

MINUTES
Grand Junction Commission on Arts and Culture (GJCAC)
Wednesday, November 17, 2021 Hospitality Suite, Stocker Stadium

Commissioners Present: Ron Cloyd, Sarah Dishong, Matt Goss, Matt Janson, Jan Moorman, Diana Rooney, Kelley Raymond, Erica Zajackowski, Lindsay Jaeger (virtual)

Others Present: Randall Reitz, Lorie Gregor, Trish Rothwell, Linda Skinner (virtual), David Goe, Michelle Boisvenu-Fox, Ramona Winkeller, Alex Forsett

Chair Sarah Dishong called the meeting to order at 4:02 pm. Ron Cloyd moved to approve the minutes of the October 27, 2021 meeting. Matt Goss seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Writer's Form: Linda Skinner presented on the Writer's Forum.

Downtown Art Festival: David Goe presented on the Downtown Art Festival.

Do Art Feel Better: Michelle Boisvenu-Fox presented on Do Art Feel Better.

KAFM: Ramona Winkeller presented on KAFM.

RMPBS: Alex Forsett presented on RMPBS.

Grant Award for 2022: Trish Rothwell stated that the City did not receive the NEA grant but that \$45,000 is budgeted for grants in 2022. Trish Rothwell then asked the Commission what limit they would like to set for grant applicants.

Matt Goss motioned to set the limit at \$4,200. Matt Janson seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Discussion on opening meetings with five minutes of creativity: Sarah Dishong asked the commission if they would like to start each meeting with five minutes of creativity. After some discussion the commission stated they would like to try it if one person was assigned to each month ahead of time.

Discuss bi-lingual posts and information: Sarah Dishong stated that the commission may be missing serving the Spanish speaking community. The Marketing Work Group will work to improve this.

OLD BUSINESS

Champion of the Arts: The Champion of the Arts Work Group stated that Gary Ambrosier was selected as the winner of this award. The Work Group showed the Commission the four finalists for the artwork that will be purchased as the award. The Commission decided on *Spring Comes to the San Juans* by Charles Morris.

REPORTS

Downtown Art Festival: Lindsay Jaeger stated that the GJCAC was not credited on the website or at the event. Lindsay Jaeger also mentioned that the group did not communicate during the project. Lindsay Jaeger said that she will follow up with Dave Goe on the lack of recognition. The report was attached to the October 27, 2021 minutes. Lindsay Jaeger also gave a favorable report on Postvention Alliance and the report is attached to the minutes.

Do Art Feel Better: Diana Rooney gave a favorable report and it is included in the minutes.

Grand Mesa A Cappella Chorus (Sweet Adelines): Matt Janson gave a favorable report and it is included in the minutes.

Western Colorado Writers Forum: Matt Goss gave a favorable report and it is included in the minutes.

Grand Valley Open Studios Tour: Ron Cloyd gave a favorable report. Lorie Gregor added that Grand Valley Creative Alliance will take over administration of this event and GJCAC will have a person on the committee.

Strategic Plan: Matt Janson updated the Commission stating that it is almost done. Once done, it will go to the GJCAC for final review before it is presented to City Council on January 5, 2022.

Write On: Lorie Gregor asked the Commission to determine the dates for this program.

Trish Rothwell asked the Commission if she would be able and willing to do the grant evaluations on a spreadsheet. The Commission responded positively.

The next regular meeting will be January 26, 2022 at 4:00 pm in the Hospitality Suite. As there was no further business, Ron Cloyd motioned to adjourn. Erika Zajackowski seconded, and the meeting adjourned at 5:58 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Trish Rothwell

GRAND JUNCTION COMMISSION ON ARTS AND CULTURE
EVENT/PROJECT/PROGRAM EVALUATION

Organization: Postvention Alliance

Name of event: Music Video, "All I Need" (and CyberStrong Mesa County Youth Spring magazine).

Your name: Lindsay Jaeger

Date(s) of event: Spring - Fall, 2021

Date you attended: Various

Number of people in attendance: Youtube video has received 355 views between Sept and Nov.

