

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

Members of the City Council:

**SUBJECT: Community Services – Donation and Acceptance of Permanent Sculpture
in Miramar Park**

Expenditure: None

RECOMMENDATION

Recommendation of the Cultural Arts Commission and the Community Services Director that City Council approve a donation to the City of Torrance of a bronze sculpture called "Dreaming of the Kiss" for permanent installation in Miramar Park.

Funding

No fiscal impact. Donor will pay for all costs related to installation.

BACKGROUND

In July, 2009 former Mayor Dan Walker began discussions with staff regarding donating a bronze sculpture called "Dreaming of the Kiss" to the City of Torrance. The artwork, cast in bronze by artist Kim Kori, measures 42"h x 38"w, weighs about 300 pounds and is valued at \$30,000. It depicts a frog sitting on a mound next to some mushrooms and has, in the artist's words, an almost human quality, so the viewer can imagine a prince inside, ready and waiting for the kiss that will set him free. Mr. Walker has offered to pay for all relocation, design, material and installation costs related to the sculpture, including a bronze plaque which dedicates the sculpture to his late wife Sandi Walker. On-going maintenance costs of bronze should be minimal.

This donation was initially brought to the Cultural Arts Commission at their July 20, 2009 meeting. The Commission approved the donation with the expectation that staff would come back regarding the location. At this point Miramar Park, Wilson Park and Madrona Marsh were all considered possible sites for the permanent installation of this artwork. The donation was subsequently reviewed by the Cultural Arts Commission at their September, October and November meetings to determine placement. Mr. Walker requested that the only location presented to the Commission be at Miramar Park. Prior to each meeting of the Cultural Arts Commission, staff sent out notices of the possible installation to neighbors within 300 feet of the park and posted 3 laminated signs at the park, inviting comment.

Staff's report for the September meeting included the following analysis of the Miramar Park site:

PROS:

- Very popular and highly trafficked area
- Gives residents and visitors the opportunity to experience a high quality artwork in public space
- Bronze is very durable
- On-going and routine maintenance needs should be minimal

CONS:

- Potential for theft and vandalism. (It should be noted that once the sculpture belongs to the City, the City is not obligated to repair or replace the sculpture should it be damaged.)
- Children will most likely play on it

Prior to the September 21 meeting, staff received a petition with 24 signatures objecting to the placement; several letters and phone calls, mostly negative, were also received. Five members of the public spoke during Oral Communications, 4 against and 1 in support of the placement.

Mr. Walker also attended that meeting and explained he chose Miramar Park as the site because he and his late wife used to walk there regularly. He also mentioned that the frog is a universal symbol of good luck, that frogs exist all over the world (except Antarctica) and that the sculpture would bring enjoyment to the public visiting the park and beach.

At this meeting, the Commission voted unanimously to table action to the next meeting so that they could visit the site.

Six of seven Commissioners attended the October meeting. A motion was made to accept the sculpture and permanently install it at Miramar Park; a tie vote ensued. Three were strongly in favor of the motion; the remaining three all liked the sculpture but felt that Miramar Park was not the best site for it. Then one Commissioner moved to table the item to the November meeting, assuming we would have a full body present. That motion passed. "Dreaming of the Kiss" was unanimously accepted and approved at the Cultural Arts Commission's November 16, 2009 meeting.

ANALYSIS

On December 22, 2009, your honorable body approved a policy for donations and acquisitions of artwork to the City through the Cultural Arts Commission. The process established in this policy has been utilized to assess this donation utilizing the following criteria:

1. Aesthetic quality.
2. Relationship of the artist or artwork to the City of Torrance.
3. Site availability.
4. Condition of the artwork.
5. Installation and maintenance requirements.

Kim Kori is an artist based in Sedona, Arizona. Her work has been purchased for public placement in several cities, including: Sedona and Mesa, Arizona; Loveland, Colorado; Orange County, Florida; Tulsa, Oklahoma; Ontario, Canada; and Winterthur, Switzerland. She was recognized for her work at the 2007 and 2004 American Women Artists Juried Competition, and at the Sedona Arts Center Juried members Annual Show. In 1994, "Dreaming of the Kiss" won the Best of Show Award and the People's Choice Award at the Hillside Sculpture Invitational. In

2009 her work was included in the Sculpture in the Park Show in Loveland, CO and at the Society of Animal Artists 49th Annual "Art and the Animal" Exhibition in Salina, KS.

If this donation is accepted for Miramar Park, staff will begin to work with the donor to pull a permit and coordinate other aspects of this installation.

