

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

Members of the City Council:

**SUBJECT: COMMUNITY SERVICES - Accept and file the Cultural Arts Commission
Annual Report for 2008-2009**

RECOMMENDATION

Recommendation of the Community Services Director and the Cultural Arts Commission that the City Council accept and file the Cultural Arts Commission Annual Report for July 2008 through June 2009.

FUNDING

Not applicable

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS

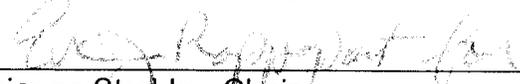
The Annual Report for July 2008 through June 2009 as prepared by the Cultural Arts Commission is attached for your information and review. The Commission approved this report at its meeting on September 21, 2009, and moved to request that it be accepted by the City Council.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN JONES
COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTOR



By: Eve Rappoport
Cultural Services Manager



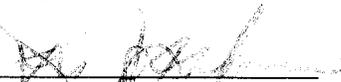
Marianne Strohler, Chair
Cultural Arts Commission

Concur:



John Jones
Community Services Director

Noted:



LeRoy Jackson
City Manager

ANNUAL REPORT CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION JULY 2008 THROUGH JUNE 2009

Commission Chair Marianne Strehler

Lynda Bunting	Ed Candioly	Kathryn Endo-Roberts
Benito Miranda	Gerry Rische	Ann Smisek

Purpose

The Cultural Arts Commission advises the City Council in providing for and promoting opportunities for the artistic and cultural development of its residents. The goal of the Cultural Arts Commission is to develop and encourage an environment that promotes diverse and accessible programming 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 residents 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., Standing Committees, Public Hearings and Workshops, and Research and Advisory.

1. Standing Committees:

The Cultural Arts Commission has the following standing committees: Excellence in Arts, Facilities and Grant Review.

The Excellence in Arts sub-committee was comprised of Commissioners Candioly and Strehler, and was chaired by Commissioner Miranda. The committee worked with staff to organize the annual Excellence in Arts Awards, held on Sunday, May 31, 2009. The sub-committee did consider moving the Excellence in Arts award presentation and reception to October to coincide with National Arts and Humanities month.

The Facilities sub-committee was comprised of Commissioners Miranda and Endo-Roberts, and was chaired by Commissioner Strehler. The committee has mostly been involved with the Wilson Park Gazebo project.

The Grant Review sub-committee was comprised of Commissioners Endo-Roberts and Candioly, and was chaired by Commissioner Smisek. The committee reviews annual submissions to the Community Arts Grant Program and makes funding recommendations to the entire Commission; the Commission recommendation is passed onto City Council for final approval.

2. Additional Highlights 2008-2009:

The Commission elected Marianne Strehler as 2008-09 Chair of the Cultural Arts Commission. Benito Miranda was elected Vice Chair.

The Commission recommended that October 2008 be declared **Arts and Humanities** month in the City of Torrance, joining other municipalities and local arts agencies throughout the country. The City Council adopted a proclamation to this effect.

On January 13, City Council approved the re-appointments of Ed Candioly and Marianne Strehler to the Cultural Arts Commission.

The Commission received a total of six Non-profit Community Arts Organization grant applications by the May 7, 2009 deadline. This year the following organizations received grants. Art Attack Foundation (\$2,000); Culture Shock Los Angeles Dance (\$1000), South Bay Ballet (\$1000); and Torrance Symphony Association (\$1000).

The Commission led another successful *Excellence in Arts* awards presentation. Commissioners were assigned to chair the following disciplines: *Music* – Commissioner Miranda, *Dance* - Commissioner Endo-Roberts, *Drama* – Commissioner Candioly, *Visual Art* – Commissioner Bunting, *Arts Education* – Commissioner Rische, *Literary Arts* – Commissioner Smisek, and the *Katy Geissert Award* – Commission Chair Marianne Strehler. The *Excellence in Arts Awards* ceremony was held Sunday, May 31, 2009 in the Toyota Meeting Hall at the Torrance Cultural Arts Center, with Council members Mayor Pro Tem Tom Brewer, Councilman Bill Sutherland, Councilwoman Susan Rhilinger, Councilman Cliff Numark, and Councilman Pat Furey attending.

Award recipients were: Hector Salazar, for Music; Stephen West, for Visual Arts; Michael Aldapa, for Drama; and Jack Rennie, for Dance. The Katy Geissert Award was presented to the Torrance Symphony Association for their outstanding dedication to the arts. Commission Chair Strehler served as mistress of ceremonies.

At the May 2009 Commission meeting Commissioner Miranda was elected 2009-2010 Chair of the Commission and Commissioner Endo-Roberts was elected Vice Chair.

3. Administrative Changes:

Max Presneill was selected to lead the curatorial staff at the Torrance Art Museum, joining him are Ryan Callis, as preparator and Colton Stenke as assistant curator.

Respectfully submitted,



Marianne Strehler, Chair
Cultural Arts Commission