

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) 618-2380, 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, FEBRUARY 26, 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, February 22, 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 ANNOUNCEMENT OF WITHDRAWN, DEFERRED, AND/OR SUPPLEMENTAL ITEMS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: January 22, 2024

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 - APPOINT A COMMISSION AD-HOC COMMITTEE FOR EXCELLENCE IN ARTS

Recommendation of the Cultural Services Manager that the Cultural Arts Commission appoint an ad-hoc committee to make recommendations for the 2024 Excellence in Arts awards.

7C. CULTURAL SERVICES MANAGER – SUPPORTS ACCEPTANCE OF ARTISTS THROUGHOUT THE SOUTH BAY FOR UTILITY BOX PROGRAM ART SUBMISSIONS.

Recommendation of the Cultural Services Manager that the Cultural Arts Commission extends eligibility of initial Utility Box Program Artists to the South Bay.

7D. CITY MANAGER – ACCEPT AND FILE UPDATE ON TORRANCE CENTER MASTER PLAN AND ECONOMIC FEASIBILITY STUDY AND PROVIDE FEEDBACK.

Recommendation of the City Manager that the Cultural Arts Commission:

- 1) Accept and File an Update on the Torrance Civic Center Master Plan and Economic Feasibility Study; and
- 2) Provide feedback on the development of the Torrance Civic Center Master Plan and Economic Feasibility Study.

8. COMMISSION ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

9. ADJOURNMENT

9A. Adjournment of the Cultural Arts Commission Meeting to Monday, March 18, 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 7:01 p.m. on Monday, January 22, 2024, in the West Annex Commission Meeting Room.

ROLL CALL

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

Absent: None.

Also Present: Cultural Services Manager Monica Harte and Community Services Director John La Rock.

2. FLAG SALUTE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Carrasco.

3. REPORT OF THE CITY CLERK 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, January 18, 2024.

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: NOVEMBER 20, 2023

MOTION: Commissioner Klinenberg moved to approve the November 20, 2023, minutes. Commissioner Hsiao seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

7. **ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

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

Cultural Services Manager Harte presented Item 7A:

- The Torrance Art Museum was recognized as a Beloved Business on Yelp in 2023.
- The Torrance Art Museum opened with *Western Values*, January 20, 2024.
- Cultural Services classes opened with (104) classes.
- The Torrance Theater Company played to a sold-out house for the entire run of *Ms. Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley* and are currently rehearsing *Intimate Apparel*.
- The Cherry Blossom Cultural Festival has secured all food trucks and food booths for the April 7, 2024, event; staff is currently securing entertainment.
- Cultural Services has begun booking events and bands for Torrance Summer Nights; the TRYST / NOMAD exhibition will be included.
- The Rose Float Association's float, *The Lyrical Call of Nature*, won the Princess Award for outstanding floral presentation.
- Torrance Sister City Association is preparing for their Bunka-Sai Japanese Cultural Festival which takes place April 20-21, 2024, at the Ken Miller Recreational Center.
- Cultural Services Manager has reached out to South Bay Cities to share ideas to expand community access to the arts; additional meetings will be held March 2024.
- Cultural Services has a new management aide who will focus on utility box art. The utility box public art pilot program has been posted on the City's website under "Public Art."
- The Torrance Downtown Holiday Stroll was successful.

Members of the Commission spoke.

7B. **CULTURAL SERVICES MANAGER – DISCUSS RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL FOR GRANT BUDGET OF \$1,500**

Cultural Services Manager Harte presented Item 7B:

- Recommendation of the Cultural Services Manager to consider a recommendation to City Council to reinstate an Arts Grant Fund for disbursement.

Members of the Commission spoke.

MOTION: Commissioner Hsiao moved to have the Cultural Arts Commission consider the recommendation to City Council to reinstate an Arts Grant Fund for disbursement. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Polcari; a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

8. **COMMISSION ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

Commissioner Carrasco left the Commission at 7:21 p.m. and returned at 7:22 p.m.

Commissioner Klinenberg shared that *Best of California*, will be covering the City of Torrance the first week of February 2024 that will generate excitement for individuals to visit Torrance. The coverage will be aired on a Sunday at 7:30 a.m. on MeTV.

Commissioner Polcari announced the August 4, 2024 Historical Society Tea Event.

