

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

2. FLAG SALUTE

Commissioner Endo-Roberts led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners Armstrong, Endo-Roberts, Miranda, Smisek, Strehler, Wang, and Chairperson Stadler.

Absent: None.

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

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

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: Commissioner Smisek moved for the approval of the February 26, 2007 Cultural Arts Commission meeting minutes as submitted. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Miranda and passed by unanimous voice vote approval.

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

6A. COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT OPERATION BUDGET PRESENTATION

Cultural Services Manager Myers introduced the item and welcomed Senior Administrative Analyst Orpe from the Community Services Department.

Administrative Analyst Orpe named the five divisions under the Community Services Department and distributed a report on the Departmental structure and budget overview. He informed Commissioners that Community Services Director Barnett was retiring and his last day of work will be May 12, 2007.

He provided a summary of the Community Services Expenditure Budget 2006-07, noting that the total budget is \$20,883,826. He discussed funding sources that include the General Fund, Enterprise Fund, grants, donations, open space and facilities

funds. He noted that Cultural Services has the smallest budget after Administrative Services and that it is an enterprise fund.

Cultural Services Manager Myers added that the Commission also has responsibilities relative to the Cultural Arts Center.

Referring to the Cultural Services Expenditure Budget, Administrative Analyst Orpe stated that salaries and benefits is the largest expense, with other expenses for materials and supplies as well as professional services and contracts.

In response to Chairperson Stadler's inquiry regarding the Expenditure Budget, he explained that "Other" expenses include interdepartmental fees and insurance.

Administrative Analyst Orpe provided information about Cultural Services Projected Revenue Budget 2006-07, with a subsidy ratio of 60% subsidy for youth classes, 20% for adult classes, and 40% for seniors. He announced that as of March 19, 2007 the Cultural Services projected revenue is ahead of revenue plan.

Cultural Services Manager Myers added that there has been a positive variance revenue to budgeted expenditures for the last five years.

Administrative Analyst Orpe discussed Cultural Services concerns that include funding for exhibits and a full-time staff member at the Torrance Art Museum, contract class budget expansion to add new classes and those in high demand, part-time staffing increase, and an equipment replacement fund. He encouraged Commissioners to provide input at the May 8, 2007 and May 15, 2007 Public Budget Hearings.

Responding to Chairperson Stadler's inquiry, he stated that additional contract funds would allow them to hire new instructors and Senior Supervisor McClelland explained that revenue and expenditure are separate budgets and not connected.

Commissioner Armstrong received clarification from staff that purchase of equipment would not result in higher ticket prices and that there is a debt being retired through the bond issue for the mortgage on the Armstrong Theatre.

Administrative Analyst Orpe discussed the importance of competitive pricing, noting that 25% of class registrations are non-residents. He briefly discussed how performance is evaluated and input taken to determine if classes should be dropped.

In response to Chairperson Stadler's inquiry regarding the Cultural Arts Commission budget, Cultural Services Manager Myers stated that it is \$14,000/year and includes Excellence in Arts awards, non-profit grants, and recording secretary.

Responding to Commissioner Miranda's inquiry, Administrative Analyst Orpe explained that funding for the proposed amphitheater at Wilson Park could come from a variety of sources.

Chairperson Stadler questioned why the Arts Alive! Festival was transferred from Cultural Services to General Services and then cancelled. Cultural Services Manager Myers stated that the event was always part of General Services and was considered to be a promoter of facility rentals for the Cultural Arts Center. He added that he did not know how much it costs to put on the program and suggested that General Services be contacted for information.

6B. 2007 EXCELLENCE IN ARTS AWARDS NOMINATIONS

Cultural Services Manager Myers explained the selection process for the 2007 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:

Literary Arts	Judith Gerber
Music	James Banim
Visual Arts	Mary Higuchi
Dance	Hanmi Korean Dance Academy
Drama	The Shields Family
Arts Education	Kathleen Jensen
Katy Geissert Award	Betty Holland

6C. 2007-08 NON PROFIT ARTS GRANTS

Cultural Services Manager Myers encouraged Commissioners to promote the grants program as much as possible.

7. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

7A. EXCELLENCE IN ARTS

Cultural Services Manager Myers reported that Mayor Scotto and several Council members indicated that they intend to attend the ceremony on April 29, 2007.

7B. COMMUNITY CULTURAL PLAN

No report.

7C. GRANT REVIEW COMMITTEE

Chairperson Stadler thanked Cultural Services Manager Myers for including a list of past grant awardees in the agenda material.

8. MONTHLY DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Cultural Services Supervisor Ferguson reported that the next Torrance Art Museum exhibition opens March 31, 2007 with *Command z*, Maggie Lowe Tennesen, *Spatiotemporal Variability*, and Diane Reeves, *Duets*. She announced the first gallery talk on April 26, 2007, Starters on May 4, 2007, and a curator's talk on May 11, 2007.

In response to Commissioner Armstrong's inquiry, she stated that Ruby Wang's artwork is currently on exhibit in the Katy Geissert Library and that her farewell reception is April 14, 2007.

Cultural Services Consultant Powers reported that Works in Progress' March 28, 2007 presentation of Camp Dance is sold out and that the first planning meeting for Ooodles of Noodles will be later this month.

Senior Supervisor McClelland reported that the March 9-18, 2007 production of "The Spitfire Grill" was an exceptional show with a phenomenal cast. He distributed fliers and announced the 8th Biennial Torrance Invitational Song Festival on April 14, 2007 and Star Light Productions' "Annie" on April 5-7, 2007.

Cultural Services Manager Myers encouraged Commissioners to attend the opening reception at the Torrance Art Museum on March 31, 2007.

9. ORALS

9A. Commissioner Wang stated that she enjoyed "The Spitfire Grill."

9B. Commissioner Smisek stated that she enjoyed the Brigham Young University Folk Ensemble, "The Spitfire Grill," and a lecture by Harrison Scott on the Ridge Route.

9C. Commissioner Miranda stated that he saw six movies and celebrated his 12th wedding anniversary.

9D. Commissioner Armstrong stated that she enjoyed the Torrance Symphony as well as the Celtic Tenors on March 16, 2007.

9E. Commissioner Endo-Roberts announced the March 24, 2007 Meet the Author with Joanne Oppenheim, author of Dear Miss Breed: True Stories of the Japanese American Incarceration during World War II and a Librarian Who Made a Difference.

9F. Commissioner Strehler stated that she attended the Torrance Artist Guild meeting featuring Ruby Wang and that she enjoyed the Torrance Symphony and "The Spitfire Grill."

9G. Chairperson Stadler stated that she enjoyed the Celtic Tenors, the Torrance Symphony, and trips to Napa and Catalina Island.

10. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: At 8:40 p.m., Commissioner Endo-Roberts moved to adjourn the meeting to Monday, April 16, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. in the West Annex meeting room at Torrance City Hall. Commissioner Miranda seconded the motion and, hearing no objection, Chairperson Stadler so ordered.

Approved as Submitted April 16, 2007 s/ Sue Herbers, City Clerk
