



SAN FRANCISCO FILM COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Monday July 22, 2024 @ 2:00PM
Room 416
City Hall, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place

Members of the Commission
will attend this meeting in person at the location listed above

The Film Commission welcomes public comment and will hear
in person public comment on each agenda item.

AGENDA:

1. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Film Commissioners Present

Villy Wang, President; Jack Song, Vice President; Tony Delorio, Commissioner; Franco Finn, Commissioner; Erin Kahn, Commissioner; Carolyn Tyler, Commissioner

Film Commissioners Absent

Jim Beaumonte, Commissioner; Claudine Cheng, Commissioner; Kate Goldstein-Breyer, Commissioner

Film SF Staff Present

Manijeh Fata, Executive Director; Sofia Alicastro, Deputy Director; Mark Hogains, Production Manager; Zoe Halsne, Senior Production Coordinator/Commission Secretary; Laura Villa, Intern

Film SF Staff Absent

Ismael Castillo, Senior Production Coordinator

RAMAYTUSH OHLONE LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Explanatory Document:





<https://sf.gov/sites/default/files/2023-03/Ramaytush%20Ohlone%20Land%20Acknowledgement.pdf>

President Wang: Commissioner Matt Stiker is no longer on the Commission. I want to acknowledge and celebrate his eleven years of service. He has brought so much enthusiasm and has supported us in public relations and marketing. Welcome to our newest commissioner, Erin Kahn. She has experience in so many arenas, including at Lucasfilm and Industrial Light and Magic, and is currently working at Epic Games. Thank you so much for joining the Film Commission.

Commissioner Kahn: Thank you, I'm happy to be here. I've been following the Film Commission's work for a long time. I was at Lucasfilm for almost fifteen years working in recruiting and talent development, program management, as well as cultural and diversity initiatives. I'm now at Epic Games in studio operations in the global real estate facilities group. I am born and raised in Novato and have lived in San Francisco for a long time, so the Bay Area is near and dear to my heart.

COMMISSION MEETING AGREEMENTS

Explanatory Document:

https://sf.gov/sites/default/files/2023-04/Commission%20Meeting%20Agreements_new.pdf

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

ACTION

Presentation of and action to approve the minutes of the May 28, 2024 Commission meeting.

Supporting document: https://www.sf.gov/sites/default/files/2024-07/5.28.24%20SF%20Film%20Commission%20Meeting%20Minutes_Aproved.pdf

Motion: Commissioner Delorio

Second: Commissioner Finn

Commissioner Comment:

No comment.

Public Comment:





No comment.

Unanimous vote to approve the minutes.

3. SFFILM FILM SPACE GRANT PRESENTATION DISCUSSION

By Masashi Niwano, Artist Development Director; Rosa Morales, Manager of Narrative Films; Joshua Moore, Manager of Documentary Programs; and Erika Arnold, Artist Development Associate Manager. They presented their report on the San Francisco Film Commission Film Space (SFFCFS) grant.

Artist Development Director Niwano: We are excited to be here to talk about SFFILM's FilmHouse Residency. FilmHouse is an incubator space for the Bay Area filmmaking community. Next year is FilmHouse's ten-year anniversary. We support documentary, narrative, hybrid, and episodic filmmaking. Our goal is to bring different filmmakers together. FilmHouse has an editing suite and production rooms, and we've been catering the space to our residents. Our residents are at all stages of production including development, research, screenwriting, and post-production. We want the filmmaking community at large to feel welcome so we have been hosting events as well.

Artist Development Associate Manager Arnold: We've had over thirty FilmHouse events including workshops, screenings, and talks. We've had twelve production meetings where our residents can receive feedback, show in-progress screenings, and conduct table reads. We have twenty creative advisors that work closely with the residents to give feedback and help build connections to the broader filmmaking community.

Manager Morales: In partnership with SFFILM's education department, we also host the Youth FilmHouse Residency Program. This is specifically for BIPOC teenagers in the Bay Area. We want to cultivate a group of aspiring filmmakers who are interested in filmmaking but may not have enough experience for our original residency program. Two of the Youth FilmHouse residents had films that screened at the most recent SFFILM Festival. As an added benefit to this residency, they can also participate in the education department's filmmaking camp. Last year we had eleven Youth FilmHouse residents and next year we will have twelve. The program will be held October through February.

