

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

December 16, 2019

City Hall – City Manager’s Conference Room  
1400 Highland Avenue  
Manhattan Beach, CA 90266

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Rubino called the meeting to order at 6:07 PM.

**B. PLEDGE TO FLAG**

**C. ROLL CALL**

Present: Manna, May, Taner, Chair Rubino

Absent: Bennett, Ryan

Staff present: Eilen Stewart, Interim Cultural Arts Manager, Lorenzo Baker, Cultural Arts Management Assistant, Rosemary Lackow, Recording Secretary

**D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - November 18, 2019**

It was moved and seconded (Manna/May) to approve the minutes with one change: on Pg 3, second paragraph: delete entire sentence “This idea, suggested by the Chair, is a whole new concept, that would replace the “Art in the Park” program also originally suggested by the Chair.”

ROLL CALL:

Ayes: May, Taner, Chair Rubino

Noes: None

Absent: Bennett, Ryan

Abstain: None

**E. CEREMONIAL - Chair Rubino welcomed Cultural Arts Supervisor Eilen Stewart who has been promoted to position of Interim Cultural Arts Manager (ICAM).**

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

**G. GENERAL BUSINESS**

119/1021.1 Discussion of 2020-21 Work Plan

Chair Rubino noted that she and Interim Cultural Arts Manager Stewart met with Parks and Recreation Director Leyman since the last Commission meeting and they got his input and direction regarding finalizing the Commission recommendations for the 2020 Cultural Arts Division Work Plan. Ms. Stewart distributed a summary of that discussion per each Work Plan item and then, with the Chair led discussion regarding an approach for each item, as follows:

1. **Manhattan Beach Art Center façade/grounds improvements.** It was noted that the recommendation was to make this item more concise and generalized and that PATF (Public Art Trust Fund) monies cannot be spent on “architecture”. It was advised that in February the Parks and Recreation Commission will be considering a new banner pole ordinance (street poles with single banners attached) and the MBAC improvements may be able to “piggy-back”

onto that, if approved. It was emphasized that the primary purpose of this program is to attract more visitors to the Art Center.

**Action: CAC to keep the existing description, but have suggestions ready to offer in January – that description being “Develop and Propose a Plan to Increase the Visibility of the Manhattan Beach Art Center”.**

- 2. Marketing campaign for completed projects.** The Commission received guidance that it cannot do its own “marketing” – all such promotions must be under the Parks and Recreation Department umbrella. While the description has been shortened for that reason, it can also be expanded.

**Action: Revise description to read: “Examine and Establish an Overarching Plan to Promote the Arts in the City of Manhattan Beach.”**

- 3. Develop art projects in collaboration with North End BID, in the El Port/North End area of the City.** Examples could be: Public Sculpture, murals and utility boxes; this was discussed with Director Leyman.

**Action: Eliminate as a 2020 Workplan item, but continue to work with the BID to incorporate into existing programs as interest/opportunity arises.**

- 4. Develop an RFP to address the issues of conservation and preservation highlighted in the Public Art Assessment (PAA) report.** The Commission discussed and took a straw vote on whether a proposed shortened title should be expanded. Commissioner May, in the minority, felt it should be kept “as is” (referring only to the PAA report) so that people don’t get a wrong impression; while commissioners Manna, Taner and Chair Rubino felt that including the 3 possible actions (conservation, preservation, decommissioning) in the title will make this item clearer.

**Action: Revise description, for clarity, to: “Develop an Action Plan and an RFP to Address the Issues of Conservation and Preservation Highlighted in the Public Art Assessment Report (such actions could include conservation, preservation, and decommissioning of public art work.)”**

- 5. Organize a “Nightmarket” type arts event.** Discussion focused on the event name (such as Night Market, Art Nights, or combination) and description (night event, annual, encompassing performing as well as visual arts), location (park, plaza or other?), and collaboration with community groups.

**Action: ICAM Stewart and Chair will “wordsmith” the name/description with CAC input tonight, in more general terms ( priority is to have the event);**

- 6. Monthly Art Program:** Discussion focused on the purpose of this item - to formalize activities that have been routinely budgeted to augment special events such as art exhibit openings. The Commission agreed that this item could encompass a variety of performing activities (music, drama, poetry reading, etc) and may not be necessarily limited to exhibit openings/closings that occur only on a periodic basis. It was emphasized by Ms. Stewart that this is a very labor intensive type of program and staffing resources are very low; she needs to determine what types of tasks can be undertaken by volunteers or would need an outside vendor. A suggestion was to incorporate schools or community groups.

**Action: ICAM Stewart and Chair, considering CAC input, will “wordsmith” the**

**name/description, with CAC input tonight, in more general, open-ended terms (e.g. “Develop a plan for....”).**

#### 18/0820.1 Review and Recommendation of Artists’ Proposals for City Hall Lobby Project

**ICAM Stewart**, with assistance from Lorenzo Baker, went over a presentation summarizing the proposals of 2 semi-finalists selected by the Arts in Public Places Committee including: “Onde” by Monika Bravo, and “Chromatic” “Onde” by Hou De Sousa.

The Commission discussed both works in depth, asking questions, looking at the budget but basically talked about their feelings about both and how it would relate to the specific location (the civic building lobby) and overall Manhattan Beach community. In summary, the CAC felt that both are beautiful and both artists are amazing, but some issues stood out that was felt should be considered: 1) some aspects, some felt significant, were uncertain in the proposals (e.g. ) and if possible should be fleshed out through communication with the artists; 2) the stairway is a definite constraint and the two proposals deal with differently; 3) the work chosen should be one that elicits the desired emotional effect (e.g. do we want City Hall visitors to be excited or calmed?); 4) the work will, once installed, need to be maintained (e.g. will dusting be too costly or onerous?). The Commission was in agreement, that to the degree possible, staff should discuss these issues with both artists, and the Commission’s comments endorsing both but with strong recommendation for “Chromatic” be submitted to City Council.

#### **H. STAFF ITEMS**

ICAM Stewart reported:

- a. Cultural Arts Division updates (major programs): Murals (started); Utility Box Wrappings (5 installed); Community Grants (5 submittals so far); Public Art Assessment (Lorenzo working steadily on); Sculpture Garden (in legal review and working with PWD); MBAC: Immersio closing 12/23 – 12/25, center closed 12/30 – 1/1/20 .
- b. PATF Budget update: balance report submitted to CAC, will provide copy of Ordinance in MBMC 10.90.060
- c. City Council updates: Council has directed that Dragon Tale be moved from the Veteran’s Parkway greenbelt; possible new locations: MB Art Center and Pennekamp Elementary.
- d. January CAC meeting dates: CAC agreed on 1/14 – Interim Manager Stewart to confirm.

#### **I. COMMISSION ITEMS**

Commissioner Taner inquired as to the status of the sailboat sculpture removal; Interim Manager Stewart stated this is still an ongoing effort.

#### **J. ADJOURNMENT**

At 9:03 P.M, **Chair Rubino called for adjournment, no objections, it was so ordered** - to the special joint meeting with City Council on **January 6, 2020** and the time and place will be confirmed with the Commission by Interim Manager Stewart.