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Direct questions or concerns to the Commission Liaison Monica Harte at (310) 618-618-2380 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 7:00 p.m. in the West Annex Commission Meeting Room. All meetings are open to the public.

**TORRANCE CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION AGENDA
MONDAY, AUGUST 21, 2023
REGULAR MEETING
7:00 P.M. IN THE WEST ANNEX COMMISSION MEETING ROOM
AT 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, Polcari, Chair Sargent

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, August 17, 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 ANNOUNCEMENT OF WITHDRAWN, DEFERRED, AND/OR SUPPLEMENTAL ITEMS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 July 17, 2023.

6B. CULTURAL SERVICES MANAGER – DISCUSS AND APPROVE THE EXCELLENCE IN ARTS AWARD RECIPIENTS

Recommendation of the Cultural Services Manager that the Cultural Arts Commission discuss and approve the Subcommittee's recommendations for

the Excellence in Arts award recipients and approve an extension for the Literary Arts submission deadline.

7. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

7A. CULTURAL SERVICES MANAGER – REVIEW CULTURAL SERVICES DIVISION UPDATES

Recommendation of the Cultural Services Manager that the Cultural Arts Commission review updates on the Cultural Services activities.

7B. CULTURAL SERVICES MANAGER – PRESENTATION BY TORRANCE CULTURAL ARTS FOUNDATION (TOCA) OF THEIR ANNUAL REPORT

Recommendation of the Cultural Services Manager that the Cultural Arts Commission receive TOCA'S 2022 Annual Report.

7C. CULTURAL SERVICES MANAGER – DISCUSS VOTING PROCEDURES AND COMMISSIONERS TENURE

Recommendation of the Cultural Services Manager that the Cultural Arts Commission discuss nominating procedures and Commission tenures for Chair and Vice Chair of the Cultural Arts Commission.

8. COMMISSION ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

9. ADJOURNMENT

9A. Adjournment of the Cultural Arts Commission Meeting to MONDAY, September 18, 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, July 17, 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.

2. FLAG SALUTE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Kraemer.

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, July 13, 2023.

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 ANNOUNCEMENT OF WITHDRAWN, DEFERRED, AND/OR SUPPLEMENTAL ITEMS:

None.

5. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Members of the public spoke.

6. CONSENT CALENDAR

6A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: JUNE 19, 2023

MOTION: Commissioner Kraemer moved to approve the June 19, 2023, minutes as amended. Commissioner Hsiao seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected 7-0 approval.

6B. NOMINATION AND ELECTIONS OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

Commissioner Hsiao nominated Commissioner Sargent to be Chair from July 2023 to June 2024.

Commissioner Sargent nominated Commissioner Kraemer as Vice Chair.

Commissioner Cabrera nominated Commissioner Carrasco as a Vice Chair.

MOTION: Commissioner Hsiao moved to have Commissioner Sargent serve as Chair. Commissioner Kraemer seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected 7-0 approval.

MOTION: Commissioner Sargent moved to have Commissioner Kraemer serve as Vice Chair. Commissioner Hsiao seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected 4-3 approval (Commissioners Cabrera, Carrasco and Klinenberg voting against the motion).

7. **ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

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

Cultural Services Manager Harte presented the Cultural Services Division Updates:

- Torrance Summer Nights have been successful.
- Torrance Art Museum will open *Body Politics*, July 22, 2023.
- Torrance Theatre Company will open *Kinky Boots*, August 5, 2023.
- Torrance Cultural Services classes have been rebranded as Cultural Education.
- Excellence in Arts sub-committee meeting was productive with discussion of nominations; there are currently (2) nominations.
- Torrance Rose Float Association conceptual Rose Float design was approved by City Council.
- Torrance Sister City Association annual report and financial statements were approved by City Council.
- Torrance Theatre Company has (3) improv classes, (2) at Wilson Park, and (1) that collaborates with Torrance Education Foundation to offer an improv camp through the summer school programming at Hickory Elementary.
- Torrance Civic Chorale is preparing for the Fall season which includes a jazz ensemble.

Members of the Commission spoke.

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

Cultural Services Manager Harte presented item 7B:

Members of the Commission spoke.

MOTION: Commissioner Sargent moved to recommend that the Cultural Arts Commission's Excellence in Arts Awards include the Golden Circle Award for continuing service in October 2023. Commissioner Sargent seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected 7-0 approval.

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

Cultural Services Manager Harte presented Item 7C.

Commissioner Carrasco read the draft created for the Emerging Artist category.

Members of the Commission spoke.

MOTION: Commissioner Carrasco moved to include the new Excellence in Arts category, Emerging Artist, for the year 2024, to be announced at this year's Excellence in Arts ceremony. Commissioner Klinenberg seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected 7-0 approval.

