

City of Newport Beach

Newport Beach City Arts Commission February 11, 2010 – 5:00pm Central Library Conference Room

Convened at 5:05pm

Call To Order and Roll Call

Commissioners Present: Robyn Grant, Chair
Gilbert Lasky
Carole Boller
Christopher Trela
Rita Goldberg, Secretary
Robert Smith, Vice Chair
Wendy Brooks

Commissioners Absent: None

Staff Present: Cynthia Cowell, Library Services Director; Jana Barbier, Cultural Arts Coordinator

Public Present: Sandy Reich and Pat Jorgensen

Public Comments: Pat Jorgensen stated that as of today 43 people had signed up for the motor-coach to LACMA for the "Renoir in the 20th Century" docent tour. She noted that the night before the Arts Foundation had held their regular monthly meeting at the home of Robert and Carmen Smith and that Commissioner Smith had given a very nice presentation on the sculpture in the park program being put together.

Approval of Minutes: It was MSP (Boller/Lasky) to approve the January 14, 2010 Minutes.

Continued Business:

Staff Report /Correspondence - Reviewed and filed. Staff provided some background on the purchase of two display cabinets for the lobby of Central Library. The question arose as to whether the funds were still available for this purchase, and it was noted that they were a gift from Councilman Rosansky and that the funds were available. Discussion ensued as to the size of the cabinets, the process for selecting artwork for display, specific artists who might want to contribute and how many cases were being considered for purchase. It was noted by Director Cowell that we would start with the two cases and buy more at a later date if needed.

Correspondence/Press – Reviewed and filed.

Committee Updates:

Fine Arts Committee – Commissioner Boller discussed the latest draft of the “Artist Laureate Guidelines” and Commissioner Grant thanked her for her submission. Commissioner Boller asked to hear everyone’s opinions. Discussion ensued regarding whether this was a program within the Arts Commission’s purview. Commissioner Lasky made a motion not to implement this program. There was no second. Commissioners discussed the description of the program, whether an artist laureate had to be a resident of Newport Beach and how the program had gone from simply selecting an artist for an annual award to a two-year award with many responsibilities. Commissioners discussed deadlines for suggestions for future artist laureates, the purpose of the award and how artist laureates would be honored in the City. Commissioner Lasky made a second motion to not proceed with the Artist Laureate program; there was no second. Commissioners agreed to table this discussion for the present time.

Commissioner Boller reminded the Arts Commissioners of several dates to include in their schedules including the reception for Richard Rice (Newport Beach Artist Laureate, 2009) on March 8 at 5:30pm. She noted that applications for the Newport Beach Art Exhibition and Sale were on the City website, under Cultural Arts and due in the cultural arts office by 5pm on March 10.

Performing Arts Committee – Commissioner Goldberg stated that plans have moved forward to hire the Hutchins Consort violin group for the July 25 concert (of Concerts in the Parks series) at Grant Howald Park. The Performing Arts Committee discussed additional music that they had been reviewing and tentatively suggested hiring “The U.K. Beat” for either an August 8 or an August 15 concert in the park.

Library Services Director, Cynthia Cowell noted that she would need to state, out of an abundance of caution, that the City would not be signing contracts with any organizations until it was learned whether the City Council would be taking any funds away for this fiscal year. She noted that she had attended many recent meetings regarding the budget and that most authorizations for programming were on hold until budget decisions were made. Director Cowell suggested moving forward with planning with that caveat.

Arts Foundation Liaison Committee – Commissioner Goldberg stated that she had attended a wonderful meeting with the Foundation the night before. She also noted that the Foundation’s “Art in the Park” event would take place this year on June 19, but that a park had not been confirmed yet. Commissioner Goldberg noted that the Foundation had two very nice new members and that the group seemed excited about the Renoir tour.

Budget Committee – The budget had already been discussed; further discussion was tabled until more information was provided.

Art in Public Places Committee – Commissioner Smith discussed the sculpture in the park project and noted that there were a couple of new developments. He stated that Mayor Curry would be attending a Mayor’s Conference on the Arts in Phoenix and would be presenting information at the conference on a National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) grant that provides funds specifically for cities developing public art programs. He also discussed the deadlines for the grant application, collaborations with other agencies, and budget recommendations. Security for the sculpture park was briefly discussed.

Cultural Art Grant Committee – Commissioner Brooks noted that she had gone to Festival Ballet Theater’s “Nutcracker” performance at a local school. She also noted that she had been in contact with Burton Karson of the Baroque Music Festival and that she had submitted many ideas to this group for their 30th anniversary. Commissioner Brooks discussed recent developments with the Mariners Medical Arts Building and would provide further information at a subsequent meeting.

New Business:

Future Agenda Items: None

Commissioner Announcements: Commissioner Goldberg asked if the bus to LACMA had been reserved and how many seats were on the bus. Commissioner Grant thanked the Arts Commissioners for their good work.

It was MSP (Smith/Lasky) to adjourn the meeting.

Adjournment: 6:30p.m.