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Direct questions or concerns to the Commission Liaison at (310) 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.

Security procedures: Members of the public will be directed to enter the West Annex building through the sliding door. All other entrances will remain locked for entry.

Any correspondence received after 2:00 p.m. on MONDAY on any item on the agenda will be provided to the Commission electronically and available for public inspection in the City Clerk's Office. A copy of the correspondence will be available for public inspection in a binder at the back of the Council Chamber or Commission Meeting room.

**TORRANCE CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION AGENDA
MONDAY, JANUARY 22, 2024
REGULAR MEETING
7:00 P.M. IN THE WEST ANNEX COMMISSION MEETING ROOM
AT 3031 TORRANCE BL.**

**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, January 18, 2024 /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 ANNOUNCEMENT OF WITHDRAWN, DEFERRED, AND/OR SUPPLEMENTAL ITEMS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 comments on items on the Consent Calendar or not on the agenda. Under the Ralph M. Brown Act, the Commission 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. **No longer than 1 minute per speaker**. If presenting handout material to Commission, please provide 10 copies to staff before speaking.*

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 the Cultural Services Manager that the Cultural Arts Commission approve the Cultural Arts Commission minutes of November 20, 2023.

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 - DISCUSS RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL FOR GRANT BUDGET OF \$1,500

Recommendation of the Cultural Services Manager that the Cultural Arts Commission consider a Recommendation to the City Council to reinstate an arts grant fund for disbursement.

8. COMMISSION ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

9. ADJOURNMENT

9A. Adjournment of the Cultural Arts Commission Meeting to MONDAY, February 26, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. in the West Annex Conference Room.



**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, November 20, 2023, in the West Annex Commission Meeting Room.

ROLL CALL

- Present: Commissioners Carrasco, Hsiao, Klinenberg, Kraemer, Polcari, and Chair Sargent.
- Absent: Commissioner Cabrera.
- Also Present: Cultural Services Manager Monica Harte and Community Services Director John La Rock.

MOTION: Commissioner Kraemer moved to excuse the absence of Commissioner Cabrera. Commissioner Hsiao seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected 6-0 approval (Commissioner Cabrera absent).

2. FLAG SALUTE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Hsiao.

3. REPORT OF STAFF ON THE POSTING OF THE AGENDA

Cultural Services Manager Harte reported that the agenda was posted on the Public Notice Board at 3031 Torrance Boulevard and on the City’s website on Thursday, November 16, 2023.

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

None.

5. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

A member of the public spoke.

6. CONSENT CALENDAR

6A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: OCTOBER 16, 2023

MOTION: Commissioner Klinenberg moved to approve the October 16, 2023 minutes. Commissioner Polcari seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected 6-0 approval (Commissioner Cabrera absent).

7. **ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

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

Cultural Services Manager Harte presented Item 7A:

- The Torrance Art Museum presented the TRYST / NOMAD 2 exhibition at Del Amo Crossings, October 27-29, 2023, with approximately 4,000 visitors.
- The Cultural Services Division has a new Senior Supervisor.
- The Torrance Theater Company is currently rehearsing *Ms. Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley*.
- The 2022-2023 Cultural Arts Commission's Annual Report was accepted and filed at the City Council meeting on November 14, 2023.
- The Torrance Sister City Association has selected executive board members and are preparing for outreach for Kashiwa exchange students.
- A Holiday Food Collection table will be available in the West Annex building until Monday, December 11, 2023.
- Regarding the Commission's interest in supporting cultural arts in the City of Torrance, the City Manager's Office that oversees all public information, has had no further call for media from the Mayor or the City Council beyond what already exists in the Strategic Plan.
- The 2024 Cherry Blossom Cultural Festival's webpage is on the city's website and staff is working on vendor / food applications.
- Hot Tip's tickets for December 3, 2023, and January 7, 2024, is now on sale.
- Torrance Civic Chorale's, *A Winter Holiday*, is scheduled December 8, 2023.
- The Rose Float Association's Official's Night is scheduled December 28, 2023.
- 1,500 goodie bags were passed out with Cultural Arts material at the Trunk-or-Treat event in Downtown Torrance.

Cultural Services Manager Harte stated that she will research past budgets / grants the Commission once had per the Commission's request.

Members of the Commission spoke.

8. **COMMISSION ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

Commissioner Klinenberg announced the December 8, 2023, performance of the Wayback Daddies at Saint Rocke in Hermosa Beach.

Commissioner Carrasco announced the December 16-17, 2023, performance of Ballet California's, *Nutcracker*.

9. **ADJOURNMENT:**

MOTION: At 8:09 p.m., Commissioner Klinenberg moved to adjourn the meeting to Monday, January 22, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. in the West Annex Commission Meeting Room. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Polcari; a roll call vote reflected 6-0 approval (Commissioner Cabrera absent).