Respectfully submitted,

CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION



Benito Miranda, Chair

JOHN JONES
Community Services Director



By Eve Rappoport
Cultural Services Manager

CONCUR:



John Jones
Community Services Director

NOTED:



for LeRoy J. Jackson
City Manager

Attachments:

- A) Draft Minutes Excerpt from Cultural Arts Commission Meeting November 16, 2009
- B) Photograph of "Dreaming of the Kiss"
- C) Map of Miramar Park with Preferred Location Marked

November 16, 2009

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE
TORRANCE CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Torrance Cultural Arts Commission convened in a regular session at 7:01 p.m. on Monday, November 16, 2009 in the West Annex meeting room at Torrance City Hall.

2. FLAG SALUTE

Commissioner Smisek led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners Bunting, Candioly, Endo-Roberts, Rische, Smisek, Strehler, and Chairperson Miranda.

Absent: None.

Also Present: Cultural Services Manager Rappoport and Cultural Services Senior Supervisor Bell.

4. AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING

MOTION: Commissioner Endo-Roberts moved to accept and file the report of the City Clerk on the posting of the agenda. Commissioner Candioly seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

5A. MINUTES OF OCTOBER 19, 2009

Commissioner Endo-Roberts noted a scrivener's error on page 4.

MOTION: Commissioner Rische moved to approve the October 19, 2009 Commission meeting minutes as corrected. Commissioner Candioly seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

6. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #1

Richard Whitehorse, Torrance Artists Guild, presented a \$500 donation from Torrance Artists Guild to support Torrance Art Museum.

7. ON-GOING BUSINESS

7a. PROPOSAL TO INSTALL PERMANENT SCULPTURE IN MIRAMAR PARK

Manager Rappoport noted that this item was continued from the October 19, 2009 Commission meeting at which time a 3-3 vote was taken. She distributed correspondence from Kathleen Fisher, Vice-President of Vista Bahia Home Owners Association, and informed Commissioners that neighbors within 300 feet were noticed about this meeting.

Commissioner Smisek stated that she happened to visit a unit in Vista Bahia and observed that the sculpture would be barely visible.

Commissioner Rische stated that objections are silly and the donation and location request should be accepted.

Commissioner Strehler stated that she is puzzled why there is opposition and is satisfied that the sculpture is not dangerous. She expressed support for accepting the donor's request and noted that it is important for the City to receive as many donations of art as possible.

Commissioner Endo-Roberts offered her observation that the dolphin is more dangerous than the frog sculpture but expressed concern about upkeep.

Commissioner Candioly stated that he has changed his initial opinion and is now in favor of placing the sculpture at Miramar Park. He stated that it is safe piece of sculpture and hopes to see more art in parks.

Commissioner Bunting cautioned against accepting all donations, especially with placement strings attached. She stated that it gives the City no "wiggle room" later on and that the City needs to look out for its own best interests. She stressed the importance of accepting works of art based on esthetic merits.

When she suggested writing a contract stating that the sculpture could be moved if necessary, Manager Rappoport advised that the Deed of Gift would allow that.

Hope Witkowsky, Mesa Street, stated that she learned at Madrona Marsh that at one time there were frogs all over Torrance. She recommended having juried opinions on what art works are chosen, noted that Kim Kori is a famous artist, and emphasized the importance in art in public places.

MOTION: Commissioner Endo-Roberts moved to recommend installation of the sculpture "Dreaming of the Kiss" at Miramar Park in location #2. Commissioner Candioly seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

8. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

8A. EXCELLENCE IN ARTS COMMITTEE

December 7, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. at Torrance Art Museum was selected as the next Excellence in Arts Committee meeting date.

8B. FACILITIES COMMITTEE

December 7, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. at Torrance Art Museum was chosen for the next Facilities Committee meeting.

8C. GRANT REVIEW COMMITTEE

No report.

9. MONTHLY DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Manager Rappoport noted that the Cultural Services Division Report for October 2009 was included in agenda materials. She distributed fliers for "A Christmas Story" and Torrance Art Museum's (TAM) exhibition on November 21 – December 19, 2009. She encouraged Commissioners to attend the opening reception at TAM on November 21, 2009.



[Home](#) | [New](#) | [Archives](#) | [Galleries](#) | [Kim Kori's Bio](#) | [Events](#) | [Contact: kori@sedona.net](mailto:kori@sedona.net)

Sold Out



In this sculpture, I tried to capture an almost human quality in the frog, so the viewer can imagine a prince inside--ready and waiting for the kiss that will set him free.

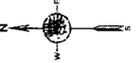


KIM KORI

Dimensions: Height: 42" Width: 38" Depth: 40"

http://kimkoristudio.com/dreaming_of_the_kiss.htm

8/30/2002



Suggested Site

Lines and photos are approximate, not to be used for establishing absolute or relative positions

Miramar Park

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Jeffery W. Gibson
Community Development Department