

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

April 19, 2021

Meeting by teleconference (Zoom) – in accordance with procedures on agenda  
1400 Highland Avenue  
Manhattan Beach, CA 90266

**CALL TO ORDER**

**Vice Chair Marcy** called the meeting to order at **5:02 p.m.**

**A. ROLL CALL**

Present: Manna, Rubino, Vice Chair Marcy

Absent: Ibaraki, Chair Ryan

Staff present: Eilen Stewart, Interim Cultural Arts Manager (ICAM), Linda Robb, Cultural Arts Division staff (Host Participant).

**ICAM Stewart** noted that **Commissioner Davis** has resigned from the Commission.

**B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - March 15, 2021**

It was moved and seconded (Manna/Rubino) that the minutes be approved as submitted; said motion passed by hand vote (3-2).

**C. CEREMONIAL - None**

**D. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (3-Minute Limit) – Vice Chair Marcy welcomed Councilmember Franklin.**

**E. GENERAL BUSINESS – Discussion of Work Plan Items**

**MBAC Revamp (Manna/Rubino):** **Commissioner Manna** noted there is no update since the project is on hold while awaiting feedback from legal counsel. **Commissioner Manna** suggested that, so as not to cause delay, the vinyl mural repair and the power washing issues be treated separately; neither should be eliminated and both should be considered as part of the enhancement of the Art Center site. **Commissioner Rubino** agreed.

**PR and Marketing Campaign (former Commissioner Davis/Ibaraki):** No update.

**Rainbow Crosswalk: (Marcy/Rubino).** **Commissioner Marcy** noted that the subcommittee has revised its presentation and it is being reviewed by staff; **ICAM Stewart** reported that staff is in the process of getting feedback from other City departments on the crosswalk locations.

**Arts Grants – General guidelines:** (Murals; Utility Infrastructure Beautification; Sculpture Garden; Performing Arts; Digital Wall Art; School Education; Permanent Sculpture): **Vice Chair Marcy** led discussion on some issues that affect all of the arts grants programs, using as a reference, the most recent (November, 2020) presentation developed by the performing arts subcommittee. Regarding eligibility, **Commissioner Manna** had a concern that the criteria that a member of an application group have a “strong tie to the community” may be too vague. **Vice Chair Marcy** noted the intent of that wording was to be more inclusive and encourage more diversity in the applicants, as there are many who cannot afford to live in the city. A “strong tie” could mean a

person who currently works or has a history such as working, going to school or growing up in the city. **Commissioner Manna** suggested that the application add wording giving some examples of what “strong tie to the community” could include (i.e. “such as.....”).

A brief discussion followed as to how to address the eligibility requirements and there was consensus that some restrictions should apply to staff and commission and/or council members as is typical in competitions, but the extent of the restrictions including geographic criteria needs to be discussed further in future meetings. **Vice Chair Marcy** pointed out that in the broadest terms excluding all city commissions, councilmembers and family members and staff and their family, for example, would be very restrictive. **Commissioner Rubino** noted that the intent for performing arts was that there be a preference, but not necessarily a requirement that applicants be South Bay area residents. **ICAM Stewart** pointed out that the criteria can be limited to the currently seated Cultural Arts or other Commissions and/or City Council, and exceptions can be carved out to a specific type of art grant if appropriate.

**ICAM Stewart** next went over forms and materials pertaining to the Work Plan projects. She has sent them out and explained that each subcommittee shall keep track of the work being done including anything that is “pending”. The idea is that, at a glance, the current project status can be quickly ascertained on the tracking form. She asked that the forms be filled out and returned to her no later than Monday May 10<sup>th</sup>. They will all be compiled for the next meeting May 17. Commissioner Rubino asked if they could work in the “Google Doc” platform which perhaps staff could also access. Staff member **Linda Robb** explained there are some city issues with using Google Docs; it was agreed that the subcommittees could use Google Docs internally between themselves, but, once finalized by the committee one final report should then be submitted to staff.

## **F. STAFF ITEMS**

Cultural Arts Division Updates. **ICAM Stewart** reported:

- The Art Center is open to the public for exhibit viewing on weekends only (Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays 10 am to 5 pm) with COVID-19 protocols. The current exhibit *Architecture of Touch* focuses on the city’s ceramics studio and celebrates the teachers (and their art) who have worked through the pandemic.
- Reopening planning: the ceramics studio upgrade by Public Works is going very well. Cultural Arts staff is meeting with the Parks and Rec team to discuss protocols of reopening eventually all recreation facilities for indoor activities; the Joslyn Center will reopen first.

PATF Budget Update – no changes to report.

City Council updates. **ICAM Stewart** commented that there were no new items to report as related to the Cultural Arts Commission (CAC).

Regarding Bruce’s Beach, **Commissioner Manna** pointed out that he feels it is important that the public understand, through the media or other coverage, that the funding for a dedicated art piece as approved by the City Council, will come from the public art trust fund, not the General Fund and that, in doing so, the intent is to do something very special at this site.

**Vice Chair Marcy** asked, should the County opt to give back the land that it currently owns, would there be alternate locations for the approved art piece that would come under the CAC’s review? **ICAM Stewart** confirmed that the funding would be through the Public Art Trust Fund and review will involve both the APPC and CAC; she will pass along this comment about educating about the art trust fund.

**Councilmember Joe Franklin** clarified that the Council's intent was that the art would be reviewed by the Cultural Arts Commission and the cost and location has not been determined. The amount approved is for budget purposes and it could be less, would very likely be less.

**G.     COMMISSION ITEMS** - none.

**H.     ADJOURNMENT**

At 5:57 P.M, **Vice Chair Marcy**, seeing no objection, adjourned the meeting to May 17, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. via Zoom.