

**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 7:00 p.m. on Monday, July 18, 2005, in the West Annex meeting room at Torrance City Hall.

2. FLAG SALUTE

Commissioner Stadler led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners Armstrong, Miller, Smisek, Smith, Stadler, and Chairperson Wang.

Absent: Commissioner Strehler.

Also Present: Cultural Services Administrator Myers, Senior Cultural Services Supervisor McClelland, Cultural Services Consultant Powers, and Cultural Services Supervisor Ferguson.

MOTION: Commissioner Stadler moved to grant Commissioner Strehler an excused absence for the July 18, 2005 Cultural Arts Commission meeting. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

4. AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING

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

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: Commissioner Armstrong moved for the approval of the June 20, 2005 Cultural Arts Commission meeting minutes as submitted. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Miller and passed by unanimous voice vote approval (absent Commissioner Strehler).

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

6A. TORRANCE ART MUSEUM CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Cultural Services Administrator Myers reported that Phase II of the Torrance Art Museum began on July 18, 2005 with the installation of fencing around the project area. He stated that exterior improvements include the replacement of all exterior glass, some

doors, the plaza between the Museum and the Visual Arts wing of the Cultural Arts Center, landscaping, and the sculpture garden. He advised that a nine-week construction period was anticipated, with a grand reopening in early October 2005. He noted that the nine-week schedule submitted by the contractor was included in the material of record.

7. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

7A. EXCELLENCE IN ARTS

No report.

7B. COMMUNITY CULTURAL PLAN

Commissioner Armstrong initiated a brief discussion centered on the Art in Public Places program, suggesting that a plaque be given to the owner of the shopping center on Calle Mayor for installation of a sculpture.

Commissioner Stadler suggested that certificates of appreciation be given to all participants of the program as a goodwill gesture.

7C. MAP I/MAP III

Previously discussed at this meeting.

7D. GRANT REVIEW COMMITTEE

Cultural Services Administrator Myers reported that City Council approved the Commission's grant recommendations for next fiscal year on June 21, 2005 and that checks were being distributed.

8. MONTHLY DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Cultural Services Supervisor Ferguson announced that that the Department was awarded an \$8,000 grant from Don Knabe's office for the 2005-06 Stories in Art program. She commended Curator Kristina Newhouse for her assistance in preparing the grant application. She stated that a new dimension to the program would be added, with the addition of offering the program in other languages as well as the use of interpreters.

She stated that their Getty intern was doing a wonderful job and was laying the foundation for the development of the volunteer program for the Museum.

She advised that the Department was in the fourth week of summer classes and that there would be a new exhibition in the Armstrong lobby for the month of August. She noted that Mary Drobny's Artful Days lecture, "What's Up with Tut?" on July 5, 2005, was very successful.

Senior Cultural Services Supervisor McClelland reported that their Los Angeles County intern, Evan Baughfman, was doing a great job and assisted preparing the lobby for performances of "The Nerd."

He stated that the July 15, 2005 excursion to see "Wicked" was very successful. He reported that opening night of "The Nerd" was sold out, noting that there were only three shows left. He stated that rehearsals were going well for "Camelot." He distributed flyers for Shakespeare by the Sea, with "The Merry Wives of Windsor" on July 29, 2005 and "Othello" on July 30, 2005, both at Wilson Park. He informed Commissioners that the youth production of "Guys and Dolls" will be August 26-27, 2005 in the Armstrong Theatre.

Cultural Services Consultant Powers reported that blues artist Barbara Morrison performed at the July 13, 2005 Wild Wednesdays! attended by approximately 450 people. He noted that this, and remaining Wild Wednesdays! performances would be taped and aired on CitiCABLE.

9. ORALS

Dr. Owen Griffith encouraged Commissioners to attend the August 28, 2005 concert in Wilson Park with the Torrance Symphony and guest soloist Ralph Cato.

Cultural Services Administrator Myers thanked Commissioner Smisek for voicing her support for the summer musical at the June 21, 2005 City Council meeting. He advised that, due to State funding coming through, the program would not be cut.

He stated that he attended a meeting of the Los Angeles County Arts Commission last week in the City of Pasadena. He advised that topics of discussion included the Cultural Tourism initiative, community cultural planning, and the possibility of developing a workshop in October 2005 for City-appointed Commissioners.

Commissioner Smith stated that she attended the King Tut exhibit and that last week was in Nevada at a Paiute/Shoshone Indian reservation repairing homes.

Commissioner Armstrong stated that she enjoyed "The Nerd."

Commissioner Stadler stated that she enjoyed "The Nerd" and informed the Commission that she has accepted a full-time position as elementary vocal teacher for Hermosa Beach School District. She commented that she is presently teaching at Marymount summer school at Towers Elementary and next month would be leading the Chorus Camp for the City.

Commissioner Miller stated that she hosted a UCLA Women's Health Initiative meeting at Katy Geissert Civic Center Library, and that the members enjoyed the meeting as well as the Wild Wednesdays! program before it.

She stated that she enjoyed "The Nerd" and the All American City night at the Torrance Historical Museum. She commended the new publication of Artline and the Conservatory and Art Attack youth production.

She mentioned that her son Brian will be performing at the Hollywood Bowl on August 6-7, 2005 and that her other son Adrian is playing trumpet for "Guys and Dolls" the next two weekends at Pierce College.

Commissioner Smisek stated that the Cultural Arts Center Foundation's Eleventh Anniversary Gala on June 24, 2005 was a huge success, and more profitable for the Foundation than ever before.

She shared information about the Disney cruise that she went on to the Mexican Riviera and that she enjoyed seeing "The Nerd."

She announced that the Foundation received a \$10,000 grant from the Los Angeles County Arts Commission for their Bramhall program.

Chairperson Wang stated that she also enjoyed "The Nerd," visited several museums in Chicago while she was there for a Commission meeting, and shared that her daughter accepted a part-time position with a modern dance company near Washington, D.C.

She mentioned problems that the Redondo Beach Arts Center is having, and noted how fortunate they were to have the support of the Foundation and the City.

10. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: At 7:45 p.m., Commissioner Armstrong, with a second by Commissioner Miller, moved to adjourn the meeting to Monday, September 19, 2005 at 7:00 p.m. in the West Annex meeting room at Torrance City Hall.

Approved as Submitted January 23, 2006 s/ Sue Herbers, City Clerk
