

MINUTES
Grand Junction Commission on Arts and Culture (GJCAC)
Wednesday, October 27, 2021 Hospitality Suite, Stocker Stadium

Commissioners Present: Sarah Dishong, Matt Goss, Matt Janson, Diana Rooney, Kelley Raymond, Jan Moorman (by video)

Commissioners Absent: Ron Cloyd, Lindsay Jaeger, Erica Zajackowski

Others Present: Sarahndipity Johnsen, Randall Reitz, Erica Kitzman, Kaia Michaelis, Ed Gardner, Lorie Gregor, Trish Rothwell, Garrett Gross

Chair Sarah Dishong called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm. Matt Janson moved to approve the minutes of the September 22, 2021 meeting. Diana Rooney seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Postvention Alliance: Erica Kitzman had two middle school students report on their project. The students wrote the song "All I Need Is Me", sang, played instruments, and created and starred in the video.

Enchanted Planet: Sarahndipity Johnsen presented the final report on The Enchanted Planet. Four episodes ran on RMPBS in September 2021.

Chautauqua: Kaia Michaelis and Ed Gardner presented the final report on Chautauqua – 19th Amendment and All That Jazz.

The Board Members present introduced themselves to Trish Rothwell who will be the interim staff liaison to the GJCAC since Lorie Gregor will be retiring in November.

Open Position Qualifications: This was tabled.

OLD BUSINESS

Cultural Plan: Matt Janson stated the plan is close to being finalized. Sarah Dishong and Matt Janson will write the introduction and then the plan will be complete. The Strategic Cultural Plan will be presented to City Council for adoption in January 2022.

Champion of the Arts: Lorie Gregor stated that there are two candidates - The students of the Postvention Alliance and Gary Ambrosier. Lorie also stated that there are two or three pieces of art submitted so far. The presentation of the award will be December 12, 2021, 3:00 pm at the Centennial Band Christmas Concert at the Avalon.

Grant Adoptions: Lorie Gregor reviewed the list of grant presentations that still need to be done. Lorie also gave an update on the NEA and City grants. The NEA grant awards will be announced in November. The \$45,000 City grant in is the budget request for 2022 if the NEA grant is not awarded.

Grand Valley Open Studios Tour: This was tabled since Ron Cloyd was not present.

REPORTS

Enchanted Planet: Diana Rooney's report is included in the minutes.

Chautauqua: Sarah Dishong's report is included in the minutes.

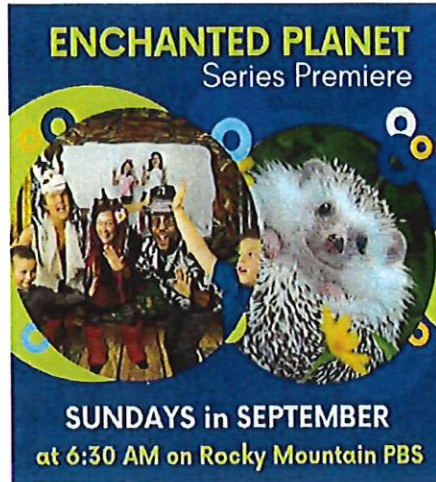
Downtown Art Festival: Lindsay Jaeger's report is included in the minutes.

Write On: Lorie Gregor said that the Write On reception was in March 2021. The program needs a new workgroup so Kelley Raymond will gather interest via email.

The next regular meeting will be November 17, 2021 at 4:00 pm in the Hospitality Suite. As there was no further business, Diana Rooney motioned to adjourn. Matt Goss seconded and the meeting adjourned at 5:26 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Trish Rothwell



Grand Junction Commission on Arts & Culture
Grant Project/Program Evaluation

Organization: **We Create Heart**

Name of Program: **Enchanted Planet**

Evaluation by: Diana Rooney

Programs Aired: 4 Sundays in September 2021 6:30 a.m. on RMPBS

Number of Cast/Crew: Approximately 18

Description:

The Enchanted Planet shows were created from Sarahndipity Johnsen's "Animals Get Funky" children's book series. Each episode is composed of eight learning adventures while inspiring children to honor themselves and each other. The programs were created with many local musicians and technicians of Grand Junction.

