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Direct questions or concerns to the Commission Liaison at (310) 618-618-2937 or individual department head prior to submission to the Commission. Parties will be notified if the complaint will be included on a subsequent agenda.

**TORRANCE CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION AGENDA
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2022
REGULAR MEETING
7:00 P.M.
WEST ANNEX COMMISSION MEETING ROOM
CITY HALL, 3031 TORRANCE BOULEVARD**

**THE CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION MAY TAKE ACTION ON ANY ITEM LISTED
ON THE AGENDA**

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

ROLL CALL: Commission members Cabrera, Carrasco, Hsiao, Klinenberg, Kraemer, Sargent, Chair Polcari

2. FLAG SALUTE:

3. REPORT OF THE CITY CLERK ON THE POSTING OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was posted on the Public Notice Board at 3031 Torrance Bl. and on the City's Website on Thursday, September 15, 2022 /s/ Rebecca Poirier

4. ANNOUNCEMENT OF WITHDRAWN, DEFERRED, AND/OR SUPPLEMENTAL ITEMS

5. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS (Limited to a 30 minute period)

This portion of the meeting is reserved for public comment on items on the agenda or on topics of interest to the general public. Under the Ralph M. Brown Act, Commissioners cannot act on items raised during public comment but may respond briefly to statements made or questions posed; request clarification; or refer the item to staff. Speakers under this Public Comment period will have no longer than 1 minutes per speaker. Your comment to the Commission meeting will be recorded as part of the meeting. By staying in the meeting and making public comment during the meeting, you are agreeing to have your comment recorded.

6. CONSENT CALENDAR

Matters listed under the Consent Calendar are considered routine and will be enacted by one motion and one vote. There will be no separate discussion of these items. If discussion is desired, that item will be removed by a Commissioner from the Consent Calendar and considered separately.

6A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Recommendation of Cultural Services Manager that your Honorable Body approve the Cultural Arts Commission minutes of August 15, 2022.

7. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

7A. UPDATE ON EXCELLENCE IN ARTS AWARDS EVENT

7B. UPDATE ON UTILITY BOX PUBLIC ART PILOT PROGRAM

7C. INFORMATION ON THE WINDOW ART PROJECT

7D. CULTURAL SERVICES DIVISION UPDATES

Recommendation of the Cultural Services Division that the Cultural Arts Commission receive and file updates on the Cultural Services activities:

- Summer Concerts
- Torrance Art Museum 2023 Art Exhibit
- October Arts and Humanities Month
- Division Manager Recruitment

8. COMMISSION ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

9. ADJOURNMENT

- 9A.** Adjournment of the Cultural Arts Commission Meeting to MONDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF
THE TORRANCE CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION**

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

The Torrance Cultural Arts Commission convened in a regular session at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, August 15, 2022, in the West Annex Commission Meeting Room.

ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners Cabrera, Carrasco, Hsiao, Klinenberg, Kraemer, Sargent, and Chair Polcari.

Absent: None.

Also Present: Staff Liaison Joyce Bell and Community Services Director John La Rock.

2. FLAG SALUTE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Kraemer.

3. REPORT OF THE CITY CLERK ON THE POSTING OF THE AGENDA

Staff Liaison Belle reported that the agenda was posted on the Public Notice Board at 3031 Torrance Boulevard and on the City's website on Thursday, August 11, 2022.

4. ANNOUNCEMENT OF WITHDRAWN, DEFERRED, AND/OR SUPPLEMENTAL ITEMS:

– None.

5. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Ed Candioly, outgoing Chair for the Parks & Recreation Commission, shared his concerns regarding the Excellence in Arts Awards. Candioly urged the Commission to submit additional candidates; with lack of nominations, no award ceremonies can take place. Commissioner Sargent replied that COVID has been a factor. Commissioner Klinenberg replied that the Commission can reference past candidates from previous years.

Chair Polcari inquired if the candidates had to be residents of Torrance. Commissioner Klinenberg replied that candidates could be residents or have a business in Torrance.