Number of participants (artists): approx. 15-30 youth

Describe the event: "Postvention Alliance provides education, program training, and support workshops for individuals who have been affected by suicidal thinking or behavior in themselves, someone they love, and those who have suffered a loss to suicide." The concept of the video was entirely youth-led and produced, with technical and logistical guidance from Joel Dyar and Hazel Gibson. The concept did not directly address suicide or suicidal thinking, but instead promoted healthy behaviors and coping skills to support strength, positivity and resilience. The CyberStrong Mesa County Magazine similarly included submissions from youth about activities or skills they've adopted to maintain a positive mindset.

What were the strengths of the event: I was impressed with the organization and communication, effectively centering the youth in telling their story and choosing what they wanted to say. The youth participants determined the goals that they wanted to achieve with this project and I felt that they were successful in both the process and final result. They were engaged, active, collaborative and committed to this ongoing project over a number of months. I felt that, individually, each person was able to showcase their talents, and together they created an excellent and meaningful project.

What were the weaknesses of the event: None that I can think of.

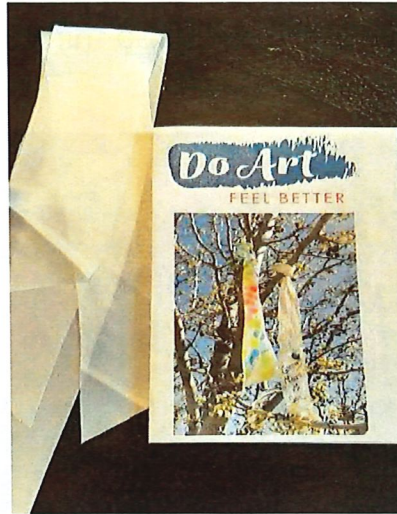
What suggestions do you have to improve this event: No suggestions that I can think of.

Publicity: Was the GJCOAC logo used in: Check appropriate boxes (Please attach samples)

The GJCOAC was credited prominently in the end credits of the video, the logo appeared on the cover of the CyberStrong magazine.

Final video: <https://youtu.be/YidBXemGwgA>

News story about the production: <https://www.nbc11news.com/2021/10/01/student-suicide-prevention-music-video>



Grand Junction Commission on Art & Culture Grant Project

Program Evaluation

Organization: **Mesa County Libraries Foundation**

Name of Project: **Do Art, Feel Better: Community Art Project**

Evaluation by: Diana Rooney

Dates: April 2021- December 2021

Planned Locations: Mesa County Libraries, Art Center, Museums of Western Colorado,
Creative District/DDA

Number of Artists: Community Artists: Unknown Fiber Artists: 2

Estimate of people to be served: 2,500-25,000

Description:

Do Art, Feel Better centers on how residents made it through the health pandemic. One thousand Take and Makes Kits with a fabric ribbon were planned for distribution, along with an idea page. The ribbons were to be decorated (painted, embroidered, written on, etc.) and returned to various library locations.

First the ribbons were to be tied in trees in various locations as part of an art installation. Then the ribbons would be sewn together into various items which will rotate throughout the community. Currently there is a Do Art, Feel Better apron on display as part of

the current City Hall art exhibit (photos below). I also think a banner is still in process with the fiber artist.



RMPBS ran a segment on this library project which can be viewed with this link:

<https://www.rmpbs.org/blogs/rocky-mountain-pbs/do-art-feel-better-mesa-county-libraries/>

Strengths:

The project concept was executed as planned with the Take and Make Kits to be picked up at library locations. The idea page with the ribbon was colorful and well done, with the GJ Commission on Arts & Culture logo shown at the bottom of the page. The project was also posted on Facebook and advertised in the Daily Sentinel Out & About. The Daily Sentinel ads also included a line that this project had support from this Commission. (see attachment)

Weaknesses:

It's hard to estimate how many actual ribbons were returned to be created into the planned banners. I did see ribbons hanging on the tree at the library entrance.

Perhaps if the project was held as a library art event in their community rooms there may have been more submissions although the pandemic restricted any in-house community events.

Resilience in Art

If you picked up a "Do Art, Feel Better" ribbon Take and Make kit,

Thank you!

We hope this community art project has helped you creatively express how you have coped with the pandemic.

Now that you have finished your ribbon, please return it to your local library or The Art Center before May 7 (the sooner the better).

Completed ribbons will decorate select trees through May; then will be collected and sewn into unique tapestries for public display this fall.

Thank you for joining us on this journey to discover personal resilience in art!



