



**CITY OF MANHATTAN BEACH
CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION**

**March 19, 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
February 26, 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
Robert Indiana *Love* Sculpture update
Skechers Mural 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, Prigozhin, noes: 0; abstain: Gill, absent: Chase.

D. CEREMONIAL – None

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

F. STAFF ITEMS

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 each Commissioners to speak to him in advance if he/she was having difficulty with 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:

- Staffing: Two 28-hr/week staff members have given notice and the Division is working on re-staffing with a mid-level salary (\$20-22/hr.) position.
- 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.
- The December 9th gingerbread workshop/art sale was very successful with 20 artists participating and was a collaboration with Parks and Recreation this year, with more crafts added.
- “Toyetic “ Exhibit (January 12 to April 1) will focus on art works inspired and informed by the toy industry with works from artists John T. Quinn and Chuck Hohng. 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 update: Public Arts Projects (Martin Betz)

Manager Betz gave a PowerPoint on the topic of Public Arts Projects for 2018 -2019 as an FYI and for discussion as to direction from City Council. He highlighted the following:

- Love Sculpture – (Robert Indiana): staff has the go ahead but the City Council wants to meet with the artist. The original concept will be taken to council for approval January 16. The location will be at the beach with the pier in the background. This is on a 10-year loan which covers the life of the sculpture.
- Sculpture Garden: The RFP has gone out and will be due 3/2/18; cc approval will be 5/2018 and installation 2/2019 and program will be complete 2/2021.
- Mural on Sepulveda: A building at the corner of Marine was shown as a possible site. The process involves: sending out a local Request for Qualifications; getting groups in town together to determine a set of buildings and then working with the building owners. The Council will have the final decision on the artwork. Staff will choose the artist. There is a \$20,000 budget limit. Mr. Betz stated he believes that the murals will stay up as long as the building owner wants.
- Electrical cabinet wrappings: Mr. Betz showed an example from another city. The City will go with one company to fabricate and the wraps should include some historic imagery. Public Works will be assisting in determining the cabinets available. Staff will select 40 images that will be shown to the CAC who will narrow down to 20 to take to Council. Chair Gill requested that staff send the images to the Commissioners prior to the meeting at which this will be discussed.
- Art Grant Program (re-granting back to the community): will be developed early 2018 with CAC review in March and council approval in April, 2018.
- The A.C. Conner exhibit is still being worked on, with anticipated showing in July 2019.

G. COMMISSION ITEMS

Commissioner Rubino gave an update on the proposal that came through Janet Jones to collaborate with the Library on a Saturday event live concert series. The event will not be in the evening. A canopy would cover the musicians and the audience will sit on the slope. The discussion turned towards the possibility of forming some kind of joint sub-committee (Library/CAC) to work on this. The purpose of such committee would be to meet and gather ideas and information and come back to each of the Commissions. It was agreed that Manager Betz will work with City Administration to determine if the CAC and Library Commission can legally form a subcommittee which is formed by two persons from the CAC and others from the Library Commission. Commissioner Rubino will form a basic proposal that will come back to the CAC.

Commissioner May noted that the North End MB Holiday Stroll on December 7 was very successful with 75 artists participating.

Chair Gill announced a FOLA event coming up Mardi Gras Exhibition Sunday January 28 5-7 pm at Laurel Tavern in Hermosa Beach

Commissioner Prigozhin shared his photography with the Commission and noted that he is on Instagram at F_stopper, and is looking for space to exhibit. Chair Gill suggested that he discuss with Manager Betz about what's possible.

H. GENERAL BUSINESS

17/1218.01 Skechers mural proposal review

Chair Gill noted after a staff presentation and questions to staff, and public input, the Commission will discuss this item and take a vote. Manager Betz gave a presentation noting that the requirement for the CAC to review and approve this proposal is wrapped into the city council's approval of the Skechers retail store expansion. There would be a mosaic on both Manhattan Avenue and Manhattan Beach Boulevard. The marine subject matter was chosen as Skechers is also building an aquarium at the end of the pier. The picture shown is a sketch of a mosaic layout. Questions of staff? Mr. Betz indicated there would be no writing as that might make it into a sign. The mosaic will be inset and framed and will occupy an area about 8' x 11'.

