**
- **Respondents asked about the level of support they feel from their local officials (including city councils, arts commissions, and board of supervisors)**
 - **60% rated their feelings of support as a 6 or lower**

LOOKING FORWARD

- Improve grant program
- Organize a convening for arts and non profit organizations
- Partner with the San Mateo County Fair

Partnering with the Board of Supervisors to ensure that San Mateo County continues to support its vibrant arts community and the creative economy of our region.

