Council Meeting of
October 3, 2006

Honorable Mayor and Members
of the City Council
City Hall
Torrance, California

Members of the Council:

SUBJECT: Community Services - Accept and file the Cultural Arts Commission Annual Report for 2005/2006.

RECOMMENDATION

The Community Services Director recommends that the City Council accept and file the Cultural Arts Commission Annual Report for July 2005 through June 2006.

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS

The Annual Report for July 2005 through June 2006 as prepared by the Cultural Arts Commission is attached for your information and review. The Commission approved this report at its meeting on September 18, 2006, and moved to request that it be accepted by the City Council.

Respectfully submitted,

GENE BARNETT
COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTOR

By Robert J. Myers
Cultural Services Manager

Concur:

Gene Barnett
Community Services Director

Noted:

for LeRoy J. Jackson
City Manager

Attachment A: 2005-2006 Annual Report

RM:dhc:cacommis/AnnRept06cci

8E

Attachment A

ANNUAL REPORT
CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION
JULY 2005 THROUGH JUNE 2006

Chairperson Kim Wang

June Armstrong
Ann Smisek
Marianne Strehler
Mary P. Miller
Ritas Smith
Benito Miranda
Debbie Stadler

Purpose

The Cultural Arts Commission advises the City Council in providing for and promoting opportunities for the artistic and cultural development of its citizens. The goal of the Cultural Arts Commission is to develop and encourage an environment that promotes diverse program activity in the arts. The Commission also encourages the expansion of the City's role in providing works of art in public places and fosters the participation of all citizens in the development of their creative skills and appreciation of the arts.

Following its usual practice, the Cultural Arts Commission divided its work into three broad categories, i.e., Public Hearings and Workshops, Standing Committees, and Research and Advisory.

1. Standing Committees:

These committees are Excellence in Arts Committee, Community Cultural Plan and Grant Review Committee.

The Excellence in Arts Committee was comprised of all commissioners. It is chaired by Commissioner Wang. The Committee helped organize the annual Excellence in Arts Awards.

The Community Cultural Plan Committee considers updating the Cultural Plan. It is chaired by Commissioner Smith.

The Grant review Committee meets to consider annual awards through the Nonprofit Arts Grants Program. The Chair is Commissioner Stadler.

2. Highlights 2005-06

The Commission elected Kim Wang as 2005-06 Chair of the Cultural Arts Commission. Debbie Stadler was elected Vice Chair.

The Commission recommended that October 2005 be declared ***Arts and Humanities*** month in the City of Torrance, following a national trend started by *Americans for the Arts*, a non-profit service organization for bodies like the Cultural Arts Commission. The City Council adopted a proclamation to this affect.

Commissioner Miller retired from the Cultural Arts Commission in January 2006 after serving on the Commission since 1997. Commissioner Miller consistently supported efforts to expand cultural opportunities and arts programming to citizens of all ages and to enhance the local and regional reputation of the Torrance Cultural Arts Center.

The Torrance City Council approved the appointment of Benito Miranda and the reappointment of Ann Smisek to new four year terms on the Cultural Arts Commission.

The Commission received a total of 12 Non Profit Arts Organization grant applications by the May 3, 2006 deadline. Awards of $500 each were given to Art Attack Foundation, Peninsula Symphony Association, Regina Klenjoski Dance Company, South Bay Ballet, South Bay Conservatory, StarLight Productions, Torrance Cultural Arts Center Foundation, Torrance Historical Society, Torrance Symphony Association, and the Torrance South Bay YMCA.

The Commission enthusiastically welcomed the opening of the new Torrance Art Museum at the Joslyn Center on October 15, 2005. Commission Chair Kim Wang spoke at the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony along with Mayor Dan Walker and Councilman Paul Nowatka. Opening exhibits by De Wain Valentine and Nancy Braver: Plastic were well attended and highly regarded by the Southern California art community.

The Commission led another successful *Excellence in Arts* awards presentation. Commissioners were assigned to chair the following disciplines: *Music* – June Armstrong, *Dance* – Ritas Smith, Drama – Benito Miranda, *Visual Art* –Kim Wang, *Arts Education* – Marianne Strehler, *Literary Arts* – Ann Smisek, and the *Katy Geissert Award* – Debbie Stadler. The *Excellence in Arts Awards* ceremony was held Sunday, April 30, 2006 in the Toyota Meeting Hall of the Torrance Cultural Arts Center. Mayor Walker and Council members, Paul Nowatka and Frank Scotto were in attendance as well as City Clerk Sue Herbers and City Treasurer Linda Barnett. Also in attendance was former State Assemblyman George Nakano.

Award recipients were: Bonnie Mae Barnard for literary arts; Richard Heckman, for music; Ruby Wang, for visual arts; Starlight Productions, for drama; South

Bay Little Angels, for dance; and Dr. Dennis Puckett, for arts education. The Katy Geissert Award was given to former Cultural Arts Commissioner Mary P. Miller an individual that demonstrated outstanding support for promotion of the arts in the Torrance community. Chairman Wang served as master of ceremonies.

On June 10 the Commission co-hosted the annual *Arts Tune-Up* with the Los Angeles County Arts Commission at the Torrance Cultural Arts Center. Held from 9 AM to Noon, 18 consultants gave presentations in arts management to over 200 participants from around the County of Los Angeles and the City of Torrance.

At the June 2006 meeting Commissioner Debbie Stadler was elected 2006-07 Chair of the Commission and Ann Smisek was elected Vice Chair.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Wang dc

Kim Wang, 2005-06 Chair
Cultural Arts Commission

P&Rfiles/cacommis/annualreport2006