6. CONSENT CALENDAR

6A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: JULY 18, 2022

6B. ACCEPT AND FILE MONTHLY DIVISION REPORTS

MOTION: Commissioner Sargent moved to accept the Consent Calendar. Commissioner Kraemer seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

7. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

7A. UPDATE ON EXCELLENCE IN ARTS

Commissioner Klinenberg requested that a committee be assembled to go over new / previous applicants. Commissioners Klinenberg, Carrasco, and Kraemer volunteered to be on the committee.

Commissioner Kraemer inquired if staff had access to previous applicants. Staff Liaison Bell replied that she will check the files and will update the Commission. Commissioners Klinenberg and Sargent stated that they had files to reference.

Cabrera stated that the nomination deadline is August 15, 2022, and inquired on a new deadline. Staff Liaison Bell replied that the date can be updated to a later date.

Commissioner Kraemer stated that a set schedule needs to be comprised as guidance for the committee.

Commissioner Hsiao suggested that a schedule be developed to follow yearly.

Commissioner Klinenberg suggested Monday, August 29, 2022, for the committee to meet in the afternoon; a time was not set.

Community Services Director La Rock informed the Commission that other categories that fall under cultural arts could be entertained.

7B. CULTURAL SERVICES DIVISION MANAGER-DIVISION UPDATES

Staff Liaison Bell stated that the first summer concert commenced Sunday, August 14, 2022, with approximately 200 attendees.

Staff Liaison Bell stated that the Torrance Art Museum is looking for spaces to display their new exhibit TRYSC, an international art installation; staff is in search of a commercial building for July 20-23, 2023.

Chair Polcari inquired if Staff had reached out to Sares-Regis. Community Services Director La Rock replied that the Economic Development Manager is working with staff to investigate more than one location and is open to suggestions the Commission may have.

Chair Polcari stated that El Camino College is always looking for exhibits to bring people to their campus; a partnership with their art program should be considered.

Staff Liaison Bell stated that The Excellence in Arts Awards will coincide with Arts & Humanities month. Community Services Director La Rock stated that one or more Commissioners would need to be present to accept the award.

Staff Liaison Bell stated that the City hired new Head Librarian, Heather Cousins, who started July 25, 2022.

Staff Liaison Bell stated that the posting for the Division Manager position closed August 10, 2022; early stages for vetting applicants will begin as well as motions for interviews.

Staff Liaison Bell stated that she will retire August 25, 2022. The Commission collectively thanked Staff Liaison Bell for her service.

8. COMMISSION ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Commissioner Kraemer stated that after the first of the new year, the Commission is due for a tour to see the inside of the theatre to get an update of what is needed. Community Services Director John La Rock replied that the General Services Division would lead the investigation.

Commissioner Cabrera inquired on the utility boxes and suggested associating a scavenger hunt with QR codes on the boxes for additional information. Community Services Director John La Rock stated that the topic is not agendized for discussion and to hold thoughts until program approval by the City Council.

Commissioner Cabrera stated that he's playing with the South Bay Wind Ensemble, part of the South Bay Music Association, and that they are currently looking to recruit wind players.

9. ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION: At 7:43 p.m., Commissioner Klinenberg moved to adjourn the meeting to Monday, September 19, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. in the West Annex Commission Meeting Room. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hsiao; a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

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September 19, 2022

TO: CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION

FROM: JOHN LA ROCK, COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: UTILITY BOX PUBLIC ART PILOT PROJECT

Recommendation of the Community Services Director that the Cultural Arts Commission receive and file an update on a pilot program to install original artworks onto certain traffic control and utility boxes.

- Establish policy for solicitation (RFQ/RFP) of artists and designs (i.e. professional, amateur, student)
 - **Commission has recommended no limits on submitting artists; artists shall be from Torrance; student artists engaged for boxes in proximity to schools**
- Establish policy for review and approval of artworks (Commissions: Cultural Arts, Public Works; City Council) and restricted content (trademark infringement, originality, family-friendly)
- Establish contractual policy for contributing artists (honorarium, transfer of ownership)
 - **Artists shall receive a stipend of \$500 for each utility box artwork. The City shall reserve one (1%) percent of each utility box sponsorship towards ongoing maintenance.**
- Review list of City owned utility boxes (equal division across upcoming Council Districts) and Recommend initial location(s), i.e. City Hall, new Transit Center, Downtown Torrance.
 - **The Commission Sub-Committee to review locations is comprised of Commissioners Polcari, Sargent and Kraemer.**
- RFP for installation vendor to print, install and warranty the artwork wraps
- Establish a sponsorship package to fully subsidize the expenses for artists and installations

There are 96 utility boxes available for artwork installation. These are available for review at the following Weblink:

<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/7ee83d97b0814f4cb32f7117969147c7>

Special appreciation is noted for Uyen Fredericks, Cultural Services Division Office Assistant, for her diligence in compiling the location data and images.

