

**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, May 15, 2006, in the West Annex meeting room at Torrance City Hall.

**2. FLAG SALUTE**

Commissioner Armstrong led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**3. ROLL CALL**

Present: Commissioners Armstrong, Miranda, Smisek, Smith, Strehler, and Vice-Chairperson Stadler.

Absent: Chairperson Wang.

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

**MOTION**: Commissioner Smith moved to grant Chairperson Wang an excused absence for the May 15, 2006 Cultural Arts Commission meeting. Commissioner Smisek seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

Due to the absence of Chairperson Wang, Vice-Chairperson Stadler led the meeting.

**4. AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING**

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

**5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOTION**: Commissioner Smisek moved for the approval of the April 17, 2006 Cultural Arts Commission meeting minutes as submitted. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Armstrong and passed by unanimous voice vote approval (absent Chairperson Wang).

**6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**6A. EXCELLENCE IN ARTS AWARDS**

Cultural Services Manager Myers congratulated Commissioners for the successful 2006 Excellence in Arts Awards ceremony on April 30, 2006. He requested

that Commissioners provide comments regarding the event, to be referred to the Excellence in Arts subcommittee for discussion.

Commissioner Smisek suggested that it would be preferable to have Commissioners sit in the audience during performances.

Vice-Chairperson Stadler noted that the ceremony had the largest attendance ever and thanked Cultural Services Consultant Powers for preparing Commissioners' speeches.

Cultural Services Manager Myers recommended that the Commission review and discuss guidelines and qualifications for the Literary Arts award category.

A brief discussion centered on the definition of literary arts, previous award recipients, residency requirements, and impact of literary work on the City. It was decided that the Excellence in Arts subcommittee would meet in July 2006 to finalize guidelines by October or November 2006.

## **7. NEW BUSINESS**

### **7A. 2006 GRANTS TO NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS**

Vice-Chairperson Stadler reported that the Grant Review Committee, consisting of Commissioner Armstrong, Commissioner Smisek, Dr. Owen Griffith, and herself, met on May 15, 2006. She stated that there were 12 applicants and that the Committee recommended funding to the non-profit organizations as follows:

Art Attack Foundation	\$500
Peninsula Symphony Association	\$500
Regina Klenjoski Dance Company	\$500
South Bay Ballet (Guest Artist/National Choreographer Project)	\$500
South Bay Conservatory	\$500
StarLight Productions	\$500
Torrance Cultural Arts Center Foundation	\$500
Torrance Historical Society	\$500
Torrance Symphony Association	\$500
Torrance South Bay YMCA	\$500

**TOTAL** **\$5,000**

**MOTION:** Commissioner Armstrong moved to award \$500 to each of the following non-profit organizations: Art Attack Foundation, Peninsula Symphony Association, Regina Klenjoski Dance Company, South Bay Ballet (Guest Artist/National Choreographer Project), South Bay Conservatory, StarLight Productions, Torrance Cultural Arts Center Foundation, Torrance Historical Society, Torrance Symphony Association, and Torrance South Bay YMCA. Commissioner Smisek seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Chairperson Wang).

A brief discussion centered on non-profit status of organizations and the requirement to submit a 501C3. Cultural Services Administrator Myers stated that, as funding grows in this area, more organizations should be encouraged to seek non-profit status that would qualify them for grant eligibility from several sources.

**7B. L.A. COUNTY ARTS TUNE UP**

Cultural Services Manager Myers reported that the Los Angeles County Arts Commission and Cultural Arts Commission would be holding the Arts Tune Up on June 10, 2006 at the Toyota Meeting Hall from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. He noted that the event would give the City visibility and exposure to the art community. He asked for a volunteer to assist the Los Angeles County Arts Commission by handing out information, participating in the sessions, and collecting materials. Commissioner Miranda offered to participate in the event.

**8. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**8A. EXCELLENCE IN ARTS**

Previously discussed at this meeting.

