

**MINUTES OF AN 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, May 18, 2015 in the West Annex meeting room, Torrance City Hall.

2. FLAG SALUTE

Commissioner Korman led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners Bunting, Korman, Muhammed, Rische, Taylor, and Chairperson Frangos.

Absent: Commissioner Candioly.

Also Present: Cultural Services Manager Rappoport, Cultural Services Senior Supervisor Bell, and Program Coordinator Jordahl.

MOTION: Commissioner Bunting moved to grant Commissioner Candioly an excused absence for the May 18, 2015 Commission meeting. Commissioner Rische seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

4. AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING

MOTION: Commissioner Korman moved to accept and file the report of the City Clerk on the posting of the agenda. Commissioner Bunting seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

5A. MINUTES OF APRIL 20, 2015

MOTION: Commissioner Bunting moved to approve the Commission meeting minutes of April 20, 2015 as presented. Commissioner Rische seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected unanimous (absent Commissioner Candioly).

6. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #1

6A. Margaret Lindsey, President and C.E.O., Destination: Art, provided an update on the non-profit studios and gallery that opened six months ago in downtown Torrance. She distributed information cards for an opening reception of Associate Artists on June 6 at 2:00 and a mini Artwalk and Reception on June 27. She stated that tonight they are hosting a Wine and Canvas party with a directed painting with partner Amore Vino. She invited Commissioners to visit during their regular hours or attend one of their workshops.

Manager Rappoport mentioned that there would also be an opening reception of “Forgetting the Future - Entropy in the Reflective Age” at Torrance Art Museum on June 6 at 6:00.

6B. Bill Gargaro, Publicity Chair, South Bay Community Concert Association, stated that they are a non-profit, all volunteer organization with 1,350 members, noting that Torrance is their main contributor. He distributed fliers for their 2015-16 season that announces six performances by professional entertainers beginning September 9, all for only \$48, at Redondo Union High School Auditorium.

7. STAFF PRESENTATIONS

7A. CULTURAL ARTS CENTER OPEN HOUSE

Senior Supervisor Bell provided an update on plans for the 3rd annual Cultural Arts Center Open House and Tours on June 13 from 11:00 to 2:00. She distributed a schedule of activities for all age groups, and noted that tours would be held every hour beginning at Torrance Art Museum. She stated that some of the rooms would be decorated so people can see what they would look like as a rental facility. She encouraged Commissioners to participate and noted that there would be on-site reservations for classes this year.

7B. TORRANCE THEATRE COMPANY SUMMER MUSICAL

Program Coordinator Jordahl, Torrance Theatre Company (TTC) Producing Artistic Director, reported that the final production of the 2014-15 season, “Picasso at the Lap Agile,” ends June 14 and has been the fastest selling show since they moved to 1316 Cabrillo Avenue. She distributed 2015-16 season brochures that begins with “One Slight Hitch” on September 12. She described the five productions in the season at Cabrillo Avenue and highlighted the 16th summer musical “Hairspray” from August 8–22 at the Armstrong Theatre with a cast of 44. She encouraged Commissioners to attend the pre-show and dinner on opening night. She announced Friends of Torrance Theatre Company’s 2nd Annual Murder Mystery Dinner fundraiser on June 21 at the Double Tree.

Responding to Commissioner Taylor’s inquiry, she explained that the cast are all volunteer actors and that auditions are advertised in Backstage West, local newspapers, TTC website, and Facebook.

8. NEW BUSINESS

8A. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2015-16 COMMUNITY ARTS GRANT FUNDING

Commissioner Bunting reported that the Grant Review Committee met on May 18 and unanimously agreed to recommend the following applicants for grant funding: Adventures in Art (\$1,500), Saturday Night Bath Concert Fund (\$1,500), and South Bay Conservatory (\$2,000), not to exceed a total of \$5,000, which is the amount allocated in the 2015-16 budget.

Commissioner Korman stated that South Bay Conservatory was originally formed and has traditionally been for youth and questioned if they have changed their bylaws to

include adults. She explained that she supports the project but is disappointed they did not request funds for youth scholarships in a separate application.

