



CHAPTER 9 Arts and Cultural Element



# ARTS AND

## *An Active and Vital Arts*

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### Introduction

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Arts and cultural activities play an important role in community life and have been a valued component of Newport Beach for over 125 years. Newport Beach has a wide range of art and cultural organizations, resources, attractions, and activities that are a source of community pride and enrichment. These achievements have evolved over time and have been the result of the dedication and involvement of numerous individuals, groups, and organizations. However, without intervention, coordination, preservation and promotion, art and cultural activities and resources can easily be lost through destruction, indifference, or through unintended land use decisions or policies.

The goals and policies of the Arts and Culture Chapter are intended to be a guide for meeting the future cultural needs of the community. Future challenges in Newport Beach require maximizing the community's cultural arts potential by coordinating with various community groups, businesses, agencies, citizens and the City to create an active and cohesive cultural and arts programs. The Chapter is intended to serve as a mechanism for integrating these resources in order to provide improved and expanded arts and cultural facilities and programs to the community.

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## Community Organizations and Programs

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### CULTURAL ARTS ORGANIZATIONS AND PROGRAMS

Newport Beach’s nonprofit arts community includes a broad array of organizations, and a substantial number of arts programs and activities. There is a diverse range of artistic disciplines and a strong focus on programs for children and youth. Through its grant program, the City of Newport Beach distributes funds to arts organizations on a yearly basis, which enables them to expand their cultural programs offered in the community. Through its Department of Recreation and Senior Services, the City also provides year-round educational programs for adults and children in music, dance, arts and crafts, and drama.

# CULTURAL ELEMENT

## *and Cultural Community*

Newport Beach’s arts community also contains various private and nonprofit arts organizations and arts groups. These groups include the Newport Beach Film Festival, Newport Theatre Arts Center, Baroque Music Festival, Newport Beach Arts Foundation, and the Newport Beach Theatre Company.

### CITY OF NEWPORT BEACH ARTS COMMISSION

The City of Newport Beach Arts Commission acts in an advisory capacity to the City Council on all matters pertaining to artistic, aesthetic, and cultural aspects of the City. Established in 1972, as the Newport Beach Arts Committee and in 1974 in the City Charter as the Newport Beach City Arts Commission, the Commission recommends to the City Council ordinances, rules, and regulations as it may deem necessary for the administration and preservation of the arts, performing arts, and historical, aesthetic, and cultural aspects of the community.

The Arts Commission, working with staff in the Cultural Arts Office, provides free or low-cost programs for cultural enrichment including temporary art exhibits at City Hall and the Central Library, juried art exhibitions, permanent art collections for City facilities, summer concert in the park series, arts lectures for the public, cultural festivals, and performances, educational seminars and workshops.

The Arts Commission also participates in the designation of historical landmarks, and reviews design elements for public sculpture, fountains, murals, benches, and other fixtures.

## PERFORMING AND VISUAL ARTS FACILITIES

The primary performing arts facilities in Newport Beach are those that are associated with local cultural arts organizations and programs. They include the Newport Theatre Arts Center and the Orange County Museum of Art, which has an auditorium that seats 120 people. Local schools have auditoriums and other facilities that can be used as performing arts spaces, such as Loats Auditorium at Newport Harbor High School. In addition, the Balboa Performing Arts Theater Foundation has plans to rebuild the historic Balboa Theater in Balboa Village which will seat approximately 350 people.



*Nakayoshi—Good Friends. Located in front of the Central Library, this Japanese friendship statue was a gift from Newport Beach's sister City Okazaki, Japan. It depicts two children embracing and sits on a large granite base with a plaque describing the piece and declaring the citizens of Newport Beach and Okazaki as friends.*

Civic facilities in Newport Beach, such as the library and City Hall, have exhibition spaces that display the work of local artists. The Central Library visual arts gallery displays different exhibitions of local artists bi-monthly. The library also hosts a variety of programs for adults, including Sunday musicals, art exhibitions, author appearances, lecture series, book discussions, and Internet workshops.

## MUSEUMS

In addition to the numerous galleries throughout the City, Newport Beach is also home to a variety of museums. Located in Newport Center, the Orange County Museum of Art features modern and contemporary art. The museum houses a permanent collection of paintings, sculpture, photography, and changing installations, all documenting California's artistic heritage.



