

**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 7:01 p.m. on February 28, 2005, in the West Annex meeting room at Torrance City Hall.

2. FLAG SALUTE

Commissioner Strehler led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners Miller, Smisek, Stadler, Strehler, Wang,
and Chairperson Armstrong.

Absent: Commissioner Smith.

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

Cultural Services Administrator Myers relayed Commissioner Smith's request for an excused absence.

MOTION: Commissioner Smisek moved to grant Commissioner Smith an excused absence for the February 28, 2005 meeting. Commissioner Wang seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

4. AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING

MOTION: Commissioner Stadler moved to accept and file the report of the City Clerk on the posting of the agenda. Commissioner Miller seconded the motion and, hearing no objection, Chairperson Armstrong so ordered (absent Commissioner Smith).

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: Commissioner Stadler moved to approve the November 15, 2004 and January 24, 2005 Cultural Arts Commission meeting minutes as submitted. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Miller and passed by unanimous voice vote approval (absent Commissioner Smith).

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

6A. 2005 EXCELLENCE IN ARTS AWARD UPDATE

Cultural Services Administrator Myers advised that the deadline for submitting a nomination for an Excellence in Arts award is March 9, 2005. He stated that nominations have been submitted for the categories of Dance, Literary Art, and Katy Geissert Award. He distributed nomination forms and criteria, requesting that Commissioners encourage the submittal of as many nominations as possible in all categories.

In response to Chairperson Armstrong's inquiries, he advised that if there was only one nomination in a category, Commissioners could decide to award or not award the candidate. He stated that professional artists could be nominated as long as their work was involved substantially in Torrance.

Cultural Services Administrator Myers suggested that the Commission consider extending the deadline for one week.

MOTION: Commissioner Wang moved to extend the deadline for submitting a nomination for an Excellence in Arts award to March 17, 2005 at 4:00 p.m. Commissioner Stadler seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioner Smith).

6B. JOSLYN GALLERY CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Cultural Services Supervisor Ferguson reported that Phase 1, the interior renovation of the Joslyn Gallery, was near completion. She advised that Edison has not yet energized the building and that they were waiting for the contractor to complete the last few remaining items before final walk through.

Referring to Phase 2, exterior improvements, she advised that the drawings were complete and have gone to plan check for review. She stated that the bid phase would begin in March, with 41 days established for contractors to bid.

She distributed information regarding Artful Days, a ceramics workshop with Lana Wilson on May 14, 2005, and a ten-week puppet workshop with Jim Gamble.

In response to Commissioner Miller's inquiry, she discussed programming for home-schooled children.

7. NEW BUSINESS

7A. 2005 NONPROFIT ARTS GRANTS

Cultural Services Administrator Myers reported that grant applications to non-profit organizations were mailed out in February 2005 and encouraged Commissioners to advise and inform any organizations that they may be affiliated with to submit applications. He stated that selection of recipients would take place at the May 16, 2005 Commission meeting.

7B. ADOPT RESOLUTION HONORING RETIRED COMMISSIONER BETTY KOHLER

Chairperson Armstrong announced the Resolution honoring retired Commissioner Kohler for her contribution to the arts and dedicated service to the citizens of Torrance.

MOTION: Commissioner Stadler moved to adopt a Resolution of the Torrance Cultural Arts Commission and Staff of the Community Services Department expressing appreciation to Betty Kohler for her dedicated services to the people of Torrance. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Wang and passed by unanimous voice vote approval (absent Commissioner Smith).

8. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

8A. EXCELLENCE IN ARTS

No report.

8B. COMMUNITY CULTURAL PLAN

Chairperson Armstrong indicated that she would like to be on the Community Cultural Plan Standing Committee but it was determined that there were already three Commissioners on it.

8C. MAP I/MAP III

Cultural Services Administrator Myers mentioned that he took Councilmember Witkowsky through the Joslyn facility on February 28, 2005 and that she was very impressed with the improvements.

8D. GRANT REVIEW COMMITTEE

No report.