The Commission discussed the mosaic. Commissioner Manna stated he had no problems and Chair Gill thought the concept is fine as it relates to the aquarium project. Mr. Betz clarified that this review is part of the building permit and does not go back to the City Council and will be handled administratively.

Public Input

Muralist **Trek Kelly** addressed the Commission, pointing out that this wall on Manhattan Beach Boulevard and the one opposite the Boulevard on the Diane's Bikinis building opposite together form a gateway to the pier and the beach. The location is premium from social media perspective – and he believes that this is a rare opportunity for the city to involve some world class artists. If Mr. Greenberg is not set on this particular plan and if the other owner on the opposite side can be persuaded, some very quality art can be installed. He requested that the CAC consider a recommendation that such a concept be pursued with the other building owner, to form a double mural. Perhaps this particular mural could still be installed down on the pier as part of the aquarium and look at a more sophisticated mosaic that can be done on the two walls.

Martin Betz responded to this input noting that this has been discussed and worked on for some time and this is coming at the last minute. If the CAC votes "no", then this particular sketch would not go forward.

Mr. Kelly suggested that additional time be taken to consider this and he could suggest some very good artists.

Mr. Betz encouraged the commissioners to decide whether to approve or disprove the concept. Commissioner Rubino likes tile and mosaic but doesn't feel it represents Manhattan Beach. Commissioner Prigozhin doesn't like the design as he feels it looks too amateur. Chair Gill suggested an option would be that, as some new valid points have been raised that Skechers could come back to the Commission and be in attendance.

A point was raised that there are two Skechers pieces one on each street and perhaps they should be approved separately.

Chair Gill made a motion to continue the discussion of this item to the next available meeting, that staff should explain the CAC's concerns and request that a representative from Skechers be present. The motion was unanimously passed 4-0-1 (Manna, May, Prigozhin, Rubino, Chair Gill ayes), and one absence (Chase).

Manager Betz informed that the next regular Monday meeting (January 15th) is a holiday and an alternate meeting date will be needed. January 22nd was mentioned as a possible alternative date. Alternative dates were also discussed for the February meeting.

Manager Betz noted that it has not yet been determined when the CAC meeting will start to be publicized.

Commissioner Rubino suggested that staff come up with some specific questions to direct to Skechers for the next meeting.

I. ADJOURNMENT

At 7:45 P.M, Chair Gill adjourned the meeting to the regular meeting at 6:00 P.M. on January 15, 2018 (or alternate date to be determined) 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.

CITY OF MANHATTAN BEACH
MINUTES OF THE CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION

February 26, 2018
City Council Chambers, City Hall
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: Chase, May, Manna, Prigozhin, Rubino, Chairperson Gill

Absent: None

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

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – December 18, 2017, January 10, 2018

Chair Gill suggested that approval of both meeting minutes be held over to the next meeting in March as some important discussion is missing. No objections, it was so ordered.

D. CEREMONIAL – None

E. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (3-Minute Limit) -

Amelia Amell addressed the Commission informing that late last year, she started an Instagram account “FriendsofMBArtCenter” for the purpose of getting information out about the Art Center and its exhibitions, workshops and activities through social media platforms. The Instagram group started with 10 and now has about 140 followers and looks forward to CAC support

Chair Gill applauded Ms. Amell for her and the group’s initiative in partnering with the community. Ms. Amell noted she is very interested in uniting efforts. He will reach out to her email to discuss possible ways the group can be supported and Commissioner May also noted she will also contact Ms. Amell to discuss possible collaboration. Manager Betz stated support for these efforts, but with the caveat that everyone be aware that the purpose of the friends group is in getting the word out about existing City Art programs through social media, and does initiate art projects.

F. STAFF ITEMS

Manager Betz stated the Catalina Classic presentation will be the first item of business.

Catalina Classic Paddle Board sculpture presentation.

The presentation was a combined effort primarily by Tom Horton, South Bay Boardriders Club, and Michael Lee, local architect. Mr. Horton explained that they are looking for support for the “Catalina Classic Paddleboard Race Commemorative Statue”. He gave a detailed description of the Catalina to Manhattan Beach race which was started in 1955, cancelled in the late fifties and restarted without interruption in 1982 (<http://manhattanbeachhistorical.org/history>). He noted that the race has wide support from the Chamber of Commerce and Historical Society and all fundraising will be by South Bay Boardriders.