Subject to Approval

For Commission Meeting
January 22, 2024

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:

- The Torrance Art Museum (TAM) was recognized as a beloved business on Yelp in 2023 with over 265 million reviews. The Museum opens with Western Values on January 20, 2024.
- The Cultural Services Division is working with Rec Technologies to increase Cultural Classes programming to expand program locations in each Torrance District. Classes opened this session with 104 classes running.
- Torrance Theatre Company played to sold-out houses for the entire run of *Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley*. They're currently rehearsing *Intimate Apparel* written by Lynn Nottage and directed by Vanessa Evans.
- The Cherry Blossom Cultural Festival has secured all food trucks and food booths for the April 7, 2024, event. Cultural Services is now securing entertainment for the Festival and working closely with the Craftsmen's Guild to secure the crafts vendors.
- Cultural Services has begun booking events and bands for Torrance Summer Nights. The Tryst/Nomad Exhibition will be included as part of the Festival.
- The Rose Float Association made Torrance proud once again. This year's Rose Float *The Lyrical Call of Nature* won the Princess award for outstanding floral presentation among entries 35 feet and under in length.
- The Torrance Sister City Association is preparing for their Bunka Sai Japanese Cultural Festival April 20, 2024, at the Ken Miller Recreation Center.

- The Cultural Services Manager has reached out to South Bay Cities to establish an Arts Consortium to share ideas and expand community access to the arts and expand visibility for local artists and arts organizations. We've had some positive responses and look forward to scheduling an initial meeting in March.

Respectfully Submitted,



Monica Harte
Cultural Services Manager

For Commission Meeting
January 22, 2024

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

Administration

Temporary Administrative Assistant, Peggy Magee, began on January 2, 2024. She has been a Cultural Arts Specialist since March 2022 working with the Torrance Theatre Company and at the Cultural Arts Counter. In addition, the new Management Aide, Raman Ghuman, started the same day. Raman will be working with the Cultural Services Division 3 days a week focusing on the Utility Box Public Art Program and expanding our marketing and social media presence.

Logistical planning for the 2024 Cherry Blossom Cultural Festival continues. The Festival will be on Sunday, April 7, 2024 from 11am-4pm in Columbia Park. Vendor and performer applications are being reviewed.

The Utility Box Public Art Pilot Program has been posted on the City Website under Public Art. A Call to Artist will be going out before the end of the month. Once Artists are selected, Artist portfolios will be linked to the City Website so potential Sponsors can view their work.

Gia Jordahl, Producing Artistic Director, Torrance Theatre Company

Torrance Theatre Company

The December production of *Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley* was a big success, with an added performance on Sunday, Dec. 17, 2023.

HOT TIP announced their shows for 2024 on the first Sunday of every month. Tickets are \$20 for non-subscribers, and \$15 for subscribers.

Next up at TTC is *Intimate Apparel* by Pulitzer Prize-winner Lynn Nottage, running February 3 through the 24, 2024 tickets are on sale now, please visit www.TorranceTheatreCompany.com.

Torrance Civic Chorale

The Chorale just began their winter session of classes on January 8th. More info at www.torrancecivicchorale.net. Registration available through the end of January. The spring concert is "A Salute to Disney" at the Armstrong Theatre in May, guest artists to be announced.

Max Presneill, TAM Curator and Director

Torrance Art Museum (TAM)

TAM closed out the SUR: Biennial exhibition at the beginning of December and spent the rest of the month prepping the walls, returning the artworks, and collecting those for the next exhibition – *Western Values* - a show exploring other ways of understanding the influence of the “Old West” on contemporary artists from marginalized groups. This opens on Saturday, January 20, 2024, from 6-9pm and is accompanied by a solo show of sculptural work from San Francisco artist Brian Singer entitled *Art as Political Activism*.

Ginna Muzingo, Cultural Services, Senior Supervisor

Rose Float Association

Torrance Rose Float Association hosted Official’s Night at Fiesta Parade Floats on Thursday, December 28, 2023. Transit provided three buses for the excursion where attendees viewed the City of Torrance Float, “The Lyrical Call of Nature,” designed by West High School student Jodie Cheng. The float won the Princess Award for most outstanding floral presentation at the 2024 Rose Parade.

Classes / Cultural Education

Jewelry instructor, John Warhank, debuted his workshops during the month of December at the Cultural Arts Center. On December 9th, he instructed a “Sterling Silver Band” workshop. Many students had such a good time that they returned for the December 16th “Ring with Bezel” workshop. Three of the students made rings for Christmas gifting.

Cultural Services staff participated in the Downtown Torrance Holiday Stroll presented by the Downtown Torrance Association. In conjunction with the Library, staff provided crafts and promoted programming.

Staff prepared the Cultural Arts Center for the January 2024 Winter Session. Classes began the week of January 7, 2024, with 104 classes being conducted.



Torrance Art Museum

◆ We're proud to recognize
Torrance Art Museum
as a beloved business on Yelp
in 2023.

With over 265 million
cumulative reviews on our
platform, the people have
spoken, and you are cherished

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "J. Stoppelman".

Jeremy Stoppelman
CEO & Co-Founder, Yelp

November 1, 2023

DATE

