

June 18, 2007

**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, June 18, 2007 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, Endo-Roberts*, Miranda, Strehler, and Vice-Chairperson Smisek.

Absent: Commissioner Wang and Chairperson Stadler.

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

*Commissioner Endo-Roberts arrived at 7:07 p.m.

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

MOTION: Commissioner Strehler moved to grant Chairperson Stadler an excused absence for the June 18, 2007 Cultural Arts Commission meeting. Commissioner Miranda seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

4. AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING

MOTION: Commissioner Strehler moved to accept and file the report of the City Clerk on the posting of the agenda. Commissioner Miranda seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: Commissioner Armstrong moved for the approval of the May 21, 2007 Cultural Arts Commission meeting minutes as submitted. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Strehler and passed by unanimous voice vote approval (absent Commissioner Wang and Chairperson Stadler).

6. NEW BUSINESS

6A. ELECTION OF THE 2007-08 COMMISSION CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

Cultural Services Manager Myers advised that customarily the Commission's election of Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson has been on the basis of seniority.

MOTION: Commissioner Armstrong moved to elect Commissioner Smisek for Chairperson of the Cultural Arts Commission beginning July 1, 2007. Commissioner Endo-Roberts seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioner Wang and Chairperson Stadler).

MOTION: Commissioner Armstrong moved to elect Commissioner Strehler for Vice-Chairperson of the Cultural Arts Commission beginning July 1, 2007. Commissioner Miranda seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioner Wang and Chairperson Stadler).

6B. CANCELLATION OF AUGUST COMMISSION MEETING

MOTION: Commissioner Strehler, seconded by Commissioner Miranda, moved to cancel the August Cultural Arts Commission meeting; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioner Wang and Chairperson Stadler).

7. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

7A. EXCELLENCE IN ARTS

No report.

7B. COMMUNITY CULTURAL PLAN

No report.

7C. GRANT REVIEW COMMITTEE

Cultural Services Manager Myers reported that City Council approved the 2007 Grants to non-profit organizations recommended by the Commission and that awardees were notified by mail.

8. MONTHLY DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Cultural Services Supervisor Ferguson reported that summer classes begin next week and are very full. She stated that the Torrance Artists Guild and *Expressions of Manzanar* opened on June 16, 2007 at the Torrance Art Museum and that both receptions were well attended. She noted that the Torrance Artists Guild exhibition will end on July 7, 2007 and will be followed by the South Bay Watercolor Society for three weeks beginning July 21, 2007.

She reported that there was an orientation reception for new volunteers at the Torrance Art Museum who will begin in September 2007. She stated that Hazel Alamares was selected for the 10-week Getty Multicultural Undergraduate summer internship and began last week, noting that she will be focusing on evaluating

requirements for Museum accreditation. She distributed fliers for Artful Days with Mary Drobny.

Senior Supervisor McClelland reported that five of the six presentations of "Rumors" were sold out and that StarLight Productions' "Seussical The Musical" was also well attended. He stated that rehearsals have begun for the summer musical "West Side Story" and that the Torrance Theatre Company has the assistance of a summer intern, Meredith Greenberg, sponsored by the Los Angeles Arts Commission.

Responding to Commissioner Armstrong's inquiry, he stated that there were reviews of "Rumors" in the Daily Breeze and Easy Reader.

Cultural Services Consultant Powers reported that the final Works in Progress, "A Divided Community" on May 30, 2007, had an excellent response from attendees. He discussed the successful June 3, 2007 Ooodles of Noodles and expressed appreciation to Commissioner Miranda for bringing in Phillipino-American folk dancers and to volunteers from four high schools.

He distributed fliers for Wild Wednesdays! beginning June 27, 2007 and shared information about the three concerts and three movies planned for this summer in neighborhood parks.

In response to Commissioner Miranda's inquiry, Cultural Services Manager Myers stated that the conceptual design for an amphitheatre at Wilson Park has been completed and is on hold until funding sources are identified.

Cultural Services Manager Myers announced that they were applying with the Library for a National Endowment of the Arts grant "The Big Read" and that The Joy Luck Club by Amy Tan was selected.

He thanked Commissioners Armstrong and Strehler for attending the May 25, 2007 58th consecutive lecture by author Ray Bradbury.

9. ORALS

9A. Commissioner Armstrong discussed the book Caught Between Cultures by Vera Nakamoto as told to Ethel Inaba. She stated that she thought the timing was perfect in "Rumors." She mentioned that she is having surgery and may be absent from the July 16, 2007 Commission meeting.

9B. Commissioner Strehler stated that she enjoyed the International Society of Acrylic Painters at San Luis Obispo Art Center. She also attended and enjoyed "A Divided Community," Ray Bradbury, the Torrance Historical Society walk around Old Torrance, "Art and Magic" at the Magic Castle, Ooodles of Noodles, the June Artful Days lecture, "Rumors," the Torrance Symphony fundraiser, and exhibits at the Torrance Art Museum.

9C. Commissioner Roberts stated that she enjoyed the Works in Progress series, the Excellence in Arts awards ceremony, Ooodles of Noodles, and an Armenian Film Festival.

9D. Commissioner Miranda stated that he enjoyed Ooodles of Noodles, a retreat at the Beverly Hills Hotel, a Los Angeles Unified School District retirement party at USC, and added that he is busy preparing for "Something to Crow About" on June 28, 2007.

9E. Commissioner Smisek stated that she is busy making decorations for the Foundation gala. She mentioned that she attended the Historical Society luncheon at the Fire Station and that she enjoyed "Ooodles of Noodles" and "Rumors." She stated that her granddaughter is going to Kashiwa, Japan, and that she attended her daughter's graduation in Santa Barbara.

9F. Cultural Services Manager Myers announced his resignation from the City and that his last day will be July 27, 2007.

10. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: At 7:55 p.m., Commissioner Armstrong moved to adjourn the meeting to Monday, July 16, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. in the West Annex meeting room at Torrance City Hall. Commissioner Endo-Roberts seconded the motion and, hearing no objection, Vice-Chairperson Smisek so ordered.

Approved as Amended August 20, 2007 s/ Sue Herbers, City Clerk
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