

This meeting will be held via teleconference only in order to reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19 and pursuant to AB 361 and the County of Los Angeles Public Health Officer’s Order (revised March 3, 2022). All votes taken during this teleconference meeting will be by roll call vote, and the vote will be publicly reported.

HOW TO VIEW THE MEETING: No physical location from which members of the public may observe the meeting and offer public comment will be provided. Please view the meeting, which will be live streamed at <https://malibucity.org/video> and <https://malibucity.org/VirtualMeeting>.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE BEFORE THE MEETING: Members of the public are encouraged to submit email correspondence to bsaleaumua@malibucity.org before the meeting begins.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE DURING THE MEETING: Members of the public may speak during the meeting through the Zoom application. The City requests that you sign up to speak before the item you would like to speak on has been called by the Chair and then you must be present in the Zoom conference to be recognized.

Please visit <https://malibucity.org/VirtualMeeting> and follow the directions for signing up to speak and downloading the Zoom application.

Malibu Arts Commission **Special Meeting Agenda**

Thursday, March 10, 2022

4:30 P.M.

Various Teleconference Locations

Call to Order

Roll Call

Pledge of Allegiance

City of Malibu Vision Statement

Approval of Agenda

Report on Posting of Agenda – March 9, 2022

1. Old Business

A. Malibu Performing Arts Center

Recommended Action: Discuss ideas for a performing arts center in Malibu.

Staff Contact: Community Services Director Bobbett, 456-2489 ext. 225

Adjournment

Future Meetings

Tuesday, March 22, 2022	9:00 a.m.	Regular Meeting	Location to be determined
Tuesday, April 26, 2022	9:00 a.m.	Regular Meeting	Location to be determined
Tuesday, May 24, 2022	9:00 a.m.	Regular Meeting	Location to be determined

Guide to the City Commission Proceedings

As a result of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, the City is under a state of local emergency, as well as states of emergency that have been declared in the County of Los Angeles, state of California, and a federal emergency declared by the President of the United States. In order to reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19, the City Council meeting will be open and public but conducted virtually because meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees. This way the public, the staff, and the Council will not be physically in the same place.

The Oral Communication portion of the agenda is for members of the public to present items which are not listed on the agenda, but are under the subject matter jurisdiction of the Commission. Although no action may be taken, the Commission and staff will follow up, at an appropriate time, on those items needing response. Each speaker is limited to three (3) minutes. Members of the public wishing to speak during the meeting must participate through the Zoom application. The City requests that you sign up to speak before the item you would like to speak on has been called by the Chair and then you must be present in the Zoom conference to be recognized. Please visit <https://malibucity.org/VirtualMeeting> and follow the directions for signing up to speak and downloading the Zoom application.

Items in Consent Calendar Section A have already been considered by the Commission at a previous meeting where the public was invited to comment, after which a decision was made. These items are not subject to public discussion at this meeting because the vote taken at the previous meeting was final. Resolutions concerning decisions made at previous meetings are for the purpose of memorializing the decision to assure the accuracy of the findings, the prior vote, and any conditions imposed.

Items in Consent Calendar Section B have not been discussed previously by the Commission. If discussion is desired, an item may be removed from the Consent Calendar for individual consideration. Commissioners may indicate a negative or abstaining vote on any individual item by so declaring prior to the vote on the motion to adopt the entire Consent Calendar. Items excluded from the Consent Calendar will be taken up by the Commission following the action on the Consent Calendar. The Commission first will take up the items for which public speaker requests have been submitted. Public speakers shall follow the rules as set forth under Oral Communication.

Old Business items have appeared on previous agendas but have either been continued or tabled to this meeting with no final action having been taken. Public comment shall follow the rules as set forth under Oral Communication.

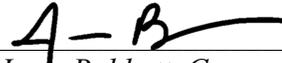
Items in New Business are items which are appearing for the first time for formal action. Public comment shall follow the rules as set forth under Oral Communication.

Copies of the staff reports or other written documentation relating to each item of business described above are on file in the office of the City Manager, and available upon request by emailing BSaleaumua@malibucity.org.

The City Hall phone number is (310) 456-2489. To contact City Hall using a telecommunication device

for the deaf (TDD), please call (800) 735-2929 and a California Relay Service operator will assist you. In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact Yolanda Bundy, Environmental Sustainability Director, at (310) 456-2489, ext. 229. Notification 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the City to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting. [28 CFR 35.102-35.104 ADD Title II].

I hereby certify under penalty of perjury, under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing agenda was posted in accordance with the applicable legal requirements. Dated this 9th day of March 2022 at 1:00 p.m.



