

**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 19, 2007 in the West Annex meeting room at Torrance City Hall.

2. FLAG SALUTE

Commissioner Armstrong led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners Armstrong, Miranda, Strehler, Wang, and Chairperson Smisek.

Absent: Commissioner Endo-Roberts.

Also Present: Acting Cultural Services Manager McClelland, Cultural Services Supervisor Ferguson, Senior Planning Associate Richardson, Planning Associate Joe, and Planning Associate Cutting.

MOTION: Commissioner Armstrong moved to grant Commissioner Endo-Roberts an excused absence for the November 19, 2007 Cultural Arts Commission meeting. Commissioner Strehler seconded the motion; voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

4. AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING

MOTION: Commissioner Wang moved to accept and file the report of the City Clerk on the posting of the agenda. Commissioner Miranda seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: Commissioner Armstrong moved for the approval of the October 15, 2007 Cultural Arts Commission meeting minutes as submitted. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Miranda and passed by unanimous voice vote approval (absent Commissioner Endo-Roberts).

6. NEW BUSINESS

6A. SCHEDULE FOR 2008-09 NON PROFIT ART GRANTS

Acting Cultural Services Manager McClelland reported that a total of \$5,000 will be available in 2008-09 and that notices would be mailed to previous applicants and other non-profit organizations in early February 2008.

6B. TORRANCE ARTIST GUILD DONATION

Richard Whitehorse, board member of Torrance Artist Guild, presented a \$500 donation for the Torrance Art Museum. He invited Commissioners to attend the next Torrance Artist Guild meeting on December 11, 2007.

Acting Cultural Services Manager McClelland expressed his appreciation to Torrance Artist Guild for its continued support, noting that its guidance and encouragement have greatly contributed to the success of the Museum.

6C. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT PRESENTATION

Senior Planning Associate Richardson presented the preliminary Draft Community Resources Element and requested that Commissioners continue to provide suggestions and comments in preparation for the General Plan update. She noted that the Commission would have additional opportunities to provide input.

Chairperson Smisek noted an absence of any comment about art in public places. She received clarification from staff that the November 29, 2007 focus groups for Commissioners were for the City's Strategic Plan.

In response to Commissioner Miranda's inquiry, Planning Associate Joe stated that he would relay information to consultants about the proposed amphitheatre at Wilson Park.

7. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

7A. EXCELLENCE IN ARTS

Commissioner Miranda stated that he would like to schedule a meeting with Commissioners Strehler and Wang for December 17, 2007 to determine a definition for the Literary Arts category.

Commissioner Wang announced that this would be her last Commission meeting as she would be unable to attend the December 17, 2007 meeting. She offered to forward her ideas about the Literary Arts category to Chairperson Smisek.

It was determined that a new Excellence in Arts Committee member would be selected in January 2008.

7B. FACILITIES

Commissioner Strehler distributed minutes from the November 13, 2007 Facilities Committee meeting. She reported that the Committee, comprised of Commissioners Armstrong, Endo-Roberts, and herself, agreed to each participate in the oversight of the three areas of responsibility: Torrance Art Museum accreditation

process, issues related to Cultural Arts facilities, and evaluation of the Wilson Park amphitheatre.

7C. GRANT REVIEW COMMITTEE

No report.

8. MONTHLY DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Cultural Services Supervisor Ferguson expressed her gratitude to Mr. Richard Whitehorse of Torrance Artist Guild as well as to Commissioner Wang for her service. She provided an update on the new All-In Media juried exhibition *Winterium* that opened November 17, 2007, noting that the exhibition exceeded expectations with over 560 entries submitted. She added that Gallery Two is featuring its first faculty exhibition with 25 professional instructor artists and that exhibitions will run through December 15, 2007. She stated that there were at least 410 people in attendance at the opening reception and thanked Commissioners Armstrong and Strehler for attending.

She announced Mary Drobny's Artful Days lecture *The Impressionists and Their Lives* on December 4, 2007 in the Nakano Theatre.

Acting Cultural Services Manager McClelland announced that "Nonsense" closed to sold-out audiences on November 11, 2007 and that the November 10, 2007 Sola Contemporary Dance Festival had over 400 attendees. He announced upcoming events that include the Cultural Services Division's fall performing arts showcase, the Regina Klenjoski Dance Company's Kid's Show, and Torrance Civic Chorale's Seasonal Delights on December 14-15, 2007. He commended staff for the successful Torrance Art Museum exhibition opening.

In response to Chairperson Smisek's inquiry, he advised that Torrance Theatre Company would announce its 2008 season line-up in December 2007.

9. ORALS

9A. Dr. Owen Griffith stated that he enjoyed the Torrance Art Museum exhibition, the November 16, 2007 Foundation's Jazz Cabaret with Frank Potenza Trio, and Cherryholmes & Highway 101 on November 17, 2007. He discussed performances by the South Bay Conservatory that include "Bugsy Malone" on December 1, 2007. He announced a Torrance Symphony performance in January 19, 2008, the Rusty Steel Steel Drum Band at Festival of Trees on November 29, 2007 and a concerto competition on March 29, 2008.

9B. Commissioner Miranda stated that he enjoyed the musical Romance of Magno Rubio at the Latin Arts Theatre and announced Simbang Gabi (Midnight Mass) on December 1, 2007 at the Century Plaza Hyatt Regency Hotel.

9C. Commissioner Wang thanked Commissioners and staff for her enjoyable time on the Cultural Arts Commission.

9D. Acting Cultural Services Manager McClelland expressed appreciation to Commissioner Wang for her eight years of service to the City and Commissioners bid her a fond farewell.

9E. Commissioner Strehler stated that she enjoyed “Nonsense,” Mary Drobny’s Artful Days lecture, a Torrance Artist Guild meeting featuring a photographer/lecturer, and the Torrance Art Museum opening reception. She mentioned that she judged an art competition at Madrona Middle School.

9F. Commissioner Armstrong stated that she enjoyed “Nonsense,” Mary Drobny’s Artful Days lecture, the Torrance Art Museum opening reception, and an Arts Council meeting.

9G. Chairperson Smisek informed Commissioners that City Council would be considering six campaign ordinances on November 20, 2007 and shared her experience as a hole spotter at the Red Balloon Golf Tournament. She stated that due to illness she was unable to go to Kashiwa, Japan.

10. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: At 7:55 p.m., Commissioner Armstrong moved to adjourn the meeting to Monday, December 17, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. in the West Annex meeting room at Torrance City Hall. Commissioner Strehler seconded the motion and, hearing no objection, Chairperson Smisek so ordered.

Approved as Submitted December 17, 2007 s/ Sue Herbers, City Clerk
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