9. **ADJOURNMENT:**

MOTION: At 8:09 p.m., Commissioner Cabrera moved to adjourn the meeting to Monday, February 26, 2024, 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

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 following is information regarding Cultural Services Division programs and facilities for January 2024:

Administration

The administrative staff is reaching out to each of the businesses identified as potential sponsors for the Utility Box Program. Staff also distributed the Call for Artists flyer to local organizations, including members of Destination: Art. Staff is creating a new social media campaign for the Cherry Blossom Festival to be launched the first week of March.

- The Torrance Art Museum (TAM) is developing the TRYST-NOMAD exhibitions.
- The TAM Director, Max Presneill, will embark on a Road Trip from Los Angeles to New York with three additional artists, Alanna Airitam, Wayne Martin Belger, and Richard Anko, for an exhibition of their work in Brooklyn. The trip is called Culturide – a Two Wheel Odyssey into the Heart of the American Artland.
- The Cultural Services Classes is creating a new logo for the Cultural Services Academy of the Arts and has hired instructors to develop a Shakespeare program.
- Torrance Theatre Company’s anniversary performance by HOT TIP was sold out and huge success, despite the rain.
- The Cherry Blossom Cultural Festival secured the artist line-up. The festival will also launch a new Public Art Project – a tile wall for the Southeast Library.
- Cultural Services has booked Torrance Summer Nights with one possible addition.
- The Torrance Sister City Association continues to prepare for their Bunka Sai Japanese Cultural Festival April 20, 2024, at the Ken Miller Recreation Center. They are also seeking Host Families for their 2024 exchange students.
- Cultural Services Staff has provided the Commissions recommendation for a grant budget of \$1,500 to the Torrance budget team.

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

- The opening of *Intimate Apparel* was a big success, with the first two weekends sold out.
- HOT TIP celebrated their 1-year anniversary in January, and due to popular demand, we've created a HOT TIP season subscription currently on sale. The inaugural season has 20 subscribers. Single tickets for the year are available online for \$20 for non-subscribers, and \$15 for subscribers.
- Next up at TTC is a brand-new musical adaptation of HAY FEVER by Noel Coward. The show is brought to us by composer Bret Simmons with book adaptation by David Howard. The show will be directed by Glenn Kelman and will run April 6-27, 2024. Tickets are on sale now, please visit www.TorranceTheatreCompany.com.
- Winter classes for the TTC include adult and youth improv, with plans to expand offerings in the spring and summer sessions.

Torrance Civic Chorale - *Gia Jordahl, Producing Artistic Director, Torrance Theatre Company*

The Chorale continues to rehearse for their spring concert "A Salute to Disney" at the Armstrong Theatre on Friday, May 3rd at 7:30 pm. Guest artists to be announced. Chorale registration has continued to rebound post-Covid, and this session enrollment is at 55 participants which is an increase of almost 60% from the relaunch of the class two years ago.

Torrance Art Museum (TAM) - *Max Presneill, TAM Curator and Director*

- The Torrance Art Museum opened our Western Values exhibition at the end of January, and it continues through March 2, 2024.
- Brian Singer's solo show of sculptures remains on display as well.
- The international art fair in Mexico City, called QiPO, presented information about TAM and the upcoming TRYST at this year's edition, February 8-11, 2024, which we expect to generate more international visitors coming to Torrance during the next TRYST, August 23-25, 2024.

Classes / Cultural Education - *Ginna Muzingo, Cultural Services, Senior Supervisor*

Winter session classes at the Cultural Arts Center were heavily attended throughout January. As staff gear up for the Spring and Summer Seasons, they're collaborating with instructors to broaden the range of classes and workshops available to the community.

Rose Float Association - *Ginna Muzingo, Cultural Services, Senior Supervisor*

The Rose Float Association hosted its annual Celebration Dinner at the Toyota Meeting Hall on February 3, 2024. Mayor Chen officiated the installation of the new Board of the association, and entertainment was provided by the Torrance High School Jazz Band.

Respectfully Submitted,



Monica Harte
Cultural Services Manager

Chair and Members
of the Cultural Arts Commission
City Hall
Torrance, California

SUBJECT: City Manager – Accept and File Update on the Torrance Civic Center Master Plan and Economic Feasibility Study and Provide Feedback.

RECOMMENDATION

Recommendation of the City Manager that the Cultural Arts Commission:

- 1) Accept and File an Update on the Torrance Civic Center Master Plan and Economic Feasibility Study; and
- 2) Provide feedback on the development of the Torrance Civic Center Master Plan and Economic Feasibility Study.