Mesa County LIBRARIES



FEEL BETTER

"Do Art, Feel Better" partners include Mesa County Libraries, The Art Center of Western Colorado, the Grand Junction Downtown Creative District, the Western Colorado Writers Forum, and Museums of Western Colorado, with support from the Grand Junction Commission on Arts and Culture.

Resilience in Art

What has helped you cope with the pandemic? A new community art project lets you share how you endured the past year.



Beginning the week of April 12, pick up a "Do Art, Feel Better" ribbon Take and Make kit from any Mesa County Libraries location or The Art Center of Western Colorado. There is no charge to participate. Supplies are limited.

On the ribbon, creatively express how you coped with the pandemic.

Return the ribbon to your local library the week of April 26.

Ribbons will decorate select trees in early May; then will be collected and sewn into unique tapestries for public display this fall.



Mesa County LIBRARIES



FEEL BETTER

"Do Art, Feel Better" partners include Mesa County Libraries, The Art Center of Western Colorado, the Grand Junction Downtown Creative District, the Western Colorado Writers Forum, and Museums of Western Colorado, with support from the Grand Junction Commission on Arts and Culture.

Arts and Culture Grant Recipient Evaluation
by Matt Janson

Organization: Grand Mesa A Cappella Chorus

Name of Program: Dear Santa

Date of Event: November 13, 14 2021

Attendance Date: November 13, 2021

Number of attendees: 50-75

Number of Participants: 26 Performers

Describe Event: This was the group's Christmas showcase. They performed at the CMU Love's Recital Hall. The performance was in two acts each lasting roughly 40 minutes. There was an intermission which showcased their annual scholarship winner, Izzy Burns. She sang one song.

Strengths of Event: The first thing I noticed when entering the hall was the set (image included at the end of evaluation). They really went all out with set design. There were tons of props that all added to the general aesthetic of the performance. It was over the top in a very good way. I have to admit, I didn't even notice the risers until the performers came out on stage and found their marks.

The songs were all woven together through a loose narrative involving Santa ending up in the hospital after falling from his sleigh from performing evasive maneuvers. He had mistakenly flown into a Quidditch match and he was not wearing his seatbelt.

The story itself was a little silly and a little hokey, but it added to the playful vibe of the show.

It was very clear to me that a lot of prep time had been spent on this performance. As mentioned, the set design was fantastic. Each performer had on very specific costumes to appear as different toys and elves. Performance wise, they sounded amazing. The ensemble has an amazing balance of tone and I believe the performance space really added to the acoustics.

Weaknesses of Event: I think the greatest weakness of this event is that there was such a narrow demographic in the audience. To be frank, I felt like my presence there brought down the average age of attendees a little bit. It's a shame that there weren't more young people there. This is a very family friendly show and I think young children would enjoy it just as much as parents.

I don't know if this really qualifies as a weakness, but I have been a little confused about doing a Christmas show in the middle of November. I was not specifically put off by that, but I can imagine some people might have been.

Suggestions for Improvement: The show itself was just fantastic. The performance and the venue were near perfect. My only suggestion would be to reevaluate the marketing efforts so that more people from a wider demographic can share in this experience.

GJCOAC Logo usage: The A&C logo was featured heavily on all the printed materials. I do not receive the Daily Sentinel, but apparently we were mentioned in a sponsor "Thank you." At the end of the performance, we were mentioned as a sponsor, but the speaker kind of fumbled over the name a bit. Not a big deal at all.

Final Thoughts: Marti Marvel was our contact for this grant. She was fantastic at keeping in touch and giving us everything we need as per our grant requirements. Between her organization skills, and the quality of the show, I have no problem recommending them for future grants.



GRAND MESA A CAPPELLA CHORUS
Sweet Adelines International
P. O. Box 4876, Grand Junction, Co. 81502