The first 4 episodes ran in September 2021, with reruns scheduled for October for RMPBS. Episodes can also be viewed on YouTube. Feedback on the programs and YouTube watch hours will be given in Sarahndipity Johnsen's report to the Commission.

Additional information on We Create Heart and the Enchanted Planet programs can be found at www.wecreateheart.org

Strengths:

Sarahndipity created well-rounded and creative musical episodes for children to enjoy and learn from. These episodes passed RMPBS quality checks and aired weekly for 2 months to date. I watched the pilot episode and was impressed with the energy, flow, and variety within the episode. I could see the artistic details, creativity, and hard work that went into producing this episode.

The GJ Commission on Arts & Culture provided We Create Heart with a grant that was requested to use for the sub-contractors {artists, musicians, and cast). Sarahndipity promoted this Commission by adding the logo to the We Create Heart website home page, in the ending credits of the program episodes, and in mentioning the Commission when she was interviewed for an article for the GJ Daily Sentinel about Enchanted Planet.

Weaknesses:

I really did not find any weakness and felt Enchanted Planet was a wonderful example of how these grants provide artistic variety and creativity to the Grand Valley.

ENCHANTED PLANET

Series Premiere



SUNDAYS in SEPTEMBER
at 6:30 AM on Rocky Mountain PBS

Screen Shot of end of credit screens on Enchanted Planet TV show Pilot

Enchanted Planet Pilot S1:E1 Happy Hedgehog, Hip-Hop Hippopotamus, hula hoop

ENCHANTED PLANET

FUNDING FOR THIS EPISODE IS PROUDLY PROVIDED BY:
SESSIONS FAMILY FOUNDATION



MAIN STREET MINERALS & BEADS

MARY R	MICHELLE E	JULIE B
DEBRA M	NICOLE H	HERRERA FAMILY
AHIMSA WARE	MARY G	ANDREA & CHRIS K
DAVE & JERI P	KANNAH CREEK FARM	VALERIE H
RANDI K	BRAD & RACHEL D	MORENO/ALEXANDER FAMILY
CORRINE R	ALICE	CASSIDY
JOEL C	KARINA A	MAY/CHICK FAMILY

AND VIEWERS LIKE YOU!



26:29 / 26:40

Scroll for details



LOCAL



The first episode of 'Enchanted Planet' is set to air at 6:30 a.m. on Sunday on Rocky Mountain PBS. Viewers in the Grand Valley are likely to recognize some local faces on the show. Pictured from left are Rio Alexander, Chloe Brooke Watkins, Sarahndipity Johnsen, Chaz Rol and Mateo Alexander.

Children's program with local ties set to air on Rocky Mountain PBS

By AKI WRIGHT
aki.wright@sentinel.com

In the middle of the pandemic, the opportunity to create a children's television show landed in Sarahndipity Johnsen's lap.

But it didn't come with a TV studio attached, and the studios at Colorado Mesa University and 970 West Studio weren't available because of COVID-19.

Johnsen was not to be deterred, though. "I made a green screen studio in my living room," she said. The camera rolled in January, and Johnsen and her TV guests sang and danced, worked with puppets, made crafts, read stories and created "Enchanted Planet." The first episode of this educational program for kids is set to air at 6:30 a.m. on Sunday on Rocky Mountain PBS. The next three episodes of "Enchanted Planet"



Pictured from left are Chaz Rol, Chloe Brooke Watkins and Sarahndipity Johnsen, who will be in the first episode of "Enchanted Planet" on Sunday on Rocky Mountain PBS.

will be shown the following Sundays in September.

"I had been navigating one unforeseen event after another and it all worked out beautiful," Johnsen said. "I'm so grateful."

The idea for "Enchanted Planet" began with the characters in Johnsen's "Animals Get Funky" children's book series and continued with educational events planned for her nonprofit, We Create Heart.

However, We Create Heart launched the same week lockdown swept

the country in 2020. The events Johnsen planned had to move online as classes — a baboon craft and a baboon dance or talking about feeling with Confused Camel — and many people watched in the Grand Valley and beyond.