Jesse Bobbett, Community Services Director



Malibu Arts Commission Agenda Report

Malibu Arts
Special Meeting
03.10.22

**Item
1.A.**

To: Chair Cherin and Members of the Malibu Arts Commission

Prepared by: Kristin Riesgo, Community Services Deputy Director

Approved by: Jesse Bobbett, Community Services Director

Date prepared: March 4, 2022 Meeting date: March 10, 2022

Subject: Malibu Performing Arts Center

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Discuss ideas for a performing arts center in Malibu.

DISCUSSION: The Malibu Arts Commission was given an assignment by the City Council to explore the potential for a performing arts center in Malibu. At the February 22, 2022 Regular meeting, the Commission discussed their vision for a performing arts center and requested to a Special meeting to further explore their visions.

The Commission agreed that each Commissioner would provide a brief statement detailing their vision for a Performing Arts Center. Chair Cherin, Vice Chair Holland, Commissioner Jones, Commissioner Lawrence, and Ex Officio Clifford provided statements by the posting deadline (Attachment).

The Commission may determine a vision and discuss a process to explore opportunities, including assessing need, examining the Arts Task Force Report, or other options to gather information from outside organizations to determine how to proceed with a plan to explore a performing arts center for Council consideration.

ATTACHMENTS: Commissioner Vision Statements for a Performing Arts Center

**Chair Lotte Cherin
Malibu Arts Commission
Commissioner Vision Statement**

Here is what I have in mind for an arts center in Malibu:

-use City land, hopefully near Whole Foods, or land around city hall, that we can rent for \$1/year, that has adequate parking

-Center should be at least 10-12,000 square feet.
it should be state of the art architecture, such as Peter's suggestion of the Menil Institute
part of the interior would be modular to accommodate various events
would have state of the art acoustics, lighting, etc.

-Center would include
an auditorium for theatre, film, lectures, concerts, etc.
backstage area for theatre productions
art galleries for exhibits for local artists, traveling shows, loaners from LACMA, MOMA,
etc.
workshop space (filmmaking, dance, printmaking, etc.)
studio space/s for artist-in-residence
office/s for art center manager, staff, membership area, small library
outdoor sculpture garden
terrace for outdoor events
snack bar/restaurant
gift shop

The Malibu Performing Arts Center (MPAC) is envisioned as a unique center which focuses on enhancing the quality of life in our community through the arts.

The Malibu Arts Commission would oversee the programming and operations of the MPAC. The center would be a nonprofit entity with an active board of directors, run by a paid operating staff and a dedicated volunteer workforce.

The physical venue would include a 350+ seat theater (similar to the Smothers Theater) and feature varied musical concerts, dance and theater performances. Alternatively, the venue could be an outdoor amphitheater that would support a larger audience and would be seasonal. In addition, the complex would include a smaller 100 seat black box theater/ screening room that could be used for productions, small concerts, screenings or rehearsal space. Included in the venue would be a visual arts gallery which would house rotating visual arts exhibits as well as Malibu's permanent art collections. These separate spaces would house world class state of the art audio/visual equipment.

Within the venue would also be rooms available for workshops and classes. An active community outreach program would promote community participation and encourage arts education in both visual and performing arts.

Julia Holland

To: Kristin Riesgo
From: Peter C. Jones
Re: Proposed Malibu Art Center
Date: March 7, 2022

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The Malibu Arts Commissioners have been asked to submit their views in writing concerning the proposed Malibu Arts Center prior the special meeting on March, 10, 2022 at 4:30pm. Please distribute this memo to the Commissioners of the Malibu Arts Commission and to Jesse Bobbett prior to the meeting.

In considering the proposed arts center there are multiple concerns that I have outlined below, together with my personal views:

Location: There are two potential vacant sites owned by the City:

1. Central Malibu at the Chili Cookoff site.
2. Western Malibu at the Heathercliff site.

City Council Member: I was appointed by Bruce Silverstein who supports the construction of an arts center in central Malibu. Bruce is opposed to the construction of an arts center anywhere in Western Malibu including at the Heathercliff site.

Notes: Based on a small number of informal reactions, the residents and voters of Western Malibu are opposed to the construction of an arts center at the Heathercliff site or anywhere else in Western Malibu. A very significant number of the residents and voters are adamantly opposed.

Consensus: If anything is to be constructed at the Heathercliff site, the residents and voters believe that it should be a drought tolerant park with absolutely no additional parking. Many residents responded that their preference is to do nothing with the Heathercliff site and to let the land lie fallow.

Personal Views: I support the construction of an arts center in Central Malibu without any additional parking. I am opposed to the construction of an arts center in any form in Western Malibu, especially at the Heathercliff site.

