

CITY OF MANHATTAN BEACH
MINUTES OF THE CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION

February 4, 2019
City Hall – City Council Chambers
1400 Highland Avenue
Manhattan Beach, CA 90266

A. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Manna called the meeting to order at 6:07 PM.

B. PLEDGE TO FLAG

C. ROLL CALL

Present: Matsumoto, Taner, Rubino, Chairperson Manna

Absent: May, Ryan

Others present: Martin Betz, Cultural Arts Manager, Rosemary Lackow, Recording Secretary

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

December 17, 2018

It was moved and seconded (Rubino/Taner) to approve the minutes of December 17, 2018 as submitted with the note that there are a few typos that will be corrected by staff.

ROLL CALL:

Ayes: Matsumoto, Rubino, Taner, Chairperson Manna

Noes: None

Absent: May, Ryan

Abstain: None

E. CEREMONIAL - None

F. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (3-Minute Limit)

Presentation by Artist and Educator Ann Pitts

Ann Pitts gave a slide presentation to the Commission on the life and art of local artist Eva Joseph Goldsheid, who passed away in 2016 at age 90. Ms. Pitt covered Ms. Goldsheid's personal history, education including her degrees from Cal Berkeley, and study at the California School of Fine Art (San Francisco Art Institute) where she studied and was influenced by David Park, Founder, Bay Area Figurative Art. She noted that Ms. Goldsheid after moving from the Bay Area to Redondo Beach in 1991, taught painting and print making through the South Bay Adult School for several years.

Ms. Pitts showed examples of Ms. Goldsheid's paintings, and concluded with two requests: that a City art classroom be named in her honor and that an article be published in "Manhappenings" about her. Ms. Pitts also noted that she would like to create a video for YouTube, to educate the local community about Eva Goldsheid.

Ann Chape, a student in Ms. Goldsheid's classes spoke about the experience of taking classes from her including how talented Eva was and passionate about art. Ms. Chape said what she felt was very unique about Eva as a teacher was how special she made her students feel. The students not only learned much about painting and print making but also formed lasting friendships among themselves.

The Commission thanked Ms. Pitts and complimented her on her presentation. Ms. Pitts noted that Ms. Goldshied's work is on a waiting list for an exhibit at the Art Center. She was advised by Cultural Arts Manager Betz that she could request funding for an educational video through the City cultural arts grant program which will be coming to the Commission in October.

Sumi Goldsheid, Eva's daughter, addressed the Commission, responding that her mothers work (prints, and paintings) are for sale on Saatchi Art and on the website: www.evajoseph.com.

G. GENERAL BUSINESS - None

H. STAFF ITEMS

- a. Cultural Arts Division updates
- b. City Council updates

Mr. Betz provided a comprehensive update for both of the above topics, noting that, in general cultural arts continues to enjoy strong support from the community and staff has enough work for the next 2-3 years. Highlights include:

- Art Center Exhibit: "TWO by Two – Stories Beneath the Surface" - the art of Amelia Amell (MB resident) and Jesus Chaidez, opens February 22 (6-9 pm), closes April 14. These artists are from Hispianola (Amell), and Culiacan, Mexico (Chaidez) and the rich cultural heritage informs their art. As a part of this exhibit there will be three special events: A Tea Gathering, Feb. 24th (pre-registration required); Spring Equinox Concert, featuring Wintergrain, a local music group, March 24 (staff is working on having a coffee bar); and, an Indigo Dye and Tea Workshop, with artist Jesus Chaidez, April 13.
- Sculpture Garden: At its December 18th meeting the City Council approved the latest rendition of the program sculptures and added a few more. Now there will be 6 sculptures – including 4 program finalists (Rench, Meyer, Mitten and Vader), 1 purchase (Randall- dragon), plus the Lazzari/Evans *Egrets* for the Botanic Garden. The Randall dragon will go in the Veteran's Parkway, the Rench (red circles) will be in the Civic Center Plaza, the Meyer (metal rings) will be in the Metlox Plaza, the Mitten (landscape slab) will be in the Civic Center Plaza, and the Patricia Vader (sunflower) will be located in the small water-wise garden on Aviation. In discussion that followed, it was agreed that Manager Betz would email each Commissioner a list of all approved sculptures and their locations, and the Commission expressed interest in knowing when dedication ceremonies, if any, would be held. Manager Betz also clarified the process by which the City Council made final decisions on the sculptures and, in closing noted that the sculpture garden contracts are being processed which will include a provision requiring installation by a specific date. Chair Manna suggested that ultimately, a brochure might be developed with a map of the sculpture garden locations to guide the public.
- City Hall Lobby Art RFQ: 35 proposals have been received so far and the deadline for submittal is February 12. Staff is very excited about the quality of the submissions and after staff does an initial review, there and then the Art in Public Places Committee will review and then pass on to the CAC. In response to the Chair, Mr. Betz noted that staff is not concerned about impacts from potentially increased building traffic drawn to the art work, but is more focused on what is needed in the area surrounding the new art piece.

