

**DRAFT**

**CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION**

**Minutes**

December 14, 2010

Special Meeting

Manhattan Beach City Hall

City Managers Conference Room

6:00 p.m.

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The Cultural Arts Commission (CAC) was called to order at 6:10 p.m.

**II. ROLL CALL**

Present: Russ Samuels, Commissioner  
Susannah Rosenthal, Commissioner  
Peter De Maria, Commissioner  
Megumi Sando, Staff  
Absent: Susan Sweeney, Chair  
Juanita Purner, Cultural Arts Manager

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

NA

**IV. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

None

**V. GENERAL BUSINESS**

02/0612.31 Sculpture Garden Ad Hoc Committee

Not Discussed

Reports & Other Business

Architectural Designs for the Strand Alcove Bench Program

The Commission prepared a list of questions at the November meeting regarding the architectural bench designs. The questions focused on the following areas:

- Design and color changes
- Cost of benches
- The flexibility of the configurations
- Safety of seating areas and temperature control
- Installation cost

A copy of the architect's responses was distributed to the Commission by Commissioner De Maria.

## Joint Meeting with City Council:

The Commission will present the following discussion items to the January 25<sup>th</sup> joint meeting.

### 1) Communication between City Council and the Cultural Arts Commission:

- The Commission discussed several examples of miscommunications that occurred in the recent past.
- Minutes: The Commissioners requested that the minutes be more descriptive and that they are made available to them prior to going to City Council. Ideally, getting feedback from City Council before the following month's Commission meeting. Other options for better communication include: an annual joint meeting with City Council; one-on-one meetings with City Council members; a Council member serves as a liaison to the Commission; Council meetings with Cultural Arts presentations are to be attended by Cultural Arts Commissioners.

### 2) Cultural Arts Mission and Vision

- Commissioner Samuels stated it was important that the City Council and the Commission be on the same page with respect to the Cultural Arts mission.
- Commissioner De Maria indicated his recent conversation with Mayor Montgomery resulted in the Mayor requesting "ideas" from the Cultural Arts Commission.
- Commissioner Rosenthal thinks the Cultural Arts Commission's mission should reflect the City's preference with respect to their public art programs.
- Is it possible to establish a check list for evaluation of public art that will serve as a guide for the Commission? Can this checklist support a variety of artistic expression, experience and innovation?
- De Maria asked if City Council is receptive to art that is progressive and experimental.
- Commissioner Rosenthal suggested temporary art projects to assess the community's response.

### 2) Strand Alcove Bench Presentation

- Commissioners are considering a new approach for City Council's approval for the bench designs with the installation of a prototype bench. The prototype would be installed on the green belt for two-to-three months for public input, and then presented to City Council for approval.
- The Commission plans to initiate conversations with potential sponsors who may be interested in collaboratively raising funds for the prototype.
- The conversation focus for the joint meeting on January 25 is three items: Communication between City Council and the Cultural Arts Commission; Cultural Arts Mission and Vision; and the Strand Alcove Bench Presentation. The Commission is hopeful the prototype idea will be presented to City Council in February, if staff can get on the agenda.

## G. Reports and Other Business

- Commissioner De Maria recommended hosting *PechaKucha Night* in Manhattan Beach. *PechaKucha Night* was initiated in Tokyo in 2003 as an event for young designers to meet, network and display their work in public. It has become a massive celebration taking place in hundreds of cities around the world. Its presentation format is based on a simple idea: 20 images x 20 seconds.

- Megumi Sando announced that plans for the Creative Arts Center's 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary are underway and that the event is scheduled for February 2011. Ms. Sando asked the Commission to forward programming suggestions for the event.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m. The next Cultural Arts Commission meeting is scheduled for January 11, 2011 at 6:00 p.m.

The City Council's joint meeting with the Cultural Arts Commission is confirmed for Tuesday, January 25, 2011 at 6:30 p.m. in the PD/FD Conference Room