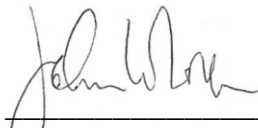
The Commission previously approved a Location Sub-Committee comprised of Commissioners Polcari, Sargent and Kraemer. The Sub-Committee may utilize the mapped locations Weblink to prepare a recommendation of initial locations to begin the pilot program for review by the full Commission.

As previously recommended by staff, the initial rollout of utility box public art should be evenly distributed across the City's six Districts. Information about the City's Districts is available at the following Weblink:

<https://www.torranceca.gov/government/city-council-and-elected-officials/district-elections>

Ultimately the City Council would provide approval of the initial locations and the commencement of a call to artists and sponsors as recommended by the Commission.

Respectfully submitted,



John La Rock
Community Services Director

Attachment:

- Utility Box Public Art Program supporting documentation

CITY OF TORRANCE PUBLIC ART PILOT PROGRAM

UTILITY BOX PUBLIC ART ARTIST INFORMATION

The City of Torrance and its Cultural Arts Commission invites artists to participate in the City's Utility Box Public Art Pilot Program. The City and the Commission are seeking artists to showcase their work to beautify utility boxes located throughout Torrance. The goals of the program are to use public art to contribute to the vitality and attractiveness of the City's streetscapes and bring art to unexpected places.

Please read this Program Announcement in its entirety before completing the application.

Eligibility

This Public Art Pilot Program is open to all Torrance residents. All entries must be of an original design and artwork must be suitable for viewing by people of all ages.

Description and Location of Utility Boxes

The City's Utility Boxes vary in size. Installation of artwork would be completed by a vendor chosen by the City, complete with necessary preparations including scraping, sanding and priming. The vinyl material used to wrap each box will include a UV-protective clear coat to protect against sun and other environmental damage. The boxes are located throughout Torrance, including major thoroughfares with traffic signals that are visible to pedestrian, cycling and automobile traffic. The locations of the utility boxes are listed at [WEBLINK TBD].

This call for artists is only for City of Torrance Utility Boxes. At some intersections where there are more than one utility box, the City's box is the only available box for public art installation.

Artwork Opportunity

The proposed Utility Box public art designs must be applicable and usable, covering all four sides and the top of a box. The artwork would be printed and installed by a vendor selected by the City who is contracted for vinyl wrapping services. Artworks should enliven the area, transform the street and reflect the neighborhood or area where the utility box is located. The artwork submitted should be family-friendly and suitable for viewing by persons of all ages. Artwork using a majority of dark colors may not be considered due to the potential for overheating the utility boxes. Certain locations will include subject matter consideration that showcases Torrance's cultural diversity, historic heritage, or acknowledges a key activity that takes place in the area. Artists can submit more than one concept for the same location or submit a concept that includes a continuous theme across multiple utility boxes and locations. The artwork design may not restrict any vents or airflow through the boxes, thus necessary layout edits to designs may be made by the City. The City must be able to fully access the box and the components inside the box at all times. In the event the utility box is mounted on a base of concrete or other material, the base shall not be included as part of the available area for a public art design. Any nearby protective poles, bollards, planters, etc. are not be included as part of the available area for a public art design. The artist is responsible for the design of the artwork to be printed on the vinyl and wrapped.

Entries that use a copyrighted or trademarked image will not be accepted. In addition, artworks must not be plagiarized, stolen, or copied from any other source. Entries must not defame or invade the rights of any person, living or dead. The artwork shall include the placement of a credit box containing the name of the artist and the financial sponsor of the box, which may be the City, the artist or another

entity. The artwork is considered a long-term installation and will become the property of the City of Torrance. The artist will retain the right to reproduce and/or sell their original art.

