

MINUTES

Grand Junction Commission on Arts and Culture (GJCAC)

Wednesday, July 24, 2024 – Lincoln Park Barn

Commissioners Present: Matthew Janson (Chair), Robbie Breaux (Vice Chair), Scott Beilfuss, Pamela Blythe, Ron Cloyd, Julie Matthews, Kelley Raymond, Cynthia Zaitz

Commissioners Absent: Hank Braxtan, Robbie Helm, Porcia Silverberg

Others Present: Emily Krause, Haley Van Camp

COMMISSION REPORTS

As there was not a quorum, Matt unofficially started the meeting at 4:02 p.m. Julie Matthews gave a commissioner report on the recent Charisma Chorus Summer Camp concert she attended. She mentioned it was a great concert, that it was well attended, and was a heart-warming experience.

Cynthia Duff with Friends of the GJ Union Depot and Dr. Peter Booth with The Art Center of Western Colorado gave their final report presentations to the Commission.

Chair Matt Janson officially called the meeting to order at 4:15 p.m. Ron Cloyd moved to approve the June 26, 2024 meeting minutes, Cynthia Zaitz seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved unanimously.

BUSINESS

Discussion was had regarding the artist proposals for the aRT Mural Program. Cynthia moved to approve the top 14 ranked artists based on the Commissioners votes, Robbie Breaux seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

The Commission discussed the two pending public art exhibit proposals. Pamela Blythe moved to approve both Anneke Moresco and Christina Bryant for the Public Art Exhibits program. Ron seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. Additional discussion was had regarding ways to market the program to reach a larger pool of artists. Haley Van Camp mentioned she is working on a shared spreadsheet with contacts of arts organizations the Commission can use to reach out to about the program and encourage them to submit art exhibit proposals.

There was discussion regarding the type of language to use in the call for artists for both Phase I and Phase II of the F ½ Parkway project. Language such as modern, non-representational, abstract and colorful, whimsical, unique, fresh, were some of the ideas discussed. Additional ideas included color for way-finding, kinetic sculptures for the roundabout, linear for the F ½ road expansion, and creative versions of landscapes (trees, etc.). It was also discussed that it would make sense to include inspiration and example photos in both calls to artists.

It was clarified that the call to artists for Phase I (roundabout at 24 ½ and F ½) would go out as soon as possible, and the call to artists for Phase II (continued expansion on F ½ Rd) would go out sometime next year.

Discussion was had regarding the rule for organizations that have received funding in the last three consecutive years would sit out for one year. Based on information provided by staff on numbers of organizations this would affect, etc. there was a consensus the Commission would adopt this rule. It was

also discussed that organizations that will not be allowed to apply for the grant this next cycle be contacted as soon as possible so they have as much notice as possible.

There was discussion regarding the drafted letter staff provided for the Commission on Arts and Culture grant request for the 2025-26 cycle. A few minor grammatical and clarity suggestions were made for the letter. It was agreed that the letter should include that the events, projects, and programs funded by the Commission have a lasting effect on the community as they are community based versus event based (murals, etc.).

There was additional discussion on the amount of increase the Commission would like to ask for based on the total amounts requested from organizations in past five years. Emily Krause mentioned that next year is an extremely tight budget year, and that the increase be reasonable. There was a consensus that the asked amount would be \$94,000.

Scott Beilfuss added there was a strong case for the Commission to ask for an increased amount, as the Commission's grant program reaches many organizations and community members through the work that is done through the funded events, projects, and programs.

CITY STAFF REPORTS/UPDATES

Haley and Henry Brown with Planning gave an overview of the 4th and 5th Street Project. Discussion was had regarding language to put in the call to artists for the murals, bike racks, and benches. It was decided similar language as the Horizon Drive and G Rd roundabout artwork call, and upcoming 24 ½ and F ½ roundabout artwork call should be included.

Haley gave a brief update regarding the Take Part in Art event that took place on Saturday, June 15. There were 20 out of 21 organizations that held booths, and about 250 attendees. The only concern was that there were not a lot of attendees visiting the food trucks, and one of the food trucks left early.

COMMISSION UPDATES

Robbie gave a brief statement about how the arts in general inspire her and continue to do so, and how important the arts are in the community.

Robbie suggested there is a working group that helps review grant applications before the deadline to make sure they are complete (including budget pieces, etc.).

The next regular GJCAC meeting will be held Wednesday, August 28 at 4 p.m. at the Parks and Rec Admin office, 1340 Gunnison Ave. As there was no further business, Robbie moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:38 p.m., Cynthia seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Haley Van Camp