

CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION

Minutes

October 13, 2009

Manhattan Beach City Hall
City Managers Conference Room
6:00 p.m.

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Cultural Arts Commission (CAC) was called to order at 6:07 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Present: Susannah Rosenthal, Chair
Susan Sweeney, Vice Chair
Peter De Maria, Commissioner
Candy Duncan, Commissioner
Nancy Humbarger, Commissioner
Megumi Sando, Rec. Supervisor – Cultural Arts
Juanita Purner, Cultural Arts Manager

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes from the September 8, 2009 meeting were approved as corrected. A Commissioner requested the deletion of the sentence “Commission Humbarger suggested the dates of the current exhibition be extended until mid-August.” A second sentence was deleted: “The Commission’s recommendations to the City Council will include a funding source.”

IV. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

None

V. GENERAL BUSINESS

02/0612.14 Sculpture Garden

Research is underway for the second Sculpture Garden exhibition scheduled for 2010-2011. The Commission’s recommendations and the project’s budget will be forwarded to Council for approval once finalized.

Commissioner Duncan reported on the availability of sculptures from the San Diego Port Authority’s current sculpture exhibition. There were two sculptures that interested the Commission but it was reported that the golden Dragon is no longer available while the colorful *Kaleidoscope* is for sale. The Commission wondered if Council would have an interest in purchasing any of the City’s existing sculptures. It was suggested that in the spring Council be made aware of available works. Chair Rosenthal shared the images of Doria de Larios, an artist she met recently who is exhibiting in Los Angeles.

During the Sculpture Garden’s initial installation in July, residents stopped to ask questions and offer positive comments with staff throughout the day. The Commission is very interested in surveying a larger segment of the community to learn their responses to the Sculpture Garden program. One suggestion was the Sculpture Garden “Peoples Award” on the City website giving the community the chance to vote for their favorite sculpture and provide comments. Final decisions for the survey are pending.

The possibility of school tours appears difficult due to the public school curriculum load and the district's lack of transportation funds. The Commission is considering other student options such as offering workshops where students can create a Sculpture Garden maquette. These artist-led workshops could be scheduled on consecutive Saturdays with a student exhibition held at the Creative Arts Center. Staff will research CAC's exhibition schedule and identify an artist for the project.

REPORTS & OTHER BUSINESS

Staff presented projects directed to the Cultural Arts Commission from the 2009-2010 Work Plan:

- Item #15 - Beautify Metlox and Civic Plazas. Items listed were benches, flowers, color, planters, and tables. Included in this beautification plan was an item from #5 –bike racks. It is possible the landscaping for the two sites would involve Public Works.
- #19 – Aviation/MBB Area.- Beautification. The entryway sign located at this site is in need of landscaping; it's not clear if Council is seeking any additional adornment for this site.

Staff indicated additional information that will clarify the work plan items will be forthcoming. Commissioner De Maria is interested in exploring the architectural vocabulary that is present in Metlox and the Civic Plaza in order to find designs that compliment the two areas.

Artists in Residence

Chair Rosenthal asked the Commissioners for comments regarding the Artists In Residence Program (AIR). Commissioner De Maria indicated he had contacted a few prominent architects inviting them to a brainstorming session. De Maria suggesting that approaching a visiting architect who is scheduled to teach in Los Angeles or in a nearby city could reduce costs of an AIR event. De Maria referred the Commission to www.Ted.com to view the segment featuring OMA Architects, Joshua Prince-Ramus who with Rem Koolhaas created the cantilevered glass-walled Seattle Library. .

Chair Rosenthal presented a possible format for AIR with guest facilitator or curator involved with a collaboration of representatives from five disciplines (visual art, performance, architecture, musicians, and writers). This collaborative body could work together producing an end product, a ground breaking event, an exhibition, a film; there are many options. The end product would be a gift to the city. Plans are in flux and options are still being explored.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:58 p.m. The next Cultural Arts Commission meeting is scheduled for November 10, 2009 at 6:00 p.m.