8. COMMISSION ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

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

Commissioner Sargent presented flyers to the St. Luke's Presbyterian Church summer concert series.

Chair Polcari announced that Ballet California will have their Casino Night, October 2023 and will provide additional information in a future meeting.

Chair Polcari requested information on the Utility Box Wrap project. Cultural Services Manager Harte responded that a discussion regarding the project will be on the City Council's Agenda.

Commissioner Sargent requested information on the joint meeting with City Council. Cultural Services Manager Harte replied that a schedule is being prepared but dates have yet to be announced.

9. ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION: At 8:03 p.m., Commissioner Sargent moved to adjourn the meeting to Monday, August 21, 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 7-0 approval.

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For Commission Meeting
August 21, 2023

TO: CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION

FROM: MONICA HARTE, CULTURAL SERVICES MANAGER

SUBJECT: DISCUSS AND APPROVE THE EXCELLENCE IN ARTS AWARD RECIPIENTS.

Recommendation of the Cultural Services Manager that the Cultural Arts Commission discuss and approve the Subcommittee's recommendations for the Excellence in Arts award recipients and approve an extension for the Literary Arts submission deadline.

In 1977, the Cultural Arts Commission established the annual Excellence in Arts Awards. The purpose of these awards was to recognize excellence in the advancement of the arts and outstanding contributions to the cultural life of the community, as demonstrated by individual artists, businesses, or organizations whose artistic offerings touch the residents of Torrance.

Individuals or organizations that demonstrated the above characteristics could be nominated for the following categories: Arts Education, Dance, Drama & Theatre Arts, Literary Arts, Music, Visual Arts and Design, and the Katy Geissert Award.

This will be the 46th year that the Cultural Arts Commission is being asked to discuss and approve the award recipients from the current nomination list.

Respectfully submitted,



Monica Harte
Cultural Services Manager

For Commission Meeting
August 21, 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 saw more than 300 people at Andy and Renee's Dylan Retrospective.
- Torrance Art Museum (TAM) is working on Tryst and Nomad exhibitions for October 27 through October 29, 2023. Tryst will be the largest international Artist-Run spaces exhibition in the world. Nomad, an exhibition of Southern California sculptors, will run simultaneously.
- Torrance Theatre Company (TTC) closed a successful run of KINKY BOOTS, August 19, 2023. TTC is now preparing for the Fall Season.
- Torrance Cultural Services Classes are currently registering for the Fall session.
- The Excellence in Arts Subcommittee meeting was productive, and all but one of the categories - Literary Arts - have nominations that the Subcommittee is recommending for awards.
- The Utility Box Public Art Pilot Program was approved by City Council on August 8, 2023.
- Torrance Civic Chorale is preparing for the Fall Season.
- The Torrance Sister City Association is hosting the Kashiwa student delegation.

Respectfully Submitted,



Monica Harte
Cultural Services Manager

For Commission Meeting
August 21, 2023

TO: CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION
FROM: MONICA HARTE, CULTURAL SERVICES MANAGER
SUBJECT: CULTURAL SERVICES DIVISION REPORT – August 2023

Administration

Staff continues to work closely with Torrance Sister City Association to assist with student delegation and prepare for the Sayonara Banquet, August 23, 2023.

Staff continues to promote the 2023 Torrance Summer Nights (TSN) through social media platforms and the City marquees.

Cultural Services social media engagement continues to increase, including internationally in Germany, India, and the UK with average views of stories at 200 in a 12-hour period.

Gia Jordahl, Producing Artistic Director, Torrance Theatre Company

Torrance Theatre Company

TTC two Improv camps at Wilson Park wrapped up in August with instructor and HOT TIP member Ashley DeFrancesco. The program did well, and we plan to expand TTC camp programming next summer. We are offering a Fall line-up of classes for youth and adults in Improv and Musical Theatre Vocal Training.

TTC summer partnership with the Torrance Education Foundation was successful with an Improv camp at Hickory Elementary school. We hope to expand that program next summer.

Starlight Productions drama camp at the Cultural Arts Center started in July and all camps were sold out for the summer session.

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 July the TTC had 220 subscriptions sold.

The TTC summer musical, Kinky Boots, played for SEVEN performances August 5-19 at the James R. Armstrong Theatre. Ticket sales were great and audiences were enthusiastic.

Torrance Civic Chorale

The Torrance Civic Chorale is preparing for the fall session, and includes a new Jazz Ensemble.

Rose Float Association

The Rose Float Association did not hold their monthly meeting in July, but did receive the final approval from City Council for the 2024 float.

Max Presneil, TAM Curator and Director

Torrance Art Museum (TAM)

TAM presented the Body Politics exhibition, alongside Art & Med, both exhibitions of art addressing the issues of health, disability and related social conditions. Now into its second week, we have had 440 visitors to date.

