

**MINUTES OF AN 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, January 26, 2015 in the West Annex meeting room, Torrance City Hall.

2. FLAG SALUTE

Commissioner Endo-Roberts led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners Bunting, Candioly, Endo-Roberts, Korman, Muhammed, Rische, and Chairperson Frangos.

Absent: None.

Also Present: Cultural Services Manager Rappoport, Facility Operations Manager Megerdichian, and Senior Business Manager Rumery.

4. AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING

MOTION: Commissioner Korman moved to accept and file the report of the City Clerk on the posting of the agenda. Commissioner Endo-Roberts seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

5A. MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 17, 2014

MOTION: Commissioner Candioly moved to approve the Cultural Arts Commission meeting minutes of November 17, 2014 as presented. Commissioner Endo-Roberts seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected unanimous.

6. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #1

6A. Steve Norris, President, Arts Council of Torrance, announced a general Arts Council meeting on February 7 and Black History Month presentation on February 8. He expressed his appreciation to Commissioners for their efforts in putting forth recommendations to City Council regarding facility improvements. He thanked Commissioner Endo-Roberts for speaking at the November 18, 2014 City Council meeting about needed curtain, lighting and sound equipment upgrades, noting that her plea prompted several Arts Council members to donate \$10,500 towards a new light board.

6B. Lauren Perelmuter, City contractor and owner of Art to Grow On, offered ideas to increase class enrollment and be more competitive with surrounding cities. She recommended increasing the use of social media to promote classes and to enhance the website and registration process that is difficult to navigate. She stated that her class is under the mixed media link when it should be under children or youth art. She suggested eliminating the yearly fee for fingerprinting, increasing the percentage split, and reducing the business license renewal fee.

Manager Rappoport stated that a City Council subcommittee is working with Michael Smith to revamp and reformat the entire City website.

Responding to Commissioner Korman's inquiry, Ms. Perelmuter stated that enrollment in her classes has been very low.

In response to Commissioner Muhammed's inquiry about yearly live scans, Manager Rappoport stated that it is required at the start of contract periods, is a higher standard that the City has set, and that changing to two year contracts would help contractors.

7. ON-GOING BUSINESS

7A. CULTURAL ARTS CENTER CAPITAL PROJECT REQUESTS

Senior Business Manager Rumery presented a list of Cultural Arts Center capital project requests totaling \$1,247,000 that will be presented at the January 27 City Council meeting. He noted that Armstrong Theatre Sound and Lighting Upgrade (\$300,000), as well as Carpet Replacement throughout the Center (\$80,000), have been identified as top priority projects. He noted that replacement of the Armstrong Theatre floor has been completed with funds from the Center's operating budget. He expressed his gratitude to the Arts Council of Torrance for the \$10,500 donation towards the purchase of a new light board for the Armstrong Theatre.

Manager Rappoport stated that City Council will start to look at the Capital Budget on January 27 and encouraged Commissioners to attend the meeting to support the requests. She explained that every Department has put together items on their wish list and it is likely that the project requests will be spread out over the next few years.

Facility Operations Manager Megerdichian noted that City Council is aware of the upgrades that are needed at the Center.

Commissioner Endo-Roberts stated that the back curtain at the Ken Miller Recreation Center is missing and recommended that it will be installed to attract more rental opportunities. She added that the curtain at the Armstrong Theatre is in very bad condition. She noted that Councilmembers appreciated someone speaking up from the Commission and urged Commissioners to follow up on the items.

7B. STATUS OF WILSON PARK GAZEBO PROJECT

Manager Rappoport reported that on December 23 City Council approved the conceptual design for the Wilson Park Gazebo Project. She stated that she has met twice with BOA Architects who are preparing a construction document package, once at

the office and once at the site. She noted that BOA is very enthusiastic about the project and is eager to move forward.

8. NEW BUSINESS

8A. CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL

Manager Rappoport provided an update on plans for the 4th annual Cherry Blossom Festival on March 15 at Columbia Park. She reported that the portable stage will be set up and a full schedule of entertainment presented. She noted that food will be available and that this year there will be a woman doing a silk screening project.

Commissioner Korman suggested that Ms. Perelmuter promote her classes at the event and Manager Rappoport was receptive to the suggestion.

9. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

9A. EXCELLENCE IN ARTS

No report.

9B. FACILITIES COMMITTEE

Previously discussed in Item 7B.

9C. GRANT REVIEW COMMITTEE

No report.

10. MONTHLY DEPARTMENT REPORT

Cultural Services Manager Rappoport noted that the Cultural Services Division Report for November and December 2014 was included in agenda packets. She stated that Torrance Theatre Company's production of "Mrs. Parliament's Night Out" opened on January 17 and several performances are sold out. She stated that the January 17 opening reception for the "Sincerely Yours" exhibition at Torrance Art Museum was well attended.

11. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #2

11A. Commissioners and staff expressed their appreciation to Commissioner Endo-Roberts for her eight years of service on the Commission and bid her a fond farewell.

11B. Commissioners and staff congratulated Commissioner Bunting on her marriage on December 22.

11C. Commissioner Bunting stated that she enjoyed South Bay Ballet's "Nutcracker" at the Armstrong Theatre.

11D. Commissioner Korman stated that she enjoyed the Cultural Arts Center Foundation's Cabaret, "Late Night Catechism," "Mrs. Parliament's Night Out," and steel drums at the South Bay Community Concert Association. She mentioned that she joined a hip hop class at the Cultural Arts Center with her granddaughter.

11E. Commissioner Endo-Roberts stated that she enjoyed volunteering at "Brighton Beach Memoirs." She also attended A Taste of Torrance fundraiser, Rose Float Officials' Night, and the opening of "Mrs. Parliament's Night Out."

11F. Chairperson Frangos discussed her attendance at Culver City art gallery openings and the National Association of Music Merchants at Anaheim Convention Center.

11G. Commissioner Endo-Roberts encouraged Commissioners to view the artwork in the City Clerk's office. She relayed Mayor Furey's interest in having a joint meeting of City Council and the Commission. She showed a shirt supporting the Victory Boy's Camp and shared information about the Chen Gallery at Sunrider.

12. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: At 8:11 p.m., Commissioner Candioly moved to adjourn the meeting to Monday, February 23, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in the West Annex meeting room at Torrance City Hall. Commissioner Korman seconded the motion and, hearing no objection, Chairperson Frangos so ordered.

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Approved as submitted February 23, 2015 s/ Rebecca Poirier, City Clerk
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