Architect Michael Lee gave a slide presentation, showing possible locations, the preferred being at the end and just off the sidewalk on the south side of Manhattan Beach Boulevard below the south public

parking lot retaining wall. A couple trees would need to be relocated and this would be a nice gateway to the pier plaza.

Chair Gill invited each Commissioner to ask questions and make comments. Responding, Mr. Horton stated: participants must be accomplished; either by being a finisher of the prior year race or based on their finish in a qualifying race; they would somehow like to list on the piece the names of race winners historically; this was not the only location looked at – another one was up on the surface of the south pier parking lot; they want to keep the design simple and tie it in to the site, but also do homage to the sport by showing figures male and female perhaps in a paddling, not upright position. However they are not set on any one certain design.

Other comments received from the Commission included: it seems that there are a lot of “balls in the air” as to proposals near the pier and a “big picture” plan may be in order; it may be desirable to have the piece in a more centralized location, such as at the turnaround area or on the pier; an on-pier location may be more complicated regarding engineering and permitting; and, a location at the turnaround would likely be subject to criticism that this would impede traffic and circulation.

Manager Betz informed that this would necessarily require an open competition and the City would follow the same process as the light gate project. He noted that this means forming a large committee including all members of the CAC plus five others. Meetings would be held to review and discuss the submittals which would narrow the options to five “top pick” submittals, which would then be taken to the City Council for a final decision, including its location.

The Chair opened the discussion to public comment; seeing none, public comment was closed.

A motion was **made and seconded (May/Manna)** to **bring this topic back as a future agenda item**. There was no further discussion and the motion passed unanimously in favor with voice vote.

Manager Betz noted that this will be put on the agenda for the next CAC meeting. He does not believe that staff needs to get prior City Council approval but expects that location will be a main issue. Commissioner Rubino requested that, along with a report, that staff provide a listing and timeline for all the projects on their “to-do” list and Mr. Betz stated he can easily do that. Mr. Betz also noted that he believes there is Council support but is not aware of details.

Cultural Art Division Update

Manager Betz informed:

- Robert Indiana “LOVE” sculpture loan is going to be taken to the City Council at its next meeting, with a long range agreement. Mr. Betz stated that the location, south of the Pier has been determined and he does not believe that Coastal Commission approval is needed.
- A city Media Kit is provided to each Commissioner tonight.

Ceramics Supervisor Stewart informed regarding:

- City Murals Program: a brochure has been developed and was provided to the Commission; a total of \$150k is reserved to install murals over the next few years; Staff is prepping an RFQ and the expectation is to select 3 or 4 artists for a roster; and one site on Sepulveda has already been identified and local muralists are being encouraged for the first one. The Downtown Business Association may submit a list of sites. The program will come before the Commission for “final blessing” of the roster. The dollar number of \$150k is what was projected at the time the Work Plan was approved. The cost per mural is estimated at \$12-13k. In response to a comment from Commissioner Rubino, who suggested that the artist proposals should be site-specific, Manager

Betz noted that, to get the program started, the roster and proposals need to come first. A dollar amount will not be included in the RFQ. The search for artists will be very local and spread out to the South Bay.

- Toyetic Exhibit: will be up until April, and the opening event was very successful as 45 people stayed for the evening talk.
- New Exhibit: “Facet: Sculptural Jewelry Exhibition”. Ms. Stewart gave a detailed power-point presentation about the artists, Jill Baker Gower, Jessie Calderwood, and Rachel Shimpock. All three artists have a lot of whimsy and thought about adornment. Staff will be putting out releases and postcards.

In response to a Commission inquiry, Ms. Stewart noted that a doodle painted on the wall of the Toyetic exhibit by artist John Quinn will be painted over by the artist.

G. COMMISSION ITEMS

Commissioner Prigozhin stated that he will be offering some photography classes, for now only to the Commission. Manager Betz will work with Commissioner Prigozhin in setting this up.

H. ADJOURNMENT

At 7:14 P.M, Chair Gill adjourned the meeting to the regular meeting at 6:00 P.M. on March 19, 2018 in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 1400 Highland Avenue; and there being no objections, it was so ordered.