How to Apply for the utility Box Public Art Pilot Program

Please go to [WEBSITE LINK TBD].

Application

All requirements listed below must be met or the application will be removed from consideration.

1. Application Form completed.
2. A concept drawing that shows all four sides and top of the utility box must be included in the application. Please note that utility boxes differ in size, so the diagram is for a concept drawing not necessarily to scale. Concept drawings may be hand drawn, however digital design is recommended.
3. The name of the Utility Box sponsor (sponsor may be the artist), if available, and the requested utility box location (location not guaranteed). Utility box artwork installations will only be completed when a location has a confirmed sponsorship. The City may connect a sponsor with an artist/artist submission in the event the sponsor has not indicated a preference for an artist.

Selection Criteria

When making the selection for the Utility Box Public Art Pilot project, the following will be considered:

Artistic excellence, innovation, and originality.

Does the art meet the goals of the project?

Does the art transform the project area?

Does the art relate to the area where the utility box is located?

Does the art portray the City's cultural diversity, historic heritage, or a key activity?

Artist Selection Process

The selection process will consist of a review and project recommendation by the Cultural Arts Commission to the City Council. Artists will be notified by the City if and when their designs are accepted. If selected to complete a Utility Box Public Art Pilot Project, artists must sign a liability release and artwork agreement before artwork will be installed. The artists will receive a \$500.00 stipend when the artwork is installed. In order to receive payment, artists must submit a completed W9 form.

Once an artwork is selected, the following shall be submitted by the artist within (30) thirty days:

1. Final artwork and design. Artwork must be in hi-resolution digital format. If submitting a Photoshop, Illustrator, or InDesign file, please also submit a hi-resolution image file of the same artwork.

TORRANCE UTILITY BOX PUBLIC ART PILOT PROJECT

ARTIST APPLICATION

Artist Name:

Address:

Phone Number(s):

Email(s):

Web Site(s):

Title of Work (if applicable)

_____ I certify that I have created the above artwork (please initial).

Preferred utility Box Number(s)/Location(s):

Rendering for Utility Box

Please attach designs for consideration by the Cultural Arts Commission. Please submit designs using the Design Template form or a reasonable facsimile. Please sign, date and return with Artist Application.

I agree that: (1) my submission(s) and their contents will automatically become the property of the City of Torrance, with no guarantee of compensation to me; (2) The City of Torrance may use or redistribute the submissions and their contents for any purpose and in any way; (3) there is no obligation for the City of Torrance to review the submission; and (4) there is no obligation to keep any submissions confidential. Further, I agree to waive my rights of attribution out in the Visual Artists Rights Act, 17 U.S.C §§106A and 113(d) ("VARA"), the California Art Preservation Act, Cal. Civil Code §§ 987 and 989 ("CAPA").

ARTIST _____ Date _____

DISCLAIMER

I have read the attached information and agree to the rules & regulations stated. The undersigned agrees to indemnify and hold harmless, the City of Torrance, Its Council, Officers, Boards, Commissions,

Agents, associated Foundations and Employees for any loss or liability which results or is alleged to have resulted from my participation in this event, including any claim arising out of the applicants entry, acts, or omissions in said contest or any accident, injury or damage involved therein, including but not limited to attorney fees and court costs. I have read and fully understand these policies. I am an adult and my signature is below.

ARTIST _____ Date _____

Design Template Sample

This is a typical utility box diagram representing the four sides and top. Please use it to submit the utility box design/images as it would be wrapped. Unique colors and bold graphics work well, along with bright images that can be seen from a distance. Detailed images of each side must be submitted on 8.5" x 11" paper. Actual utility boxes vary in size shape and have various vents, seams, doors, and handles. Be prepared to adjust artwork to fit a unique utility box.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Why are utility boxes receiving public art?

The City of Torrance is committed to public art as a means for vibrancy, cultural uniqueness, community building, improving the quality of life, and making the City a cultural destination.

Who is paying for the utility boxes to have public art?

The costs associated with utility box public art are being paid for by private sponsorships.

How can I sponsor or support public art for a utility box?

