

**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, December 18, 2006, in the West Annex meeting room at Torrance City Hall.

**2. FLAG SALUTE**

Commissioner Wang led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**3. ROLL CALL**

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

Absent: Commissioners Smith and Strehler.

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

**MOTION:** Commissioner Wang moved to grant excused absences to Commissioners Smith and Strehler for the December 18, 2006 meeting. Commissioner Smisek seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

**4. AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING**

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

**5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOTION:** Commissioner Armstrong moved for the approval of the November 20, 2006 Cultural Arts Commission meeting minutes as submitted. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Wang and passed by unanimous voice vote approval.

**6. NEW BUSINESS**

**6A. RECOGNITION OF RETIRING COMMISSIONER RITAS SMITH**

Cultural Services Manager Myers relayed Commissioner Smith's recommendation to schedule her retirement dinner during the next Torrance Theatre Company's production of "The Spitfire Grill" in March 2007. He discussed Commissioner Smith's contributions and achievements during time the Cultural Services Division was building its program base that includes establishing the non-profit arts grant program, participating in the Los Angeles County Arts Tune Up, creating a partnership between the Cultural Arts Center Foundation and Cultural Services Division, as well as supporting the Nakano Theatre and Torrance Arts Museum.

**6B. REVIEW UPCOMING EVENTS IN EARLY 2007**

Cultural Services Manager Myers reported that grant applications will be mailed to non-profit arts organizations in early February 2007, that Excellence in Arts Awards committee assignments will be assigned at the January 2007 Commission meeting, that the Torrance Art Museum winter exhibitions open January 13, 2007, and that the Torrance Theatre Company 2007 season will begin in March with "The Spitfire Grill."

**7. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**7A. EXCELLENCE IN ARTS**

Cultural Services Manager Myers encouraged Commissioners to be active in the nomination process.

**7B. COMMUNITY CULTURAL PLAN**

Cultural Services Manager Myers suggested that Commissioners consider including outside people to serve on the Committee.

**7C. GRANT REVIEW COMMITTEE**

Chairperson Stadler stated that the Grant Review Committee will meet in January 2007.

**8. MONTHLY DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

Cultural Services Supervisor Ferguson distributed fliers about the January 13 – March 10, 2007 Torrance Art Museum exhibitions of *It Figures: individual in context*, *Drawn In: Marcy Freedman's Drawing in Residence*, and *Carol Es: A Girl Apart*. She announced 2007 exhibitions that include digital photography and mixed media in March – May, Torrance Artist Guild and South Bay Watercolor Society shows in June - August, shows that are based on abstraction in September - November, and an open juried show in December. She reported that she is planning the Stories in Art program with the new Youth Services Librarian Susan Baier and that there will be a Gallery Talk with curator Kristina Newhouse on February 1, 2007. She distributed fliers announcing Artful Days with art historian Mary Drobny beginning January 16, 2007 with Women Artists 1800 to 1990s.

Senior Supervisor McClelland reported that Cultural Services was working with the Foundation in pursuing local companies that donate digital equipment for the March – May Torrance Art Museum exhibition. He reported on the successful December Showcase that had 400 audience members and announced the upcoming Torrance Theatre Company season and directors: "The Spitfire Grill" in March, "Play it Again, Sam" in June, "West Side Story" in August, "Proof" in September, and "Nonsense" in November. He reported that the winter session of classes begins January 7, 2007.

Cultural Services Manager Myers discussed the success of Torrance Civic Chorale's "Glad Tidings" performances on December 15-16, 2006.

Consultant Powers distributed a revised version of the flier for Works in Progress series "Executive Order 9066" that adds the film "Citizen Tanouye" on May 12, 2007. He noted that the first event on February 19, 2006, a presentation of two films followed by a panel discussion, will be free admission and presented in the Armstrong Theatre.

In response to Chairperson Stadler's inquiry about Arts Alive!, Cultural Services Manager Myers explained that General Services was in charge of the festival and Consultant Powers explained his involvement with the event until two years ago.

**9. ORALS**

**9A.** Bill Wassenberg, President of the South Bay Watercolor Society, presented a \$500 donation to the Torrance Art Museum and expressed appreciation to Cultural Services Supervisor Ferguson and Curator Kristina Newhouse for allowing the organization to use the Museum for the watercolor competition as well as the City for allowing them to use the Garden Room for their meetings.

**9B.** Commissioner Miranda discussed his involvement with a Filipino American jazz festival at the Catalina Bar and Grill.

**9C.** Commissioner Smisek stated that she enjoyed "Second City" at the Nakano Theatre and an organ concert at Disney Hall, that she taped two cable television programs on crafts, and that she has attended the Torrance Art Museum, an L.A. Philharmonic luncheon, and four holiday parties.

**9D.** Commissioner Armstrong stated that she enjoyed "Stop the World, I Want to Get Off" at the Redondo Beach Playhouse.

**9E.** Commissioner Wang stated that she has been to several holiday parties and mentioned that she saw "Proof" in New York.

**9F.** Chairperson Stadler stated that she enjoyed "Second City" at the Nakano Theatre, "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever" at the Kingsdale Theatre, and the Birmingham Art Museum in Alabama. She announced that her kindergarten, first, and second graders will be performing on December 19, 2006 and that her third, fourth, and fifth graders as well as her choral group will perform on December 21, 2006.

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** At 7:42 p.m., Commissioner Armstrong moved to adjourn the meeting to Monday, January 22, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. in the West Annex meeting room at Torrance City Hall. Commissioner Wang seconded the motion and, hearing no objection, Chairperson Stadler so ordered.

Approved as Submitted January 22, 2007 s/ Sue Herbers, City Clerk
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