

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE
TORRANCE CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Torrance Cultural Arts Commission convened in a regular session at 7:06 p.m. on April 18, 2005, in the West Annex meeting room at Torrance City Hall.

2. FLAG SALUTE

Commissioner Smith led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners Miller, Smisek, Smith, Strehler, and Chairperson Armstrong.

Absent: Commissioners Stadler and Wang.

Also Present: Cultural Services Administrator Myers, Facilities Operations Manager Megerdichian, Cultural Services Consultant Powers, and Cultural Services Supervisor Ferguson.

MOTION: Commissioner Smisek moved to grant Commissioner Wang an excused absence for the April 18, 2005 Cultural Arts Commission meeting. Commissioner Miller seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

4. AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING

MOTION: Commissioner Smith moved to accept and file the report of the City Clerk on the posting of the agenda. Commissioner Smisek seconded the motion and, hearing no objection, Chairperson Armstrong so ordered (absent Commissioners Stadler and Wang).

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES –MARCH 21, 2005

Commissioner Smisek noted the following correction to the March 21, 2005 meeting minutes:

Page 3, paragraph 4: “Commissioner Smisek stated that she enjoyed...”

Commissioner Miller noted the following correction to the March 21, 2005 meeting minutes:

Page 3, paragraph 1, line 2: “She shared information about Adrian Miller, her son, a trumpeter, who performed the Hayden trumpet concerto with the San Fernando Valley Symphony in “The Pajama Game” in...”

MOTION: Commissioner Miller moved for the approval of the March 21, 2005 Cultural Arts Commission meeting minutes as corrected. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Smith and passed by unanimous voice vote approval (absent Commissioners Stadler and Wang).

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

6A. NONPROFIT ARTS GRANTS UPDATE

Cultural Services Administrator Myers reported that to date there have been no submissions for the 2005-06 Non-Profit Arts Grants and that the deadline is 5:30 p.m. on May 3, 2005. He encouraged Commissioners to continue to promote the grant program to non-profit arts organizations.

6B. 2005 EXCELLENCE IN ARTS AWARDS – APRIL 24, 2005

Cultural Services Administrator Myers confirmed that the Excellence in Arts Awards ceremony would be on Sunday, April 24, 2005 at 2:00 p.m. in the Toyota Meeting Hall and asked that Commissioners arrive at 1:30 p.m. Chairperson Armstrong offered to stand in for Commissioner Wang in the event that she was unable to attend. He encouraged Commissioners to feel free to revise or add to the scripts that were prepared for them by Cultural Services Consultant Powers. He stated that 200 to 300 attendees were expected and that Councilmember Witkowsky would be representing City Council.

7. NEW BUSINESS

7A. JOSLYN GALLERY UPDATE

Cultural Services Supervisor Ferguson distributed extra invitations to the Excellence in Arts Awards ceremony.

She reported that the contractor for Phase I of the Joslyn Gallery renovation was finishing tasks on the punch list and that carpeting has been installed in the west side of the building. Referring to Phase II, she stated that General Services conducted a contractor's walk-through and that bidding would open on April 28, 2005. She reported that they have been accepted for the Getty grant program and that next week staff would begin interviewing for the summer undergraduate internship position. She stated that they also applied in early April 2005 for the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors 3rd annual arts education partnership grant program to fund the Stories in Art exhibition program.

8. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

8A. EXCELLENCE IN ARTS

No report.

8B. COMMUNITY CULTURAL PLAN

No report.

8C. MAP I/MAP III

No report.

8D. GRANT REVIEW COMMITTEE

No report.

9. MONTHLY DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Facilities Operations Manager Megerdichian reported that the Recreation Center construction was near completion and that preparations were underway for the Armed Forces Day Parade. He stated that they would be hosting the Coast Guard band and dinner on May 20, 2005 as well as the luncheon on May 21, 2005.

Cultural Services Supervisor Ferguson distributed the Torrance Theatre Company 2005 season brochures listing the four remaining shows of the season for a reduced fee of \$75. She reported that the spring youth production would be "Oliver." She distributed fliers regarding Torrance Civic Chorale's presentation of "A Salute to Music" on May 7, 2005 at the Armstrong Theatre. She advised that the excursion to Newport Beach—The Colorful Coast on April 15, 2005 had 31 participants.