Artist Development Director Niwano: We have twenty-one FilmHouse residents. One is Meg Shutzer, who just premiered her short documentary film at Frameline Film Festival. Another is Osinachi Ibe, a curator at the Mill Valley Film Festival. We have four projects





in development that will be shooting in San Francisco. It's our goal to mentor our residents and give them the tools they need to shoot here in the Bay Area. We are also working with local organizations to make sure that the FilmHouse space is available to them for no cost. For example, we opened our space to the Center for Asian American Media (CAAM). They hosted three days of programming throughout CAAMFest.

Manager Moore: We've hosted several events including the SFFILM Makers Summit which kicked off this year's SFFILM Festival. We've had some documentary-focused events, including a master class in editing hosted by one of our Filmmakers with Disabilities grantees, Vivien Hillgrove. *The Strike*, a documentary feature made by two of our residents Lucas Guilkey and JoeBill Muñoz, premiered at DocLands. *Seeking Mavis Davis*, made by resident Yeelen Cohen, screened at the SFFILM Festival.

Artist Development Director Niwano: Thank you Executive Director Fata for participating in one of the SFFILM Makers Summit panels.

Commissioner Comment:

Commissioner Tyler: What was the timeframe for the facts and figures you presented? Was it information from the last fiscal year?

Artist Development Director Niwano: This information has been updated since the last time we presented here, so starting from around this time last year. The length of the residency is a twelve-month program starting in January. Our applications are open now. We will be selecting residents in the fall.

President Wang: It is always a blast to hear your presentation and to see the incredible legacy that you continue to build. Congratulations and thank you.

Executive Director Fata: I love how the team's leadership and vision has created this wonderful energy and inclusiveness at SFFILM. A recent rebated film, *Josephine*, needed space to work out of and were welcomed at FilmHouse until they were able to move into their production offices. Thank you for supporting the Bay Area filmmaking community. Are there any sentiments from the residents you would like to share? Is there anything else the Film Commission can do to support this residency program?

Artist Development Director Niwano: *Josephine* also received our Dolby Fellowship and we were able to do some casting at FilmHouse. Since we reopened FilmHouse in 2022, there seemed to be some cautiousness in the first year but this year we've seen more enthusiasm, excitement, and participation. This year, our residents are also producing their own events at FilmHouse. Events like Industry Days at the SFFILM Festival are impactful, and we would want to include something similar in our year-long programming.





Executive Director Fata: The Commission can attend one of the residency meetings in the future to talk about the rebate program as well.

Public Comment:
No comment.

4. BAVC MEDIA FILM SPACE GRANT PRESENTATION DISCUSSION

By Executive Director Paula Smith Arrigoni and Director of Youth and Artistic Development Dawn Valadez. They presented their report on the San Francisco Film Commission Film Space (SFFCFS) grant.

Executive Director Smith Arrigoni: It was wonderful hearing SFFILM's presentation. A session like this meeting with other organizations would be beneficial. BAVC Media's mission is centered around media makers and we've been around for about fifty years. Our focus is providing access to resources in the form of grants, mentorship, education, technology, and networking.

Director Valadez: Our values are rooted in our history, including making sure people from all backgrounds have access to equipment, technology, and training. We also believe in a collective spirit; that we're better together than individually. Our final value is about participatory media, which means giving people the opportunity to be active in their production and be able to support one another in making things. In 2023 we had over eight hundred participants in our programs. We also served over two thousand people through our events. Digitally we reach about twenty thousand people through social media and newsletters.

Executive Director Smith Arrigoni: We have a preservation program for taped media, which makes sure that collection that would otherwise be lost are preserved.

Director Valadez: In our youth programs, we serve people from eleven-year-olds to twenty-four-year-olds. This past year we served about two hundred young people, a majority of whom are BIPOC. We are focusing on connecting their creative practice to workforce and getting access to jobs in the industry.

