



SAN FRANCISCO FILM COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY JULY 24, 2023 2:00PM
CITY HALL HEARING ROOM 416 + WEBEX WEBINAR
1 DR. CARLTON B. GOODLETT PLACE, SAN FRANCISCO CA 94102

Call to order by President Wang @2:12pm

Audio file for July 24, 2023:

https://sanfrancisco.granicus.com/ViewPublisher.php?view_id=125

1. Announcements by Commission Secretary Preza and roll call

Ramaytush Land Acknowledgement and Commission Meeting Agreements

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

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

by President Wang

Commissioners Present:

Jim Beaumonte, Claudine Cheng, Franco Finn, Jesse Mainardi, Jack Song, Villy Wang

Commissioners Absent:

Tony Delorio, Kate Goldstein-Breyer, Jon Rubin, Matt Stiker, Carolyn Tyler

Staff in Attendance:

Director Fata, Deputy Director Alicastro, Senior Film Coordinator Preza, and Senior Film Coordinator Castillo

2. Approval of the minutes of the June 30, 2023 Film Commission Meeting

https://sf.gov/sites/default/files/2023-07/6.30.23_FCM_min.pdf

Motion by Commissioner Beaumonte

2nd by Commissioner Finn

Commissioner comment:

No public comment

Public comment:

No public comment

Minutes unanimously approved



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3. SFFILM presentation: Film Space Grant (7.05 – 19:43)

https://sf.gov/sites/default/files/2023-07/Film%20SF%20Presentation%20_Y4Q4%20_%202023_SFFILM.pdf

By SFFILM team Masashi Niwano, Director of Artist Development, Joshua Moore, Manager of Documentary Programs, Rosa Morales, Manager of Narrative Programs, Erika Arnold, Artist Development Coordinator

Presentation on the Film Space Grant FY2021-2023 highlighting the 2022-2023 FilmHouse Residents, FilmHouse space, and Film SF's impact.

Commissioner Cheng: (20:10)

What is the funding source for the program?

SFFilm:

Rainin Foundation, SF Foundation and Film SF

Commissioner Mainardi: (20:39)

What are the programs for youth? Age of students?

SFFilm:

SF Film Education program – youth camp – production based. 2 rounds: beginning and advanced. Connecting to local film makers. Beginning class ages 13-16 and advanced class are Seniors in high school.

Commissioner Cheng (21:50)

Is there a network of Alumni to track what they are doing?

SFFilm:

Yes, there is an infrastructure, an Alumni portal for events, initiatives, promotion, reconnections and networking.

Commission Secretary Preza (23:15)

Programs for youth during the school year, holiday breaks?

SFFilm:

Youth residency program during the fall evenings or weekends with students participating from various high schools in the area. Youth are also screeners for Film festival and learn about film festivals.



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Director Fata (24:24)

How long is residency program?

SFFilm:

1st there were 6 session, and this year 8 sessions in-person.

President Wang (25:11)

Youth Film House Residency what are the ages of students participating?

SFFilm:

16-18 years, open to younger.

President Wang (26:48)

What are the trends of distribution? How do you encourage distribution?

SFFilm:

We encourage film makers to apply to as many film festivals as possible, industry days, not just the big ones.

Public comment:

Katherine Howell (33:23)

President of the Screen Actors Guild Northern California. Opportunities to use actors on deferred agreement and student agreements for shorts.

4. Behested Payment Training (35:00 – 49:20)

By Lauren Curry, Deputy City Attorney and Brad Russi, Deputy City Attorney, Head Attorney, Ethics & Elections Team. They will provide a training on behested payments.

Commissioner comment:

Commission Beaumonte (49:46):

What is a Friend's Group?

City Attorney:

An MOU with a Friend's group is a group that is a nonprofit which is a Friends of group that supports a City Department.



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Commission Beaumonte (50:15):

What is the penalty if Commissioners exceed the annual asking amount for an interested party?

City Attorney:

It is an ethics violation. The Ethics Commission can levy penalties.

Commissioner Mainardi (51:25)

Have Commissioners been asked to solicit for the City?

Director Fata:

No, and Commissioners have never been asked to fundraise.

Commissioner Cheng (52:21)

How do we assess what "interested parties" there are?

President Wang (52:30)

Presented a scenario of "interested parties" to the Commissioners. Suggested protocols. Summarized that we need to assess who is a "disinterested party."

Commissioner Cheng (52:21)

Create a checklist tool for behest gifts and interested parties.

Director Fata (56:10)

Can social media be a tool for public appeals for fundraising?

City Attorney

It could be an exception if the appeal is a broad dissemination of over 200 public appeals.

President Wang: (56:35)

We are able solicit about a location or space as a donation as long as its on social and not a behest?

City Attorney:

The office would need to understand the specific facts and circumstances for a broad dissemination public appeal for fundraising. The public appeal could fall within the exemption with further evidence.

Commissioner Beaumonte (57:10):

Can a company we work for make a gift?



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City Attorney:

Companies can make a gift as long as it is not an interested party. Feel free to contact our office to find out if an organization is an interested party. Be aware of direct and indirect solicitations.

Director Fata:

Commissioners should contact Manijeh about any gifts who will then contact the City Attorney for consultation.

Commissioner Cheng (59:35):

The behest payments have to do with solicitations, but as individuals can we give?

City Attorney:

You are welcome to give as an individual, but it is about Film SF Commissioners asking for gifts.

Sofia Alicastro (60:15):

For social media is there a difference if we were to share someone's Kickstarter vs general information about a Film Festival.

City Attorney:

Each situation is different, so please contact the office.

Commissioner Song (61:13):

Thanked the City Attorney for their time.

Public Comment:

No public comment

5. Film SF Staff Report (62:40 – 68:38)

By Executive Director Manijeh Fata and Film SF Staff: Sofia Alicastro, Zefania Preza and Ismael Castillo

Report includes Introduction to new OEWD Director Sarah Dennis-Phillips, report on recent/upcoming meetings, events, festivals, and productions, staffing Updates, and production stats



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Commissioner Welcome to OEWD Executive Director Introductions and (68:40 – 72:56)

Sarah Dennis Phillips (72:59):

Film, the Arts are an important part of our economy. The work that you do can visually change the narrative.

Commissioner Finn (77:07):

Attended an initial meeting and met the new leadership of the Filipino Film Festival

Director Fata (78:10):

Announced the details about the Jewish Film Festival.

Public comment:

No public comment

6. President Report (81:50 – 84:29)

Report includes discussion on Film SF priority areas, growing our brand that amplifies our vision and partnering with film/media industry to support the city's economic recovery.

https://sf.gov/sites/default/files/2023-05/Film%20SF%20key%20priorities_2023_0.pdf

Commissioner comment:

No Commissioner Comment

Public comment:

Deedee Escobedo (85:05):

SAG AFTRA year to date numbers. Support the work that we are doing with the strike.

Frank Simeone, Directors Guild of America (87:05):

Current productions occurring in the City.

7. Adjournment



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President Wang adjourned the meeting @ 3:40pm