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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.

The Cultural Services Commission is an advisory body to the City Council that meets on the third Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. in the West Annex Commission Meeting Room. All meetings are open to the public.

**TORRANCE CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION AGENDA**  
**MONDAY, JULY 17, 2023**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**7:00 P.M. IN THE WEST ANNEX COMMISSION MEETING ROOM**  
**CITY HALL, 3031 TORRANCE BOULEVARD**  
**TORRANCE, CA 90503**

**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, July 13, 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 ANNOUNCEMENT OF WITHDRAWN, DEFERRED, AND/OR SUPPLEMENTAL ITEMS**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 June 19, 2023.

**6B. NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR**

Recommendation of the Cultural Services Manager that the Cultural Arts Commission nominate and elect the Chair and Vice Chair of the Cultural Arts Commission for 2023-2024.

## **7. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

### **7A. CULTURAL SERVICES MANAGER – RECEIVE AND FILE CULTURAL SERVICES DIVISION UPDATES**

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

### **7B. CULTURAL SERVICES MANAGER – DISCUSS GOLDEN CIRCLE AWARD FOR CONTINUED SERVICE**

Recommendation of the Cultural Services Manager that the Cultural Arts Commission provide input and approve adding the Golden Circle Award for Continued Exceptional Service to the 2023 Excellence in Arts Award Ceremony.

### **7C. CULTURAL SERVICES MANAGER – DISCUSS ANNOUNCEMENT OF 2024 EMERGING ARTIST CATEGORY**

Recommendation of the Cultural Services Manager that the Cultural Arts Commission provide input and approve an announcement during the 2023 Excellence in Arts Awards Ceremony of a new category for 2024.

## **8. COMMISSION ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

## **9. ADJOURNMENT**

**9A.** Adjournment of the Cultural Arts Commission Meeting to MONDAY, August 21, 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, June 19, 2023, in the West Annex Commission Meeting Room.

**ROLL CALL**

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

Absent: Commissioners Klinenberg.

Also Present: Cultural Services Manager Monica Harte, Community Services Director John La Rock, and General Services Facility Operations Manager Gerry Pinela.

**2. FLAG SALUTE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Cabrera.

**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, June 15, 2023.

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

None.

**5. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

None.

**6. CONSENT CALENDAR**

**6A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: MAY 15, 2023**

**MOTION:** Commissioner Sargent moved to approve the May 15, 2023, minutes as presented. Commissioner Hsiao seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected 5-0 approval (Commissioners Carrasco and Klinenberg absent).

- Commissioner Carrasco joined the meeting at 7:03 p.m.

7. **ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

7A. **CULTURAL SERVICES DIVISION UPDATES**

Cultural Services Manager Harte presented the Cultural Services Division Updates:

- Torrance Summer Nights kicked off with 300+ people in attendance.
- Torrance Art Museum opened the new exhibition, *¿Wild?*
- Torrance Theatre Company opened *Native Gardens* and is rehearsing for *Kinky Boots* coming Summer 2023.
- Torrance Cultural Services Classes is currently onboarding a new jewelry instructor.
- Excellence in Arts social media completed (1) full cycle of posts; subcommittee to meet July 5, 2023.
- Staff is working with the Torrance Sister City Association for the upcoming student visit to Kashiwa, Japan.
- Since opening night of the concert series, new sponsor and performer participation requests have been received.
- Torrance Theatre Company, Hot Tip, will perform at Wilson Park as part of Torrance Summer Nights, August 6, 2023.
- The Torrance Rose Float Association 2024 float was approved by the Citizen Development and Enrichment Committee and will go before City Council for final approval.

Members of the Commission spoke.

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

Cultural Services Manager Harte presented item 7B:

Commissioner Cabrera stated that the ad hoc committee is a way to look at what the city can do to encourage local businesses to contribute to making the City of Torrance an identity for the cultural arts; Commissioner Cabrera stated that he is open to ideas that have minimal costs but maximum impact.

Members of the Commission spoke.

Community Services Director La Rock stated that per discussions with staff, the ad hoc committee will survey businesses open to lending themselves to the element of the cultural arts, the committee would present findings to the Commission, the Commission could make a recommendation that would go before the Economic Development Manager, and if it had traction, the recommendation would go before City Council as part of the Economic Development Office and services to the community.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Cabrera moved to appoint a subcommittee creating an ad hoc committee to survey local businesses to determine appropriate types of entertainment businesses may want to consider and suggest considerations to the Economic Development Office. Commissioner Carrasco seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected 5-0 approval (Commissioner Klinenberg absent).

