

**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, November 17, 2008 in the West Annex meeting room at Torrance City Hall.

2. FLAG SALUTE

Commissioner Miranda 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, Performing Arts Specialist Inferrera, and Cultural Services Supervisor Ferguson.

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 Smisek seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – OCTOBER 20, 2008

MOTION: Commissioner Rische moved for the approval of the October 20, 2008 Commission meeting minutes as submitted. Commissioner Candioly seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

6. INTRODUCTIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

6A. RICHARD WHITEHORSE, TORRANCE ARTIST GUILD

Richard Whitehorse, Treasurer, Torrance Artist Guild, expressed appreciation to staff and Commissioners for their continued support and presented a \$500 donation for Torrance Art Museum on behalf of Torrance Artist Guild.

6B. JOHN POWERS, WORKS IN PROGRESS

Cultural Services Consultant Powers distributed a draft flier for the 2009 Works in Progress series titled "Whose Story Now?" He stated that the series would include

performing artists and films that focus on Japanese Americans following WWII and post camp events. The series will kick off on February 16, 2009 with a free discussion and screening of the film "Rabbit in the Moon" in the Armstrong Theatre and will be followed by "Heroes/My Friend Ted" on February 25, "Yellow Pearl" on March 25, "Big Head" on April 29, and "It's Great 2B American" on May 27. He noted that several organizations would be working with the Division to publicize and present related programs.

Commissioner Candioly indicated that the Asian American Symphony might be interested in participating.

6C. GIA INFERRERA, TORRANCE THEATRE COMPANY

Performing Arts Specialist Inferrera provided an update on "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever" that opened November 14, 2008 to a sold out audience and in collaboration with the Torrance Police and Fire Department's annual kick-off holiday toy drive. She stated that the Theatre also presented a free performance on November 15, 2008 to children from Pediatric Therapy Network as well as a Readers Theatre with the Library that afternoon. She expressed appreciation to Commissioner Smisek for providing lunch for the children. She provided a slide presentation of highlights from the show and encouraged Commissioners to attend remaining plays on November 21-23, 2008.

7. RECURRING BUSINESS

7A. ARTS COUNCIL OF TORRANCE AWARD PROGRAM

Manager Rappoport presented information in the material of record regarding the youth scholarship program awarded by the Arts Council of Torrance. It was decided that adding an "emerging artist" category for Excellence in Arts awards would be a duplication but that it would be worthwhile for winners to come to a Commission meeting to be recognized.

7B. CULTURAL ARTS CENTER – OPEN HOUSE

Manager Rappoport led a discussion regarding the discontinued Arts Alive Festival and Chairperson Strehler's suggestion to have an open house throughout the Cultural Arts Center to help visitors familiarize themselves with the facilities. She stated that Torrance Art Museum is the primary facility that needs to be promoted and suggested forming a subcommittee to plan an event focusing on the Museum.

Commissioner Bunting suggested planning one or more family fun days in spring or summer 2009 and to publicize it in Torrance Seasons.

Commissioner Candioly suggested utilizing the Museum to display exhibits of winners of Arts Council of Torrance and Excellence in Arts awards.

Chairperson Strehler suggested that Commissioners serve as docents.

Commissioners Candioly, Endo-Roberts, and Smisek volunteered to serve on a subcommittee to plan the event.

8. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

8A. EXCELLENCE IN ARTS COMMITTEE

No report.

8B. FACILITIES COMMITTEE

No report.

8C. GRANT REVIEW COMMITTEE

No report.

9. MONTHLY DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Manager Rappoport informed the Commission that Curator Cristina Newhouse has resigned her position at Torrance Art Museum and that her last day will be November 25, 2008. She advised that there would be an interim curatorial position that would allow them time to look at resources, allocations, and staffing needed to run the Museum.

Commissioner Bunting commented that Torrance Art Museum, even on a shoestring budget, is highly recognized internationally for its exhibitions and is why she was interested in being on the Commission.

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

Cultural Services Supervisor Ferguson distributed invitations to the 2008 Torrance Juried Art Exhibition on November 15 - December 13, 2008 and encouraged Commissioners to attend the opening reception. She thanked Richard Whitehorse for the generous donation on behalf of Torrance Artist Guild. She stated that registration is starting this week for winter classes and distributed fliers for "Art Adventures for the Holidays."

Ray Solley, Executive Director, Torrance Cultural Arts Center Foundation, announced upcoming events that include Mallory Lewis & Lamb Chop as well as Lonestar on November 22, 2008. He noted that banners have been installed on Torrance Boulevard to publicize upcoming events.

Commissioner Miranda initiated a brief discussion about the need for better signage on Madrona Avenue and Torrance Boulevard.

Cultural Services Senior Supervisor Bell discussed participation in the Great California Shake Out on November 13, 2008.

10. ORALS

10A. Commissioner Miranda stated that he enjoyed Air Supply and the Angelos and is looking forward to seeing Art Garfunkel.

10B. Commissioner Candioly stated that he enjoyed Mayor Scotto's birthday party as well as the Senior Arts and Craft Fair.

10C. Commissioner Smisek stated that she enjoyed the Mayor's birthday bash, "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever," and Author's Day at Torrance Historical Museum. She announced that Torrance Artist Guild has artwork on display at the Torrance Historical Society until December 14, 2008.

10D. Commissioner Endo-Roberts distributed information from the California Arts Council that she received at Long Beach Convention Center that includes California ArtBeat, California Arts License Plate, and California Imagination.

10E. Commissioner Bunting stated that she visited the Orange County Museum of Art and the Getty Research Institute and that she enjoyed attending "Spring Awakening" at the Ahmanson Theatre.

10F. Commissioner Rische stated that she also had the opportunity to attend the Mayor's birthday party and to see "Spring Awakening."

10G. Chairperson Strehler stated that she enjoyed the opening reception at Torrance Art Museum, "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever," Authors Day at the Torrance Historical Museum, and a reception for Home Tour docents. She commended Commissioner Smisek for all the volunteer work that she does and announced the Torrance Artist Guild meeting on December 9, 2008.

10H. Commissioner Miranda requested an excused absence for the January 26, 2009 Commission meeting.

11. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: At 8:26 p.m., Commissioner Candioly moved to adjourn the meeting to Monday, December 15, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. in the West Annex meeting room at Torrance City Hall. Commissioner Endo-Roberts seconded the motion and, hearing no objection, Chairperson Strehler so ordered.

Approved as Submitted December 15, 2008 s/ Sue Herbers, City Clerk
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