Executive Director Smith Arrigoni: We've run public access television for the city of San Francisco for about fifteen years. That serves many BIPOC people, seniors, and nonprofits. We also make media on a fee-for-service basis. Our creative workforce and advancement training serves a lot of adults, including providing technical training.





Director Valdez: In our artist development programs, we want to support artists both locally and nationally. One of our lead programs is our MediaMaker Fellowship. This is a national program, and we provide resources for up to nine first-time feature documentary filmmakers. We get about 200 applications per year. There were several projects that didn't get accepted, but needed additional support which is where MediaMaker Connect comes in to provide mentorship opportunities. This past year we provided seven local filmmakers with a mentor. We also hosted peer events and rough cut screenings.

Executive Director Smith Arrigoni: The demand for this fellowship has gone up tremendously due to the success of the filmmakers after they've participated in the program, and the networks of filmmakers they've been participating in. However, as the number of applications increase, the number of Bay Area filmmakers who are competitive remain low.

Commissioner Comment:

No comment.

Public Comment:

Local SAG-AFTRA Assistant Executive Director Dee Dee Escobedo: SAG-AFTRA is available as a resource. We offer workshops that would be beneficial to SFFILM and BAVC Media's constituents.

President Wang: SFFILM and BAVC Media have accomplished tremendous work. We should continue cross-collaboration among local organizations. The field work and research SFFILM and BAVC Media conduct is pivotal for our local filmmaking community. Thank you so much.

Executive Director Smith Arrigoni: Your support is incredible leverage for us. Your partnership allows us to support more young people.

Executive Director Fata: Everyone who comes through the Bay Area knows that BAVC Media is an integral part of the media landscape.

5. FILM SF STAFF REPORT DISCUSSION

By Executive Director Manijeh Fata, Deputy Director Sofia Alicastro, Production Manager Mark Hogains, Senior Production Coordinator/Commission Secretary Zoe Halsne, and Intern Laura Villa.





This report included:

- Report on recent/upcoming meetings, events, festivals, and productions
- Production stats

Executive Director Fata: Welcome to Commissioner Kahn, who was sworn in last week. She brings a wealth of experience and will help move the conversation around sound stages along. Kate Patterson has also been hired as Office of Economic & Workforce Development's (OEWD) Director of External Affairs, who was previously the Director of Communications at the San Francisco Public Library and at the San Francisco Arts Commission. Film SF has been attending several events around the City including a pride kick-off reception at Frameline and the San Francisco Jewish Film Festival opening night. We also had a site visit at the Historic Klamath, where the offices for the Bay Area Council. They are open hosting film productions and events. Note that we still have two seats on the Commission open. Please reach out if you have any suggestions for potential Commissioners. Production Manager Hogains and Intern Villa have been working on a film and media landscape project, which is research on schools, funding, production companies, film festivals, and artist development organizations in the Bay Area. We want to create an exhaustive list that will eventually live on our website. Please provide feedback within the week.

President Wang: Is the purpose of this project to have this be a resource on the Film SF website?

Executive Director Fata: That is one of its purposes. It helps us understand where the gaps and opportunities are. Lastly, the Oakland City Council passed Oakland's film incentive, which is 10% rebate on qualifying expenditures. The East Bay Film Collective has been working on this for over a year. This new incentive can work in conjunction with the San Francisco incentive.

Production Manager Hogains: I would like to introduce Laura Villa, Film SF's summer intern. Laura is a Colombian journalist and media content creative currently living in the Bay Area with over two years of experience in video editing, digital strategy, managing audiovisual projects and creating impactful digital content. Laura holds a Bachelor's degree in Social Communication and Journalism from Central University in Bogotá, Colombia. Laura is passionate about sports, especially basketball, and enjoys spending her free time outdoors by Lake Merritt, hiking and relaxing. We're really excited to have her help with marketing and the rebate program.

Intern Villa: I'm very happy to be here, thank you so much.





Production Manager Hogains: We had our Production Assistant Workshop in June with BAYCAT, BAVC Media, OEWD, and KQED. We had seventy participants and five panelists. Thank you to Executive Director Smith Arrigoni, Executive Director Fata, and BAYCAT Board Member David Goldberg for helping with this event and MCing.