**CONSENSUS:** The Commission agreed to appoint Commissioner Cabrera and Commissioner Klinenberg to the ad hoc committee with Chair Polcari serving as an alternate.

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

Cultural Services Manager Harte presented Item 7C.

Members of the Commission spoke.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Carrasco moved to table the Youth Artist category for the 2024 Cultural Arts Award and moved to add the Exceptional Length of Service category to the 2023 awards, pending specific criteria per the subcommittee's discussion and Commission's review and approval July 2023. Commissioner Hsiao seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected 5-0 approval (Commissioner Klinenberg absent).

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

Cultural Services Manager Harte presented Item 7C.

- General Services Facility Operations Manager Pinela led the Commission to tour the Cultural Arts Center facilities.

**RECESSED:** 7:36 p.m.

**RECONVENED:** 9:03 p.m.

**8. COMMISSION ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

None.

**9. ADJOURNMENT:**

**MOTION:** At 9:04 p.m., Commissioner Kraemer moved to adjourn the meeting to Monday, July 17, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. in the West Annex Commission Meeting Room. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hsiao; a roll call vote reflected 5-0 approval (Commissioner Klinenberg absent).

###

For Commission Meeting  
July 17, 2023

**TO: CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION**

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

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

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

- Torrance Summer Nights events are very successful. Shakespeare by the Sea and Hamlet followed by Hot Tip! will be presented the weekends of July 29, 2023 and August 6, 2023.
- Torrance Art Museum (TAM) will open Body Politics July 22, 2023.
- Torrance Theatre Company (TTC) is rehearsing KINKY BOOTS, which opens August 5, 2023.
- Torrance Cultural Services Classes has been rebranded as Cultural Education.
- The Excellence in Arts Subcommittee meeting was productive, and the discussion regarding nominations was promising.
- The Torrance Rose Float Association 2024 conceptual float design was approved by City Council, July 11, 2023.
- The Torrance Sister City Association Annual Report and Financial Statement were approved by City Council July 11, 2023. The Kashiwa Student Exchange is presently under way.

Respectfully Submitted,



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Monica Harte  
Cultural Services Manager

For Commission Meeting  
July 17, 2023

**TO: CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION**

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

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

**Administration**

Staff continues to work closely with TSCA to finalize the activities and transportation needs for the Kashiwa Student Delegation that are arriving on August 7.

Staff continues to promote the 2023 Torrance Summer Nights (TSN) by engaging not only through social media platforms, but also City marquees located at Wilson Park, North Torrance Library, and Civic Center.

The 2023 TSN continues to present events that residents and non-residents are loving. The eclectic line-up has garnered audiences of 200 to 350 people per concert.

On July 9, 2023 TSN presented a unique event that was a collaboration of the Torrance Theatre Company and Torrance Art Museum. The TAM HOUSEPARTY! was a huge success with 4 DJs spinning different genres ranging from the 60s to SKA to the 80s. Approximately 200 people attended and Absolution Brewery provided the beer. The social media video post received 800+ views.

Staff member continues to work diligently to promote the 2023 Excellence in Arts awards. As the nomination submission deadline nears, Staff has worked with CitiCable to market the event and has continued social media efforts. All nominations are due Tuesday, August 1, 2023.

Cultural Services social media engagement has increased by more than 200 people in the last month.

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

**Torrance Theatre Company (TTC)**

HOT TIP improv shows continue to be presented on the first Sunday of each month at 7 pm. Tickets are on sale now at [www.torrancetheatrecompany.com](http://www.torrancetheatrecompany.com). HOT TIP is slated to perform at the Wilson Park Amphitheatre as part of Torrance Summer Nights on August 6 at 5:00 p.m. with free admission.

TTC has two Improv Camps at Wilson Park this July; one is full with a waiting list, and the other has met the minimum enrollment requirement to proceed. We hope that this is the beginning of a summer tradition for TTC. We are currently working on a fall line-up of classes for youth and adults in Improv and Musical Theatre Vocal Training.

