

**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 Monday, May 21, 2007 in the West Annex meeting room at Torrance City Hall.

2. FLAG SALUTE

Commissioner Smisek led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

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

Absent: Commissioners Endo-Roberts and Wang.

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

MOTION: Commissioner Strehler moved to grant Commissioners Endo-Roberts and Wang excused absences for the May 21, 2007 Cultural Arts Commission meeting. Commissioner Armstrong seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

4. AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING

MOTION: Commissioner Smisek 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 Armstrong moved for the approval of the April 16, 2007 Cultural Arts Commission meeting minutes as submitted. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Strehler and passed by unanimous voice vote approval (absent Commissioners Endo-Roberts and Wang).

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

6A. EXCELLENCE IN ARTS AWARDS

Cultural Services Manager Myers congratulated Commissioners for the successful 2007 Excellence in Arts Awards ceremony held on April 29, 2007. He

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

Commissioners relayed positive feedback regarding the event, noting that there was a good variety of entertainment and excellent attendance this year. Technical difficulties with the projector were briefly discussed.

Chairperson Stadler read letters of appreciation from Dan and Crystal Bochar and the Shields family.

7. NEW BUSINESS

7A. 2007 GRANTS TO NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

Vice-Chairperson Stadler reported that the Grant Review Committee, consisting of Commissioners Armstrong, Smisek, Dr. Owen Griffith, new member May Cambra, and herself, met on May 21, 2007 to review the applications from non-profit organizations. She stated that a total of eight applications were received by the deadline but that one applicant was not eligible based on criteria limiting grant awards to two consecutive years. She stated that the Committee was making recommendations for funding to the non-profit organizations as follows:

South Bay Ballet (Guest Artist Choreographer)	\$1,000
El Camino College Foundation	\$1,000
Regina Klenjoski Dance Company	\$1,000
Nuestras Raices	\$1,000
Torrance South Bay YMCA	\$ 990

TOTAL: \$4,990

MOTION: Commissioner Armstrong moved to approve grants for recommendation to the City Council for \$1,000 each to South Bay Ballet (Guest Artist Choreographer), El Camino College Foundation, Regina Klenjoski Dance Company, and Nuestras Raices, and \$990 to Torrance South Bay YMCA. Commissioner Smisek seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioners Endo-Roberts and Wang).

Chairperson Stadler distributed letters of appreciation from Regina Klenjoski Dance Company and Torrance Symphony Association.

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 REPORTS

Cultural Services Supervisor Ferguson reported that this was the Torrance Art Museum's final week for *Command z*, Maggie Lowe Tennesen, *Spatiotemporal Variability*, and Diane Reeves, *Duets*. She thanked Commissioner Armstrong and Chairperson Stadler for attending the May 4, 2007 Starters event. She stated that the next exhibition, featuring local artists, will open on June 16, 2007 with Torrance Artists Guild and *Expressions of Manzinar*, followed by South Bay Watercolor Society in July 2007. She noted that there will be three Stories in Art in conjunction with the exhibitions and an orientation for new volunteers on May 23, 2007.

She reported that a Torrance Art Museum intern, supported by the Getty Multicultural Undergraduate Summer Internship Grant, was selected on May 21, 2007. She advised that it will be a ten-week internship and that the intern will primarily focus on establishing requirements for Museum accreditation. She further reported that registration for summer classes began and distributed booklets from Dr. Jeanne Willette's lecture series on contemporary art. She noted that Mary Drobny has changed her topic for the June 5, 2007 Artful Days to "Ancient Cultures of Iraq and Iran."

In response to Commissioner Miranda's inquiry, Cultural Services Supervisor Ferguson explained how Kristina Newhouse selects exhibitions for the Torrance Art Museum.

Senior Supervisor McClelland expressed appreciation to Gene Barnett on his retirement after 35 years of service with the City. He reported that Torrance Theatre Company is rehearsing for "Rumors" opening June 8, 2007 in the Nakano Theatre and that StarLight Productions' "Seussical The Musical" will be presented June 14-16, 2007. He noted that the June 1, 2007 Showcase of classes is sold out. He mentioned that an intern from Long Beach State, through the Los Angeles County Arts Commission, will begin June 4, 2007 working as an assistant producer with Performing Arts Specialist Gia Inferrera on "West Side Story."

Cultural Services Consultant Powers reported that the final Works in Progress, "A Divided Community" on May 30, 2007, is nearly sold out. He stated that preparations are underway for the June 3, 2007 Ooodles of Noodles and Wild Wednesdays! that will begin June 27, 2007.

Responding to Commissioner Armstrong's inquiry, he discussed Cultural Services' partnership with Torrance Library to present the screening of "Citizen Tanouye" on May 12, 2007.

Cultural Services Manager Myers announced the May 25, 2007 58th consecutive lecture by author Ray Bradbury and that this summer the Community Services Department will be producing a series of three concerts and film showings in neighborhood parks around the City.

He discussed his attendance at the American Association of Museum's annual meeting in the City of Chicago, noting that sessions involved fundraising, involving youth more effectively, and the Museum accreditation process. He distributed a list of general

standards for museums to try to achieve that also apply to the accreditation process, noting that 10% of museums in the United States are accredited. He noted that the Museum can seek accreditation following two years of continuous operation.

Cultural Services Consultant Powers introduced Alex See from the Water Commission.

Chairperson Stadler requested that staff provide a calendar of events.

10. ORALS

10A. Commissioner Strehler stated that she attended the May 8, 2007 Torrance Artist Guild meeting and enjoyed watercolor demonstrator Louis Stephen Gadal and that she also was able to attend the Armed Forces Day parade.

10B. Commissioner Armstrong stated that she enjoyed the parade as well as the film and discussion of "Citizen Tanouye."

10C. Commissioner Smisek stated that the April 21-22, 2007 Bunka Sai Festival grossed \$20,000 and shared information about the May 1, 2007 Students in Government Day. She stated that she also attended a Literary conference in Orange County and a wedding in the City of Palm Springs.

10D. Commissioner Miranda stated that he has stepped down as board president of SIPA (Search to Involve Philipino Americans) and that he enjoyed Apo Hiking Society at Royce Hall on May 12, 2007 and Joey Albert and Martin Nievera at the Redondo Beach Civic Light Opera on May 3, 2007.

10E. Chairperson Stadler stated that she enjoyed the Torrance Symphony concert, *Command z* at the Torrance Art Museum, and a trip to Lake Havasu.

11. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: At 7:50 p.m., Commissioner Armstrong moved to adjourn the meeting to Monday, June 18, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. in the West Annex meeting room at Torrance City Hall. Commissioner Smisek seconded the motion and, hearing no objection, Chairperson Stadler so ordered.

Approved as Submitted June 18, 2007 s/ Sue Herbers, City Clerk
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