- **Utility Box Mural Project:** the contracts are being fine-tuned and, since the project price is over \$5,000, competitive bidding is needed; so, this process will take a little more time. Chair Manna commented that with the bigbelly containers already in place with graphics, he feels that adding the utility boxes will cause people to take more notice and even start to wonder what's next - creating a sort of flow of art around the City.
- **Grant Program:** The City Council has authorized a \$50k budget. Staff expects to release the RFP in October; the CAC will be considering its recommendations in November; CAC recommendations will be considered, with the recipients approved by City Council in December, and the program will launch in January, 2020. Mr. Betz reminded the CAC that it had approved guidelines as to eligibility when the CAC reviewed the grants application (final application now going through final approval). Manager Betz will send a copy of relevant information to the Commission as a reminder. The Chair requested that any time a Commissioner is provided material, that all Commissioners be copied.
- **Mural Program:** has been pushed out to May and staff is working on the application process and is working with the artists with proposals to match locations which were selected first by the CAC. He explained now the Mayor wants to have specific artists, noting half are from Manhattan Beach, and proposals matched to locations and the Mayor directed to have more locations. Manager Betz clarified that all CAC recommendations will all be given to the City Council but the City Council has the discretion to add to it.

A brief discussion followed prompted by concern (not a complaint) expressed that, in some cases, when the City Council makes a final decision it seems at times, that the CAC recommendation is not sufficient. Mr. Betz encouraged the Commissioners to, as is more convenient, follow the Council discussions on Cultural Arts matters on TV and advised further that staff is working on improving communications "up front" with the Council. Mr. Betz also emphasized that, unlike the Sculpture Garden selection process in which the CAC was re-directed by the Council, in the case of the murals, the Council has accepted the Commission recommendations but, as is its discretion, has just added more locations/proposals. Chair Manna emphasized that the CAC work is currently being strongly supported at the Council level, which is very positive and all acknowledged this. Mr. Betz will email the locations; Chair Manna requested that when staff emails one commissioner, all be copied.

- **Archive Project with Historical Society:** Kimberly Oshiro, UCLA MFA Arts Administration graduate, has been hired to manage this project which is moving forward. Staff is unclear where the collection ultimately will be permanently located and expects the first phase to take three years. In brief discussion it was suggested that the archival process could be documented possibly with assistance of a Mira Costa, possibly a journalism, student. Mr. Betz stated support for this suggestion.
- **Art Center:** Mr. Betz informed: over the holidays improvements have taken place (new flooring, lighting etc.) and looks great. The Commission discussed ways to continue to make the Art Center more attractive to visitors. It was agreed that Mr. Betz would immediately purchase a coffee maker to offer coffee to visitors. A small café was suggested (**Taner**); Mr. Betz noted that such could be incorporated in a future effort when studio space is being re-designed to be more open to the community and generally part of the overall goal of creating community interface. It was also suggested (**Rubino**) that the center could feature Saturday evening or Sunday afternoon

performances, with a snack bar and beverages (noted as done in the park in Marina Del Rey), possibly funded by the public art trust fund. The idea is to get something going on a regular basis, so people can get used to the idea and work into their plans. Manager Betz noted that costs need to be kept in mind, currently the goal is to host 2 big events monthly at the Center and protocols are not fully established for use of trust funds yet. The Center did have an open mike program, but unfortunately died when key staff left. He encouraged the Commissioners to attend the equinox event and discuss their ideas.

- **Private property mural regulation:** Mr. Betz reported that the City Council has decided to amend the existing ordinance and the new proposed changes will be forwarded to the CAC. The idea is to more clarify the process in the Code, expected to be more like how handled in Hermosa Beach.

I. COMMISSION ITEMS

Commissioner **Rubino** reported she attended the recent Lichgate sunset event, it was lovely. She also mentioned seeing a public sculpture in Laguna Beach along a meandering beach adjacent path and wondered if this concept could be applied to the Strand. Manager Betz noted that in the past some of the residential owners along the Strand have been very vocal with respect to things like installing benches along the Strand, but he noted that on February 13th a bench is being installed as part of the city program near the Strand, near Gull Street. Mr. Betz also responded that the proposal received by the CAC from a resident artist for some cube benches did not go forward as the bench program was stopped.

There was brief discussion regarding Lightgate and Mr. Betz informed that at the February 19 City Council meeting, there is an agenda item requesting funding to replace the glass.

Commissioner **Taner** inquired as to the longboard group sculpture proposal and Mr. Betz reported it was approved by the City Council and will now be reviewed by the Coastal Commission and is not sure whether steps will be installed due to cost. Brief discussion followed about installing public art near the El Porto parking lot “rocks area” in which it was noted that there is a history as to how the area on the beach side of the Strand sidewalk has been regulated with private improvements. Mr. Betz suggested that this location can be discussed when the Sculpture Garden is revisited in 2020.

Commissioner **Taner** inquired as to a City rebranding project and Mr. Betz clarified that the discussion is not about replacing the City seal, but rather rebranding of the city for marketing purposes. Commissioner Taner excused himself and left the meeting at 7:46 pm.

Chair **Manna** expressed appreciation of the Mayor and City Council’s support for the Commission’s work as acknowledged at a recent event at Il Fornaio and reported that he had attended the LA Art Show at the Los Angeles Convention Center, finding it exceptional. He also recommends a movie “Velvet Buzzsaw” (Netflix?) which is a satire about the art world (not fantastic, but good casting).

J. ADJOURNMENT

At 7:49 P.M, Chair Manna moved adjournment, to the regular meeting on March 18, 2019 at 6:00 P.M. in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 1400 Highland Avenue; no objections, it was so ordered.