

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

March 19, 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 6:00 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, February 26, 2018**

It was moved and seconded (Manna/Gill) to approve all three sets of minutes with no changes. The motion carried, aye votes by all, with the exception of abstentions: December 18<sup>th</sup>: Commissioners Chase and May; December 18: Commissioners Prigozhin, Rubino and May, and January 10<sup>th</sup>: Commissioner May.

**D. CEREMONIAL – None**

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

**F. STAFF ITEMS**

**Cultural Art Division Update**

Manager Betz provided an overview/status of all programs in the Cultural Arts Division, noting this information will be provided on April 3<sup>rd</sup> to the City Council with more detail.

- Sculpture Garden: Has been reorganized as a 2-year program with competition for three artists, as opposed to a 1 year program for 6 artists. Timeline/status: 24 submissions were received by March 2; the CAC will choose 4 “finalists” at its 4/16 meeting; City Council will make final choice in May; the final projects will be contracted with the City by June, 2018; installation by December, 2018.

Discussion: Manager Betz noted that staff was impressed with the submissions, which came from as far away as Germany and he confirmed that the Commission will receive information 3 days minimum in advance of the April meeting.

- Utility Box Beautification: Involves applying decorative wraps designed by a local artist or determined by Staff to multiple utility boxes city-wide. Timeline/status: proposed location presentation to CAC April 16; RFP out June, 2018; Staff selects images for appropriate locations June to August, 2018; Final image proposal to CAC September, 2018; CC approval October, and installation begins, November, 2018.

Discussion: Staff will propose locations; 40 have been identified but only 20 will wind up being done. The legal aspects are being reviewed by the City (e.g. will there be any potential conflicts of interest).

- Murals in Manhattan Beach: production of 10-15 murals on walls in public spaces or on private commercial buildings. Timeline: RFQ for artists for roster deadline May 2, 2018; 4 locations to be approved by CAC in June, 2018; 2 locations already determined (2409 N. Sepulveda and south facing wall in Metlox Plaza); City Council approval July 2018; Projects begin July 2018.

Discussion: The RFQ will be only covering the artists, not locations.

- City Hall Mural Decommissioning: involves the replacement of a covered and damaged mural on a City Hall lobby wall. Timeline/status: an assessment and recommendation will go to CAC May, 2018; letter of decommissioning to be sent to heir May 2018; RFQ for public art procurement services June, 2018; proposed removal of artwork in August, 2018.

Discussion: Per Manager Betz, there has been a general interest in doing something else on the lobby wall location. The current artwork is on masonite panels that are connected and treated with fiberglass and the entire piece has been covered by drywall since the City Hall was remodeled some years ago. Staff has observed some damage done to the piece. Mr. Betz will discuss with Chair Gill how to contact the artist's last known heir.

- Assessment of City of Manhattan Beach Public Art Collection. Timeline/status: the assessment will begin in September, 2018; and recommendations to be made to CAC in December 2018.
- Community Grant Program: addresses the need for community members to fund small scale art projects within the City and fund special school art projects on a yearly basis. Timeline: program presented to CAC in August, final approval by City Council in September 2018, implementing RFP out in November, 2018, awards in January 2019.

Discussion: Manager Betz noted that this is a huge endeavor and fulfills a need to give a structure to how projects come forward from the community and then get supported by public funds. He also confirmed eligible projects will include performing arts and recalled a budget of \$50k for the program. Requirements for applicants include City residency for both the applicant and installation location, and the ability to show that you can accomplish the project. Whether this becomes an annual program will depend on its success. Staff has looked at the City of Carlsbad's successful program for some guidance. The CAC will be the program "gatekeeper", closely involved with reviewing and choosing submitted proposals. It is hoped that financial awards will be given by January 2019.

- AC Conner City Hall: The City Council is asking to have the paintings exhibited at City Hall. The art will go to be framed at the end of March; didactic materials done by April, 2018, the goal is to have installed in the hallway outside next to the Council chambers by this May.

Discussion: Staff is working with the Historical Society; all the scenes are of Manhattan Beach; AC Conner was one of the City's founders and was instrumental in starting the LA Arts Group, first such group in Los Angeles around 1901. The length of presentation at this time is

indefinite.