November, 2021

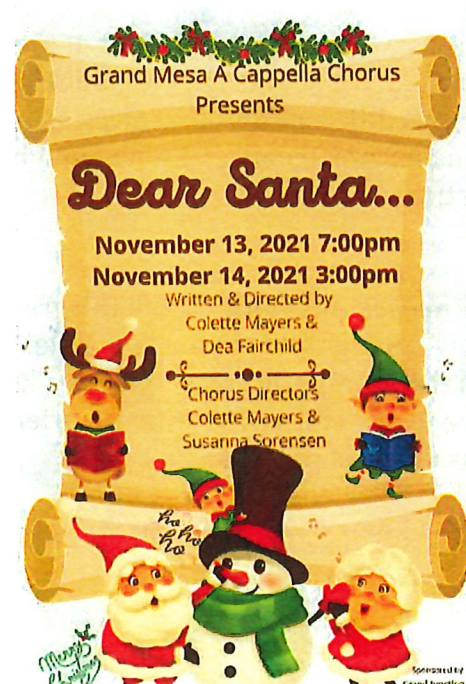
Dear Sponsor,

Thank you for participating in the Grand Mesa A Cappella Chorus 2021-2022 Sponsorship Program. Your support is so very much appreciated and assists us in keeping Barbershop Harmony alive and well in our community.

You will be acknowledged on our sponsor poster to be displayed at our show "Dear Santa" on November 13th and 14th in the lobby of the CMU Love Recital Hall and in the show program. You will also appear in the Sponsor Thank You, which will be published in The Daily Sentinel Out & About Magazine.

Sincerely,

Grand Mesa A Cappella Chorus



Sweet Adelines

Dear Santa...

Presented by Grand Mesa A Cappella Chorus

**Saturday 11/13 at 7:00 PM
& Sunday 11/14 at 3:00 PM**
at
Love Recital Hall, CMU

HO HO HO

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Vol 100000003-15

We wish to thank our sponsors & hope you visit them soon!

December 22, 2021

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Grand Junction Commission on Arts & Culture
Review of grant recipient By Matt Goss

Organization Name : Western Colorado Writers Guild

Point of Contact: Melody Jones – Recently Appointed President

Event attended : ‘Writing Toward Healing and Transformation’ with Navajo Poet Laureate Laura Thoe

Date Attended: November 2, 2021

Dates of events held : All Year Long, with exceptions of January and July

Attendance of event attended: 20 -25 including organizers. Organizers mentioned 40 online RSVPs

Event description:

The evening was a lecture/ discussion on the themes of transformation, mostly in native American mythologies and cultural influences and how writers can use them in their work. Navajo Poet Laureate Laura Thoe lead the lecture and traveled in from out of town. The WCWF was asking for any small donations at the end of the event to help cover the travel expenses of the speaker.

After her lecture there was time set aside for the people in attendance to write a poem or short piece on the themes of transformation. After the short writing session, the speaker invited anyone that felt like sharing their work with the audience.

In addition to the event I attended, WCWF host events all year that are free to attend for the public.

Other events include;

Slamming Bricks, the annual poetry riot held in conjunction with Colorado West Pride.

Zine Your Feelings, A lecture on approaches for self publishing and slam poetry.

In addition to in person events GCGV also help virtual events with an average attendance of 10-15 people per online event.

GCGV pays all presenters and gets a very good deal from the Art Center for using their space.

Contact:

My Point of Contact for this event was Melody Jones, a newly appointed President. Linda Skinner was previous president. Both were very helpful and I was greeted by numerous smiling faces and friendly hellos when I arrived.

Strengths:

GCGV has adapted well to the challenges of the previous year. I appreciate the diversity their programs are spreading out to, including working with Postvention Alliance and Colorado West Pride.

Weaknesses:

recent change in leadership always results in small disturbances in any organization's operations, but I the new president seems to have plenty of support from the previous president. Online reservations for the event I attended were double what actually attended.

Publicity:

as the commission assigned to reach out and promote this group, I feel that I was the only weak link as far as publicity of their event were concerned. WCWF has a newsletter, website, posts to community calendars, Press runs of fliers sent to the daily sentinel (which only sometimes includes fliers in sunday edition.)

Commission Logo prominently visible on all promotion

Comments:

The Western Colorado Writers Forum provides needed events for writers that are not being provided by other groups. I would like to encourage them to keep expanding their efforts to reach diverse and undeserved groups of western Colorado. I highly recommend future funding.

Writing Toward Healing and Transformation

with Navajo Poet Laureate Laura Tohe

Laura will begin with a short discussion of healing and transformation. Using various poet's work as examples we will write poems or stories about healing and transformation. Some questions we can work with are—how can we use language, song, prayer, thinking as healing for ourselves, our community, and for the earth?