Manager Rappoport speculated that South Bay Conservatory is acting as a co-producer or fiscal receiver for Torrance Performing Arts Consortium. She stated that it may not matter if the bylaws do not include adult productions and noted that the Commission funded a similar project last year.

Commissioner Bunting stated her opinion that it is a worthwhile event, Commissioner Taylor stated that he supported the request because it would create greater awareness for contributions that Afro-Americans have made in our history, and Commissioner Rische stated that she did not feel comfortable approving the recommendation until more information is provided.

Commissioner Muhammed noted a \$1,000 discrepancy between the estimated expense and projected income listed on Adventures in Art's application. He stated that they should justify why they requested \$1,400 and Manager Rappoport stated that they are probably requesting it because they are adding in ten cents per student for 14,000 students.

Manager Rappoport stated that funds are not given out until July and offered to research the relationship between South Bay Conservatory and Lange Productions, if the production falls within their bylaws, and to clarify why Adventures in Art requested extra funds.

MOTION: Commissioner Bunting moved to defer the item to the June 15, 2015 Cultural Arts Commission meeting. Commissioner Muhammed seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioner Candioty).

8B. AGENDA PACKET MAILING

Manager Rappoport reported that there have been problems with Commissioners receiving their agenda packets in a timely manner. She recommended that hard copy agenda packets no longer be mailed, but sent electronically via email. Following a brief discussion, it was decided that she would continue to send packets by mail.

8C. BUSINESS CARDS FOR APPOINTED OFFICIALS DISCUSSION

Manager Rappoport reported that, effective immediately, the City Clerk's Office is only permitting City of Torrance contact information printed on business cards for Appointed Officials. She stated that the intent of this change in policy is to standardize contact information on all official City of Torrance business cards.

9. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

9A. EXCELLENCE IN ARTS

Manager Rappoport stated that Commissioner Candioty would like the Excellence in Arts Committee to meet in June.

9B. FACILITIES COMMITTEE

Manager Rappoport reported that drawings for the Wilson Park Gazebo Project are 60% complete and that they are waiting for consultants to provide an updated budget.

8C. GRANT REVIEW COMMITTEE

Previously discussed in Item 8A.

9. MONTHLY DEPARTMENT REPORT

Cultural Services Manager Rappoport noted that the Cultural Services Division Report for April 2015 was included in agenda packets. She reported that former Cultural Arts Commissioner Endo-Roberts was a recipient of an Older Americans Month award. She announced the 30th anniversary of Farmers' Market on June 16 at 10:00 a.m. She stated that David Burks is resigning from the Torrance Civic Chorale and that there would be a reception for him on June 1 at the Nakano Theatre.

She reported that the first budget hearing was May 12 and the next one is May 19. She stated that the first year of the two-year budget is a no growth budget and that the City was optimistic until the ExxonMobil explosion. She stated that they are anticipating a 12% increase in sales revenue this fall when Nordstrom's and the west side of Del Amo Mall opens. She informed the Commission that she would be in Chicago from June 9-14 for the Americans for the Arts Conference.

10. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #2

10A. Commissioner Taylor stated that he had a wonderful time at the Armed Forces Day Parade.

10B. Commissioner Korman stated that she enjoyed the Armed Forces Day Parade, a Peninsula Symphony concert, and "Imported Bride" at the Armstrong Theatre. She mentioned that a large electrical box is blocking visibility of the new marquee for the Cultural Arts Center.

10C. Commissioner Muhammed stated that he attended the Bunka Sai Cultural Festival and Torrance Theatre Company's "Picasso at the Lapin Agile."

10D. Commissioner Rische stated that she enjoyed the Armed Forces Day Parade.

10E. Chairperson Frangos stated that she attended the Venice Art Walk.

11. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: At 8:22 p.m., Commissioner Bunting moved to adjourn the meeting to Monday, June 15, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in the West Annex meeting room at Torrance City Hall. Commissioner Korman seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

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| Approved as submitted June 15, 2015 s/ Rebecca Poirier, City Clerk |
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