*Newport Beach Film Festival*

The Newport Harbor Nautical Museum focuses on industrial and recreational history and features local photographs, artifacts, and memorabilia. Sherman Library for California History, located in Corona del Mar, features detailed exhibits on the history of the Pacific southwest, as well as a public garden.

The Newport Sports Collection Museum, located in Newport Center offers several educational programs to motivate youth to stay in school and be active in athletics.

## EVENTS AND FESTIVALS

Various festivals and events occur throughout the year in Newport Beach. Some of these attractions include the Newport Beach Jazz festival, Concerts in the Parks hosted by the City Arts Commission, Newport Beach Festival of the Arts, Shakespeare by the Sea, Balboa Island Art Walk, Southern California Plein Air

Painter's Association (SoCalPAPA), yearly Sandcastle contest, the countywide Imagination Celebration, and the Newport Beach Film Festival.

## LIBRARIES

The Newport Beach Public Library system consists of a Central Library and three branches that provide a permanent collection of books, periodicals and other materials in addition to hosting events, lectures, educational programs and other community enrichment activities. The Central Library is located at 1000 Avocado Avenue and the branch libraries are located in Corona del Mar and the Balboa Peninsula. The Mariners Library branch, which includes shared use with the Mariners Elementary School, opened in April 2006.

As of 2006, four libraries serve 84,098 active borrowers and circulate 1,475,025 items annually. Many resources are also available through specialized databases licensed to the Newport Beach Public Library, and with a library account, can be accessed from remote locations 24 hours a day.

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## Goals and Policies

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### Participation in Culture and Arts

#### Goal

#### CA 1

Active and vital arts, cultural, and literary activities and programs that enrich the community.

#### Policies

##### CA 1.1 Public Projects

Encourage the incorporation of public art into major public projects that enhance the City's community character as well as its built environment, through public art donations, and working with local artists, students, and community groups to create public art projects. (*Imp, 23.3, 29.2*)

##### CA 1.2 Private Projects

Encourage the incorporation of public art into larger commercial projects that enhance the City's community character as well as its built environment. (*Imp 2.1*)

##### CA 1.3 Promotion of Cultural Arts

Build public awareness and encourage participation in the City's arts, cultural, and literary activities. (*Imp 29.1*)

**CA 1.4 Events and Programs**

Encourage the continuation and expansion of cultural arts events and programs such as those at the Orange County Museum of Art, Newport Theatre Arts Center and Balboa Theater, as well as festivals, seminars, workshops, concerts in the parks, and community cultural festivals. *(Imp 29.1)*

**CA 1.5 Arts Education**

Partner with the community to encourage and strengthen arts education for children, youth, adults and seniors in the City. *(Imp 29.1)*

**Provision of Physical Facilities**

**Goal**

**CA 2**

Adequate physical facilities and venues that support cultural art and literary programs.

**Policies**

**CA 2.1 Shared Venues**

Explore opportunities to accommodate current or emerging cultural arts programs within existing and new facilities by working with community groups for sharing of performance and exhibit space and considering the potential for new facilities. *(Imp 9.1, 29.1, 29.2)*

**CA 2.2 Theaters**

Maintain the Newport Theatre Arts Center and encourage rebuilding of the Balboa Theater. *(Imp 9.1, 29.1, 29.2)*

**CA 2.3 Library Facilities**

Improve and enhance existing library facilities, collections, and computer facilities. *(Imp 23.2)*

**Funding**

**Goal**

**CA 3**

Establish a broad range of public and private funding sources to support cultural arts goals and activities.

**Policies****CA 3.1 Public and Private Sources**

Support the efforts of non-profit, private and community organizations to apply for public and private grants and promote donations to support art, cultural, and literary activities. *(Imp 29.1, 29.2)*

**CA 3.2 Volunteer Opportunities**

Promote and support volunteer opportunities for public involvement in arts, cultural, and literary programs and events. *(Imp 29.1, 29.2)*

**CA 3.3 Additional Resources**

Utilize cultural resources outside of Newport Beach. Continue to promote the Newport Beach Sister City Association and other cultural exchange programs. *(Imp 29.1, 29.2)*

**CA 3.4 Cultural Tourism**

Promote cultural tourism in Newport Beach to attract visitors and tourists interested in cultural events. *(Imp 29.1, 29.1)*

**CA 3.5 Funding**

Provide funding for the arts in Newport Beach. *(Imp 29.2)*