Donations for the utility box public arts pilot project can be made by completing a Sponsorship Form available at [\[WEBSITE LINK TBD.\]](#)

If I sponsor a box may I choose the artwork for the box?

Utility Box Sponsors may request a specific artwork be considered with support of their sponsorship, however, the Cultural Arts Commission will not guarantee that the requested artwork will be accepted and may choose any other artwork for the sponsored box at their sole discretion. All Utility Box art for consideration will be subject to the guidelines established in the Call for Artists.

Are the artists being paid?

Yes, an artist receives a \$500.00 stipend for their artwork per utility box design.

How did you come up with the design and how do you transfer it to the box?

Each artist has an idea that has inspired him/her which they create into a rendering and proposal. The rendering is submitted to the Cultural Arts Commission for approval. The rendering is then scaled up to fit the size of the utility box and is applied using a durable vinyl wrap.

What are the guidelines to what design is acceptable?

The criteria requires the artwork to be appropriate for the entire community to view and appropriate for its location.

Is this permanent?

The utility box would be finished with a UV/anti-graffiti coating and should last between 7-10 years. The City reserves the right to remove a utility box public artwork at any time for any reason.

What happens if a utility box gets tagged and or vandalized?

If the artwork is vandalized, the City will mitigate the graffiti or other damage to the utility box. The artist is not responsible for repair.

Are the artists from Torrance?

At this time all submitting artists are required to be from Torrance.

How long does it take to install public art on a utility box?

This varies based on the artist, utility box, location and design. Once an artwork is scheduled to be installed, a vendor will typically need one day for utility box prep and one day to install the vinyl wrap.

What does the city do to protect the finished design from being defaced?

Once the contractor has completed the vinyl wrapping, a UV/anti-graffiti coating will be applied. The City has contracted for graffiti abatement services that are ready to mitigate any tagging or graffiti that is reported in the City.

How can I comment regarding the art?

The public is welcome to send comments to [WEBSITE LINK TBD.]

How do I submit an artist application?

Applications can be found on the City of Torrance website, Cultural Art Division section at:
[WEBSITE LINK TBD.]

CITY OF TORRANCE UTILITY BOX PUBLIC ART PILOT PROGRAM INFORMATION

The City of Torrance and its Cultural Arts Commission invites artists to participate in the City's Utility Box Public Art Pilot Program. The City and the Commission are seeking artists to showcase their work to beautify utility boxes located throughout the City of Torrance. The program shall add public art to the City's visual realm to contribute to the vitality and attractiveness of the City's streetscapes and bring art to unexpected places. The Application and Guidelines are accessible on the City website (www.arts.torranceca.gov/the-arts). [Note: This link is not active for Program information]

SPONSORSHIP FORM

Sponsors are welcome to envision how public art can transform our community, and support the work of artists that will showcase original art work on utility boxes located throughout Torrance. The Utility Box Pilot Program aims to upgrade unsightly utility boxes by bringing art to unexpected places and enhancing the beauty and vibrancy of Torrance for years to come. Sponsorships are \$2,000 per utility box and include a \$500 artist stipend as well as the cost to install a vinyl wrap of the selected artwork onto a utility box.

Utility Box Sponsors may request a specific artwork be considered as part of their sponsorship, however, the Cultural Arts Commission and City Council will not guarantee that the requested artwork will be accepted and may choose another artwork for the sponsored box at their sole discretion. All Utility Box art for consideration will be subject to the guidelines established in the Call for Artists and the Cultural Arts Commission will recommend final locations, subject to the approval of the City Council.

Sponsor Information:

Name of Person, Business or Organization: _____

Sponsor Information to appear on the Box (no logos are permitted): _____

Sponsor Contact: _____

Mailing Address: _____ City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Requested Box Location (not guaranteed): _____

Utility Box Sponsorship: \$2,000 (1% of sponsorship allocated to Utility Box Art Maintenance).

One or more individuals, an organization or a business can sponsor a Utility Box. The identified name(s) will be included on the Utility Box and will be listed under the Public Art section and Cultural Division section of the City's website.

