

Recommendations to the Cultural Arts Commission
May 28, 2025
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Dear Commissioners,

Now that the Public Art Commission has evolved to the Cultural Arts Commission since 5/24, I would strongly suggest that as soon as possible you define its direction so that the mayor and council don't do it for you.

As a former Public Art Commissioner who served on the task force in 2008, and on the commission from 2009-2018, I'd like to offer the following suggestions to help begin the process.

The CAC should encompass the following:

PUBLIC ART

Electrical boxes

I hope that all boxes in the City will continue to be covered with art, especially on Artesia Bl. It is the most affordable, quick to complete, and effective visually as the work can be viewed at eye level whether the viewer is driving or walking by, and locations are plentiful. So far, the work has been successful.

Murals

The City of Hermosa Beach ran a successful campaign to complete ten murals in ten years - AND it was privately funded. Their result was beyond glorious. The CAC should fund, and encourage business owners to fund on their property. Murals can be completed in a realistic amount of time, and cover a wide swath of real estate where they are displayed. There are walls everywhere in Redondo Beach that would benefit from murals, especially on Artesia. You could begin at the area adjacent to the bike path. With our proximity to the ocean, marine themes are fine, but we should look beyond those to

create murals of any subject matter, historical, referential, or purely, art for Art's sake.

Art Advisory Group, Le Basse

At the 5/13/25 City Council meeting, the council voted unanimously to hire the LeBasse group, who, as you know will work with you to place at least three pieces of public art and beautify Artesia Bl. over the next three years.

Cataloging Public Art

Every piece of CAC commissioned public art, and all private public art in Redondo Beach should be photographed and included into an online catalog with artist name, installation date, and location made available to the public, as soon as possible. This procedure should be fully completed as a marketing tool by the 2028 Olympics. To keep it current, someone should be assigned to update with each new project. The Chamber of Commerce and City should promote this catalog to residents, and especially to tourists to seek and find our public art, encouraging walking or riding bikes. Along the way, they will encounter restaurants and shops, bringing revenue to the City.

I can assist with locations of public art.

Maintenance

There should be a schedule through Redondo Beach Public Works to maintain public art on a continuing basis. As new pieces are installed, funding for this is included. For example, benches in Riviera Village should be sanded and re-painted.

FINE ARTS

Galleries

Currently, Redondo Beach has no galleries; by that, I mean a place that displays art, featuring the work of local, national, or possibly, international artists on a regular basis. Palos Verdes,

Torrance, Manhattan Beach, and Hermosa Beach hold receptions and exhibitions about every 1-2 months. The Chamber of Commerce and City should fully support, encourage, and promote gallery owners to rent/buy in Redondo Beach, specifically to Artesia Bl. which will experience its own Renaissance. Hermosa Beach has several privately owned galleries, such as Gallery of Hermosa, Shock Boxx, and Resin. Garel Fine Art is located in Manhattan Beach.

Art Instruction

What happened to classes offered through the City of RB that taught many subjects, including art? Residents received a small discount. Can this be reinstated? South Bay Art Gallery in Redondo Beach teaches to students.

Art Center or Museum

An art center located on Artesia Bl., or anywhere in RB would be beneficial to all residents of RB and all surrounding cities. There are models in other cities to emulate: Torrance Art Museum, sponsored by their city, Manhattan Beach Art Center that used to be a city library, sponsored by their City, Palos Verdes Art Center, sponsored by private donations and their City. The AES site would be a perfect location as many power plants around the world have evolved into art centers, the Tate in London, the most notable.

WRITING

The state of California has Poet Laureates in 70 cities and 21 counties, such as Compton, Santa Monica, Culver City, Glendale, and Los Angeles. This practice became popular in the late 1990's. PL's are usually hired to write poetry for special events.. For the second time, El Segundo, has chosen a Poet Laureate, Kweku Abimbola, who received his MFA through the University of Michigan. He was hired through ES's DEI Commission, and Arts and Culture Advisory Group. Should RB have a DEI Commission? ES's Arts and Advisory Group meets the 3rd Monday of each

month at 5:30 in their main library, 111 West Mariposa, 310-524-2729.

What if Redondo Beach sponsored an annual adult or children's writing contest?

DANCE

Dance 1, located at 2228 Artesia Bl (310-292-4572), has been in business for 13 years, and has 600 students. They hold two performances per year in February and October. Could the City sponsor them? Are there other dance production companies that could receive at least partial sponsorship from the city? The Public Art Comm. in San Diego performs a similar role.

MUSIC, CHOIR, THEATER

Our own Cultural Arts Manager, Jack Meyer has worked decades for the Redondo Beach Performing Arts Center, and recently presented a proposal to council for upgrades to the facility. Once this happens, it will attract more business, increasing revenue. Some time in the future, the City might consider sponsoring a small band, a jazz trio, or a children's choir, or a children's orchestra?

Could the City sponsor one theatrical event a year, a drama, comedy or musical, hiring local profession talent? Could Shakespeare in the Park perform on stage instead?