



**CITY OF MANHATTAN BEACH
CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION**

**February 26, 2018
Manhattan Beach City Hall
City Council Chambers
1400 Highland Ave.
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 James Gill
Commissioner Leon Prigozhin
Commissioner Fred Manna
Commissioner Elizabeth Rubino
Commissioner Alexandra Chase
Commissioner Jacquelyne May

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

December 18, 2017
January 10, 2018

E. CEREMONIAL

F. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (3-Minute Limit)

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

G. STAFF ITEMS

Cultural Arts Division update-Betz
Catalina Classic Paddle Board sculpture presentation
Robert Indiana *Love* Sculpture update

H. COMMISSION ITEMS

I. GENERAL BUSINESS

J. ADJOURNMENT

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

December 18, 2017

Manhattan Beach City Hall, City Manager's Conference Room, 2nd Floor
1400 Highland Avenue
Manhattan Beach, CA 90266

A. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Gill called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM.

B. ROLL CALL

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

Absent: Chase

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

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – November 20, 2017

It was moved and seconded (Manna/ Rubino) to approve the November 20, 2017 minutes subject to correction of the following:

- Pg 1, at top call to order, replace “calling” with “called”.

-Pg. 1, Approval of minutes vote: Add Prigozhin to the four names who voted “aye” along with Manna, May and Rubino.

The motion passed with a voice vote: ayes: Manna, May, Rubino, Prohozhin, noes: 0; abstain: Gill, absent: 1: Chase.

D. CEREMONIAL – None

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

F. STAFF ITEMS

Before getting started Manager Betz asked that the Commissioners review the material in the Commissioners Handbook on absences and confirmed that that the rules apply to the student member. He encouraged the Commissioners to speak to him in advance of meetings if they encounter difficulties in their schedule so that he can check as to whether an anticipated absence might be able to be excused.

Cultural Arts Division Update: events/staffing (Eilen Stewart)

Ms. Stewart reported since the last meeting that 2 28-hr/week staff have given notice and the Division is working on re-staffing those with a mid-level salary (\$20-22/hr) positions.

A volunteer group “Friends of MBAC” composed of 10 women is active. Their role is as an “influencer group” and are unofficial ambassadors of the Art Center and use social media.

As to events, on December 9th the 3-events were very successful and the art sale included 20 artists. This event is a collaboration with Parks and Rec and this year more crafts were added resulting in more creative learning.

Ms. Stewart proceeded with a powerpoint on the upcoming “Toyetic “ exhibit opening Jan. 12 and running to April 1. This exhibit focuses on art works inspired and informed by the toy industry. Works of participating artists John T. Quinn and Chuck Hohng were highlighted for the Commissioners. Both artists will be present at the opening reception January 12, 6-9 pm and there will also be a “Late Night at the Library” event February 9, 8 to 10-pm where the exhibit will be explored with the artist(s) in a casual setting.

Cultural Arts Division Betz

- Staffing
- Events:

Work plan update and timeline- Betz

G. GENERAL BUSINESS

17/1218.01 Skechers mural proposal review
Manager Betz gave a presentation explaining the background ----

The Commission discussed and provided input: that a 4th artist should be chosen to fill in for one of three finalists should one drop out; it seems there are some typos in the brochure (e.g. capitalization in city job titles) (Prigozhin); since the greenbelt location is not included, there was discussion about alternate locations and process for determining (e.g. CAC might forward a recommendation to the Council who would have approval authority) (May and Manna).

H. COMMISSION ITEMS

Commissioner May noted there will be a North End MB Holiday Stroll on December 7 featuring the work of 23 artists, and there will be free food, liquid refreshments and music.

Commissioner Manna reminded of upcoming events including a Leadership Manhattan mock council meeting exercise prior to the next CAC meeting and a Beach Cities Health District Blue Zones Project public street design workshop in early December.

Commissioner Rubino inquired as to the quality of the yellow in the draft sculpture brochure; Eilen Stewart noted that she will check as to whether this is a printing error.

Commissioner Prigozhin commented on a music concerts held every Friday, Saturday and Sunday at LACMA.

I. ADJOURNMENT

At 6:57 P.M, Chair Gill adjourned the meeting to the regular meeting at 6:00 P.M. on January 22, 2018 in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 1400 Highland Avenue; and there being no objections, it was so ordered.

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

January 10, 2018

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

A. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Gill called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

B. ROLL CALL

Present: Chairperson Gill, May, Manna and Chase
Absent: Prigozhin, Rubino

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – None

D. CEREMONIAL – None

E. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (3-Minute Limit) -

Chair Gill opened the floor to public comment.

Trek Thunder Kelly, artist – posed the idea of two giant wave murals leading down to the pier on either side of Manhattan Beach Boulevard. He suggested two waves pouring down Manhattan Beach Boulevard with the caption, “Where there’s a will, there’s a wave.” He mentioned the possibility of augmented reality where people can point their phones at the waves and they will see the waves pouring down.

The floor was closed to public comment.

F. STAFF ITEMS

Cultural Arts Manager, Martin Betz recommended cancelling the regularly scheduled January 22nd meeting. The February meeting will be rescheduled for February 26th due to the Presidents Day holiday.

