

**CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION**  
**Minutes**

August 14, 2012  
Manhattan Beach City Hall  
1400 Highland Avenue  
Manhattan Beach, CA 90266

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 6:11 p.m.

**II. ROLL CALL**

Present: Commissioner Russ Samuels, Commissioner Peter De Maria, Commissioner Nancy Humbarger, Commissioner Nancy Dunn, and Commissioner James Gill.

Absent: None.

Others Present: Art in Public Places Committee Members Jim Murray, Lynn Haggard, Mark Pally, and Jeanne Jackson; Acting Cultural Arts Manager Megumi Moisen, and Administrative Intern Athena Henderson.

**III. APPROVAL MINUTES**

None.

**IV. CEREMONIAL**

Art in Public Places Committee Members Jim Murray, Lynn Haggard, Mark Pally and Jean Jackson were formally introduced with their professional art backgrounds and experiences.

**V. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

None.

**VI. GENERAL BUSINESS**

12/0814-1 Selection of Finalists for the Centennial Art Projects from the RFQ Submissions

Commissioner Samuels introduced the members of the Art in Public Places Committee (APPC) and discussed the goals of the Public Art Project. In addition, he discussed the purpose of the APPC to the public. He stated that the Cultural Arts staff received a total of 150 submissions and narrowed them down to 58 to present to the Commission. The Cultural Arts staff selected the artists based on the criteria stated in the Request for Qualifications (RFQ):

- Strength of past artwork(s) with an emphasis on artwork in the public setting.
- Experience fabricating and installing permanent artwork on time and on budget.
- Submitting all requested materials on the scheduled deadline: resumes, letters of interests, CD images, and an annotated image list.

The Commission and APPC members selected the final five candidates for the artist presentation in November and selected two additional artists as a backup. The Commission and the APPC members went through a series of four rounds of voting to pick the top five.

Before the meeting, each Commissioner and APPC member received a CD containing images and resumes along with the artist's background of the final 162 artists. Each member had an opportunity to select up to 10 artists whom they favored which began the first round of voting.

The meeting began with a 12 minute PowerPoint slideshow review of all the artists. Each APPC member selected up to 10 artists after thorough discussion of the artists' qualifications and backgrounds. The first round of voting ended with 37 artists.

The panel went through the second series of nominations for the artists. The images of the 37 were repeated. This round consisted of a discussion of the strengths of the 37 artists. The Commission and the APPC members nominated artists that they felt were qualified. The second round of voting ended with 20 artists.

For the third round of voting, the Commission and APPC members continued to discuss the pros and cons of the remaining artists. The panel nominated the artists who embodied what the Commission and APPC members looked for in designing a piece for Manhattan Beach. This third round of voting ended with 12 artists.

The panel continued to go through a final round of nominations and detailed discussion of the top 12. This part of the discussion had a strong emphasis of the artist's body of work, resume, and budget. The panel also made note of the artists who sold stories with their art and the artist's abilities to engage the community. After deliberation and heavy consideration, the Commission and the APPC members chose the top five artists for the Cultural Arts Project.

### **The Public Art Finalists:**

**Lejos Heder and Mags Harries** - Commissioner De Maria commented on their use of scale and their ability to think outside of the box. APPC member Mark Pally stated that the artists' ability to engage with the community and tell stories with their work are qualities that are important to the Commission and APPC.

**Michael Davis** - APPC member, Jim Murray, stated that Michael Davis has a very strong resume and has the ability to synthesize any project for which he is working. In addition, Mr. Davis is a local southern California native and any project he works on is done well. APPC member Mark Pally stated Mr. Davis has the ability to tell a story through art and is a fantastic listener who is capable of narrative through art.

**Matthew Geller** – APPC member Mark Pally stated that Matthew Geller’s work is brilliant, playful, and inviting, and has a wonderful sense of Manhattan Beach. Commissioner Gill commented that he appreciated that his art is interactive and smart.

**Michael McMillen** – APPC member Jim Murray stated that Michael McMillen has the potential to make something great based on his background, resume, and history. He is known on a national level and could attract different audiences. He has tremendous wit and his art depth is substantial that it would really make a difference in the Manhattan Beach community. Mr. Pally stated that his specialty is invocation of the past and storytelling. His strengths include the use of texture and the ability to engage a person which is a great quality for this project.

**Owen Morrel** - APPC member Jeanne Jackson said that Owen Morrel’s art would speak to many people. Many of his pieces are complex enough where people could understand it and his pieces could be appreciated. Commissioner Samuels appreciated his big grand ideas and his ability to play with space. In addition, Commissioner Samuels is confident that Mr. Morrell could deliver on a scheduled budget.

### **Artists Alternates**

**Ball-Nouges Studios** – The Commission appreciated the work of Ball-Nouges Studios, but many were concerned with the use of 3D images to create pieces and sculptures. Commissioner De Maria liked the images they presented but wondered if the product could be completed to the highest quality within the budget.

**Emily White** - Commissioner Humbarger appreciated the sentimental value of White’s pieces. Commissioner Humbarger believed that she could capture the essence of Manhattan Beach by playing with the elements in nature.

Once the finalists have been notified, there will be a bus tour of the City with the finalists, with city staff. Afterwards, a special meeting will be held with the APPC members and the Commission to discuss the tour and to answer questions that the artists may have regarding the City to the APPC and the Commission.

## **VI. REPORTS AND OTHER BUSINESS**

None.

## **VII. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 p.m. to the next meeting on September 11, 2012 at 6:00 p.m.