

**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, October 20, 2008 in the West Annex meeting room at Torrance City Hall.

2. FLAG SALUTE

Commissioner Rische led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners Bunting, Candioly, Endo-Roberts, Miranda, Smisek, Rische, and Chairperson Strehler.

Absent: None.

Also Present: Cultural Services Manager Rappoport, Cultural Services Senior Supervisor Bell, and Program Coordinator 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 voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 15, 2008

MOTION: Commissioner Rische moved for the approval of the September 15, 2008 Commission meeting minutes as submitted. Commissioner Candioly seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

6. INTRODUCTIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

6B. GIA INFERRERA, TORRANCE THEATRE COMPANY

This item was taken out of order.

Program Coordinator Inferrera provided a report on past and upcoming Torrance Theatre Company productions. She expressed appreciation to staff members and Commissioners for attending performances of the musical "Baby." She reported that the last show of the 2008 season will open on November 14 with "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever" featuring a cast of 30 including a chorus of six four year olds. She discussed collaboration with the Torrance Police and Fire Departments to provide a kickoff holiday toy drive on opening night. She stated that the Theatre would also be offering a free performance on November 15, 2008 for special needs children as well as partnering with the Library to present a Readers Theatre. She noted that three additional performances will be added to meet the demand and encouraged Commissioners to attend one of the performances on November 14 or 15, 2008.

Manager Rappoport noted that the Police and Fire Departments have been extremely receptive in working with the Torrance Theatre Company.

6A. RAY SOLLEY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, TORRANCE CULTURAL ARTS CENTER FOUNDATION

Executive Director Solley thanked the Commission for grants given in the past as well as Commissioners who have also served on the Foundation. He stated that the Foundation's goal is to bring 20 programs to Torrance each year that both entertain and inform of which five programs are specifically designed for children and the Premier Series featuring entertainers with more appeal to adults. He said the 2008-2009 season began with the October 3, 2008 appearance of the Capitol Steps who performed the night after the Vice Presidential Debate. He described an educational outreach program that involved bringing every fourth and fifth grader in two elementary schools to the Armstrong Theatre to participate in a drum interpretation of the Six Pillars of Character program. He indicated that the Premier Series will include performances by Art Garfunkel, Eddie Money, and Los Lobos. He stated the Family Series will begin next week with a presentation of "The Very Hungry Caterpillar" by Eric Carle.

Commissioner Miranda asked if program underwriters pay the full cost of the performers and he responded that underwriters typically pay a portion of the talent fee, enabling the Foundation to sell tickets at reasonable prices and leaving most of the ticket income to pay promotion, marketing, and production costs.

7. NEW BUSINESS

7A. REVIEW CRITERIA AND GUIDELINES FOR 2009 EXCELLENCE IN ARTS AWARDS

Manager Rappoport asked Commissioners to review the current criteria and guidelines and to consider adding an "emerging artist" category for individuals under the age of 18. She suggested that the category encompass all disciplines or it would be possible to provide two categories for visual arts and performing arts.

Commissioner Candioly stated that it would be almost impossible to compare candidates and set criteria for a winner, adding that receiving acknowledgment for presenting might be as important as winning an award to an emerging artist.

Commissioner Endo-Roberts suggested having a separate ceremony for emerging artists.

Cultural Services Consultant Powers noted that the Arts Council of Torrance provides an extensive annual recognition of high school seniors in ten categories.

Manager Rappoport offered to bring back further information about Arts Council of Torrance for further discussion at a future Commission meeting.

Chairperson Strehler noted that wording of the criteria for the Literary Arts category was changed in December 2007 but was never presented to the full Commission in January 2008. She read the proposed criteria and requested that Commissioners consider adoption of the changes as presented.

MOTION: Commissioner Candioly moved to adopt the new criteria for the Literary Arts category for Excellence in Arts awards. Commissioner Endo-Roberts seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

Commissioner Candioly suggested that the word “persons” in the Guidelines be changed to “residents.”

8. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

8A. EXCELLENCE IN ARTS COMMITTEE

No report.

8B. FACILITIES COMMITTEE

Chairperson Strehler noted that minutes from the September 22, 2008 Facilities Committee meeting were included in agenda packets.

Commissioner Candioly stated that he has visited the Levitt Pavilion in Pasadena and that one drawback is that it is difficult for the audience to see as it is on flat ground.

Manager Rappoport advised that if Columbia Park is selected as the site for an amphitheatre that there would need to be some earth moving.

Chairperson Strehler reviewed the funding that has been allocated for the proposed project and suggested trying to do something smaller and less expensive.

In response to an inquiry by Commissioner Miranda regarding long lines for the restrooms at the Armstrong Theatre, Manager Rappoport relayed General Services’ response that they have never received a complaint.

Executive Director Solley mentioned that the main complaint is for the Nakano Theatre and the necessity to go through the classroom wing to use the restrooms.

Chairperson Strehler initiated a brief discussion centered on having an open house throughout the Cultural Arts Center to help visitors familiarize themselves with the facilities. Consultant Powers provided background on the Arts Alive Festival and Chairperson Strehler suggested that Commissioners think about it for further discussion at a future Commission meeting.

8C. GRANT REVIEW COMMITTEE

No report.

9. MONTHLY DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Cultural Services Manager Rappoport noted that the Cultural Services Division Report for September 2008 was included in the agenda material.

Cultural Services Consultant Powers reported that Wild Wednesdays! was a very successful summer program with approximately 2,500 patrons. He expressed appreciation to sponsors that included Los Angeles County Arts Commission and Daily Breeze. He shared information about the partnership with homeowners associations to provide Hot Fun Sundays at parks during the summer.

10. ORALS

10A. Commissioner Endo-Roberts stated that she enjoyed “Baby” and thanked Foundation Executive Director Solley for his presentation.

10B. Commissioner Bunting discussed an opening exhibition at Museum of Contemporary Art.

10C. Commissioner Rische stated that she enjoyed “Capitol Steps,” “Nine to Five” at the Ahmanson Theatre, and a visit to New Orleans.

10D. Commissioner Miranda stated that he enjoyed Jazzmopolitan on October 18, 2008 and distributed information about “The Angelos” who will be performing on November 9, 2008 at the Armstrong Theatre.

10E. Commissioner Candioly stated that he attended Circus Vargas and a performance at the Hermosa Beach Playhouse. He expressed appreciation to staff and Commissioners for attending the reading of the Proclamation on October 7, 2008 making October National Arts and Humanities Month.

10F. Commissioner Smisek stated that she enjoyed curator talks at the Torrance Art Museum and “Baby” and that she participated in the Historical Society Homes Tour and Red Balloon Golf Tournament.

10G. Chairperson Strehler stated that Torrance Artist Guild had a successful exhibit at Torrance Women’s Club during the Homes Tour. She also enjoyed an Artist Studio Tour in Palos Verdes, the art exhibit at the AES Power Plant, “Baby,” and the Torrance Symphony.

11. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: At 8:25 p.m., Commissioner Candioly moved to adjourn the meeting to Monday, November 17, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. in the West Annex meeting room at Torrance City Hall. Commissioner Rische seconded the motion and, hearing no objection, Chairperson Strehler so ordered.

Approved as Submitted November 17, 2008 s/ Sue Herbers, City Clerk
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