Cultural Services Administrator Myers noted that 100 season tickets have been sold so far for the Torrance Theatre Company 2005 season.

Cultural Services Consultant Powers provided information about the progress of former Getty interns who worked at the Joslyn Gallery. He reported that the March 30, 2005 presentation of "Court Martial of William Calley, 1970" was near capacity attendance and is airing on CitiCable daily. He stated that rehearsals are underway for "McMartin Pre-School Trial, 1987-1990" that will be presented on April 27, 2005.

He stated that artists have been selected for the Wild Wednesdays! program and that Los Angeles County Arts Commission awarded them two artists this year. He noted that there would be six performers with a variety of types of music.

Cultural Services Administrator Myers shared information about the status of the merger of Parks and Recreation and Library. He stated that they would be developing the budget for the next two-year budget cycle and that at the April 12, 2005 City Council meeting the City Manager asked City Council to provide direction for the development of the fiscal year 2005-2007 operating budget. He described the three scenarios that the City Manager presented to City Council. He encouraged Commissioners to attend the public hearings in June 2005.

He reported that the Los Angeles County Arts Commission has requested to do an arts orientation about the Arts Commission on June 18, 2005 at the Cultural Arts Center.

He congratulated Commissioner Miller for being selected as the recipient of the "2005 Older American Award" by the Torrance Commission on Aging in recognition for her outstanding service to the community.

Dr. Owen Griffith discussed the South Bay Conservatory's musical "Once on This Island, Jr." on April 14-15, 2005, last month's young musicians concerto competition, and the 2005-2006 Dee Hardison Award that will be presented to Toyota Motor Sales in January 2006 for their contribution to the arts. He distributed the February 2005 Torrance Performing Arts Consortium of Local Non-profit Organizations newsletter.

10. ORALS

Commissioner Smith stated that she was relieved that tax season was over and that she enjoyed seeing the CBS review of Carol Channing in the Cultural Arts Center.

Commissioner Miller stated that Carol Channing was also on Spotlight Today on April 18, 2005. She thanked staff for producing the Excellence in Arts awards speeches for the Commissioners and for announcing that she was receiving the "Older American" award. She stated that she walked through the Joslyn Gallery and was impressed with the improvements. She announced the May 7, 2005 Torrance Civic Chorale's "A Salute to Music." She stated that she enjoyed attending ECT and hearing the District orchestra. She gave kudos to the individuals who work behind the scenes at the Torrance Cultural Arts Center. She also stated that she enjoyed speaker Linda Chavez on April 17, 2005.

Commissioner Strehler shared information about a reception for Doug Stenhouse at the Madrona Marsh Preserve last month. She informed the Commission that Betty Kohler had planned to attend tonight's meeting but that her husband was in the hospital. She discussed the April 3, 2005 Art by the Beach program that had 13-14 artists. She stated that she enjoyed "The Notables" on April 10, 2005 and the Torrance Artist Guild meeting on April 12, 2005. She discussed the Long Beach Arts association and her colored pencil class.

She mentioned that she was contacted by artist Ruby Wang regarding a proposal to establish a sister city in China. Cultural Services Administrator Myers confirmed that he forwarded the proposal to the Sister City Association.

Commissioner Smisek stated that she enjoyed the Richard Sherman Trio on April 15, 2005, the Bunka-Sai Festival on April 16-17, 2005, and Linda Chavez on April 17, 2005. She shared the Foundation's season schedule for next year that includes Spike Lee and Tammy Bruce.

Chairperson Armstrong stated that she enjoyed attending the South Bay Conservatory musical and that she has recently moved.

11. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: At 8:06 p.m., Commissioner Smisek, with a second by Commissioner Miller, moved to adjourn the meeting to Monday, May 16, 2005 at 7:00 p.m. in the West Annex meeting room at Torrance City Hall.

Approved as Written May 16, 2005 s/ Sue Herbers, City Clerk
