

MINUTES

Grand Junction Commission on Arts and Culture (GJCAC) January 23, 2013, Parks and Recreation Administration Office, Lincoln Park

Commissioners Present: Miranda Ashman, Randall Cupp, Judy Dyrud, Charity Finnigsmier, Gisela Flanigan, Randall Gray, Jennifer Hancock, Diane Kress Hower, Lancer Livermont, Emily Pfeifer

Commissioners Absent: Jeremy Franklin

Others Present: Lorie Gregor

Chair Gisela Flanigan called the regular meeting to order at 4:04 p.m. Randall Cupp moved to approve the Minutes of the Nov. 26, 2012 meeting. Lancer Livermont seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Introductions: The Commissioners welcomed new members Randall Gray, Jennifer Hancock and Emily Pfeifer. New member Jeremy Franklin was unable to attend due to illness.

Avalon Cornerstone Project: Robin Brown distributed brochures about the \$16 million renovation and expansion of the Avalon Theatre, which will include sound, lighting and seating upgrades and Americans with Disabilities Act accommodations. A rooftop terrace and a multipurpose room for events and rehearsals will be added. In an event entitled “Take Your Seat,” the Avalon Theatre Foundation proposes having local artists decorate discarded theatre seats to place all over the community to advertise the capital campaign and eventually be sold at auction. The Commissioners agreed to participate. Lorie asked if she should issue a Call for Artists for this purpose on our webpage, and the Commissioners present unanimously agreed.

Final Grant Presentation: Riverside Educational Center “Look What I Did” event, GJCAC grant \$2500: Joy Hudak distributed photos and reported that 7 visual and performing artists taught the 14 weeks of enrichment classes for K-8 schoolchildren, average attendance 55. The culminating show featured 2-dimensional art hung along a hallway, sculpture on tables in the auditorium, and a performance by a student percussion ensemble. Miranda Ashman wondered if the art classes might have improved the children’s engagement in their other classes, but that outcome was not measured.

Final Grant Presentation: Western Colorado Chorale “Festival of Carols,” GJCAC grant \$1000: Cassa Fox showed a video and said our grant made it possible to engage the Kokopelli Bells bell choir for this Christmas concert. The 275-capacity hall was nearly full for both performances and some people attended both nights. It was the Chorale’s best-attended concert of the year.

Final Grant Presentation: Bookcliff Barbershop Harmony Chorus “Youth in Harmony” project, GJCAC grant \$1000: Dennis Kiefer distributed promotional literature and said 4 schools participated in the program, which supports a cappella choral music, including but not restricted to barbershop style. Participating students were invited to participate in the “Give My Regards to Broadway” show in spring 2012 and a performance at Caprock Academy in the fall.

Final Grant Presentation: Center for Independence clay sculpture class, GJCAC grant \$750: Linda Taylor reported that Ridgway artist Michael McCullough, assisted by 8 volunteers, taught clay sculpture on May 12 at the Center and distributed a booklet of results and photographs. The 15

disabled participants, age ranging from 14 to the mid-70's, each got a certificate, a photograph with the artist, and their own sculpture to keep.

Final Grant Presentation: Grand Junction Symphony Orchestra, Tchaikovsky's "The Nutcracker," GJCAC grant \$4000: **Jeremy Herigstad** and **Kelly Anderson** showed a video and reported that our grant supported new, elaborate sets and costumes for this full-length ballet. Two principal dancers from the New York City Ballet joined a large cast from local dance companies, high schools and Colorado Mesa University. Over 2000 K-8 students attended the 2 condensed children's performances, an increase of 80% from the last *Nutcracker* in 2008. Attendance at the 3 full performances was 3300, a 47% increase. The costumes are now owned by the Symphony and available for use by the University, as well as for the next planned *Nutcracker* in 2014.

Final Grant Presentation: Western Colorado Writers' Forum "Poetry in the Streets," GJCAC grant \$2500: **Sandy Dorr** reported that our grant supported the downtown Poetry in the Streets reading and the Writers in Schools program at Tope Elementary. Gertie Yamaguchi of Riverside Educational Center, Jo Williams of Scenic Elementary, and Stephanie Goode and Penelope Gallagher of the Soup Kitchen read some of their poetry to the Commission.