G. GENERAL BUSINESS

Skechers Mural presentation – Rachel Rodi, artist commissioned to design the mural for the Skechers renovation spoke. Manager Betz recommended looking at the project as two different sections, Manhattan Avenue and Manhattan Beach Boulevard. The Manhattan Avenue portion is of the most urgent need to address.

Ms. Rodi is a mosaic artist based in Oakland, California, focused on large scale public space projects and commercial projects. This project uses stained glass as the medium for the mosaics. Her first inspiration is the pier and roundhouse aquarium at sunset. The Manhattan Avenue mosaic will be 16.5 ft wide by 6 ft 2 inches high. The mural foreshadows the pier as you cannot see the pier from Manhattan Avenue. The pier mural has already been built due to some miscommunication, but has not been installed.

The underwater theme for the Manhattan Beach boulevard mosaic is based on inspiration from the Roundhouse Aquarium. The current design is a close up view of the kelp forest to depict the

local wildlife. She described the process of using different colors and materials for different lightplay.

Manager Betz reiterated the past concerns of the commission and past public comments.

- One concern is that the basic look of the mural looks like every other underwater scene in the South Bay
- Relationship between Manhattan Beach and the underwater scene which does not necessarily connect with Manhattan Beach life

Chair Gill voiced that the commission was presented with drawings and couldn't really connect with the pencil drawings.

Commissioner Chase likes the choice of materials for sun reflection and liked the photo of the waves on the posts.

Commissioner Manna stated that he is not a mosaic person and has an issue with the Manhattan Beach Boulevard mural not occupying the whole wall and looking like a picture on a wall. He is fine with the Manhattan Avenue pier mosaic. He questions whether there should be two mosaics. He stated that Manhattan Beach is not necessarily an underwater community.

Commissioner May stated that it looks like coloring book drawings. She would like to see something more dynamic. It looks exactly like an aquarium. She asked if it is supposed to be an advertisement for the aquarium. The Skechers representative stated that the intention is for the mural to foreshadow the aquarium experience and to be a picture taking opportunity for parents and children. Commissioner May stated that the aesthetics are at a very childlike level. She stated that such an iconic wall should have a more dynamic piece for that dynamic corner.

Commissioner Gill asked how many public projects Ms. Rodi has done. She replied that she has done about 40 pieces. He asked if the mural could be backlit. Ms. Rodi replied that under the current proposal, the pieces would be mounted directly on the wall and would not be backlit.

Commissioner Gill thanked Ms. Rodi for bringing in samples materials as the drawings conveyed a more simplistic picture and the samples help to give a better idea as to the color quality of the piece.

Commissioner Gill opened the floor to public comment.

Deanne Chase, resident offered her comments. She stated that she likes the mosaic designs but agrees that the Manhattan Beach Boulevard mosaic seems to have a lot of empty space on the wall and should be more proportionate. She likes the idea of the undersea theme as long as the connection is made to the aquarium.

Gary McAuley, resident – wanted to tag along with the no undersea camp, waves are better. If undersea, he believes that it should be a local undersea theme. He wants to ensure that this is not a Catalina scene and is a Manhattan Beach scene.

The commissioners discussed the various aspects of the designs.

Commissioner Chase liked the smaller pier design for Manhattan Avenue but thought that the underwater scene could be reconsidered.

Commissioner Manna acknowledged Mr. McAuley's desire for the undersea theme to be accurate but questioned whether most people would know the difference between an underwater

Catalina scene vs. an underwater Manhattan Beach scene. He is more concerned about whether the underwater theme itself is the most appropriate.

Commissioner May mentioned that Manhattan Beach has one of the largest sand dollar beds in the state right at the pier.

Chair Gill stated that this presentation is more of a formality. He stated that it is difficult to know what the pieces will look like in the end as the renderings can't accurately reflect the actual materials that will be used. He would like to see the two buildings communicating a unified theme and that it would be great to try to work with the building on the other side of Manhattan Beach Boulevard for complimentary pieces.

Commissioner Manna moved to approve the mosaic on Manhattan Avenue. Commissioner May seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote (4:0:0:2)

Commissioner May stated that if the picture could be more dynamic with better colors and shading and inclusion of sand dollars, it may be good.

The Skechers representative stated that there are financial implications if a decision is not made on this night.

Commissioner Gill moved to approve the mosaic to face Manhattan Beach Boulevard with the hope that some of the commissions suggestions will be incorporated. Commissioner Manna seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Ayes: Chair Gill, Commissioners Manna and Chase

Noes: Commissioner May

Abstain: None

Absent: Commissioners Prighozin and Rubino

H. COMMISSION ITEMS

Commissioner Gill reminded the commission of the FOLA event that is coming up Sunday January 28th and the Lightgate Sunset will be on January 27th.

I. ADJOURNMENT

At 7:40 P.M, Chair Gill adjourned the meeting to the regular meeting at 6:00 P.M. on February 26, 2018 in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 1400 Highland Avenue and there being no objections, it was so ordered.