

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the City Clerk's office at (310) 618-2780. Notification 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the City to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting. [28CFR35.102-35.104 ADA Title II]  
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, JUNE 19, 2023  
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, June 15, 2023 /s/ Rebecca Poirier

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 ANNOUNCEMENT OF WITHDRAWN, DEFERRED, AND/OR SUPPLEMENTAL ITEMS**

**5. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS** (Limited to a 15 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 the Cultural Arts Commission approve the Cultural Arts Commission minutes of May 15, 2023.

## **7. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

### **7A. CULTURAL SERVICES DIVISION UPDATES**

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

### **7B. DISCUSS CREATING AN AD HOC COMMITTEE TO SURVEY BUSINESSES**

Recommendation of the Cultural Arts Division that the Cultural Arts Commission discuss and vote on creating an ad hoc committee to survey businesses and make determinations as to appropriate types of entertainment specific businesses may want to consider; and suggest those to the City's Economic Development Office.

### **7C. VOTE ON EXCELLENCE IN ARTS CATEGORIES**

Recommendation of the Cultural Services Division that the Cultural Arts Commission discuss potential new Arts Award categories for the Excellence in Arts award ceremonies including youths emerging as artistically talented, and individuals with exceptional lengths of service in the arts.

### **7D. TOUR CULTURAL ARTS CENTER FACILITIES**

Recommendation of the Cultural Arts Division that the Cultural Arts Commission tour the Cultural Arts Center Facilities.

## **8. COMMISSION ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

## **9. ADJOURNMENT**

- 9A.** Adjournment of the Cultural Arts Commission Meeting to MONDAY, July 17, 2023 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, May 15, 2023, in the West Annex Commission Meeting Room.

**ROLL CALL**

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

Absent: None.

Also Present: Cultural Services Manager Monica Harte and General Services Facility Operations Manager Gerry Pinela.

**2. FLAG SALUTE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Klinenberg.

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

Chair Polcari reported that the agenda was posted on the Public Notice Board at 3031 Torrance Boulevard and on the City's website on Thursday, May 11, 2023.

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

None.

**5. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

Members of the public spoke.

- Commissioner Carrasco joined the meeting at 7:02 p.m.

**6. CONSENT CALENDAR**

**6A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: APRIL 17, 2023**

**MOTION:** Commissioner Sargent moved to approve the April 17, 2023, minutes as presented. Commissioner Hsiao seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

**7. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

**7A. CULTURAL SERVICES DIVISION UPDATES**

Cultural Services Manager Harte presented the Cultural Services Division Updates:

- The Torrance Art Museum is preparing for the new exhibit and events.
- Torrance Theatre Company is rehearsing *Native Gardens* and auditioning for *Kinky Boots*.

- Torrance Cultural Services Department is investigating scholarships and increased supplies for Cultural Services classes.
- The Torrance Summer Nights subcommittee met and provided staff with additional information for social media marketing.
- Torrance Cultural Services Administration is working on social media marketing for the Excellence in Arts Awards and working with the Sister City Association regarding a student trip.
- The Torrance Rose Float Association is preparing to present their 2024 concept.
- Cultural Services classes are going well; a search for teachers regarding cooking classes will begin.

**7B. VOTE ON A DATE TO TOUR THE ARMSTRONG AND NAKANO THEATRES**

Cultural Services Manager Harte presented item 7B:

**MOTION:** Commissioner Klinenberg moved to tour the Armstrong and Nakano Theatres on Monday, June 19, 2023. Commissioner Hsiao seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

**7C. DISCUSS EXCELLENCE IN ARTS CATEGORIES**

Commissioner Cabrera presented Item 7B.

Commissioner Cabrera is looking to acknowledge emerging new artists under the age of 25 that contribute to the arts in the City of Torrance and would like to see a category added to the Excellence in Arts Awards.

Members of the Commission spoke.

Commissioner Cabrera stated that with the feedback provided by the Commission, the subcommittee can meet Monday, June 12, 2023, and bring back information during the next Commission meeting scheduled, Monday, June 19, 2023.

Chair Polcari suggested to place in a category that recognizes individuals who continue to serve the City of Torrance through the arts and requested that a discussion be had during the Monday, June 12, 2023, subcommittee meeting. Commissioner Cabrera acknowledged the request.

Members of the Commission spoke.

Members of the Commission provided feedback on the Excellence in Arts nomination form. Cultural Services Manager Harte acknowledged the feedback.

**8. COMMISSION ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

Members of the Commission spoke.

Commissioner Cabrera announced the South Bay Wind Ensemble's, *In Space*, performance scheduled Sunday, May 28, 2023.

Commissioner Cabrera requested that a subcommittee be formed regarding reaching out / partnering with local businesses to provide arts to the community to move towards identifying the City of Torrance as a place for cultural arts in the South Bay.

Chair Polcari announced the Historical Society's Reading of the Names on the Wall, scheduled Memorial Day, Monday, May 29, 2023.

9. **ADJOURNMENT:**

**MOTION:** At 8:29 p.m., Commissioner Kraemer moved to adjourn the meeting to Monday, June 19, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. in the West Annex Commission Meeting Room. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Klinenberg; a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

###

SUBJECT TO APPROVAL

For Commission Meeting  
June 19, 2023

**TO: CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION**

**FROM: MONICA HARTE, CULTURAL SERVICES MANAGER**

**RE: CULTURAL SERVICES DIVISION MANAGER- DIVISION UPDATES**

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

- Torrance Summer Nights line-up got off to a great start with more than 300 people at Andy & Renee & Hard Rain's performance, June 4<sup>th</sup>. We currently have eight sponsors for the event: Supervisor Hahn, Optum, Malaga Bank, Discover Torrance, Absolution Brewing Company, FastSigns, Del Amo Fashion Center, and Red Car Brewery & Restaurant.
- Torrance Art Museum (TAM) just opened ¿WILD?, the exhibit at Madrona Marsh June 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- Torrance Theatre Company (TTC) opened NATIVE GARDENS by Karen Zacarias and is rehearsing for the summer Tony Award winning musical, KINKY BOOTS by Harvey Fierstein.
- Torrance Cultural Services Classes is onboarding a new jewelry instructor and gearing up for the new outdoor classes.
- Excellence in Arts social media has completed one full cycle of posts and the Subcommittee meets July 5<sup>th</sup>.