Please submit a check payable to "City of Torrance" with this form to:

City of Torrance

Attn: Utility Box Program

Questions? Please contact the Cultural Services Department at (310) 618-2376

FOR COMMISSION MEETING

September 19, 2022

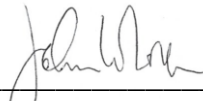
TO: CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION

FROM: JOHN LA ROCK, COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: TORRANCE ART MUSEUM PROJECT – WINDOWS AT DEL AMO FASHION CENTER

Recommendation of the Community Services Director that the Cultural Arts Commission receive and file a report on an art project produced by TAM in association with Discover Torrance and the Del Amo Fashion Center.

Respectfully submitted,



John La Rock
Community Services Director

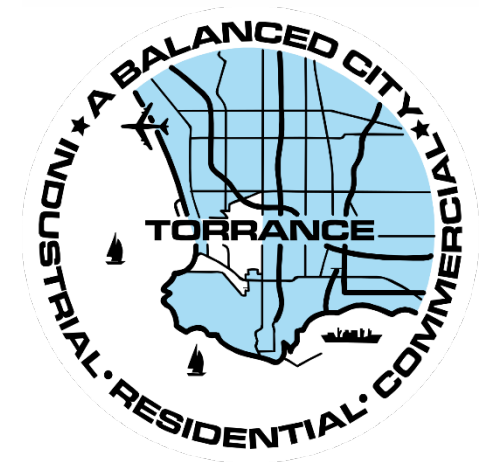
Attachment:

- Windows Art Project report

WINDOW

a public art collaboration between Torrance Art Museum and Discover Torrance

- *WINDOW* is an ongoing public art project in collaboration between Torrance Art Museum and Discover Torrance. It is a rotating solo presentation of artwork, curated by the museum staff and displayed in the storefront window of Discover Torrance, the official Visitors Bureau for the City of Torrance. Discover Torrance is located on the main level of the Del Amo Fashion Center, one of the largest shopping centers in the Western United States, affording a large segment of the community as well as many visitors to the city a chance to engage with artwork in a non institutional setting.



- The project was inspired by the museum's public art project *Ultra*, that took place July/August of this past year (2021) and presented artwork throughout the city of Torrance. There was a very strong favorable response to *Ultra*, and *WINDOW*is, on a much smaller scale, a way to continue introducing artwork to the community outside of the museum setting.
- TAM curates four artists a year to exhibit their work for three month periods each. They are chosen from submissions to an open call posted on both TAM's and Discover Torrance's websites as well as a number of pages that aggregate opportunities for LA and Southern California artists.
- The museum considers submissions of any medium that can be presented well inside the window.
- The project has been on display since January of this year (2022).



Artists

JANUARY, FEBRUARY, MARCH 2022

DEITRA CHARLES

"Dream", 2017

Dimensions Variable

Hoops, merino wool, hemp cord, and glass beads

Artist Statement

Art should be thought provoking, expressive, and enchanting. It should gather people together and yet allow for solitude and quiet contemplation. It should mean something to those who acquire it and even more to those who create it. Art should come from a place of passion and longing. Subtlety is a method that I take to deliver messages in my art so as not to dictate what the viewer sees, but offer a slight nudge so that they might look at objects in life with a new-found affinity. I hope that they will appreciate the beauty around us and see beyond what is in their peripheral vision. Identity and culture are just a couple of common themes in my work. Searching ancestry and elevating the unsung, everyday heroes are some of my goals as an artist. An installation that I created of what appears to be dreamcatchers is an ode to my ancestry. While I am an African American woman, my great grandmother was African American and Choctaw. Sadly, I do not know much of my history as it relates to Choctaw. As a child I attended predominately white schools that taught European history. When presenting my family tree, the expectation was to discuss African tribes and plantations. To embrace another culture was not taken seriously. As recent as 2017, I was questioned about cultural appropriation during an artist talk about my dreamcatcher installation. The assumption was that I did not have any ties to Native Americans. Having suppressed this part of my history for so long for fear of skepticism, I find it necessary to elevate and showcase the dreamcatcher-like installations in an open space, slowly turning and casting shadows on walls and floors that are as elusive as the truth in history. Above all, calm and peace resonate from my pieces. It is important for me to share my experiences, break down stereotypes, and provide a comfortable place to slow down for a moment and absorb the peace around. I want to provide a calming oasis within the art world and steer viewers toward a welcoming environment.