9. MONTHLY DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Cultural Services Consultant Powers discussed the successful Works in Progress presentation of "Trial of Lenny Bruce, 1964" on February 23, 2005 and stated that rehearsals for "Court Martial of William Calley, 1970" would begin in two weeks. He stated that there was a planning meeting for Ooodles of Noodles last week and that they were waiting to hear from Los Angeles County Musicians Union to plan concerts for Wild Wednesdays!

Responding to Chairperson Armstrong's inquiry regarding the sound system in Stage Two Theatre, he advised that they were working with actors to project more to the audience and that sound was his primary concern for the next Works in Progress.

Cultural Services Administrator Myers noted that "Trial of Lenny Bruce, 1964" would be aired on CitiCable beginning March 9, 2005.

Commissioner Miller commended the actors and the intimacy of the design for "Trial of Lenny Bruce, 1964."

Senior Cultural Services Supervisor McClelland distributed brochures on Torrance Theatre Company's 2005 season, discussed the programming scheduled, and encouraged Commissioners to attend "The Taming of the Shrew" on March 11-19, 2005. He stated that advertising for the season included letters sent to previous season subscription holders, 3,500 brochures sent out, the back cover of Torrance Seasons, in Artline magazine, inserts in water bills, and banners.

He welcomed Commissioner Strehler to the Commission.

Responding to Commissioner Strehler's inquiry, he stated that they were working with the box office to find a way that season subscription holders could change dates of their tickets.

He advised that Stage Two Theatre has open seating and that subscription holders get priority entrance for general seating performances.

10. ORALS

Dr. Owen Griffith congratulated Commissioner Strehler on her appointment. He announced that the Torrance Unified School Board decided that the vocal music program would not be cut. He shared information about extension classes at UCLA and a workshop on May 21, 2005.

Dr. Owen Griffith encouraged Commissioners to attend The Torrance Symphony's concert "Festival of Youth" on March 12, 2005 featuring last year's winners of the Young Artists Concerto Competition Dian Zhang, Jeffrey Li, and Katrina Bobbs.

Commissioner Miller stated that she enjoyed participating in the South Bay Community Songfest at the Warner Grand Theater in San Pedro. She distributed fliers announcing the Torrance Invitational presentation of Song Festival 2005 on April 2, 2005. She stated that she would be attending a private showing of "Once Upon a Mattress" featuring Carol Burnett in March. She stated that she enjoyed Tony Kenny's Ireland on February 25, 2005, "The Trial of Lenny Bruce, 1964," and American Perspectives speaker Herman Boone on February 13, 2005.

Commissioner Wang stated that enjoyed attending the Torrance Symphony's fundraiser and Midori at Downtown Disney Hall. She stated that she attended the first National Museum and Library Board meeting in Washington D.C. and that she went on a tour of the Library of Congress.

Commissioner Stadler encouraged Commissioners to attend Choral Fest on April 19, 20 and 21, 2005.

Commissioner Smisek stated that she recently attended a town hall meeting at the Los Angeles Library on management as well as a Black History luncheon. She shared information about upcoming Foundation programming that includes The Go For Broke Foundation's presentation of "A History of Tradition" on March 4, 2005, Carol Channing in "Razzle Dazzle" on March 18-19, 2005, and Charlotte Diamond in Concert

on March 19, 2005. She stated that plans for next year's Foundation speaker series include Spike Lee.

Commissioner Strehler stated that she enjoyed the fundraiser for the Torrance Symphony and that she looks forward to another on April 10, 2005. She thanked Commissioners for granting her an excused absence for last month's meeting. She stated that she will be giving a colored pencil class on Wednesday mornings starting the week of March 28, 2005.

Chairperson Armstrong stated that she enjoyed the Pacific Trio featuring Linda Wang and encouraged Commissioners to attend presentations of the South Bay Chamber Group.

11. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: At 7:56 p.m., Chairperson Armstrong adjourned the meeting to Monday, March 21, 2005 at 7:00 p.m. in the West Annex meeting room at Torrance City Hall.

Approved as Written March 21, 2005 s/ Sue Herbers, City Clerk
