

Minutes for Grand Junction Arts Commission Cultural Plan

June 12, 1991

Attendance: Allison Sarno, Karen Swanson, Michael Smedley, Christine Strong, Bennett Boeschenstein, Sandra Brown, Susan Weider, Jim Syring, Larry Mazzeno, Carroll Multz, Kathy Hall, John Tomlinson, Mary Buss, Terry Wakefield, Mike Perry, Ralph Powers, Ann Sanders, Vic Crumbaker

TASK FORCE REPORTS

Cooperation, Collaboration, and Partnerships
Mike Perry

The committee held a meeting which invited a variety of people from various fields to brainstorm on problems and solutions to facilitate cooperation.

Susan Iser of Loveland presented a history of cultural growth. Tim Sarno served as a facilitator for the meeting.

Marketing and Promotion
Ralph Powers

This committee decided that they could not do anything until the plan knew what it wished to promote.

They did recommend development of signage to include distinctive cultural direction signs, billboards and a calendar of events to be published in the Daily Sentinel.

Arts and Cultural Facilities
Ed Chamberlin

The committee recommended that they participate in a search to be coordinated with other efforts in the community to compile a list of sights upon which a facility might be built.

They further recommended choosing one sight with multi-purpose use with sufficient parking which is visible and has easy access.

Funding
Susan Widner

This committee suggested that they must have specific projects to fund before they could suggest specific plans.

They see funding as contingent open cooperation between the various public agencies in the area.

Support for Local Artists
Bernet Boetchenstein

The committee hosted a focus group with artist attending. They were to identify problems and solutions.

Image, awareness, profile of local artists in the community, apathy, lack of professional standings, and failure of investment and involvement on the part of the artists were some issues identified.

Art in Education
Karen Swanson

The committee used the survey of arts organizations to discover what educational opportunities exist in Grand Junction. Fine Arts, Music, Dance, and Theatre were the areas of inquiry. Questions included program, frequency, length, and fee were polled which served children, youth, adults, seniors, artists, and visitors. Of the 63 organizations polled 47 provided some educational program. There seemed to be a lot of interest in doing more with children.

Tentative recommendations include an annual directory of what educational opportunities are offered, a calendar of events, and a task force to look into developing more arts in the schools.

Jim Syring explained how the committees would have input into the final cultural plan. He emphasized that the plan needs to be practical for short term accomplishments. In addition, he feels we need to ask "what if," to facilitate long range planning for a vision for Arts in the future.

Cities which are located on water have traditionally possessed an ability to facilitate change. Grand Junction is one of those cities. Westerners have a sense of independence which challenges people to think of what we might do.

Mike Smedley spoke of his ideas for a vision for the Arts in Grand Junction. The diverse natural scenic wonders help to inspire many artists. He believes that Grand Junction could be the Mecca of the western world.

Allison Sarno discussed the time frame for completion of the cultural plan.

Written documentation from the task forces need to be mailed to Dr. Tomlinson by June 26, but no later than July 1, 1991.

The next meeting will be July 10, 1991 at 7:00 p.m. at Mesa State College in Heine Room 302. All chairmen of the task forces, the arts commission members as well as any of the members of the various committees are invited to attend.

The next regular meeting of the Grand Junction Arts Commission will be held on June 26, 1991, at City Hall. The commission has been asked by the city council for recommendations on "prioritizing what the council should be doing as it tries to support the Arts in this community."

Respectfully submitted,

Ann J. Sanders