Johnsen decided to build on those classes with a television show for kids ages 9 and younger. When a grant came through from the Seasons Family Foundation to make it possible, work began in earnest to develop "Enchanted Planet." In the process of creat-

ing the show, there have been plenty of complications and hurdles, from lighting issues to figuring out closed captioning, she said.

But along the way, Johnsen was able to work with more than 30 artists — musicians, writers, graphic designers and others — mostly from Colorado.

"All these people who were gig workers ... it was so exciting to put them to work," Johnsen said.

Some of the faces and names on "Enchanted Planet" will be familiar to viewers in the Grand

Valley. Among them are musician Chaz Rol and librarian Sandra Nuñez-Carter, who brings a Spanish language element to the program.

Each episode moves through eight learning segments, because "I really wanted to allow (kids) to engage, but not bore them," Johnsen said. Viewers also will have the chance to submit home video to be included in future episodes of "Enchanted Planet."

"We've already started pre-production on Season 2," said Johnsen, who was excited about additional grants and support We Create Heart has received for "Enchanted Planet" from entities such as Alpine Bank, the Grand Junction Commission on Arts and Culture and the Western Colorado Community Foundation.

Johnsen is grateful for the support and excited for the Grand Valley to see "Enchanted Planet." Along with being viewed on September Sundays on Rocky Mountain PBS, "Enchanted Planet" can be watched after its air date on the PBS Kids app.

For information about Johnsen and "Enchanted Planet," go to wcreateheart.org.

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WEATHER

Here's what's in store today

High 85, Low 58

20% cha

THE GRAND VALLEY'S 4-DAY OUTLOOK

SATURDAY High 84, Low 57	SUNDAY High 88, Low 58	MONDAY High 90, Low 59	TUESDAY High 93, Low 60

AREA FORECAST

Delta/Moore
High 80, Low 52, partly cloudy

Grand Mesa
High 81, Low 56, partly cloudy



Sunset today 7:41 p.m.

Sunrise Monday 6:41 a.m.

UV Index: 8 (very high)

THURSDAY IN GRAND JUNCTION

NATIONAL FORECAST AND

City	Yesterday		Today		Monday	Tuesday
	High	Low	High	Low		
Albany, NY	43	43	57	66		
Anchorage, AK	62	52	61	52		
Aspen, CO	53	44	53	41		
Baltimore, MD	77	67	77	59		
Baltimore, MD	70	53	72	52		
Boston, MA	61	48	60	52		
Buffalo, NY	73	58	71	55		
Charleston, SC	63	70	64	71		
Chicago, IL	78	57	77	52		
Chicago, IL	78	66	78	68		
Cleveland, OH	74	61	72	62		
Columbus, OH	71	61	71	60		

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

Organization: Museums of Western Colorado

Name of event: Chautauqua – 19th Amendment and All That Jazz

Your name: Sarah Dishong

Date(s) of event: Oct. 22 & 23, 2021

Date you attended: Evening performances Oct. 22 & 23

Number of people in attendance: approx. 90, first night & approx. 100, second night – unsure of daytime events

Number of participants (artists): 9 actors & GJHS Jazz Band

Describe the event: This event is the historical storytelling of historical figures. The performer tells the story of the figure in first person, typically setting a particular point in their history. They give an intriguing monologue, telling their story. Each performer has three segments in their performance, the narrative, then the audience can ask questions of the historical figure, then the performer steps out of character and the audience can ask questions of the performer. There are three types of performers, Young Chautauquans (high school), Local Chautauquans, & professional presenters.

What were the strengths of the event: The show is a quality and fascinating event to attend. All the performers are top notch! They know their characters well and speak well of them. The new venue of the Masonic Center was much more conducive to the event. The acoustics of the venue were perfect for this type of performance. People's voices carried well. The sizing gave the appearance of a full house with a more intimate setting.

Ed was a constant stream of updates throughout the planning of the event. Libbie provide me with materials as soon as they were ready.

