



**CITY OF MANHATTAN BEACH  
CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION**

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**April 26, 2016  
Manhattan Beach City Hall  
City Council Chambers  
1400 Highland Avenue  
Manhattan Beach, CA 90266  
6:00 PM**

**A G E N D A**

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

**B. PLEDGE TO THE FLAG**

**C. ROLL CALL**

Chairperson Loli Ramezani  
Vice-Chairperson Jaquelyne May  
Commissioner Nancy Dunn  
Commissioner James Gill  
Commissioner Russ Samuels

**D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

February 9, 2016  
March 8, 2016

**E. CEREMONIAL**

**F. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (3-Minute Limit)**

The public may address the Commission regarding City business not on the agenda.

**G. STAFF ITEMS**

Budget update  
Sculpture Garden installation update  
Update on Cultural Arts Division

**H. COMMISSION ITEMS**

**I. GENERAL BUSINESS**

**15/1208.1 Sculpture Garden**

**J. ADJOURNMENT**

**TO:**

Members of the Cultural Arts Commission

**THROUGH:**

Mark Leyman, Director of Parks and Recreation

**FROM:**

Martin Betz, Cultural Arts Manager

**SUBJECT:**

Discussion of plans for the 2016-2017 Sculpture Garden program.

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends that the Cultural Arts Commission discuss options for the implementation of the 2016-2017 Sculpture Garden program.

**FISCAL IMPLICATIONS:**

There are no fiscal implications on the general fund or the Public Arts Trust fund associated with the recommended action.

**BACKGROUND:**

As part of the City's 2002 Work Plan, Council directed the Cultural Arts Commission to begin research and create a proposal for an Outdoor Sculpture Garden. The artworks contained in the Garden would rotate on an annual or semi-annual basis.

The purpose of the Sculpture Garden is to display a variety of public artwork in a community setting that prompts the viewer through thoughtful introspection and contemplation of a broader range of public art and to bring enjoyment to our residents and visitors; and to cultivate and sustain a sense of community pride.

The Sculpture Garden's inaugural installation took place in June 2009 with seven sculptures exhibited at three sites: the Civic Plaza, Veteran's Memorial Parkway and the Metlox Plaza. Since 2009 the Sculpture Garden has had four additional exhibitions in 2010 – 2011, 2011-2012 and 2013-2014, 2015-2016

**DISCUSSION:**

There are scheduling and presentation options that staff would like to review with the commission. The discussion will focus on timing of the program, location of the sculptures, and overall presentation of the work.

**CONCLUSION:**

Staff recommends that Cultural Arts Commission discuss Sculpture Garden options in order to better facilitate the program in the future.

**CITY OF MANHATTAN BEACH**  
**MINUTES OF THE CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION**

February 9, 2016  
Manhattan Beach City Council Chambers  
1400 Highland Avenue  
Manhattan Beach, CA 90266

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 6:10 PM.

**B. PLEDGE TO THE FLAG**

**C. ROLL CALL**

Present: May, Samuels, Chairperson Ramezani

Absent: Dunn, Gill

Others present: Martin Betz, Cultural Arts Manager, Rosemary Lackow, Recording Secretary.

**D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – January 12, 2016**

A motion was made and seconded (Samuels/May) to approve the January 12, 2016 minutes with the following changes:

Pg. 2: (typo) Second paragraph (Sculpture Garden Update) second line: Replace “Mt.” with “Mr.” as follows:

“...the Arts Center January 7. ~~Mt.~~ Mr. Betz noted that the artists....”

Pg. 3: Fourth paragraph from top, third line from bottom, revise to read:

Commissioner Gill noted the ribbon cutting ~~is scheduled for~~ was February 25 last year and it was agreed....

Pg. 4: third paragraph from top, first sentence: revise to read:

“Chairperson Ramezani ~~inquired as to why~~ stated that the Commissioners are not getting notification of shows, ~~as~~ and they would appreciate.....”

Ayes: May, Samuels, Chairperson Ramezani.

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Dunn, Gill

**E. CEREMONIAL          None**

**F. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (3-Minute Limit)**

**Anne Pitts**, resident, stated that she had seen a sculptor at a recent art show whose work she thought would be a good fit for Manhattan Beach. Chair Ramezani explained about funding, an issue because public money is involved and emphasized that all details must be fully vetted before a proposal for an art commission goes to City Council for approval.

Commissioner Samuels added that the City has a duty to conduct the selection process fairly and openly and ideally Ms. Pitts would be following the CAC process and participate. Commissioner Samuels also noted that the process is more project driven as opposed to deciding about a single proposed art piece. He advised it is probably better for the artist to come to the City with an interest letter to be submitted to Mr. Betz. Mr. Betz gave Ms. Pitts his business card and offered to speak with her in more detail at her convenience about submitting a proposal.

