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**TORRANCE CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION AGENDA  
MONDAY, MARCH 18, 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, March 14, 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 ANNOUNCEMENT OF WITHDRAWN, DEFERRED, AND/OR SUPPLEMENTAL ITEMS**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:** February 26, 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.

## 8. COMMISSION ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

## 9. ADJOURNMENT

**9A.** Adjournment of the Cultural Arts Commission Meeting to Monday, April 15, 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, February 26, 2024, in the West Annex Commission Meeting Room.

**ROLL CALL**

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

Absent: Commissioner Hsiao.

Also Present: Cultural Services Manager Monica Harte, Management Associate Carlos Huizar, and Community Services Director John La Rock.

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

**2. FLAG SALUTE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Cabrera.

**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, February 22, 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: JANUARY 22, 2024**

**MOTION:** Commissioner Klinenberg moved to approve the January 22, 2024, minutes. Commissioner Cabrera seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected 6-0 approval (Commissioner Hsiao absent).

**7. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

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

Cultural Services Manager Harte presented Item 7A:

- Administrative staff is reaching out to businesses identified as potential sponsors for the Utility Box Program.
- Staff is creating a new social media campaign for the Cherry Blossom Festival to be launched the first week of March 2024.
- Torrance Art Museum is developing the TRYST / NOMAD exhibitions and the Torrance Art Museum Director, Max Presneill, will embark on a road trip from Los Angeles to New York with (3) additional artists; the trip will be named *Culturide - A Two Wheel Odyssey into the Heart of the American Artland*.
- 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 Theater Company's anniversary performance by Hot Tip was sold out.
- The Cherry Blossom Cultural Festival has secured the artist line up and will launch a new public art project, a tile wall for the Southeast Library. Tiles will be available at the festival where community members can create their own designs; tiles will be installed at a later date.
- Cultural Services has booked Torrance Summer nights.
- The Torrance Sister City Association continues to prepare for the Bunka Sai Japanese Cultural Festival which takes place April 20-21, 2024, at the Ken Miller Recreational Center. Torrance Sister City Association is also seeking families for their 2024 exchange students.
- Cultural Services staff has provided the Commission's recommendation for the grant budget to the Torrance Budget Team.
- The opening of *Intimate Apparel* was a huge success. The next Torrance Theater Company production will be *Hay Fever: The Musical*.
- Torrance Theater Company's winter classes include adult and youth improv with plans to expand offerings in the spring and summer sessions.
- Torrance Civic Chorale continues to rehearse for their spring concert celebrating Disney and will perform at the Armstrong Theater on Friday, May 3, 2024, at 7:30 p.m.
- The Torrance Art Museum opened *Western Values*.
- The International Art Fair in Mexico City [QiPO] presented information about the Torrance Art Museum and the upcoming exhibitions.
- Cultural Arts classes were heavily attended throughout January. Staff is gearing up for spring and summer sessions and collaborating with instructors to broaden the range of classes and workshops offered to the community.
- The Rose Float Association hosted its Annual Celebration Dinner at the Toyota Meeting Hall on February 3, 2024.

Members of the Commission spoke.

**7B. CULTURAL SERVICES MANAGER – APPOINT A COMMISSION AD-HOC COMMITTEE FOR EXCELLENCE IN ARTS**

Cultural Services Manager Harte presented Item 7B:

Commissioners Klinenberg, Polcari, and Carrasco stated that they would like to volunteer for the ad-hoc committee for the Excellence in Arts Awards.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Cabrera moved to ask Commissioners Carrasco, Klinenberg, and Polcari to serve on the ad-hoc committee for the Excellence in Arts Awards for 2024. Commissioner Kraemer seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected 6-0 approval (Commissioner Hsiao absent).

Commissioner Kraemer stated that the Rose Float design program, Torrance Sister City Association's Anime Contest, and the Visions in Unity Contest should be recognized in the Excellence in Arts Awards as they are part of the city art programs and are vital. Commissioner Kraemer requested staff follow up with these (3) programs to see who is involved in setting up the programs for recognition.

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

Cultural Services Manager Harte presented Item 7C:

- Recommendation of the Cultural Services Manager that the Cultural Arts Commission extend eligibility of initial utility box program artists to the South Bay area as there has only been (1) submission.

Members of the Commission spoke and agreed on the expansion.

Community Services Director La Rock stated that staff has pre-planned for the city to pay for (6) utility box wraps with artistic designs over the next year to determine interest of the program from sponsors and artists.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Klinenberg moved to expand artist outreach to the South Bay area regarding eligibility for the Utility Box Program. Commissioner Carrasco seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected 6-0 approval (Commissioner Hsiao absent).