I need to applaud their flexibility and adaptability. The performer who was to play Jeanette Rankin had her flight cancelled and then became ill. Their board adapted and brought her performance in via the internet and used the screen at the venue. You could tell she didn't feel well, but her performance was still amazing and moving.

What were the weaknesses of the event: None, that I could see.

What suggestions do you have to improve this event: I do not have suggestions.

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

X Posters

X Program/brochure

X GJCOAC listed as a donor/supporter

- Received professional pictures from organization
- X Public Service Announcement mentions GJCAC
- X GJCAC link on organization's website
- Is the organization's website linked to our website
- X Organization worked with you before/during /after event



Hi Sarah,

Below is my cut and paste effort of a GJ Letter to the Editor in today's digital GJ Sentinel.

I don't know if you subscribe, but I thought I'd pass it along as it was your grant event.

Have a great day!

Diana

Great job showing history in fun, informative way

As a relative newcomer to the Grand Valley, I had my first opportunity to attend History Live!, a Colorado West Chautauqua event last weekend. What an amazing experience!

The Grand Valley History Players introduced us to Annette Kellerman, Harry Houdini and Mae West. The Young Chautauquans, Cambria Henson as Eleanor Roosevelt and Emily Larsen as Wladyslaw Szpilman, gave outstanding performances that showed just how much they had learned about these important historical figures. Becky Stone, as Josephine Baker and Doug Mishler as Billy Sunday, provided facts about their characters that reflected a deep

knowledge of their places in history. Jeanette Rankin, the first woman elected to Congress in 1916, even before women gained the right to vote 4 years later, appeared through time and space via Zoom, compliments of an outstanding performance by Jeanmarie Simpson. And the GJHS Jazz Band had attendees dancing in the aisles!

The Museums of Western Colorado, and the Colorado West Chautauqua Committee, along with others who sponsored the two-night event, are to be heartily congratulated. I encourage everyone to attend next year!

DEBRA KALISH

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

Organization: Downtown Grand Junction

Name of event: Downtown Art Festival

Your name: Lindsay Jaeger

Date(s) of event: Oct 1-3

Date you attended: Oct 2

Number of people in attendance: approx. 100-300? (I'm sure this changed throughout the weekend...)

Number of participants (artists): approx. 20-50 total? Around 5-7 muralists.

Describe the event: As part of the annual Downtown Art Festival, which included "First Friday" and a Film Festival, the Commission supported pop-up murals stationed throughout the Saturday Artist Expo on Main Street. The muralists were creating work live, which was a great addition to the general market booths featuring art and crafts for sale. The 'live' art aspect helped the experience feel special, adding value to the festival as a one-time event, set apart from the other Main Street Markets and Art Walks.

What were the strengths of the event: This event was a nice opportunity to gather the community in support of the thriving art scene in Grand Junction, especially promoting the downtown Creative District.

What were the weaknesses of the event: It seemed to me to be a smaller group of exhibiting artists than I expected. Not sure how it relates to previous years.

What suggestions do you have to improve this event: I wonder if there are ways to increase promotion, to excite more artists at different stages of their careers about becoming involved. Other unique performance aspects or interactive opportunities may help distinguish it from the other Main Street Market events and build a larger audience.

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

I never heard back from Rykel after our initial email introduction in March. I didn't see the Art Commission logo on the Downtown GJ website or the GJ Creates website. I didn't see it posted next to the muralists at the event (most of them had an Uncanny Valley Gallery sign next to them).

Photos/screenshots below.

2021 SPONSORS

**SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS, WHO'S
GENEROUS DONATIONS MAKE THIS EVENT POSSIBLE**



Special thanks to our sponsors : **Alpine Bank, Renewal by Andersen LLC, Dillard's, KJCT News 8**

SCHEDULES

Friday, October 1

5:00pm - 8:00pm First Friday

Saturday, October 2

8:00am - 11:00am Art on the Corner Installation

11:00am - 5:00pm Artist Expo

11:00am - 1:30pm Union of None

2:30pm - 5:00pm Rock 'n' Swing

Sunday, October 3

11:00am - 8:00pm Film Festival

SPONSORS