Executive Director Fata: This was the first time Film SF collaborated with BAYCAT, BAVC Media, and OEWD. This was a great pilot event and we absolutely need to do more in the future.

President Wang: Thank you Production Manager Hogains for organizing this.

Production Manager Hogains: We've come to the end of our fiscal year. We'll have our overall data available at the next Commission meeting. Our rebate program started in 2006 to encourage more productions to film in San Francisco. For every dollar rebated, \$13.77 comes back to the city. This year we also have two episodic productions that are conditionally eligible. *Josephine* had 47 days of filming within San Francisco. They may come back for pick-ups. They brought in \$23,500 in permit fees and we will rebate back at least \$300,000.

Deputy Director Alicastro: We had a team outing to see filmmaker and author Miranda July speak at City Arts & Lectures. Thank you Commissioner Goldstein-Breyer for the tickets. We were also a proud sponsor of Frameline48 and we attended the launch party at Oasis. We participated in the sponsors luncheon, the industry days event, and the SAG-AFTRA panel. We were official sponsors of two screenings of short films created by Bay Area-based filmmakers called Homegrown Shorts. We wanted to also call out that Oasis has a crowdfunding campaign due to a recent robbery. Lastly, we are working on our impact report for fiscal year 2023-2024. Thank you to Commissioner Tyler and Vice President Song for your help on that project. We will be emailing you all for quotes and photos from the last fiscal year.

Senior Production Coordinator/Commission Secretary Halsne: Upcoming screenings of San Francisco films at local theaters include: *The Rock*, *Herald & Maude*, *Princess Diaries*, *The Lineup*, *The Conversation*, *Dirty Harry*, and *The Maltese Falcon*. As a reminder, we will not have an August Commission meeting and our next meeting will be September 23. Comparing our production stats from May to July comparing this year to last year, we had more spend due to larger productions especially productions participating in our rebate program like *Josephine*.





Executive Director Fata: We also wanted to look at our production numbers this past fiscal year compared to 2022-2023. This past year we increased our permit fees, so we saw an increase of \$50,000 in permit fees. Our permit fee revenue is really crucial to our overall budget. We have less productions, but the number of shoot days has increased by at least 25. I'm part of the Film USA network and Film Liaisons of California Statewide (FLICS), and you hear from other cities and regions that it has been a hard year for the film industry at large. San Francisco luckily has a lot of commercial production that sustains the local film community. We need to support independent films and as a state and country we have to work more closely together, since major productions are increasing more abroad.

Commissioner Comment:

Vice President Song: Thank you to the whole team, especially to Executive Director Fata for working hard behind the scenes on the budget. Commissioner Tyler and I will be helping with the annual impact report to demonstrate film's socio-economic impact in San Francisco.

Public Comment:

Local SAG-AFTRA Assistant Executive Director Dee Dee Escobedo: Thank you Executive Director Fata for participating in the SAG-AFTRA panel at Frameline48. In corporate education we've had 19 members hired compared to 8 last year. 48 members were hired on 6 video games compared to 55 members last year. For film, we had 802 members hired on 21 film productions so far this year compared to 113 last year.

6. COMMISSIONER DISCUSSION AND NEW BUSINESS DISCUSSION

Allowed President, Vice President, and Commissioners to report on recent film activities and make announcements that are of interest to the film and media community.
Allowed Commissioners to introduce new agenda items for future consideration by the Commission.

President Wang: Instead of our regular November Commission meeting, we are planning to do a full-day Commission retreat on November 18. BAYCAT is hosting our InFocus event and tickets are on-sale now.

Commissioner Finn: I attended the San Francisco Black Film Festival in June and met director-actor Mario Van Peebles after his screening. I've been in conversations with San Francisco State University (SFSU) and Archbishop Riordan High School regarding





their film and media programs. We should figure out how to integrate them into our work.

Commissioner Delorio: I've scheduled a meeting with the director of SFO to promote film. I am also going to meet with President Wang to discuss labor and Teamsters in film.