The large scale NOMAD pop-up exhibition will be reinstated in October and we will present TRYST, the world's largest art fair for alternative galleries and artist-run spaces, alongside the new edition of NOMAD, featuring art spaces from around the world as well as nationally and from SoCal.

Nico Clifton, Performing Arts Program Coordinator

Classes / Cultural Education

Cultural Services is contemplating additional possible names for the arts and fitness classes. The Cultural Education summer classes have concluded and Fall registration has begun.

For Commission Meeting
August 21, 2023

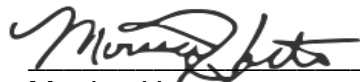
TO: CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION

FROM: MONICA HARTE, CULTURAL SERVICES MANAGER

SUBJECT: TORRANCE CULTURAL ARTS FOUNDATION (TOCA) 2022 ANNUAL REPORT

Recommendation of the Cultural Services Manager that the Cultural Arts Commission receive a presentation from the Torrance Cultural Arts Foundation (TOCA) regarding their 2022 Annual Report.

Respectfully submitted,



Monica Harte
Cultural Services Manager

Attachment: A) TOCA Presentation

**To: Torrance Cultural Arts Commission
Torrance City Council Members**

Re: TOCA 2022/2023 Season Annual Report

The Mission of the Torrance Cultural Arts Foundation (TOCA) is to enrich the community through the performing arts by providing diverse cultural, educational and entertainment experiences of the highest quality.

Per the Agreement between TOCA and the City of Torrance, TOCA is submitting an Annual Report that highlights its achievements tied to its annual goals as outlined in the Agreement.

The Agreement references several goals, which include providing a seasonal series of approximately ten programs for a general audience and six to eight children's interest programs, as well as providing quality artistic productions with well-known performers to the Center.

Goals also include supporting the City and the Torrance Cultural Arts Center in its efforts to:

- Provide visual, performing and literary arts programs
- Facilitate cultural programs provided by other groups in the community
- Develop and serve the widest possible audience for cultural programs
- Promote and develop partnerships between cultural groups

2022/23 SEASON OVERVIEW

After seeing a return of the majority of our audience, TOCA was slightly more aggressive in the programming than for the 21/22 season. While there was a hesitancy to offer the dinner buffet, the Studio Cabaret was brought back to our season. Despite the intimate setting, we did see the majority of our subscribers return for each concert.

Our 2022/23 season included 32 events. While all were "family friendly", 4 of them were specifically for family and young people. Additionally, 1 Songwriting Workshop was included as a part of our Studio Cabaret series.

2 added events to the season that were not in the brochure.

- A second Magic Bingo event
- Pacific Vision Youth Symphony with David Benoit.

Two events, "Remember When the Music, the Songs of Harry Chapin" and "My Dog is Better Than Your Dog" were produced by TOCA. Both shows were very well received by all those that attended.

	2022/23 Season	2021/22 Season	2020/21 Season	2019/20 Season	2018/19 Season	2017/18 Season
Number of Shows/Events	31	25	20 - Virtual 5 - Outdoor	34 - Scheduled 24 - Completed	31	33
Tickets Sold:	7,311	5,289	3108*	7,881	8,803	8,463
Ticket Revenue:	\$214,307.00	\$110,643.00	\$47,533.00	\$154,496.00	\$166,665.00	\$161,316.00
Concessions:	\$15,424.00	\$8,323.00	\$2,406.00	\$11,140.00	\$13,135.00	\$14,555.00
Artists Merchandise:	\$1,334.00	\$1,325.00	\$0.00	\$1,148.00	\$1,684.00	\$1,423.00
DWSBS:				\$36,659.00	\$43,596.00	\$28,726.00
Total Revenue:	\$231,065.00	\$120,291.00	\$49,939.00	\$203,443.00	\$225,080.00	\$206,020.00
Arts for All Tickets	466	650	0	530	631	638

* Livestream concerts (2,723 tickets) plus the five in-person summer concerts (385 tickets) on the Torino Plaza

** Dancing with the South Bay Stars has been put on hold until further notice.

2023 TOCApalooza (previously known as the South Bay Festival of the Arts)

The board decided to take a bold step in planning this season's festival. In order to promote the event as a more youthful and fun event, the name was changed to TOCApalooza.

Additional changes made included changing the Toyota Meeting Hall from the VIP area into a Beer, Wine and Spirits Experience. This allowed all patrons the opportunity to enjoy their adult beverages in the comfort of the Toyota, while still giving them access to the entertainment on the Torino Plaza.

Additional changes included increased prices for the taste tickets, using the Nakano Theatre to offer award winners of South Bay's Got Talent the opportunity to perform a 15 or 30 minute set.