Laura Tohe is also an award-winning poet, her books include *No Parole Today*, *Making Friends with Water*, *Sister Nations*, *Ts'áyi*, *Deep in the Flock*, and *Code Talker Stories* that have appeared in the U.S., Canada, and Europe with French, Dutch and Italian translations. Her commissioned librettos are *Enemy Slayer*, *A Navajo Oratorio* on the Naxos Classical Music label and *Nahasdzáán* in the *Glittering World* with performances in France in 2019 and 2021. Among her awards are the 2020 Academy of American Poets Fellowship, the 2019 American Indian Festival of Writers Award, the Lila Wallace Reader's Digest Fund Award, the Dan Schilling Public Scholar Award, and was twice nominated for the Pushcart Award. She is Professor Emerita with Distinction from Arizona State University.



WCWF Writers Night • Nov 2, 2021 • 6pm
Live at the Art Center, 7th and Orchard, Grand Junction, CO
Registration appreciated, please go to westerncoloradowriters.org.
Also showing concurrently on EventBrite
Log in at: eventbrite.com/e/183077187797/



More information at
wcwritersforum@gmail.com
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WRITERS NIGHT



ZINE YOUR FEELINGS

Join local poet Tori Miner as she talks about instant self publishing, approaches for self expression, and slam poetry.

FEBRUARY 2ND ON ZOOM
6-7:30PM

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Grand Junction Commission on Arts and Culture Event / Project / Program Evaluation

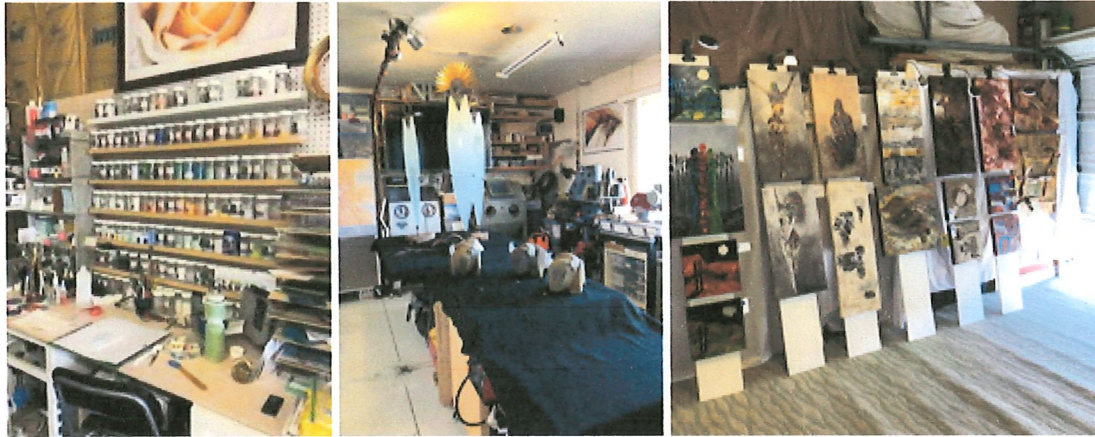
Organization: GVOST

Name of Event: Grand Valley Open Studios Tour

Evaluation by: Ron Cloyd

Number of Artists: 25

Date of Event: October 8, 9, and 10



Twenty Five local artists opened their personal studios to the public for three days in early October. The purpose of this event was for the artists to demonstrate the methods they use in creating their art, and to provide a venue for those artists to sell their creations. There were a wide variety of media and techniques represented, including painting, collage, photography, sculpture, ceramics and glass. Attendance was strong all 3 days, with sales varying for each participant.

The organizational committee for this event consisted of six tour participants, along with Lee Borden from The Art Center, Lori Gregor from the City of GJ, and myself.



Strengths: The planning committee worked together well as a cohesive group, differences were quickly addressed and solved. The tour was well organized and well attended by a diverse variety of people. Having visited the studio of each of the participating artists, the feedback I received from the public was very positive, with the most positive accolades going to the artists that were providing live demonstrations. The publicity brochure with the tour map was clear and easy to follow, and well distributed through the community.



Weaknesses: I felt there were some communication issues between the planning committee and the rest of the group participants. This resulted in some minor problems, such as sign placement and early visits by other artists. These will need to be addressed for next year's tour.

It also seemed to me that some of the artists could have used some additional help with managing crowds and sales during the event. Some of the artists appeared to be a bit overwhelmed at times.

The event was sponsored by Atlasta Solar, who provided funding for signs and other additional expenses.