

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

February 26, 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 6:02 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

Chair Gill suggested that approval of both meeting minutes be held over to the next meeting in March as some important discussion is missing. No objections, it was so ordered.

D. CEREMONIAL – None

E. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (3-Minute Limit) -

Amelia Amell addressed the Commission informing that late last year, she started an Instagram account “FriendsofMBArtCenter” for the purpose of getting information out about the Art Center and its exhibitions, workshops and activities through social media platforms. The Instagram group started with 10 and now has about 140 followers and looks forward to CAC support

Chair Gill applauded Ms. Amell for her and the group’s initiative in partnering with the community. Ms. Amell noted she is very interested in uniting efforts. He will reach out to her email to discuss possible ways the group can be supported and Commissioner May also noted she will also contact Ms. Amell to discuss possible collaboration. Manager Betz stated support for these efforts, but with the caveat that everyone be aware that the purpose of the friends group is in getting the word out about existing City Art programs through social media, and does initiate art projects.

F. STAFF ITEMS

Manager Betz stated the Catalina Classic presentation will be the first item of business.

Catalina Classic Paddle Board sculpture presentation.

The presentation was a combined effort primarily by Tom Horton, South Bay Boardriders Club, and Michael Lee, local architect. Mr. Horton explained that they are looking for support for the “Catalina Classic Paddleboard Race Commemorative Statue”. He gave a detailed description of the Catalina to Manhattan Beach race which was started in 1955, cancelled in the late fifties and restarted without interruption in 1982 (<http://manhattanbeachhistorical.org/history>). He noted that the race has wide support from the Chamber of Commerce and Historical Society and all fundraising will be by South Bay Boardriders.

Architect Michael Lee gave a slide presentation, showing possible locations, the preferred being at the end and just off the sidewalk on the south side of Manhattan Beach Boulevard below the south public

parking lot retaining wall. A couple trees would need to be relocated and this would be a nice gateway to the pier plaza.

Chair Gill invited each Commissioner to ask questions and make comments. Responding, Mr. Horton stated: participants must be accomplished; either by being a finisher of the prior year race or based on their finish in a qualifying race; they would somehow like to list on the piece the names of race winners historically; this was not the only location looked at – another one was up on the surface of the south pier parking lot; they want to keep the design simple and tie it in to the site, but also do homage to the sport by showing figures male and female perhaps in a paddling, not upright position. However they are not set on any one certain design.

Other comments received from the Commission included: it seems that there are a lot of “balls in the air” as to proposals near the pier and a “big picture” plan may be in order; it may be desirable to have the piece in a more centralized location, such as at the turnaround area or on the pier; an on-pier location may be more complicated regarding engineering and permitting; and, a location at the turnaround would likely be subject to criticism that this would impede traffic and circulation.

Manager Betz informed that this would necessarily require an open competition and the City would follow the same process as the light gate project. He noted that this means forming a large committee including all members of the CAC plus five others. Meetings would be held to review and discuss the submittals which would narrow the options to five “top pick” submittals, which would then be taken to the City Council for a final decision, including its location.

The Chair opened the discussion to public comment; seeing none, public comment was closed.

A motion was **made and seconded (May/Manna)** to **bring this topic back as a future agenda item**. There was no further discussion and the motion passed unanimously in favor with voice vote.

Manager Betz noted that this will be put on the agenda for the next CAC meeting. He does not believe that staff needs to get prior City Council approval but expects that location will be a main issue. Commissioner Rubino requested that, along with a report, that staff provide a listing and timeline for all the projects on their “to-do” list and Mr. Betz stated he can easily do that. Mr. Betz also noted that he believes there is Council support but is not aware of details.

Cultural Art Division Update

Manager Betz informed:

- Robert Indiana “LOVE” sculpture loan is going to be taken to the City Council at its next meeting, with a long range agreement. Mr. Betz stated that the location, south of the Pier has been determined and he does not believe that Coastal Commission approval is needed.
- A city Media Kit is provided to each Commissioner tonight.

Ceramics Supervisor Stewart informed regarding:

- City Murals Program: a brochure has been developed and was provided to the Commission; a total of \$150k is reserved to install murals over the next few years; Staff is prepping an RFQ and the expectation is to select 3 or 4 artists for a roster; and one site on Sepulveda has already been identified and local muralists are being encouraged for the first one. The Downtown Business Association may submit a list of sites. The program will come before the Commission for “final blessing” of the roster. The dollar number of \$150k is what was projected at the time the Work Plan was approved. The cost per mural is estimated at \$12-13k. In response to a comment from Commissioner Rubino, who suggested that the artist proposals should be site-specific, Manager

Betz noted that, to get the program started, the roster and proposals need to come first. A dollar amount will not be included in the RFQ. The search for artists will be very local and spread out to the South Bay.

- Toyetic Exhibit: will be up until April, and the opening event was very successful as 45 people stayed for the evening talk.
- New Exhibit: “Facet: Sculptural Jewelry Exhibition”. Ms. Stewart gave a detailed power-point presentation about the artists, Jill Baker Gower, Jessie Calderwood, and Rachel Shimpock. All three artists have a lot of whimsy and thought about adornment. Staff will be putting out releases and postcards.

In response to a Commission inquiry, Ms. Stewart noted that a doodle painted on the wall of the Toyetic exhibit by artist John Quinn will be painted over by the artist.

G. COMMISSION ITEMS

Commissioner Prigozhin stated that he will be offering some photography classes, for now only to the Commission. Manager Betz will work with Commissioner Prigozhin in setting this up.

H. ADJOURNMENT

At 7:14 P.M, Chair Gill adjourned the meeting to the regular meeting at 6:00 P.M. on March 19, 2018 in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 1400 Highland Avenue; and there being no objections, it was so ordered.