

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

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Torrance Cultural Arts Commission convened in a regular session at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, April 21, 2014 in the West Annex meeting room, Torrance City Hall.

2. FLAG SALUTE

Commissioner Muhammed led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners Bunting, Candioly, Endo-Roberts, Frangos, Muhammed, and Chairperson Korman.

Absent: Commissioner Rische.

Also Present: Cultural Services Manager Rappoport, Facility Operations Manager Megerdichian, and Producing Artistic Director Inferrera.

4. AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING

MOTION: Commissioner Endo-Roberts moved to accept and file the report of the City Clerk on the posting of the agenda. Commissioner Candioly seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

5A. MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 24, 2014

Commissioner Bunting offered the following correction to the minutes: Page 2, Item 7B, MOTION, line 2: "Commissioner Endo-Roberts seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval."

MOTION: Commissioner Candioly moved to approve the February 24, 2014 Commission meeting minutes as corrected. Commissioner Endo-Roberts seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioner Rische).

5B. MINUTES OF MARCH 17, 2014

Chairperson Korman offered a correction to Page 3 of the minutes as follows: Item 10F, line 2: "...and announced their Gala on June 27, 2014."

MOTION: Commissioner Candioly moved to approve the March 17, 2014 Commission meeting minutes as amended. Commissioner Bunting seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioner Rische).

6. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #1

6A. Margaret Lindsey, Destination Art, distributed information about the Torrance-based non-profit group of artists. She circulated letters of recommendation from Arts Council of Torrance, Alfred Hagan from Pepperdine University, and Penelope Kastager from Torrance Artists' Guild. She requested that the Commission endorse Destination Art whose purpose is to serve artists and the art community in the South Bay. She showed two three-minute videos about the organization and discussed plans to rent space for a studios gallery in downtown Torrance where the public can see artists working as well as their artwork. She stated that they held their first gala fundraising event at Malaga Cove Library on March 8 and that they hope to find underwriters to help with their operating expenses.

7. NEW BUSINESS

7A. TORRANCE CULTURAL ARTS CENTER FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS

Facility Operations Manager Megerdichian addressed concerns raised at the March Commission meeting regarding the condition of Cultural Arts Center facilities. Referring to his written report in agenda packets, he reviewed lists of regular and scheduled maintenance for the Center. He noted that the Center closes for two weeks each year for large item facility repairs. He described the summary of completed capital projects for fiscal years 2004-2014 and anticipated projects pending funding. He provided clarification that the \$2.50 per ticket fee from the Box Office was implemented in 2009 primarily to supplement staffing to keep the Box Office open 55 hours a week.

Responding to Chairperson Korman's inquiry, he stated that they can move forward on some of the anticipated projects with the existing budget; however, they are waiting to see what City Council allocates in the future for larger items.

Commissioner Endo-Roberts noted that the Ken Miller Recreation Center was not on the list of anticipated projects and expressed concern that it has old equipment and is in need of sound system, drapery, and lighting upgrades.

Manager Megerdichian responded that the Ken Miller Recreation Center was renovated in 2006 and is generally used for rentals and not for theatrical performances. He stated that they do not have plans to upgrade the current sound system and that external sound can be brought in if needed. He offered look into her concerns and to determine if there is sufficient funding to make improvements.

Commissioner Muhammed stated that he also visited the Ken Miller Recreation Center and maintained that individuals expect there to be functional equipment when they pay to rent the facility.

Manager Megerdichian clarified that the audio system is functioning and noted that they can bring in supplemental equipment if there is a theatrical performance.

Commissioner Candioly offered his observation that some of the completed capital projects are almost 10 years old and questioned the longevity of the upgrades.

Manager Megerdichian stated that due to budget restraints they have to get the life out of some of the equipment.

Chairperson Korman expressed interest in having the Commission tour the facilities and Manager Megerdichian offered to make arrangements with Cultural Services Manager Rappoport.

When Manager Rappoport inquired about the prioritization of anticipated projects, Manager Megerdichian discussed how projects are budgeted for several years in advance. He stated that revenues should exceed expenditures and that surplus savings goes into the Cultural Arts Center Fund; however, due to the recession, the Fund balance the last few years has not been what it used to be. He explained how staff is exploring ways to generate additional revenue at the Center.

Byron Stafford, West Torrance Boulevard, read a statement from the Torrance Performing Arts Consortium (TPAC) board requesting the Commission to recommend that City Council examine safety and equipment issues at the Armstrong Theatre before Budget Hearings in May.

Kathie Urban, Flavian Avenue, representing Metropolitan Education Theatre Network, distributed and entered into record a letter regarding lighting issues and recommended lighting equipment for the Armstrong Theatre. She stated that the lighting equipment is over 20 years old and needs to be replaced to make the Armstrong Theatre a state of the art facility.