Respectfully Submitted,



---

Monica Harte  
Cultural Services Manager

For Commission Meeting  
June 19, 2023

**TO: CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION**

**FROM: MONICA HARTE, CULTURAL SERVICES MANAGER**

**SUBJECT: CULTURAL SERVICES DIVISION REPORT – June 2023**

**Administration**

Staff continues to work closely with TSCA to prep for upcoming meetings for the students that will be traveling to and from Kashiwa in October.

Staff continues to work with sponsors for the Torrance Summer Nights Festival of free events. Staff is currently promoting the 2023 Concert Series by engaging the public through Instagram and Facebook stories and posts. The first concert, on June 4, featured Andy & Renee & Hard Rain, which brought in 300+ in attendance that sang and danced the night away. This past weekend Nina Lares Jazz Quartet, featuring our first Latin-style infused jazz performance

Since opening night of the 2023 Concert Season, Staff has received numerous amounts of inquiries regarding performer and potential new sponsors' participation for the 2024 Torrance Summer Nights. In response, Staff has started brainstorming on different ways to expand genres including Salsa.

Staff is working diligently to promote the 2023 Excellence in Arts awards through Instagram and Facebook by highlighting each category daily, COT Cultural Arts website and placement on all electronic marquees throughout the City. All nominations are due Tuesday, August 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Gia Jordahl, Producing Artistic Director, Torrance Theatre Company**

**Torrance Theatre Company**

HOT TIP, improv shows continue on the first Sunday of the month at 7 pm. Tickets are on sale now at [www.torrancetheatrecompany.com](http://www.torrancetheatrecompany.com). HOT TIP is slated a performance at the Wilson Park Amphitheatre as part of Torrance Summer Nights.

Summer registration has begun. TTC is excited to add summer camps at Wilson Park this year, featuring two weeks of Improv, and one week of Shakespeare. Starlight Productions 6 weeks of drama camp at the Cultural Arts Center are completely sold out with 60 participants in each class.

NATIVE GARDENS by Karen Zacarias, directed by Glenn Kelman. opened June 3rd and runs through June 24th. Tickets are currently on sale at [www.torrancetheatrecompany.com](http://www.torrancetheatrecompany.com)

Auditions for the summer musical KINKY BOOTS were held in May, and we had 100 submissions for the 22 available roles. The Tony-, Grammy- and Olivier-winning best musical, with book by Harvey Fierstein, and music and lyrics by Hall-of-Fame recording artist Cyndi Lauper will feature a live orchestra thanks to a donation from the Friends of Torrance Theatre Company. The show will play for SEVEN performances only, August 5-29, at the James R. Amrstrong Theatre. Tickets are on sale at the Armstrong Box Office and online at [www.torrancetheatrecompany.com](http://www.torrancetheatrecompany.com).

### **Torrance Civic Chorale**

The Torrance Civic Chorale is preparing for the fall session, including the inclusion of a new Jazz Ensemble. More information will be able this summer.

### **Torrance Sister City Association**

Eight student exchange delegates and one adult leader will leave for Kashiwa July 11<sup>th</sup>, returning August 1<sup>st</sup>. The Kashiwa student exchange delegates will arrive in Torrance the following week and will be introduced at the August 8<sup>th</sup> City Council meeting.

### **Rose Float Association**

The Rose Float Association held their monthly meeting. The initial concept art for the 2024 float was approved by Community Enrichment and Development Committee, and will now proceed to City Council for final approval.

### **Max Presneil, TAM Curator and Director**

#### **Torrance Art Museum**

Baker's Dozen, a recurring annual exhibition opened on Saturday May 27. Over 300 attended the opening night. Also featured, in Gallery Two, is a suite of drawings by Laurie Lipton and in our video space, The Dark Room, we have a video installation collaboration by Jack X Proctor and Leslie Foster.

### **Nico Clifton, Performing Arts Program Coordinator**

#### **Classes**

Spring classes concluded in May. Surveys were sent to all participants to gain feedback in order to improve our programming. Initial responses have been positive, mainly praising the instructors and their incredible teaching. Summer class registration opened May 23<sup>rd</sup> for Torrance residents and May 30<sup>th</sup> for non-residents. We added several new classes to our summer programming – four outdoor fitness classes, an all-level ceramics class, and a woodwind workshop. Marketing for these classes was done through our social media accounts and printed flyers that displayed at the Torrance library branches and senior centers.



For Commission Meeting  
June 19, 2023

**TO: CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION**

**FROM: MONICA HARTE, CULTURAL SERVICES MANAGER**

**RE: ADD EXCELLENCE OF ARTS CATEGORIES**

The Excellence in Arts Awards recognize individuals, groups, and corporations who make outstanding contributions to the arts in one of the following categories: Dance; Drama & Theatre Arts; Music; Visual Arts & Design; Literary Arts; Arts Education, and the Katy Geissert Award.

Cultural Services Manager, Monica Harte, recommends that the Commissioners vote on adding a youth emerging as artistically talented, and individuals with exceptional lengths of service in the arts categories to the existing abovementioned seven categories.

Respectfully Submitted,



---

Monica Harte  
Cultural Services Manager