Final Grant Presentation: KRMJ-TV Rocky Mountain PBS "Western Bounty," GJCAC grant \$3000: **Greg Mikolai** reported that our grant supported this program of brief TV spots showcasing local artists and arts organizations, many of whom would not be able to afford such promotion on their own. One spot per month was recorded and broadcast several times throughout the month, and also was on the rmpbs.org website. The artists can add the spots to their own websites.

OLD BUSINESS

Lincoln Park 1% for the Arts: Tracie Wieland said the major renovations to Lincoln Park are underway. Previous plans for "climbable art" supported jointly by the GJCAC and Parks & Recreation were dropped because National Playground Safety Institute guidelines were too limiting for artists. As an alternative, Tracie and Lorie proposed commissioning an artist(s) to create bicycle racks and benches fitting the park's theme of trees and nature. After discussion the Commissioners requested that Lorie post a Call for Artists. Tracie also discussed borders and benches being made by a Forestry staffer from the stumps of dying trees. Randall Gray said his neighbor has a lot of wood from an old tree; Lorie will contact Randall to see if this also may be used.

Further notes on grants by adopting Commissioners: Randall Cupp said the Riverside Educational Center event went very well and several parents thanked him for the GJCAC support.

Miranda said the Center for Independence participants with different disabilities were excited by the opportunity to do clay sculpture, enthusiastic and totally engrossed in the work.

Diane said Western Colorado Chorale's Christmas concert was a great performance with the nice touch of an audience singalong of carols. She said Cassa was great to work with and careful about fulfilling all grant requirements.

Charity Finnigsmier said she had some communication problems with the Barbershop Chorus and some questions about their fulfillment of our requirements. She attended one performance to which the kids were invited and they were not highlighted. Several Commissioners said they were confused by the Chorus's report and unsure exactly how our grant money was used.

Gisela said that the follow-up reporting was new to grantees and to us, and we can advise them about this means of accountability if they are awarded a grant next year. We can request that their written report specify how the grant was used, how many events occurred in total, how many were funded by the grant, attendance at each, etc. Lorie said we could have a meeting of all grant recipients to instruct them on our expectations, especially changes from previous years. The Commissioners agreed this kind of meeting was a good idea and agreed to participate.

Judy Dyrud said *Nutcracker* was well received and kids at the children's shows were audibly thrilled. Kelly Anderson told her the Symphony might do another ballet next year, possibly *Sleeping Beauty*. She thought *Nutcracker* may continue to offer the best experience for local dancers because the cast is so large. Gisela said that the dance training and costumes were free to all the local kids in the cast.

Colorado National Monument Art Exhibit: Lorie said we need 3 Commissioners to jury the artwork on Sept. 11 for the City Hall exhibition Oct. through Dec. The event organizers will handle prizes, a People's Choice award and other details. Last year's show had over 200 submissions; up to 50 pieces will fit in the space. The artworks will be judged from photographs. Interested Commissioners will email Lorie with a single-line bio stating why they are qualified to jury the show.

Champion of the Arts: This year's presentation of the Individual and Business Champion of the Arts awards at the Jan. 16 City Council meeting and pre-meeting reception were a great success. Gisela thanked Lorie for the excellent coordination and setup.

REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Lorie showed photographs taken by a staffer in the city Information Technology department and asked for the Commission's approval to add this photographer to the list for the City Hall employee art exhibit. The Commissioners gave unanimous approval. Lorie will encourage other artists to register at the GJCAC website.

Meeting: Available GJCAC members and Parks & Recreation Department representatives will meet Thursday, Feb. 21, 7:00 a.m. in the Parks & Recreation office to consider Lincoln Park bike rack and bench art proposals.

Meeting: GJCAC will meet Monday, Feb. 25, 4:00 p.m. in the Hospitality Suite at Suplizio Field to see approximately half of the presentations of applicants for 2013 GJCAC grants.

Meeting: GJCAC will meet Tuesday, Feb. 26, 4:00 p.m. in the Hospitality Suite to see the other half of the grant presentations.

Meeting: GJCAC will meet Wednesday, Feb. 27, 4:00 p.m. in the Hospitality Suite to decide grant allocations. Lorie requested that Commissioners inform her of potential grant recipient adoptions before the grant meetings.

As there was no further business, Gisela declared the meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy M. Dyrud