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

Management Associate Huizar presented Item 7D:

- The Civic Center campus was originally developed in 1956. The Civic Center campus consists of 40-acres (9-acres gifted to the state of California) that includes (15) buildings. The state is open to discussions but will not actively participate in the project.
- The project is being considered due to aging infrastructure, costs of upkeep of facilities, existing programming needs, accommodation for population growth that may require additional staffing for programs, and policy changes that may require additional community services. City Council is looking to understand what needs to be improved / replaced and is interested in creating a comprehensive community-driven document that will be the framework in how staff evolves the City Center campus in the next 20 – 30 years.

- Staff started the request for proposals in February 2023, receiving (8) proposals from various firms; a rigorous interview and evaluation process took place, and in July 2023, staff presented an Item to City Council who awarded the contract to Gruen and Associates, a firm who had recently completed the City of Chino's Master Plan which was recognized and awarded. Gruen and Associates will assist with the development of the Master Plan, community engagement strategies, economic factors, design alternatives, and create a plan for how the Civic Center can be developed.
- The contract with Gruen and Associates started August 2023, in that time, an Existing Conditions Analysis, interviews with city departments regarding space planning needs, and engagement with community members was conducted.
- In January 2024, a survey campaign was launched both online and in person to get community feedback in how they're interacting with the Civic Center campus; transportation, quality of public facilities, and community amenities / programs were the focus of the survey.
- In the fall or winter of 2024, staff is planning to have a draft plan for City Council review to either adopt or reject.
- Staff is looking for feedback from the Commission to formulate designs.

Commissioner Polcari inquired on funding for the project. Management Associate Huizar replied that funding is being covered through one-time land management fee. There may be an opportunity to look at ground lease opportunities on the campus to be able to provide financing for some public facilities and introduce new uses.

Management Associate Huizar stated that community feedback will be extended until Friday, March 15, 2024.

Commissioner Carrasco recommended staff go to Community Colleges to get additional feedback and to live stream community events for additional comments.

Management Associate Huizar stated that staff will come back to the Commission once conceptual designs have been gathered.

Additional members of the Commission spoke.

## 8. **COMMISSION ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

Commissioner Klinenberg stated that *Best of California* will be aired March 10, 2024, at 7:30 a.m. on MeTV and requested Cultural Services Manager Harte Monica share the link to the Commission.

Commissioners Kraemer, Cabrera, and Carrasco spoke.

## 9. **ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** At 8:19 p.m., Commissioner Klinenberg moved to adjourn the meeting to Monday, March 18, 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 Hsiao absent).

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**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 March 2024:

**Administration**

The administrative staff has launched a new social media campaign for the Cherry Blossom Festival, April 7, 2024.

- The Torrance Art Museum (TAM) Director, Max Presneill, is building numerous partnerships worldwide and building our participating gallery and artist list for Nomad and Tryst.
- Torrance Theatre Company is in rehearsal for *Hay Fever: the Musical*, opening April 6, 2024.
- Excellence in Arts has been scheduled for Saturday, October 12, 2024, in the Toyota Meeting Hall.
- Cultural Services has booked Torrance Summer Nights and is reaching out for sponsorships, with the first sponsorship secured.
- The Torrance Civic Chorale continues to grow in numbers as they rehearse for the May 3, 2024 performance: "The Disney Celebration."
- 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.

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

- *Intimate Apparel* was a big success, each of the three talk-back performances were especially exciting with engaging and thoughtful dialogues between the cast and the audience.
- HOT TIP continues to be the HOT ticket. February and March were completely sold out performances. The next show is Sunday, April 8<sup>th</sup>. Single tickets for the year are available online for \$20 for non-subscribers, and \$15 for subscribers.
- The premier of HAY FEVER: The Musical is brought to us by composer Bret Simmons with book adaptation and lyrics by David Howard. The show will be directed by Glenn Kelman and will run April 6-27, 2024. The cast is currently in rehearsal. Tickets are on sale now, please visit [www.TorranceTheatreCompany.com](http://www.TorranceTheatreCompany.com).

- Upcoming 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 “The Disney Celebration” at the Armstrong Theatre on Friday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7:30 pm. Guest artists will include members of the choir program from Cal State Dominguez Hills. Tickets will be available the end of March at the Armstrong box office and [www.torrancecivicchorale.net](http://www.torrancecivicchorale.net).

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

- The Torrance Art Museum is installing Risky Business: A Painter’s Forum in Gallery 1, curated by Marie Thibeault and Max Presneill.
- The Marvel of Old Masters featuring Rembrandt, Goya, and Durer prints in Gallery 2, artwork provided by Park West Gallery.
- The Reflecting Pool in the Video Room, Ken Slater’s Interactive and immersive video art.

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

- Jessica De Armas was hired as the new Program Coordinator for Classes.
- Winter session came to a close and Spring class registration began February 27.
- Over 100 classes are being offered during this session including the return of jewelry classes.

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

The Rose Float Association received 15 entries for the Rose Float Design Contest for the 2025 Rose Parade. The contest is open to all high school students who live in Torrance and the winner receives a ride on the 2025 Rose Parade Float.

Respectfully Submitted,



Monica Harte  
Cultural Services Manager