Steve Norris, President, Arts Council of Torrance, referred to a list of facility deficiencies that he submitted at the March Commission meeting. He voiced support for a long-term budget for regular replacement of these items for each Cultural Arts Center facility such as the air conditioning that was replaced five years ago.

7B. TORRANCE THEATRE COMPANY

Producing Artistic Director Inferrera provided an update on current and future activities at Torrance Theatre Company (TTC). She reported that "A Man of No Importance" has finished its sold out five-week run and rehearsals are underway for the season-ending production of "The Last Romance." She expressed her appreciation to Friends of Torrance Theatre Company for their support and discussed plans for a fundraiser Murder Mystery dinner "Death by Marriage" on June 22 at Doubletree Hotel.

She shared plans for TTC's 15th anniversary season that will include the summer musical "Oklahoma," "Brighton Beach Memoirs," and "Run for Your Wife." She was pleased to announce that TTC is back with the Los Angeles County Arts Commission and will have an intern for ten weeks this summer. She discussed plans to create an academy around TTC that involves classes for youth and adults.

Chairperson Korman commended TTC for a successful season.

7C. 2014 CULTURAL SERVICES SUMMER INTERNS

Cultural Services Manager Rappoport reported that this summer the Torrance Art Museum and Torrance Theatre Company will both have interns for 10 weeks starting the beginning of June. She stated that both will be paid through the Getty Multicultural Internships Program and the Los Angeles County Arts Commission, respectively, and that staff is currently recruiting to fill each position.

8. ON-GOING BUSINESS

8A. SOUTH BAY MUSEUM AND GALLERY ART CRAWL

Manager Rappoport discussed plans for the inaugural South Bay Museum and Gallery Art Crawl on May 3, 2014. She reported that participating organizations include: Torrance Art Museum, El Camino College Art Gallery, APC Fine Arts & Graphics Gallery, Summer Studios Arts Academy, Palos Verdes Art Center, South Bay Contemporary/Zask Gallery, The Artists' Studio Gallery, and California Museum of Fine Art. She distributed draft fliers for the event that includes a map of each venue.

8B. UPDATE ON LACMA ART & FILM LAB

Manager Rappoport provided an update on Los Angeles County Museum of Art's Art & Film Lab project at Wilson Park on August 8 – September 7, 2014. She reported that the moveable trailer that holds workshops was damaged and the programs will be provided without the trailer. She stated that they still plan to have four film nights at Wilson Park, a series of Oral History and Film/Video workshops at a location to be determined, and a closing reception at Torrance Art Museum.

9. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

9A. EXCELLENCE IN ARTS

Commissioner Candioly reported that the committee will meet soon to start planning the October 26, 2014 Excellence in Arts awards ceremony.

9B. FACILITIES COMMITTEE

Commissioners and staff discussed the possibility of touring the Cultural Arts Center facilities before the June Commission meeting. They also discussed a needs analysis, prioritizing the list of projects, and how Commissioners could voice concerns about the condition of the facilities at the May 13 and 20 Budget Hearings. It was decided that the Facilities Committee would meet on May 1 to draft a speech to present.

Cultural Services Manager Rappoport reported that staff is still waiting for the scope of services from the architect for the Wilson Park Gazebo project.

9C. GRANT REVIEW COMMITTEE

Commissioner Bunting reported that the Grant Review Committee plans to meet on May 10 at 6:00 p.m.

10. MONTHLY DEPARTMENT REPORT

Cultural Services Manager Rappoport noted that the Cultural Services Division Report for March 2014 was included in agenda packets.

11. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #2

11A. Commissioner Frangos shared information about her new position at Mount St. Mary's College and stated that she enjoyed X-Ambassadors at the Bootleg Theatre, Torrance Art Museum exhibit, and Diane von Furstenberg show at LACMA.

11B. Commissioner Candioly discussed fundraising efforts for La Habra Children's Museum.

11C. Commissioner Muhammed stated that he attended the Family Arts Festival 2014 Arts Recognition Awards, "A Man of No Importance," and the grand opening of the Toyota Sports Complex.

11D. Commissioner Endo-Roberts stated that she viewed artwork in the City Clerk's office and Amore Vino, attended a Commission on Aging meeting and Arts Tune-Up and docent TAM tour, and volunteered at Torrance Theatre Company during "A Man of No Importance."

11E. Chairperson Korman stated that she enjoyed the Arts Tune-Up, Arts Council of Torrance Forum, and Cultural Arts Center Foundation's Cabaret series and "Grease" sing-a-long.

12. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: At 8:49 p.m., Commissioner Endo-Roberts moved to adjourn the meeting to Monday, May 19, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. in the West Annex meeting room at Torrance City Hall. Commissioner Candioly seconded the motion and, hearing no objection, Chairperson Korman so ordered.

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Approved as amended May 19, 2014 s/ Sue Herbers, City Clerk