TTC has also partnered with the Torrance Education Foundation (TEF) to offer an Improv Camp through the summer school programming that they provide. Ashley Defrancesco, a member of the TTC improv troupe, HOT TIP, is heading up the program. Camp is four weeks long, Monday-Friday from 12:45-4:00 p.m. We hope that this is the beginning of a great partnership with TEF.

Starlight Productions 6 weeks of Drama Camp at the Cultural Arts Center has completely sold out with 60 participants in each class.

NATIVE GARDENS by Karen Zacarias, directed by Glenn Kelman, had a successful run at the downtown theater in June, with great accolades from the public and several return viewers.

TTC announced the 2023-2024 season line-up which includes DANGEROUS CORNER by J.B. Priestley; MISS BENNET'S CHRISTMAS AT PEMBERLEY by Lauren Gunderson and Margot Marcon; INTIMATE APPAREL by Lynn Nottage; HAY FEVER: THE MUSICAL by David Howard and Bret Simmons; and IT'S ONLY A PLAY by Terrence McNally. The season will kick-off in October, and the subscription for all five shows is \$125. By the end of the June, the TTC had 175 subscriptions sold.

Rehearsals for the summer musical KINKY BOOTS started in June. 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 run from August 5 – 19, 2023 with seven performances at the James R. Armstrong 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 a new Jazz Ensemble. More information will be available this summer.

### **Torrance Sister City Association**

Eight student exchange delegates and one adult leader left for Kashiwa July 11, 2023 and will be returning August 1, 2023. The Kashiwa student exchange delegates will arrive in Torrance the following week and will be introduced at the August 8, 2023 City Council meeting.

### **Rose Float Association**

The Rose Float Association held their monthly meeting. The final rendering for the 2024 float was approved by the City Council July 11, 2023.



**Max Presneil, TAM Curator and Director**

**Torrance Art Museum (TAM)**

TAM saw the closing of the BAKER'S DOZEN exhibition on June 17, 2023. This short run exhibition opened for 16 days. The exhibition was seen by 750 visitors.

TAM collaborated with eight artist-run galleries in Sweden and eight artist-run galleries in SoCal for SCANDILA. The Swedish artists' works were shown in eight SoCal spaces Friday, Saturday and Sunday July 7-9, 2023. The eight openings garnered more than 1500 visitors for this year's SCANDILA.

TAM HOUSEPARTY! held on Sunday, July 9, was a success and therefore, we are investigating additional opportunities and venues for similar events.

BODY POLITICS opens on Saturday, July 22 from 6-9 p.m. and will feature the works of disabled artists.

**Nico Clifton, Performing Arts Program Coordinator**

**Classes / Cultural Education**

Cultural Services has rebranded Classes as Cultural Education. The Cultural Education summer classes began on June 19, 2023. There are 104 diverse classes with a total of over 1,300 participants enrolled this summer. Some highlights include two new classes in the parks—Zumba at McMaster Park and Sunset Yoga at Miramar Park—as well as a new ceramics class.

The fall class schedule was sent to Registration to be placed in the Seasons guide. We are planning to continue classes at local parks and add music and ceramics classes. We are also in the process of adding contractors and instructors to offer sports and jewelry classes for the fall session.

For Commission Meeting  
July 17, 2023

**TO: CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION**

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

**RE: DISCUSS GOLDEN CIRCLE AWARD FOR CONTINUED SERVICE**

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 discuss and approve adding the Golden Circle Award for Continued Exceptional Service to the 2023 Excellence in Arts Award Ceremony.

Respectfully Submitted,



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Monica Harte  
Cultural Services Manager

For Commission Meeting  
July 17, 2023

**TO: CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION**

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

**RE: DISCUSS ANNOUNCEMENT OF 2024 EMERGING ARTIST CATEGORY**

Recommendation of the Cultural Services Manager, Monica Harte that the Commissioners provide input and approve an announcement during the 2023 Excellence in Arts Awards Ceremony of a new category for 2024.

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.

It was determined that the subcommittee would meet to explore a new category for emerging artists and report their ideas at the July 17 meeting. The Subcommittee agreed they would like to announce the new category at the 2023 Excellence in Arts Awards Ceremony for the 2024 Excellence in Arts Awards.

Respectfully Submitted,



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Monica Harte  
Cultural Services Manager