**G. STAFF ITEMS:**

**Budget update**

Cultural Arts Manager Betz distributed the same print out as in January – he is going to bring it every time and will comment of any change in status. Over \$400k is available to spend on public arts. There is a maximum permanent balance which can be an issue after 5 years.

**75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Manhattan Beach Parks and Recreation Department**

Manager Betz explained there will be a full day summer music festival in the park on July 24 which will include a morning yoga session followed by several bands. Booking is almost complete for the bands (genre will be reggae/blues). The event will be free to the public and there will be also food booths and some visual arts activities including a tour of the Art Center and Art in the Park.

There was brief discussion regarding how bands are chosen.

**Update on Cultural Arts Division - Mr. Betz gave the following updates:**

- **Staff retreat:** planned for March 21. The location is still undecided but staff is looking into having it at the Malibu Getty Museum. The first half of the retreat would be oriented towards the facility, art and a tour, then after lunch, staff would work on programming and various issues. Mr. Betz stated that he should know the venue location by the end of the week.
- **Joint City Council/CAC meeting:** Staff is still awaiting a date and this is the same status as with other commissions.
- **Plaques:** all the sculptures now have plaques; the *Light Gate* plaque is on the adjoining wall.
- **Kiosk Project:** Staff does not know yet how this will proceed.
- **Downtown Specific Plan:** The Community Development Department which is administering this project will continue to work with Mr. Betz and inform him when he should schedule a review by the CAC. All of the Cultural Arts Commissioners are encouraged to follow this program and provide input.
- **List of Projects:** these are being monitored by staff for future consideration by the CAC: Museum kiosk, the permanent sculpture garden and input on the Downtown

Specific Plan. This is the same list that will be agendized for discussion at the joint meeting with City Council. Mr. Betz will add the joint meeting to the CAC agenda in March, if the joint meeting will be scheduled for April.

- Brief discussion followed regarding the Sculpture Garden. Mr. Betz responded to the Chair that the last piece of sculpture has not yet been installed and he plans to include this on the March agenda. Mr. Betz encouraged the Chair to be involved in the agenda preparation.

## **H. COMMISSION ITEMS**

Commissioner May reported that she had a meeting with the artists group. Even though only a few people showed up, there were a lot of good ideas on how to encourage art in the City. However, more participation is needed in this group and Commissioner May will schedule another meeting. Mr. Betz is invited and supports this group, but staff authority is limited. Commissioner May is confident that once the group gets more firm, more activity will happen.

## **I. GENERAL BUSINESS**

### **15/1208.1 Sculpture Garden**

Mr. Betz advised that this item will be on the agenda in March and there was no discussion.

## **J. ADJOURNMENT:**

It was moved and seconded (May/Samuels) to adjourn the meeting at 6:44 PM to 6:00 PM on March 8, 2016 in the Council Chambers. The motion passed with the following roll-call vote:

Ayes:	May, Samuels, Chairperson Ramezani
Nays:	None
Abstain:	None
Absent:	Dunn, Gill

**CITY OF MANHATTAN BEACH**  
**MINUTES OF THE CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION**

March 8, 2016

Manhattan Beach City Council Chambers  
1400 Highland Avenue  
Manhattan Beach, CA 90266

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

Vice-Chairperson May called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

**B. ROLL CALL**

Present: Dunn, Gill, Samuels, Vice-Chairperson May.

Absent: Chairperson Ramezani

Others present: Martin Betz, Cultural Arts Manager, Rosemary Lackow, Recording Secretary.

**C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – February 9, 2016**

A motion was made and seconded (Samuels/May) to consider this matter at the next meeting in April.

Ayes: Dunn, May, Samuels, Gill

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Chairperson Ramezani

**D. CEREMONIAL - None**

**E. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (3-Minute Limit) - None**

**F. STAFF ITEMS**

Cultural Arts Administrator reported on the following matters:

- **Budget update.** Cultural Arts Manager Betz stated that there is no change from last month's report – the same amount of money (over 400k) is available to spend on public arts.
- **Sculpture Garden installation update:** Staff is still waiting for the artist Asher to complete the piece - it is still in fabrication. Mr. Betz will keep the Commission updated if this status changes.
- **Update on Cultural Arts Division:** Currently the main focus of the cultural arts staff is the budget. Staff expects to bring three proposals to the Commission at its April meeting. One is an exhibition, and another is a proposal by an artist for the City to purchase a piece already installed in the City. Staff is also very much involved in planning for the City's 75-year celebration to be held July 25. Staff is looking for sponsorships (all being done online) and may seek input from the Commission, once he understands the protocol for the outreach. Mr. Betz gave a summary of the all-day

event explaining that there will be a focus on bands from the local area, and there is a blues theme. There will be food booths, and activities for kids. Mr. Betz also gave a brief update on the planning for the July 3<sup>rd</sup> Salute to the Troops. A military band will perform in full uniform.