- Process for taking on projects: The Community Grant Program will be the forum for new projects that come before the CAC. However, there is a need to establish how projects that are outside of the Community Grant Program purview would be brought before the CAC. It's proposed that the month of January be designated as an annual time for such considerations.

Discussion: Staff wants to discuss with the CAC setting up a formalized process whereby parties can ask for help with their projects; this will greatly help in project planning. Staff will be bringing some recommendations to the Commission. As a point of information, the Paddleboard statue project will be coming back to the CAC in May, 2018, but in the future, the process should be formalized.

- Skechers Mural: Status: the mosaic on the Manhattan Avenue frontage is completed. The side mosaic facing Manhattan Beach Boulevard will be installed on March 26 and the entire project will be done by April 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Discussion: Manager Betz stated he believes this will be done well, and that Skechers wants to keep the art works covered until the entire building is done.

- Cultural Arts Program Strategic Plan. Staff is thinking that the Cultural Arts programs will be wrapped into the Parks and Recreation Department Master Plan as one large strategic plan. The Cultural Arts Strategic Plan will be for 5 years.

#### **Robert Indiana Love Sculpture Update:**

Manager Martin Betz advised that the moving of the sculpture is being planned – from the donor's property in Redondo Beach to the City yard temporarily. The final loan agreement is hoped to be on the City Council agenda on April 3. There has been a presentation recently at a Downtown Business and Professional Association meeting where the sculpture project was enthusiastically received.

#### **Skechers Mural update (see Division project update)**

#### **Other updates:**

- Paddleboard Statue proposal: Manager Betz informed that this proposal will come back to the CAC in May for a discussion with a staff report. He clarified that the goal for the Commission will be to decide first whether it should support this project and, if so, when it could begin. Mr. Betz clarified that it is his understanding that the Commission no longer needs to formally request approval from the City Council to discuss such projects - the protocol is that the Commission's discussion and decision is to be reflected in the meeting minutes and the City Council will become aware of the project by reviewing the Commission minutes which are forwarded to the Council by Staff as part of their regular meeting agenda. Mr. Betz noted he will double check his understanding of this protocol. Mr. Betz noted his recommendation is that if the Commission were to give support to the project, it would need to go through the same process as *LightGate*.

A brief discussion ensued: Chair Gill requested that staff assist the Commission in structuring the

discussion; Commissioner Rubino asked that Staff identify the financial implications and Commissioner Gill requested that a financial update of the arts fund would be helpful for that discussion. Mr. Betz noted that given other priorities, another option is to postpone the project for “x” years. Additional input from the Commission was the suggestion that the City widely advertise the project, for example, providing some notice in the City water bill or by articles in the Beach Reporter.

- CPRS Award. Manager Betz passed around an award recently won by Manhattan Beach at the recent CPRS (California Parks and Recreation Society) conference. The award recognized senior programs as well as communications (e.g. “Manhappenings” and use of social media).

## **G. COMMISSION ITEMS**

Commissioner Chase noted that with assistance from Commissioner May, students at Mira Costa recently had a chalk art therapy event in the quad in homage to students killed in Florida. Everyone in the school participated, they planted 17 rose bushes and observed moments of silence for each victim.

Commissioner Rubino raised the possibility of the Commission possibly collaborating with the schools in the design of the “Little Library” boxes in the neighborhood. After a brief discussion in which it was learned that these boxes are already handled through collaboration between Boy Scout and Girl Scout organizations, she withdrew her suggestion.

Commissioner Manna noted that Leadership Manhattan is looking for participants.

Commissioner Prighozin gave a brief slide show of his photographs, illustrating the techniques he will be covering in his classes. He referred the Commissioners to his photography website: [Leonprighozin.com](http://Leonprighozin.com). He’ll let everyone know when the classes can start after discussing with Mr. Betz.

Commissioner May noted that she is not sure of the status of the Art Walk as it seems to be transitioning into a health fair. She continues to work with individual businesses to promote local art.

## **H. ADJOURNMENT**

It was moved and seconded (Gill/Rubino) at 7:14 P.M. to adjourn the meeting to the regular meeting at 6:00 P.M. on April 16, 2018 in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 1400 Highland Avenue; the motion carried unanimously with a voice vote.

