

CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION

Minutes

September 9, 2008

Manhattan Beach City Hall

Council Chambers

6:00 p.m.

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Cultural Arts Commission (CAC) was called to order at 6:03 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Present: Candy Duncan, Chairman
Susannah Rosenthal, Vice Chair
Peter De Maria, Commissioner
Susan Sweeney, Commissioner
Nancy Humbarger, Commissioner
Juanita Purner, Cultural Arts Manager

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Corrections for the minutes of August 19 are: Commissioner Rosenthal suggested the Commission pick 10 sculptural artists from the San Diego Port Authority program and then select five to submit to City Council. It was suggested that the sculptures could be placed in the "garden area" between the Strand and bike path area (the area belongs to the city).

The Commission approved the minutes for the June 17, 2008 meeting as corrected.

IV. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

None.

V. GENERAL BUSINESS

Commissioner Duncan recapped her report from the August Commission meeting; she visited the San Diego Port Authority and shared the information she gained about the Port Authority's public art program. The annual program uses an RFP process averaging 120-130 submissions. The designs selected are set in a planter-type base which costs \$1400; a six-foot pole anchors the sculptural piece. Commissioner Duncan also viewed a large number of tree maquettes the Port Authority had received in previous years. Commissioner Duncan also shared pictures of art works with an airplane theme taken of a public art program in Virginia.

02/0612.5 Sculpture Garden Proposal

A discussion evolved regarding the Sculpture Garden project:

Process:

- If the Commission uses the invitational process, specific artists would be identified and asked to submit a design for the project. The RFP model requires a Public Art Advisory Committee and is a longer process. A structure for the project needs to be in place.

- A trip to San Diego was proposed for the entire Commission. Another Commissioner suggested an exhibition of the maquettes would compliment the Sculpture Garden tree selection.
- The Commission needs to decide on the form. The planter base used in San Diego is too expensive. The artist, Niki de Saint Phalle, whose work is part of the Stuart Collection at UCSD was suggested.

Design:

- Commissioner De Maria shared sketches with different bases for consideration.
- The concrete block base used in San Diego has a 5” pedestal with threaded sleeve for pipe; it was agreed the sculpture base should be uniform. It was questioned whether this shape and style base is applicable for future installations. The design is simple and may work for the initial sculptures.
- Commissioner Duncan suggested that five sites be selected by the Commission that appear in the Sculptural Garden map.
- Chair Duncan shared images of airplane/globe designs taken in Virginia; the outdoor works used corporate logos which could raise serious commercialism issues for the community.
- It was suggested the Commissioners come prepared to select a process and return with examples of 10-15 artists.
- A theme is needed to create a grouping of art that speaks of Manhattan Beach and art that is designed specifically for the sites selected. Inviting local artists to participate would be a plus

Sale of Sculpture: The contract would state that the art works would be displayed for a six month or one year term. If the work sold, the proceeds would go to the Artist.

- The question of sponsorship for the sculptural works was raised—is it possible to secure local business to sponsor the art works?
- Would the City purchase the works from the Sculpture Garden? Could the works be auctioned off at the Home Town Fair?

Artists:

- Each artist is responsible for the installation of the sculpture and the artists selected will receive a \$2500.00 stipend. Finalists would be chosen from designs submitted to the Commission. Only artists with public art experience would be considered
- It was noted that initially the Commission considered selecting a single artist for the first exhibition who could provide five art works for the sculpture garden
- Commissioner DeMaria mentioned Jenna Didier, owner of *Materials & Applications* – an experienced artist who was capable of providing art specific for Manhattan Beach.

VI REPORTS AND OTHER BUSINESS

Children’s Theater Proposal

The dates for the *Join the Circus* production are November 8 and 9 with load-in taking place on November 7. Poster and flyers will be printed in-house and ready for distribution in October.

Strand Alcove Bench Program

The plaque for the bench has been ordered. The Commissioners would like to see plaques placed at the other five bench alcoves.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 pm.