Function: There are two potential arts center functions:

1. A gallery or galleries for two-dimensional and three-dimensional fine art.
2. An auditorium for music, theater, film, and performance art.

Gallery-Based Art Center: Based on a small number of informal reactions, support for a gallery-based art center is lukewarm at best, largely because it would attract tourists. These voters are opposed to any additional parking, including but not limited to surface parking, an above ground parking structure and a below ground parking structure. These voters believe that any additional parking will continue to erode the rural nature of Malibu in clear violation of the Malibu Mission Statement.

Additionally, many voters believe that a gallery-based arts center would duplicate The Frederick R. Weisman Museum of Art at Pepperdine University.

This is a false assumption.

The Frederick Weisman Museum at the Lisa Smith Wengler Center for the Arts at Pepperdine University in Malibu has historically been dedicated to exhibiting the large collection of mid-century lithographs owned by the Weisman Foundation. Until recently, The Weisman Museum has not exhibited works in other media or works that the Weisman Foundation does not own. Nor has it been receptive to exhibition proposals, including proposals for traveling exhibitions organized by others. The Museum has not interacted with other Los Angeles museums or exhibited the work of local or regional artists. Additionally, the design of its exhibition spaces is awkward and lacks versatility.

Malibu Gallery-Based Arts Center Mission:

At its essence a Malibu Arts Center would be open to exhibiting works from classic two and three-dimensional works, to kites, skateboards, and surfboards created from outside and inside the Malibu art community.

Gallery-Based Art Center Options:

Option A:

1. Dedicate the Malibu City Gallery to exhibiting works by local artists.
2. Dedicate the Art Center to exhibiting works by established artists either by borrowing works from Los Angeles museums or by exhibiting traveling exhibitions generated by others or both.

Option B:

- a. Two gallery spaces, one for established artists; one for local artists.
- b. Auditorium (may duplicate the new Santa Monica College auditorium)
- c. Malibu City Gallery is unchanged.

Malibu Arts Center – Recurring Operating Expenses:

Temperature and Humidity Controlled Off-Site Storage

Temperature and Humidity Controlled Galleries

Curatorial Employees

Exhibition Preparation

Matting & Framing

Loan Fees

Security

Performing Arts Center:

Based on a number of informal reactions, there is no support for a performing arts-based art center, largely because it would attract tourists and others outside the Malibu community, require an above or below ground parking structure and, consequently, erode the rural quality of Malibu life in flagrant violation of the Malibu Mission Statement.

Additionally, many believe that a performing arts center would duplicate The Smothers Theater at the Lisa Smith Wengler Center for the Arts at Pepperdine University in Malibu.

This is an accurate assumption.

While not on the level of the Irvine Barclay Theater at UCLA, The Smothers Theater is a very professional operation open to the public with modest ticket prices, deeply discounted tickets for Pepperdine students and ample parking. The Smothers Theater is ten minutes from the Heathercliff site in Western Malibu and five minutes from Ollo Malibu Restaurant in central Malibu. The Smothers Theater offers subscription tickets at a discount.

Programing consists of live music, dance, and theater as well as film, especially if incorporated into theater or ballet. The musical performances range from classical to jazz to rock. Jessica Lange Dance performed at The Smothers Theater.

Additionally, the performers regularly rave during performances about how well they have been treated as guests – great accommodations and dining, excellent guest relations including tours of Malibu – and a smoothly run, highly professional performance space. More than one performer has said on stage that they have never been treated better.

Malibu does not have the facilities or staff to compete with Pepperdine on any level. Pepperdine already has the audience locked in. At best a Malibu Performing Arts Center would run a distant second and would run a very significant risk of failing to attract an audience.

City Council Member: Bruce Silverstein supports the construction of a gallery-based arts center in central Malibu. He has not expressed an opinion about a performing arts center.

Personal Views: I am opposed to the construction of a performing arts center in Malibu. However, I believe that there may be an attractive alternative.

Alternative Performance Space:

When the auditorium at Malibu City Hall was designed, it was envisioned as a multi-function community space that was ultimately usurped by political interests. Any hope of multi-function use ended with the installation of the permanent dais.

Like countless municipal buildings throughout the United States, Malibu City Hall was hopelessly out of date on ribbon cutting day. Today, the auditorium can be best described as a wretchedly designed, gloomy space where no one would voluntarily eat lunch.

What would work for all parties is a gut renovation of the auditorium designed by a theatrical architect. The auditorium would be reserved one day per week every week of the year (fifty-two days each year) for political functions. The remaining six days of each week would be reserved for performance and film programming.

Additionally, the south, east, and west walls could be illuminated to professional fine art standards during the day and intermissions, extending the size and versatility of the adjacent Malibu City Gallery.

