Council Meeting of
June 12, 2007

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

Members of the City Council:

SUBJECT: Community Services – Approval of Funding under the FY 2007-08 Grant Program for Non-Profit Arts Organizations

EXPENDITURE: $4990.00

RECOMMENDATION

The Cultural Arts Commission and the Acting Community Services Director recommend that the City Council approve funding under the FY 2007-08 Grant Program for Non-Profit Arts Organizations to be awarded to: El Camino College Foundation ($1000), Nuestras Raices ($1000), Regina Klenjoski Dance Company ($1000), South Bay Ballet ($1000) and the Torrance South Bay YMCA ($990)

FUNDING

Five thousand dollars are available for this program in the Cultural Arts Commission Budget for Fiscal Year 2007-08.

BACKGROUND

The Grant Program for Non-Profit Arts Organizations is in its eighth year. Eight (8) applications were received by the May 3, 2007 deadline requesting a total of $7,990. Attached for your review is a copy of the Grant Guidelines approved by Council as sent to non-profit organizations to announce the grant opportunity. A list of funding recommendations is listed at the end of this report.

The Cultural Services Division sent announcements of the grant program, application forms and grant guidelines to more than 60 known non-profit organizations that might qualify for the grant under the guidelines of the program. The Cultural Arts Commission Grant Committee conducted a screening of applications on May 21, 2007 and made its recommendation to the full Commission at its May 21, 2007 meeting. The full Commission voted on the recommendation herein. The Community Services Department's Cultural Services Division staff was in attendance during the Commission's meeting.

ANALYSIS

Following the application process as approved by Council, the Cultural Arts Commission's Grant Review Committee examined each application in detail and recommended to the full Commission grant awards to non-profit arts organizations that best met the published criteria as approved by the City Council. The criteria are:

- Artistic quality
- Ability to demonstrate evidence of unmet need for which the grant funding is being sought.
- Appropriateness and clarity of scope regarding the project or program to be funded.
- The availability of the service to Torrance residents.
- Impact of grant on organization and public.

It is important to note that an organization need not be located within Torrance city limits to qualify for grant funding as long as it is demonstrated that the project or program serves Torrance residents in a significant way. Evidence of this would be if the project or program is held in Torrance at, for example, the Cultural Arts Center, or is otherwise open and available to Torrance residents in a significant way. Each non-profit arts organization recommended by the Cultural Arts Commission for funding was unanimously approved.

The following summarizes the joint recommendation of the Cultural Arts Commission and the Community Services Director for the Fiscal Year 2007-08 grant program.

Organization	Amt Requested	Funding Recommendation
Art Attack Foundation Adopt-a-kid outreach program	$1000.00	$0
El Camino College Foundation Computer for the El Camino College Art Gallery	$1000.00	$1000.00
Nuestras Raices Noche Mexicana 2007 – Celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month	$1000.00	$1000.00
Regina Klenjoski Dance Company RKDC collaborates with the Torrance Art Museum	$1000.00	$1000.00
South Bay Ballet Guest Artist/National Choreographer Project	$1000.00	$1000.00
South Bay Ballet Scholarship for pre-professional ballet student	$1000.00	$0
Torrance South Bay YMCA Playground theatre drama program	$990.00	$990.00

Torrance Symphony Association Open rehearsal for students and their families	$1000.00	$0 Not eligible Received grant last two years
TOTAL	$7,990.00	$4,990.00

Respectfully submitted,
Cultural Arts Commission

By _____
Debbie Stadler, Chair

John Jones
Acting Community Services Director

By _____
Robert J. Myers
Cultural Services Manager

CONCUR:

_____
John Jones
Acting Community Services Director

NOTED:

_____
LeRoy J. Jackson
City Manager

P&R/CulturalArtsCommission/Grants/2007-08 Grant cci

Attachment: A) Grant Guidelines

ATTACHMENT A

CITY OF TORRANCE
2007 GRANT PROGRAM FOR NON-PROFIT ARTS ORGANIZATIONS

The City of Torrance announces a grant program for Non-Profit Arts Organizations serving Torrance residents. A total of $5,000 has been allocated by the City Council for the grants. No grant amount awarded will exceed $1,000.

Qualifying non-profit arts organizations are invited to apply for funding under the Grants Program for Non-Profit Arts Organizations as authorized by the Torrance City Council and administered through the Torrance Cultural Arts Commission.

Organizations are eligible to receive up to $1,000 in City grant funds to assist the development and presentation of programs and projects in the visual, performing and literary arts. All grant funds must be matched 1 to 1 by the recipient. Individuals are not eligible for funding. Priority will be given to projects demonstrating the greatest artistic quality, service to the Torrance public and diversity of audiences.

Qualifications for Grants:

- The organization must be Torrance based or must provide proof of significant service to Torrance residents.
- All grants will be for one-time projects, programs, exhibits or other qualifying ventures.
- A grant should be for a particular program or project of the organization, rather than for general support of a multi-purpose organization.
- Arts Organizations seeking grant funding must provide proof with the application of non-profit status under Section 501(C)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, and Section 2370 Id of the California Franchise Tax Code.
- Successful applicants may reapply for a grant the following year by the same process, but not to exceed two consecutive years of funding.
- All programs and projects must be open to the general public.

Evaluation Criteria:

- Artistic quality
- Ability to demonstrate evidence of unmet need for which the grant funding is being sought.
- Appropriateness and clarity of scope regarding the project or program to be funded.
- History of past performance and service by the applicant organization.
- The availability of the service to Torrance residents.
- Impact of grant on organization and public.