	2023 TOCApalooza	2022 Festival	2021 Festival (Virtual)	2020 Festival	2019 Festival	2018 Festival
Approx. Attendees:	5,500	3,500	109	0	4,000	3,500
Total Fundraising:	\$97,658.00	\$115,331.00	\$43,105.00	\$0.00	\$123,823.00	\$123,501.00
Total Expenses:	\$53,478.00	\$52,297.00	\$9,555.00	\$0.00	\$60,226.00	\$51,954.00
Net Fundraising:	\$44,180.00	\$63,034.00	\$33,550.00	\$0.00	\$63,597.00	\$71,547.00
City Support:	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$6,124.00	\$17,566.00

2022-23 Marketing

Using social media and email blasts, TOCA continues to grow its reach with more than 8,790 people on our email list, 27,000 on our mailing list, and social media numbers that include 3,300 followers on Facebook, 1,778 on Instagram and 200 YouTube subscribers.

Every year, we print approx. 65,000 season brochures which are mailed to our list, inserted into the LA Times within the South Bay area and distributed throughout the city at different outlets which include Torrance City Hall, Torrance Cultural Arts Center, Welcome Center at Del Amo Mall, Red Car Brewery and more.

Additional marketing efforts include listing all shows on many online event listings, press releases, TOCA Backstage podcast interviews, and more.

2022-23 Season Financial Performance

	2022/23 Season	2021/22 Season	2020/21 Season	2019/20 Season	2018/19 Season	2017/18 Season
Total Income:	\$589,816.00	\$400,190.00	\$312,227.00	\$593,035.00	\$567,427.00	\$431,050.00
Total Expenses:	\$469,801.00	\$404,119.00	\$283,627.00	\$480,408.00	\$608,666.00	\$499,843.00
Net Income:	\$120,015.00	-\$3,929.00	\$28,600.00	\$112,627.00	-\$41,240.00	-\$68,793.00

OTHER SEASON HIGHLIGHTS:

Promotion and Partnerships with other Cultural Groups

TOCA continues it's very successful partnership with Asano Taiko and LA Taiko Institute to bring cultural programming to the Center.

The Taiwan Academy Los Angeles and Ministry of Culture of Taiwan partnered with TOCA to present "Whispers of Trees", a special multimedia concert collaboration between composer Chou Hsuan-hung and young film director Wei Zhao-yi. This event also gave TOCA the opportunity to work with Formosan Arts and Technology Museum who was acting as the Taiwan Academy's fiscal sponsor.

TOCA's partnership with the Pacific Vision Youth Symphony (David Benoit) came to an end this season when we presented the organization's last live performance. Unfortunately, PVYS will be closing their doors due to post Covid financial hardships. While we were pleased to work with them and sad to see the group come to an end, we are very excited about conversations with David Benoit about his desire to start up a new youth symphony.

TOCA partnered with the Del Almo Shopping Center after the TOCApalooza festival. The winners of TOCApalooza's juried art exhibition were on display in the mall for over a month. This allowed us to

create a new audience for the artists while also giving a preview of our upcoming 23/24 season with banners.

Community Outreach

TOCA is committed to giving back to the South Bay community through education, charitable contributions and supporting the underserved.


We are continuing our TOCA Backstage podcast which includes interviews with artists who are a part of our season as well as other leaders in the arts and community. It is our hope to expand this endeavor to include other arts organizations and special interviews that could offer insights and education for our listeners.

With respect to supporting other charitable endeavors and supporting the under-served, TOCA donated a total of 466 tickets to families in need through our "Arts for All" program. These free ticket vouchers allow families and young people to experience live performances that might not otherwise be able to afford them.

Summary

While we all would have liked this season to have been more successful, we felt that we did well for coming out of a pandemic. The TOCA board is more committed than ever to fine tuning our fundraising efforts and expanding the board of directors. Plans are also underway to have a strategic planning session with the current board to look at board development, fine tuning our mission statement and programming goals.

Respectfully submitted,



Wendy Shu
Board President



Christian Wolf
Executive Director

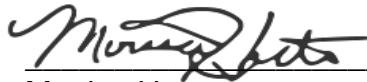
For Commission Meeting
August 21, 2023

TO: CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION
FROM: MONICA HARTE, CULTURAL SERVICES MANAGER
SUBJECT: ELECTION OF COMMISSION CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

Recommendation of the Cultural Services Manager that the Cultural Arts Commission discuss nominating procedures and Commission tenures. Procedures for nominating and electing a Commission Chair and Commission Vice Chair is done by majority votes of the Commission. Each appointee shall serve for one year.

The current Vice Chair shall conduct the election. Past practice for the nominations and elections has been based on those Commissioners who have the most seniority. However, any Commissioner may nominate a fellow Commissioner for the position of Chair or Vice Chair.

Respectfully submitted,



Monica Harte
Cultural Services Manager