Unquestionably, a reconfigured auditorium would have limitations – there is no room for a forty-foot fly space or *The Pirates of Penzance* – but there is room for music, poetry, and film. A key source of rental revenue could be the Malibu Film Society which is currently looking for a Malibu home.

Adequate parking already exists.

Architecture:

City Council Member: Bruce Silverstein believes that the fine architecture of the Nobu complex radically influenced the design of new Malibu home construction. Suddenly, there was an architectural jewel on the Pacific Coast Highway and the level of Malibu architecture rose precipitously. Look no further than Western Malibu – hit hard by the Woolsey Fire – to find a slew of beautiful new homes that are – without exception – architecturally superior to the homes that were destroyed.

Bruce would like to see the current residential architectural upgrade expand throughout Malibu. To this end nothing would be more inspirational than an architectural jewel of an arts center on the Chili Cook Off site.

Personal Views: I agree with Bruce Silverstein.

Art Center Examples: In my professional life, I traveled extensively throughout the United States and Europe looking at museums large and small. In the United States two small museums stand out:

Menil Drawing Institute, Houston, Texas: <https://www.menil.org/drawing-institute>

The Powers Art Center, Carbondale, Colorado (45 minutes from Aspen):
<https://www.blackshack.net/civic/powers>
<https://www.powersartcenter.org/>

And one I have not seen: The Clyfford Still Museum, Denver, Colorado
https://clyffordstillmuseum.org/about-us/architecture/?gclid=EA1aIQobChMIImuTF1Ziy9gIV1g-tBh1Hfg4DEAAAYAAEgIpZvD_BwE

Personal Views: The Menil Drawing Institute is the most important example of American Cultural Architecture since Disney Hall. The scale, functionality and raw beauty of this building make it an ideal fit for the Chili Cookoff site.

Such an arts center and its programming would deeply enhance the reputation of Malibu, inspire the construction of other superb architecture, while – like the new high school – simultaneously supporting real estate values throughout our city.

Commissioner Fireball Tim Lawrence
Vision Statement for The Malibu Performing Art Center (M-PAC)

The Malibu Performing Art Center will focus on Performance and Visual Arts in a beautiful, rustic outdoor setting, embodying the nature and feel of Malibu's true treasures. Located near Legacy Park as a downtown central hub with adjacent underground parking and an architecturally unique system of intertwined bridges connecting the natural elements, M-PAC will be Malibu's Heart and Soul of the arts. A place where music, art, photography, drama and all performance will exist in its highest form... surrounded by a lush park setting, "World of Trees" grove and the perfect venue for *Concerts Under the Stars*. This venue will be a place known throughout the world... as the birthplace of the performing arts.

Graeme Clifford
Malibu Arts Commissioner
March 8,2022
Commissioner Vision Statement

THE MALIBU PERFORMING ARTS CENTER should be just that.....a **performing** arts center. It needs to accommodate theatrical plays, musicals, ballet, and as such, needs an extensive backstage area including a crossover, catwalks, fly system, control booth, workshops, storage area, and of course, dressing rooms. Without professionally equipped spaces we will never attract major productions and will be limited to small homegrown fare. And this is OK too. A smaller theatre with a simpler backstage setup. A Black Box theatre would also be nice!...experimental theatre and poetry readings.

Cinema is also a necessity in all formats and screen sizes befitting our reputation as a celebrity actors hangout.

Then there is a music recording studio and a dance rehearsal room.....for classes.

And of course, non-performance art space to exhibit paintings, sculpture, installations, the written word, etc.

(Ironically, we had some of this and the beginnings of an Arts Center right here in the Civic Center.....sprung dance floor and all!!..... but they gutted the building to make way for City Hall).

As you can see, my vision of a Malibu Performing Arts Center is, and always has been, rather grand. When we formed the Arts Task Force back in 2010, an Arts Center was always our primary goal. It continued to be so when the Arts Commission was formed two years later, so I have had a long time to expand my vision! Of course this cannot be achieved without a major private benefactor.....

Larry Ellison would be nice. **Naming rights!**.....The Barbra Streisand Recording Studio....."Dallas Buyers Club" at the Matthew McConaughey Cinema.....Jennifer Aniston onstage with "Friends" at the Larry Ellison Theatre! We could even start naming auditorium seats!!....."Britney Spears sat here..... without her father!"

A brasserie would also be nice!.....Michael's of Malibu.

The City could donate the location.....the chili cook-off site!

Turning fantasy into reality would give us a destination befitting our name and capable of competing directly with the Performing Arts Centers within driving distance of us for paying customers.

Let's start tomorrow!!

GC