

## **CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION**

### **Minutes**

October 11, 2011

Special Meeting

Manhattan Beach City Hall

1400 Highland Avenue

Manhattan Beach, CA 90266

#### **I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 4:08 p.m.

#### **II. ROLL CALL**

Present: Commissioner Peter De Maria, Commissioner Russ Samuels, Commissioner Nancy Humbarger, Commissioner Susan Sweeney, and Commissioner Susannah Rosenthal.

Absent: None.

Others Present: Ad Hoc Committee Member Sharon Greco, Ad Hoc Committee Member Jim Murray, Ad Hoc Committee Member Alison Wright, Parks & Recreation Director Richard Gill, Acting Cultural Arts Manager Megumi Sando, and Recreation Leader II Vicky Huynh.

#### **III. APPROVAL MINUTES**

None.

#### **IV. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

None.

#### **V. GENERAL BUSINESS**

11/1011/4 -1 - Public Artwork for 2012

The Cultural Art Commission and Ad Hoc Committee reviewed possible sites for *Not a Step* by Christian Tedeschi, and *Believe, Green* by Jason Manley for the 2011-2012 Sculpture Garden Program. On October 6, 2011, the two artists, Commissioner De Maria, Public Works staff, and the Acting Cultural Arts Manager met on-site and identified suitable locations in the Civic Plaza. For *Not A Step*, the green area between the Library and Police Department was suggested. Options for *Believe, Green* included: 1) Third level of green area by the staircase between the Civic Plaza and 13th Street; 2) Above the parking entry from 13<sup>th</sup> Street; and 3) Along the wall of the Police Station facing 13<sup>th</sup> Street.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Sweeney made a motion to recommend Option 1 to City Council, while keeping Option 3 as a back-up. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Samuels.

Ayes: Sweeney, Samuels, De Maria, Humbarger, Rosenthal.

Noes: None.

Abstain: None.

Absent: None.

Director Gill stated that the Cultural Arts Commission needed to identify project(s) committing up to \$216,000 of the Public Arts Fund by the end of the year. Approximately \$50,000 of the Fund will expire by the end of this year. Fees paid into the Public Arts Fund which are not committed to a specific project within five (5) years from the date of actual receipt by the City shall be returned to the current owner of the development project.

The Cultural Arts Commission and Ad Hoc Committee expressed their interest in a presentation of high quality art for the City's Centennial celebration. They commented that artwork should reflect the community of Manhattan Beach, and consider context and site. Selection should not fall into "plop art" -- large size modern or contemporary sculpture thoughtlessly "plopped" where it lies.

Commissioner Rosenthal presented her web site on wix.com, which had been accumulating information about the Public Art Program of the City of Manhattan Beach and ideas for future Public Art Projects. The website included artwork images by Tom Otterness, Janet Echelman, and Gwen Murill, and they were the artists whom the Ad Hoc Committee recommended for future projects. Established artists like them are usually represented by commercial art galleries. Ad Hoc Committee member Murray remarked that at the beginning those galleries needed to know solid figures that the City wanted to commit to.

The Cultural Arts Commission and Ad Hoc Committee also discussed using the Public Arts Fund to develop prototype benches for The Strand.

**VI. REPORTS AND OTHER BUSINESS**

None.

**VII. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:50 p.m.