

**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 7:07 p.m. on Monday, March 17, 2008 in the West Annex meeting room at Torrance City Hall.

2. FLAG SALUTE

Chairperson Smisek led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners Candioly, Endo-Roberts, Miranda, Rische, and Chairperson Smisek.

Absent: Commissioners Bunting and Strehler.

Also Present: Acting Cultural Services Manager Kaemerle, Theater Programs Coordinator Inferrera, Cultural Services Supervisor Ferguson, and Senior Recreation Supervisor Bell.

MOTION: Commissioner Miranda moved to grant excused absences to Commissioners Bunting and Strehler for the March 17, 2008 Commission meeting. Commissioner Rische seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

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

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 2008

Minutes were not available.

6. NEW BUSINESS

6A. 2008 EXCELLENCE IN ARTS AWARD NOMINATIONS

Acting Cultural Services Manager Kaemerle introduced himself and explained the selection process for the 2008 Excellence in Arts awards.

Committee chairs presented nominations and committee recommendations for each of their categories. After review of supporting materials and discussion of applications submitted, the Commission recommended that Excellence in Arts Awards be awarded as follows:

Drama	Jim Hormel
Music	Priscilla Kandel
Literary Arts	Carine Topal
Arts Education	Heidi Ulbrich
Visual Arts	Paul Comon
Dance	Pamela Debiase
Katy Geissert Award	Helen Nowatka

Theater Programs Coordinator Inferrera spoke on behalf of the nomination of Jim Hormel for an Excellence in Arts award in the category of Drama.

Cultural Services Supervisor Ferguson spoke on behalf of the nomination of Heidi Ulbrich for an award in the category of Arts Education.

Commissioners recommended that Kentaro Sato, nominee for an award in the category of Music, be encouraged to reapply again next year.

6B. 2008-09 NON PROFIT ARTS GRANT

Acting Cultural Services Manager Kaemerle reported that grant applications to non-profit arts organizations have been mailed out in but that none have been received back yet.

Chairperson Smisek suggested that the Commission make a formal request to increase the Non Profit Arts Grant to \$10,000 beginning in 2009 and there was a brief discussion regarding amounts of grants to be awarded.

MOTION: Commissioner Endo-Roberts moved to forward a request to City Council to increase the Non Profit Grant to \$10,000, to change the current cap of \$1,000 to a maximum of \$2,500, and to stipulate that a minimum of \$2,000 to be granted to one entity. Commissioner Candioly seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioners Bunting and Strehler).

7. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

7A. EXCELLENCE IN ARTS COMMITTEE

Commissioner Rische was selected to serve on the Excellence in Arts Committee.

7B. FACILITIES COMMITTEE

No report.

7C. GRANT REVIEW COMMITTEE

Commissioner Candioly was appointed to the Grant Review Committee.

8. MONTHLY DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Acting Cultural Services Manager Kaemerle announced a Torrance Civic Chorale performance on April 26, 2008. He expressed appreciation to Cultural Services Consultant Powers and Cultural Services Supervisor Ferguson with their assistance.

Senior Recreation Supervisor Bell was introduced; she provided her personal background and stated that she was looking forward to working with Commissioners.

Chairperson Smisek shared information about the City's Students in Government program.

Cultural Services Supervisor Ferguson reported that *Systems Theory* and *Song to Snore* had a successful closing on March 8, 2008. She stated that the Torrance Art Museum was currently closed in preparation for the next exhibit that will focus on photography. She distributed postcards and encouraged Commissioners to attend the opening on March 29, 2008. She noted that four Stories in Art are planned for the exhibition. She discussed a recent field trip to Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA) and announced an Artful Days lecture with Mary Drobney on April 1, 2008. She advised that Art by the Beach has been changed to Arts and Crafts by the Beach and will begin April 6, 2008 at Miramar Park.

In response to Endo-Roberts inquiry, she stated that another field trip is planned for fall 2008.

Cultural Services Consultant Powers provided information about the Works in Progress series "1968: Year that Rocked!," with the next presentation on March 26, 2008 in the Nakano Theatre.

9. ORALS

9A. Commissioner Rische stated that she regretted that she was unable to go on the field trip to LACMA and that she enjoyed the military band concert.

9. Commissioner Endo-Roberts stated that she enjoyed "Into the Woods."

9C. Commissioner Miranda stated that he enjoyed the New Visionary Awards, a performance by "The Jets," and a trip to Ojai.

9D. Chairperson Smisek announced a Pancake Breakfast at the ATTIC on April 5, 2008.

10. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: At 8:22 p.m., Commissioner Miranda moved to adjourn the meeting to Tuesday, April 21, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. in the West Annex meeting room at Torrance City Hall. Commissioner Candioly seconded the motion and, hearing no objection, Chairperson Smisek so ordered.

Approved as Submitted April 21, 2008 s/ Sue Herbers, City Clerk