Vice President Song: I have been focusing on the impact report with Commissioner Tyler. We are trying to push up the schedule this year to publish the report earlier and we would like to build an event around its publication.

Deputy Director Alicastro: We have a very exciting partnership with SFO Museum. We are curating a showcase of short films that will screen in SFO's screening room in the international terminal pre-security in celebration of Latinx Heritage Month. This is the first time we've done this event. We've received 35 submissions and we've accepted 4 Bay Area-based Latinx filmmakers. The films will screen starting September and until October 15. Each filmmaker will receive a \$400 honorarium.

Commissioner Tyler: Executive Director Fata and I attended Indie Night Film Festival, where we were interviewed on the red carpet by the host. I'm looking forward to working on the impact report. Stations will want to cover when the impact report is released but still want to be able to shoot something that would be a showcase for what we are talking about.

Executive Director Fata: It's hard because some of the productions will only want things released after their film or show premiere.

President Wang: Former Commissioner Stiker was working on the marketing plan, establishing relationships with media, the rebate program, and the Film SF alliance. Stakeholders he worked with were ad agencies, SF Travel, and entertainment sports teams. Thank you to those filling in for this work. My focus is on workforce and landscape. BAYCAT's strategic planning process showed us that young people and filmmakers in the field are looking for ways to continue to connect and build their skills. We are working with Commissioner Delorio to educate young people on how to join unions as well. InFocus is an open forum for diverse creatives, and it is about connecting individuals and amplifying what makes the Bay Area unique in addition to presenting recruiting opportunities. Also, Commissioner Goldstein-Breyer wanted me to mention an upcoming City Arts & Lecture with director Jon Chu and actor Awkwafina on August 3.

Public Comment:
No comment.





7. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT DISCUSSION

Members of the public could comment generally on matters within the Commission's purview as well as to suggest new agenda items for the Commission's consideration.

Commissioner Comment:
No comment.

Public Comment:
No comment.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Adjourned at 3:46pm.

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City Hall – Room 244 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102-4683
415-554-7724 (Oficina); 415-554-5163 (Fax);
Correo electrónico: SOTF@sfgov.org





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415-554-7724 (Opisina); 415-554-7854 (Fax)
E-mail: SOTF@sfgov.org





Ang mga kopya ng Sunshine Ordinance ay makukuha sa Clerk ng Sunshine Task Force, sa pampublikong aklatan ng San Francisco at sa website ng Lungsod sa www.sfgov.org. Mga kopya at mga dokumentong na nagpapaliwanag sa Ordinance ay makukuha online sa <http://www.sfbos.org/sunshine> o sa kahilingan sa Commission Secretary, sa address sa itaas o sa numero ng telepono.

PAG-ACCESS SA WIKA

Ayon sa Language Access Ordinance (Chapter 91 ng San Francisco Administrative Code), maaaring mag-request ng mga tagapagsalin sa wikang Tsino, Espanyol, at/o Filipino (Tagalog). Kapag hiniling, ang mga kaganapan ng miting ay maaring isalin sa ibang wika matapos ito ay aprobahan ng komisyon. Maari din magkaroon ng tulong sa ibang wika. Sa mga ganitong uri ng kahilingan, mangyaring tumawag sa Clerk ng Commission Zoe Halsne sa 415-554-6740, o zoe.halsne@sfgov.org sa hindi bababa sa 48 oras bago mag miting. Kung maari, ang mga late na hiling ay posibleng pagbibigyan.

LOBBYIST ORDINANCE

Ayon sa San Francisco Lobbyist Ordinance [SF Campaign & Governmental Conduct Code 2.100], ang mga indibidwal o mga entity na nag-iimpluensiya o sumusubok na mag-impluensiya sa mga lokal na pambatasan o administrative na aksyon ay maaring kailangan mag-register o mag-report ng aktibidad ng lobbying. Para sa karagdagan na impormasyon tungkol sa Lobbyist Ordinance, mangyaring tumawag sa San Francisco Ethics Commission at 25 Van Ness Avenue, Suite 220, San Francisco, CA 94102, (415) 252-3100, FAX (415) 252-3112, website: sfgov.org/ethics