Commissioner Dunn commented that she thinks it would be beneficial if it can be determined as to how Manhattan Beach compares in terms of its programs with similarly sized cities.

- **Update on Downtown Specific plan Downtown Specific Plan.** Mr. Betz announced that there are community workshops 3/16 and 3/24 from 6-8 pm at Police and Fire Facility Community Room and the Commissioners are encouraged to attend. The Commission expressed concern that they for the whole process be kept more closely in the loop of the plan process. It was discussed that Mr. Betz would look into the best way to approach the Council, perhaps two Commissioners (e.g. Chair and Vice-Chair) can meet with the Mayor. Discussion turned towards how the CAC can be kept better informed of the status of its projects, with Commissioner Gill suggesting that Staff keep a running list of their projects that they have voted on and Mr. Betz explained that he keeps track by reviewing the minutes and noting action items for Staff. Commissioner Dunn suggested coming up with a template report that would list all the open projects the CAC is working on and a status of each that could be attached to as an addendum to the monthly agenda with comments on timing. It was suggested by Commissioner Gill that perhaps this should be the responsibility of the Chair, and Mr. Betz stated that it is the joint responsibility of Staff and the Chair to do this. Mr. Betz also stated that he had been meeting with the Chair on the day of the monthly meetings, but perhaps Staff should resume the practice of meeting with the Chair earlier to set the agenda. Mr. Betz will discuss this with the Chair.
- **Update on Decommissioning policy.** Mr. Betz reported that the policy has been finalized and Staff is going to start applying it. He noted this is a big accomplishment, in the works since 2012. Mr. Betz will email a copy to each commissioner. The next step will be to do an inventory and develop a report with dates each piece was commissioned in the collection. May come back to CAC for permission and funding to hire an outside consultant although this hasn't been formally determined. Commissioner Dunn asked if whether a research project can be included in the inventory scope, as to where the City of Manhattan Beach stands compared to other cities as to how much is being spent for public art as this would help in going forward with spending. Mr. Betz commented that this is a big discussion, the funding that is existing is not so much, and the Staff is also waiting on the Downtown Strategic Plan and how that will work out. He will keep the Commission informed, but this will not be on the April agenda.

Commissioner Samuels explained that there is an art piece in the City Hall which was installed back in the 1970's and it has been partially structurally covered since 2003 and otherwise obscured. The Commission is interested in the history of this piece.

## G. COMMISSION ITEMS

Vice-Chairperson May reported that she has again met with the Manhattan Beach artists group. They discussed a mission statement and name of the group but this is still up in the air. Everyone however is very excited and Commissioner May invited all interested parties to attend. Meetings are held the first Monday in the month at Arts Center.

Commissioner Gill announced that on March 20, 5-9 pm the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Fundraiser for the Foundation of the Arts will be held at Lido's Manhattan restaurant. Tickets are \$25 in advance, \$35 at the door. Commissioner Gill also mentioned that he got a message on his Facebook page from the daughter of the artist who did the large mural inside City Hall – that the artist died last month. Commissioner Samuels asked if Commissioner Gill would share this information. Mr. Betz cautioned that the City is planning to get an opinion from an outside expert on the City Hall piece and this is key to where this goes next.

Vice-Chairperson May suggested that the Commission could be using Facebook more to publicize art programs and events. Mr. Betz explained that Staff already uses Instagram and Facebook and is working on this – some ideas include an electronic newsletter for the Art Center and this could be set up on a Facebook page just for the Art Center. Staff needs to get with the new IT Director to help get this started up. Commissioner Gill noted his Facebook page is “Art in Manhattan Beach”.

#### H. **GENERAL BUSINESS**

**15/1208.1 Sculpture Garden.** Martin Betz reported that staff is not ready for this - he hasn't been able to do the comprehensive thinking on what should be done. Thinking how a recommendation is needed on how to proceed or not. Commissioner Gill inquired as to because there will not be a 2016 garden, the art that is out there now will be out there for 2 years as we will not have a new garden in 2016? Martin confirmed this. Mr. Betz also noted that next year there will be some exciting projects including exhibits of the work of John Vanamerstahl (spelling?) and Ed Moses and his family.

#### I. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no other items to report, it was moved and seconded (Gill/Dunn) to adjourn the meeting at 6:44 PM to 7:00 PM on April 12, 2016 in the Council Chambers.

Roll-call vote:

Ayes:	Dunn, Gill, Samuels, Vice-Chairperson May.
Nays:	None
Abstain:	None
Absent:	Chairperson Ramezani