

MINUTES OF THE GRAND JUNCTION
COMMISSION ON ARTS AND CULTURE

February 26, 1992

Members present: Sandra Brown, Mary Buss, Vic Crumbaker,
Stephen Laiche, Ann Sanders, Julie Schroeder-
Wright, and Allison Sarmo.

Allison Sarmo called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. and gave a report on the progress to date regarding formation of a scientific and cultural facilities district in Mesa County. Sarmo noted that several meetings have been held which involved representatives from the Museum of Western Colorado, the Musical Arts Association, the Western Colorado Center for the Arts, County Commissioner Jim Spehar, DDA President J. D. Snodgrass, William Ela, Herb Bacon, and the Avalon Committee. Revision on the state statute to eliminate the county population limitation and increase the revenue amount has passed the Senate and is expected to pass in the House of Representatives soon.

Sarmo noted that the current idea is to aim for an election in conjunction with the General Election this November and ask the voters to approve .2% of one percent of sales taxes for the district, which would raise about one million dollars. Sandra Brown noted that there has been talk of the Museum, Arts Center, and Musical Arts Association being allocated 90% of the total revenues, because the Museum wants \$450,000 annually, the Art Center \$200,000, and the symphony another \$200,000. Brown stated that both the Art Center and symphony might use district revenue to fund endowments.

There was much discussion about what the Arts Commission's position was with regard to the formation of a cultural district and what role the Commission could and should play. The Denver model was discussed, as well as how the future revenue from the district should be allocated. A motion was made by Vic Crumbaker, seconded by Ann Sanders, that the Commission on Arts and Culture supports the formation of a Scientific and Cultural Facilities District with the provision that it meets the needs and represents the desires of the community and advances the goals of the Strategic Cultural Plan. The motion carried unanimously.

It was decided to write a position paper outlining the Commission's thoughts about the cultural district (attached) for the City Council and the organizations involved in planning the district. Brown suggested a need for more investigation into using the potential revenue for capital costs, and advised the Commission about a state bonding authority for funding construction of cultural facilities. A motion was made by

Vic Crumbaker, seconded by Sandra Brown, to talk to Mark Gallegos in Denver about the state bonding authority and about making a presentation on the subject sometime in the future. The motion carried unanimously.

Consultant Kirk McConnell came to the meeting at 8:00 p.m. bringing with him a sample format for the brochure on area arts and cultural organizations and groups. McConnell reported that only 26 out of ninety surveys had been returned, and that he was in the process of contacting the others by telephone. The Commission reviewed the sample brochure, making several changes including deleting all for-profit businesses in order to save space. McConnell stated that he will have the completed brochure for the Commission's approval by the next regular meeting in March.

Brown reported that the regional meeting of the Colorado Consortium of Community Arts Councils would be held in Ouray on April 25th.

The next meeting of the Commission is March 11, 1992 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Allison Sarmo, Chair