**8B. COMMUNITY CULTURAL PLAN**

No report.

**8C. GRANT REVIEW COMMITTEE**

Previously discussed at this meeting.

**9. MONTHLY DEPARTMENT REPORT**

Senior Supervisor McClelland stated that he enjoyed the Cultural Arts Center Foundation's presentation of Elvis in "It's Now or Never!" as well as the Excellence in Arts Awards ceremony. He reported that the Torrance Theatre Company would be receiving a summer intern through the Los Angeles County Arts Commission. He announced that Ray Bradbury would be at the Toyota Meeting Hall on May 26, 2006 and that rehearsals for "The Man Who Came to Dinner" have begun, with Commissioners Armstrong and Stadler in the cast. He stated that auditions for "Grease" and registration for summer classes begin on May 16, 2006.

Cultural Services Supervisor Ferguson reported that this was the last week of the third exhibition, "Telling: a narrative impulse," at the Torrance Art Museum, noting that visitors have averaged 125 per week. She stated that the last Stories in Art program will be on May 18, 2006, with a Korean interpreter. She reported that the next exhibition "Flourish: An Invocation of Visual Pleasure" will open on June 2, 2006, and encouraged Commissioners to attend the reception on June 3, 2006. She advised Commissioners that the Museum will be closed from May 19 to June 2 between exhibitions and discussed a favorable review in the Daily Breeze.

Cultural Services Consultant Powers reported on the third segment of Works in Progress: Blockbuster! on April 26, 2006 and preparations for the final segment on May 31, 2006, noting the good attendance at performances and high quality of actors. He discussed the Starters Music Series with Ashley Maher on May 4, 2006 that is an effort to attract visitors to the Museum when it is not normally open. He distributed fliers for the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Ooodles of Noodles on Sunday, June 4, 2006 from noon to 4:00 p.m., noting that 20 restaurants would be participating. He discussed Wild Wednesdays! which will focus on the Gulf area and begins June 28, 2006.

Cultural Services Manager Myers thanked staff for their efforts in making the Excellence in Arts Awards ceremony a successful event. He stated that the art lectures for Museum volunteers and docents by Dr. Jeanne Willette were very interesting, and encouraged Commissioners to attend the next one on June 12, 2006.

## **10. ORALS**

Dr. Owen Griffith shared information about the banquet honoring nine winners of the 2006 ACT Arts awards on February 4, 2006. He stated that the Arts Council would have its annual meeting and installation of officers on June 3, 2006, with recognition of 62 graduating high school seniors. He encouraged Commissioners to attend the June 17, 2006 Torrance Symphony's "Music of the Movies" and added that the Rusty Steel Band would be performing on May 20, 2006 at the V.I.P. luncheon prior to the Armed Forces Day Parade.

Commissioner Strehler stated that the third Blockbuster! performance was entertaining and educational and also that she enjoyed the Torrance Art Museum reception and has returned to visit the exhibits. She mentioned that spoke at the last Torrance Artists Guild meeting about the Museum and hopes to gain the support of its members. She stated that she would not be able to attend the June Commission meeting.

Commissioner Armstrong stated that she and Commissioner Stadler would be in the first act of "The Man Who Came to Dinner."

Commissioner Miranda announced the July 8, 2006 performance by Morris Albert at the Nakano Theatre.

Commissioner Smith stated that she was sorry that she could not attend the Excellence in Arts Awards ceremony, but that she enjoyed Elvis at the Armstrong. She noted that she was the auction chair for the Foundation gala.

Commissioner Smisek stated that Elvis at the Armstrong was a full house and that it was a good end to the Foundation's season.

Vice-Chairperson Stadler stated that she would be performing as a flutist with John McEuen on May 21, 2006.

## **11. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** At 7:59 p.m., Vice-Chairperson Stadler adjourned the meeting to Monday, June 19, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. in the West Annex meeting room at Torrance City Hall.

Approved as Amended June 19, 2006 s/ Sue Herbers, City Clerk
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