BACKGROUND

The Torrance Civic Center has been an integral part of the community since its development in 1956. Originally comprising City Hall, a Police Station, and the Victor E. Benstead Plunge (City Pool), the Civic Center has evolved over time with the addition of essential public facilities. These include a Municipal Courthouse (now Human Resources Building), Library, Torrance Cultural Arts Center, City Hall Annex (East and West), and Police Headquarters. The State of California has also been a presence, operating a Superior Courthouse and Traffic Court/Probation Annex on-site since the 1960s, making the Civic Center a hub for civic activities.

OVERVIEW

With approximately 40-acres spread across seven parcels, the Civic Center is a significant part of Torrance's landscape. However, the aging facilities are now reaching a condition that necessitates either replacement or extensive refurbishment. Recognizing this, the City Council initiated the process of developing a new master plan to address the challenges posed by the aging infrastructure. The master plan aims to assess various factors, including costs, building conditions, operational issues, aesthetics, maintenance costs, and community programming needs.

In pursuit of a reimagined Civic Center, the City Council awarded a Consulting Services Agreement to Gruen Associates of Los Angeles, California. Gruen Associates will play a pivotal role in developing the Civic Center Master Plan and Economic Feasibility Study. This comprehensive plan will not only address the aging structures but also explore opportunities to efficiently utilize the Civic Center campus.

The master plan aims to enhance the Civic Center's functionality, creating a cohesive and modernized aesthetic appeal. Through a comprehensive public outreach program, the City of Torrance seeks community input to ensure the reimagined Civic Center meets the needs and aspirations of its residents.

The City of Torrance, in collaboration with consultants, is committed to realizing the community's vision for a reimagined Civic Center. The Master Plan and Economic Feasibility Study will lay the groundwork for a new, modern center that provides space for community activities, aligning with Torrance's aesthetic aspirations and enhancing City pride. This transformation will carefully consider projected land uses, densities, economic returns, and the necessary Zoning and General Plan amendments. The Torrance Civic Center Master Plan will be a community-driven planning document that is poised to evolve our existing campus into a vibrant and sustainable hub, reflecting the values and aspirations of the community it proudly serves.

As an essential note, it's crucial to understand that the master plan represents the initial phase of a multi-step process to realize the campus's revitalization. This may include zone changes and general plan amendments before any aspect of the vision is materialized. The City of Torrance, alongside consultants, is dedicated to transparency and collaboration throughout this transformative journey, ensuring that the community's vision guides each subsequent phase of this exciting initiative.

MASTER PLAN PROGRESS

Over the past four months, City Manager's Office staff and Gruen Associates completed a series of interviews with City departments and City Council to obtain their feedback on existing conditions and space planning needs for the City-operated public facilities. A Lunch and Learn session was held on November 13, 2023 to obtain feedback from our employee groups regarding the project. Our real estate economic sub-consultant, LandEconGroup, has conducted interviews with business stakeholders including adjacent commercial properties to obtain feedback on the Civic Center Master Plan. Furthermore, LandEconGroup is concurrently completing a real estate market analysis to determine which land uses have the potential to generate significant land value and land lease revenue. The analysis will also review historical trends for market context and will forecast market outlook over the next 10 years. The deliverable would be a memorandum report that should be completed within the next four weeks and will serve to inform the creation of planning design alternatives for the master plan.


Within this next quarter, the City will begin the community engagement strategy for the visioning portion of the master planning process. The purpose of this visioning process is to obtain public feedback on the existing conditions of the Civic Center and determine interest for potential renovation/redevelopment of the campus for other land uses and public services. The strategy will be completed by City staff, who will host one community open house event; a minimum of four community pop-up events; and an online/in-person community survey. Additionally, City staff intends to meet with each Commission at one of their regularly scheduled meetings to provide the opportunity to solicit feedback and comments on the development of the Torrance Civic Center Master Plan. At the conclusion of the visioning process, staff intends to provide a formal update to City Council and present preliminary design alternatives for the Civic Center campus. Subsequently, City staff intends to complete another round of community engagement to obtain public input on the design alternatives that will aid in preparing a draft master plan for City Council consideration by Fall 2024.

CONCLUSION


The purpose of this item is to provide the Cultural Arts Commission with an update on the City's progress on the Civic Center Master Plan and Economic Feasibility Study; in addition, to request feedback from your Honorable Body on the visioning goals and objectives that the City should include in developing the Torrance Civic Center Master Plan & Economic Feasibility Study.

Respectfully submitted,

ARAM CHAPARYAN
CITY MANAGER

By 
Carlos Huizar
Management Associate

CONCUR:


for Aram Chaparyan
City Manager