

CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION

Minutes

October 11, 2011

Manhattan Beach City Hall

1400 Highland Avenue

Manhattan Beach, CA 90266

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

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

Absent: None.

Others Present: Mayor Pro Tem Wayne Powell, Councilmember David Lesser, Director of Public Works Jim Arndt, Director of Parks & Recreation Richard Gill, Chief Deputy Los Angeles County Libraries Fred Hungerford, Capital Projects Manager County of Los Angeles Public Works Jason Kim, Library Consultant Linda Demmers, Los Angeles County Arts Commission Civic Art Program Manager Letitia Ivins, Architects Jim Favaro and Steve Johnson, Ad Hoc Committee Member Sharon Greco, Ad Hoc Committee Member Jim Murray, Ad Hoc Committee Member Alison Wright, Acting Cultural Arts Manager Megumi Sando, and Recreation Leader II Vicky Huynh.

III. APPROVAL MINUTES

None.

IV. CEREMONIAL

None.

V. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Madonna Newburg stated that the new library should consider needs of the older adult population, especially those with wheelchairs.

Gerry O'Connor requested clarification of how the library project was funded. Mr. Hungerford explained that the funding came from property tax revenue with no fiscal implication on the City's budget.

VI. GENERAL BUSINESS

11/1011-1 - Presentation and Status Report of the Manhattan Beach County Library Project (City of Manhattan Beach/Los Angeles County)

Public Works Director Arndt began the meeting with a brief introduction of the library renovation project followed by remarks from Mayor Pro Tem Powell and Councilmember Lesser. Parks and Recreation Director Gill explained the Cultural Arts Commission's roles and commitment in the public art project(s) at the new library. The budget for the art project is \$137,000, and the Los Angeles County Arts Commission administers the program.

Mr. Kim, Capital Projects Manager County of Los Angeles Public Works, presented the new library's project budget of \$22,571,000 and the overall project schedule. Mr. Kim provided the following timeline: Library Move-Out/Closure in November 2012; Library Demolition in January 2013; Start of Construction in February 2013; Substantial Completion in June 2014; and Library Opening in December 2014.

Architect Jim Favaro presented the architectural design concept for the new library and the project status.

Ms. Demmers, Library Consultant, introduced the operation/program aspect of the new library. It included new features such as self-service, automated materials handling, new material formats (e-books, downloadable music, DVDs), public technology use, increase or addition of service desks, family place, teen spaces, and flexibility of the use of space and furniture.

Ms. Ivins, Los Angeles County Arts Commission Civic Art Program Manager, presented an overview of the County's Civic Art Program. The County's Civic Art Policy allocates 1% of the construction and design costs for all County capital projects over \$500,000 to the Civic Art Program. As a result, 130 works of art are in the County's collection.

The criteria of the Civic Art Program artwork include: high quality, innovative, site-specific, able to engage community and transformative. The first step of the Manhattan Beach Library project is to establish a Project Coordination Committee for artist selection. The Committee will be comprised of representatives from the Supervisorial Office, Tenant Department, the County Chief Executive Office, Department of Public Works, the project architect/design builder, Los Angeles County Arts Commissioner from the District, two Arts Commissioners from the City, a community member, and an arts professional. In addition, Ms. Ivins will serve as the non-voting advisor to facilitate consensus. The Civic Art Program has a pool of more than 100 pre-qualified artists to choose from, and the list is available online at www.lacountyarts.org.

The proposed timeline of the art project is as follows: Stakeholder Planning meeting in November 2011; Artist Selection Meeting in January 2012; Finalist Interviews in February 2012; Kick Off Meeting in March 2012; Concept Design Review in May 2012; and Final Design Review in August 2012.

The Commission reviewed the library project with the following points:

Architectural Design

- The width of the sidewalk (12' wide) adjacent to the south side of the new library building seemed too narrow.
- Increase of the open space in front of the entrance facing Highland Avenue was recommended.
- The new library design could enhance the relationship between Highland Avenue and Civic Plaza attracting pedestrians from the street.

Services & Programs

- The Cultural Arts Commission asked about library services during the closure. Parks and Recreation Director Gill reported that a book mobile will be available, and in addition, story time will be held at the Police/Fire Conference Room.
- The new library was suggested to develop a program encouraging the community to create their own stories by adding an educational component and providing the community with opportunities to present their stories.

Public Art Project:

- The Cultural Arts Commission asked if the library could have multiple art pieces displayed. Ms. Ivins reported it is possible depending on the Project Coordination Committee's decision.

VII. REPORTS AND OTHER BUSINESS

None.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.