APRIL, MAY, JUNE 2022

GINA HERRERA

"The Last Voyage", 2020

70" x 37" x 26"

Assorted Found Materials and Steel

Artist Statement

I have always felt a strong affinity for nature. Growing up in Chicago, I found the most beauty in the trees, the singing birds, the sky above. As a visual learner with a multicultural heritage, I have been influenced by my father's Tesuque culture and my mother's Costa Rican heritage. While cultural art fascinates me, experiencing beauty of great European art collections while stationed in Germany early in my military career inspired my professional pursuit of art.

While serving in Iraq, amid the devastation of combat, I was moved by seeing miles of mountainous trash heaps. I viscerally experienced the global extent of the systematic destruction of the planet, exploitative, unsustainable, and perhaps worst, careless, unconscious, accidental. This led me to question my own practices, hoping to lessen my environmental impact. I began to build three-dimensional forms out of discarded and natural objects. I am engaged in an aesthetic and spiritual ritual to channel and honor Mother Earth, to seek connection and communion with a power greater than myself.

Everywhere I go, I gather materials, finding inspiration in my surroundings. Like a scavenger, I play an interventional role in removing garbage from the landscape, preventing it from doing further damage. I am also drawn to natural materials and organic forms -- branches, rocks, cocoons, nests. My process is meditative and intuitive -- each step revealing a new aspect. Figures emerge, in gravity defying postures on the brink of movement, alive with possibility. Their haunting spiritual presence reminds us they have not gone back to the earth, but asks us to question our connection with our world and the choices we make in our daily existence.

My greatest objective is to awaken individual and societal consciousness; to examine and heal our relationship with Mother Earth.



JULY, AUGUST, SEPTEMBER 2022

KARIM SHUQUEM

"Die Kunstkammer", Ongoing

Variable Dimensions

painted, carved, wine crates and various found objects

Artist Statement

Using the historic phenomenon of kunstkammern - also known as wunderkammern, the so-called cabinets of curiosities - in which European collectors would display acquired objects, this installation serves as a vehicle for examining how metaphysical frameworks determine our personal immersion and interaction with our environment and each other. These randomly curated objects, many of non-European origins collected during colonial campaigns, were presented as decontextualized curiosities. Die Kunstkammer is an ongoing and evolving sculptural installation made up of individually painted, carved, and stacked wine crates interspersed with various found objects. My contention is that a metaphysics that defines the physicality of objects as made up of dead matter alone, enables the type of collection, hierarchical categorization, and exploitation of resources that occurs within an imperialistic framework. Never fixed or finished, the overall project is inspired by the process-based metaphysics of thinkers such as Deleuze, Alfred North Whitehead, and Heraclitus.. A process-oriented world-view leads to a more relational understanding, in which the things and beings of this world are seen as co-constituent and interdependent. In a manner of poking fun, the black boxes literalize the idea of static building blocks of matter and have the macabre appearance of a memorial to the dead. Die Kunstkammer is in fact not a static sculpture and very much undead. I emphasize the inherent relationality of a process-based metaphysics by letting the site of the sculpture influence the form. The arrangement changes with every showing; it is a shape-shifting sculpture that is never stuck in the same position. Through my immersion in assembling Die Kunstkammer, I underline an internal animation that comes with the act of stacking. Objects and engravings are hidden from sight while others are revealed. Electronic candles and figurines are interspersed throughout. Light emanates from cracks and gaps within the boxes. As the facilitator of this eternal becoming, I frequently pull prints from the carved boxes to further expand the form, expand the possibilities of transformation within matter, and to document the process itself.



