

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

September 18, 2017

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

A. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Gill called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM.

B. ROLL CALL

Present: Manna, May, Prigozhin, Rubino, Chairperson Gill.

Absent: Chase

Others present: Martin Betz, Cultural Arts Manager, Eilen Stewart, Ceramics Supervisor, Rosemary Lackow, Recording Secretary

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – August 21, 2017

It was moved and seconded (Manna/Rubino) to approve the August 21, 2017 minutes as submitted. The motion carried unanimously with a voice vote.

D. CEREMONIAL – None

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

F. STAFF ITEMS

Cultural Arts Division Update

Cultural Arts Manager Martin Betz reported:

Jose Lozano exhibit opened last Friday and was very successful and well attended.

The Cosimo Cavallaro “Unidentified Spaces” exhibit, hosted by Time 4Art will open at the Art Center on October 18th (Wed), 6-8 pm and will run to December 31.

“Late Night @ the Manhattan Beach Library” with **artist Jose Lozano**, will be held October 6, 8-10 pm, with music, drinks and discussion with the artist. This is the second of these events and the format will be a little different and less formal with the artist’s talk first and social gathering afterwards. Manager Betz agreed with Commission input and noted that there will be visuals on hand for the next event.

Budget/Work Plan update: the art fund has a balance of \$672,154. Staff will be presenting its Work Plan for funding tomorrow at the City Council meeting. The only change noteworthy for the Commission is the addition of an item relating to the A.C. Conner art that is being held by the Historic Society. There will be a discussion later with the Commission, but a placeholder is now in the Work Plan for funding purposes. Mr. Betz noted that the Commission’s presence in the audience is

desirable but the item is not expected to be called until about 10 pm. Mr. Betz also clarified that the art fund description includes “art walks” as being eligible for funding and that \$168k is the initial ask for the whole Plan but this can be amended in the future. He emphasized that the goal is to earmark funding now for the entire plan and this will avoid the possibility of having to refund any money. Mr. Betz will be happy to provide paper copies of the Art Trust Fund to the Commission.

Civic Center sailboat sculpture is now completely done. The Commissioners remarked that they thought it looks quite good. Commissioner Manna asked and Mr. Betz confirmed that the City could purchase the sculpture through the fund. Commissioner Prigozhin suggested that the City write a letter to the artist and encourage its donation.

“Love” sculpture offer: Manager Betz showed slides of the iconic internationally recognized “LOVE” pop-art cor-ten steel sculpture, and announced that the artist Robert Indiana, a resident of Manhattan Beach has proposed to locate one of his original editions in the City, perhaps at the Civic Center, on a long-term loan. The City is in the process of negotiating this with Mr. Indiana and staff is recommending acceptance of the piece. This is a very exciting opportunity and Mr. Betz will keep the Commission informed of progress.

The Commission briefly discussed publicity regarding the art shows, as Mr. Betz noted this is increasing. Commissioner Manna expressed interest in knowing whether the iPads in the City’s Downtowner shuttles are being used to advertise the Art Center exhibits; Mr. Betz noted he would inquire.

G. COMMISSION ITEMS

Commissioner May commented that the second North End Art Walk will be this Saturday, September 23 from 10-4 pm. About 50 artists will be represented. There was a brief discussion about the North End becoming more of an arts district.

Chairperson Gill noted a FOLA (Foundation of Local Artists) event on October 1 (Sunday).

H. GENERAL BUSINESS

17/09 Sculpture Garden Request for Proposal (RFP) draft

Cultural Arts Manager Betz distributed copies of the draft RFP and a past brochure and asked that the Commission review and provide input on the RFP.

Manager Betz responded to questions or clarified: the submittals will not be anonymous when reviewed and will be judged on aesthetics; “loan” (pieces to be loaned for 2 years) and “honorarium” are correct terms; \$12,000 is the amount for each of the three selected artists; typically a mini portfolio is submitted with 10 slides of their other works and preference is for those who have already executed something; finalists will be asked to provide shop drawings for Building & Safety review as well as a model; RFP goes out in October and submittals will be due by Dec 1; this RFP is based on the previous RFP but Mr. Betz will run it by the City Attorney; “concept for the Sculpture Program” refers to the artist’s concept of the sculpture being proposed and “images” refers to examples of other art works the applicant has already executed (typically consists of drawings or photo-shopped photos); the initial submittal is intended to be relatively easy for the artists; 60 maximum submissions are expected (last time 36); the city will be soliciting from artists of various media, not just sculptors.

The Commissioners discussed and gave the following input and suggestions for the RFP:

- For initial proposals, clarify the meaning/wording for various submittal requirements: “**images**” of current work; “**current**” (examples of past work - perhaps use the wording “from your portfolio”) and “**concept**” (of the Sculpture Program).
- For finalists: instead of using the term “3D scale”, use wording “physical model” and give some specific parameters of a box as to the size of the model (e.g. 18” x 18”x18” or 12” x 12” x12”) instead of saying “scale” which could be interpreted as “one to one”.
- It’s important for the Commission to be able to get a clear understanding of the proposed sculpture. For required plans: be specific and request various views: e.g. a plan view, an axonometric view, an elevation, etc. Mr. Betz will review this technical wording with Commissioner Prigozhin.
- A general comment: it seems more important to get multiple copies of images of the specific proposals, vs. of their portfolio of their work, and it is important also to have specifications that can be applied to all, so the reviewers are comparing “apples to apples”
- The RFP should clarify the insurance provisions, what is to be provided by the artist vs. the City.

Commissioner Rubino initiated discussion as to whether the RFP should give some parameters as to what the City is all about and minimally give some specifics about the City. Mr. Betz explained that typically artists in such competitions are expected to do their own research, visit the City and come up with what **they** believe is the inspiration. Chair Gill noted that there was much discussion on this very issue with the Lightgate project and it was ultimately decided to avoid giving parameters with the thinking that competing artists should provide their own explanation as to how they see their art fits in to the City, and that this is an important part of the creative process.

Chair Gill invited public comment.

Gary McAulay, Manhattan Beach Historical Society, stated he agreed with the Chair, that artists should make submittals without a lot of guidelines thereby showing how they have interpreted the City.

Commissioner May noted that she doesn’t believe that the art to be submitted has to necessarily relate to the City, because the garden is a temporary installation.

Mr. Betz indicated that the Commission does not need to have a revised draft before drafting, as long as all are in agreement as to the changes requested tonight. Mr. Betz will email the draft RFP to Commissioner Prigozhin.

ACTION

It was subsequently moved and seconded (May/Manna) that the Commission approve the draft RFP, subject to staff making changes as discussed and with further review of technical wording by Commissioner Prigozhin regarding the types of plans required to be submitted.

The motion carried with a 5-1 vote: ayes by Manna, May, Prigozhin, Rubino, Chair Gill and one absence (Chase).

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:01 P.M, Chairperson adjourned to the meeting to 6:00 P.M. on October 16, 2017 in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 1400 Highland Avenue; and there being no objections, it was so ordered.