

CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING

Minutes

January 17, 2012

Manhattan Beach City Hall

1400 Highland Avenue

Manhattan Beach, CA 90266

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting called to order at 6:10 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: Parks & Recreation Director Richard Gill, Acting Cultural Arts Manager Megumi Sando Moisen, and Vicky Huynh, Recreation Leader II.

III. APPROVAL MINUTES

None.

IV. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

None.

V. GENERAL BUSINESS

12/0117-01 The Use of the Public Art Funds for the Centennial and the New Library Art Projects

Funding Allocation for the Centennial and New Library Projects:

Parks and Recreation Director Richard Gill illustrated the importance of supplementing the New Library Art Project. The Commissioners and several members from the community hesitated to commit the Public Art Funds to the new library project because they were uncertain of how the additional funding was going to be used and how the City's funding would make a difference. Commissioner Humbarger stressed that they need more information before making the decision.

Commissioner De Maria suggested that the City purchase an artwork and loan it to the County library, in which the Commission could still have influence on the selection of artwork. Mr. Gill replied that it would still go through the County's selection process because it is going to be on the property of the County.

The Commissioners agreed to consider the Centennial and New Library Projects separately, focusing on the Centennial project because they could be directly involved in the outcome. Several possibilities of allocation of up to \$400,000 of the Public Art Funds were discussed:

- Allocate \$150,000 each for the Centennial Art and the New Library Art. Secure \$200,000 for the Centennial project first and determine the amount of donation to the library project later (as needed).
- Commit up to \$200,000 for the Centennial project and donate the amount that makes the budget of both projects equally.

A MOTION was made by Commissioner Samuels and seconded by Commissioner Sweeney to recommend allocating \$200,000 of the Public Art Funds to the Centennial Art Project and up to \$63,000 to the Library Art project.

Ayes: Samuels, Sweeney, De Maria, Rosenthal.
Noes: Humbarger.
Abstain: None.
Absent: None.

Centennial Art Project:

A discussion on potential artists in consideration for the Centennial Art Project commenced. The Cultural Arts Commission and community members discussed options of purchasing or commissioning artwork. Manhattan Beach resident Alison Wright recommended purchasing an existing artwork and moving it to a location nearby the new library after the Centennial celebration ends. The Commission chose to commission artwork, knowing that the project was not going to be finished in 2012.

The Commission determined the vision statement of the Centennial Art Project as follows: *The Manhattan Beach Cultural Arts Commission's goal is to commission a significant piece of Public Art to acknowledge Manhattan Beach's first 100 years.* The public art project is to create an exceptional experience for locals and visitors, by strengthening the visual identity of Manhattan Beach. The project also aims to foster community dialogues reflecting the dynamics of art, the site, audience, and its context.

Ms. Wright also suggested reinstating the Arts Festival in the Centennial celebration by using the Public Art Funds, and the Commission agreed to have the festival in addition to the permanent Centennial artwork.

A tentative timeline for selection of the permanent Centennial Art Project was determined as follows:

May 8, 2012	Selection of three (3) finalists
June, 2012	Orientation/tour for to the finalists
July 10, 2012	Conceptual design due
August 4, 2012	Design review and recommendation with ranking by the Cultural Arts Commission
September 4, 2012	Presentation to City Council

Manhattan Beach resident Gary McAulay requested the Commission involve the public in the artist selection process. Acting Cultural Arts Manager Megumi Moisen expressed

that the City was going to publicize the Cultural Arts Commission meetings and the progress of the Centennial Project via internet, e-blasts, and press releases to the local press.

VI. REPORTS AND OTHER BUSINESS

Ms. Wright introduced an Artist-in-Residence program in San Diego, where the community could communicate with artists and be involved in the development of art projects. She also referred to the “Cultural Treasure Hunt” program by the Craft and Folk Art Museum in Los Angeles, in which art pieces travel around the City at various locations such as restaurants and stores.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 p.m. to the next Cultural Arts Commission meeting on Tuesday, February 14, 2012.

DRAFT