Press and Social Media

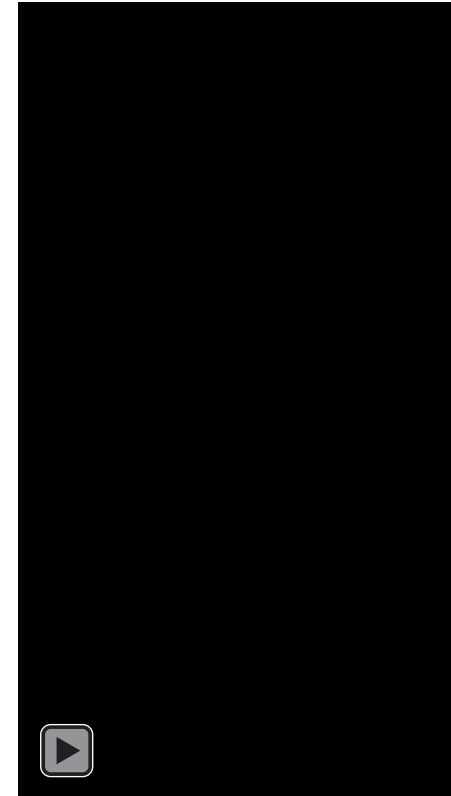


COVID-19 TODAY - DECEMBER 21, 2021 - City of Torrance

Torrance Citi CABLE

(Channel 3 (Spectrum), Channel 31 (Frontier).

<https://youtu.be/HTuhXzljUno>



Torrance Art Musuem TikTok Account- June 23, 2022

https://www.tiktok.com/@torranceartmuseum/video/7112522010177293614?is_from_webapp=1&sender_device=pc&web_id=7128168311378413102

TO: CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION
FROM: JOHN LA ROCK, COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTOR
SUBJECT: CULTURAL SERVICES DIVISION REPORT – August 2022

Administration

Staff have been working on Excellence In Arts event, getting banners, step and repeat, and creating the digital program and invitations.

Staff have been working with the Finance Department to renew annual contracts for contract instructors and supply vendors. Most of the new contracts are effective from July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023

Nico Clifton, Performing Arts Program Coordinator

The summer 2022 class session came to a close in August. The summer session went by quickly with no issues. However, Tap Dance Workshop was cancelled for the remaining three classes due to the instructor, Ms. Patti Neal, being hospitalized (as of September, she is out of the hospital and in a recovery center). The entire Cultural Services Division wishes her well.

Fall registration opened for Torrance residents on August 16th and August 23rd for non-residents. Fall classes were promoted through our social media pages, and an email blast went out to all past rosters. Enrollment has been steady and on par with the other sessions during the first two weeks of registration – only a few classes had lower enrollment numbers than usual.

Gia Jordahl, Producing Artistic Director, Torrance Theatre Company

Torrance Theatre Company

THE ADDAMS FAMILY played at the James R. Armstrong Theatre August 6-13, 2022. The show featured a live orchestra sponsored by the Friends of Torrance Theatre Company non-profit organization, and a volunteer cast of 31 actors. The show ran for six performances, and received rave reviews. The show was the third best-selling production in the history of the TTC, and it was accomplished with two less performances than the top two sellers. A complete report will be available in the next month.

Torrance Civic Chorale

The Torrance Civic Chorale is preparing for the fall session, beginning on September 12th. The session will culminate in a performance on December 16th at the James R. Armstrong Theatre, and it will feature a variety of holiday music from around the world. More info will be available on the website in coming weeks, www.torrancecivicchorale.org.

Summer Drama Camps With Starlight

Drama camp was a great success, and out of an available capacity of 360 participants, we were able to serve 355. We look forward to potentially expanding our program next summer.

Torrance Sister City Association

Torrance Sister City Association held a 50th anniversary committee meeting on August 10th.

Rose Float Association

The Rose Float Association held their monthly meeting on August 2nd.

Rose Vial donation drive inserts for the City water bills were sent to the mail house in August for a Sept/Oct roll out.

Summer Concert Series

This year's summer series has been a great success with Shakespeare by the Sea's two performances; and three live bands- So Rad, The Wayback Daddies, and Petty Theft. The series will close out with the Palos Verdes Symphonic Band featuring over 60 musicians on September 4th.

Max Presneil, TAM Curator and Director

Torrance Art Museum opened the latest exhibition, The LA6 and the Underground, on Saturday July 16, and was attended by nearly 500 people. The weekly attendance numbers have been high and consistent. The show is photography based with a selection of painting and sculpture included, that investigate the urban experience.

In Gallery Two we presented B/LA/Connect – as part of a LA County wide festival that showcases, as part of an exchange, the art works of Berlin based galleries that are artist-run. Included was a selection of local artists who were exhibited in Berlin last year.