

MINUTES

Grand Junction Commission on Arts and Culture (GJCAC) Wednesday, March 26, 2025 – Parks & Recreation Admin Office

Commissioners Present: Julie Matthews (Vice Chair), Amy Gibson, Dora Fang, Pamela Blythe, Scott Beilfuss, Libbie Early, Kristin Mercer

Commissioners Absent: Robbie Breaux (Chair), Hank Braxtan, Nora Hughes, Porcia Silverberg, Cynthia Zaitz

Others Present: Haley Van Camp, Jonathan Wheatley, guests from Hilltop

Vice Chair Julie Matthews called the meeting to order at 4:35 p.m. Libbie Early moved to approve the February 26 meeting minutes, the motion was seconded by Pamela Blythe, and the motion passed unanimously.

Haley Van Camp mentioned Hank Braxtan was planning to provide information to the Commission on the Avalon Theatre Foundation (ATF) Artwork agenda item as he is on the ATF. In his absence, Haley suggested the agenda item be moved to the April meeting. Pamela moved to move the Avalon Theatre Foundation Artwork agenda item to the April meeting, the motion was seconded by Libbie, and the motion passed unanimously.

BUSINESS

Final 2024 Grant Presentations were given by the following: Julia Crocetto with Grand Valley Creative Alliance, Tauma Lee with BAM!, Jared Prachnow on behalf of Colorado West Pride, Melody Jones with the Western Colorado Writers' Forum, Morgan Anderson with Native American Cultural Programs, Jamie Pietrack with Colorado West Performing Arts Company, and Ami Schiffbauer and Rachel DeWeber with Mesa County Libraries' Film Exposure Program.

Pamela provided feedback on the Urban Planning category of the Strategic Cultural Plan, specifically regarding public art in the GJ Zoning & Development code. She mentioned she met with Niki Galehouse, City Planning Manager, and with further research with information from Niki, gathered there were recent revisions to the landscaping code that removed a line that had allowed exchanging plants for art/sculptures. Pamela suggested this was something the Commission looks into more when planning for the next Strategic Cultural Plan. It was also noted the City's Comprehensive Plan mentioned art in many places throughout the document.

Haley provided an update on the Commission Grant assignments and addressed events/projects that are funded this year that did not yet have a Commissioner assigned to them. Present members agreed they would look through the spreadsheet and assign themselves to a couple of the events/projects if they hadn't already, and Haley would follow up with those who were not present.

There was discussion regarding email best practices for the Commission, including refraining from any discussion over email in compliance with the state's Open Meeting Laws. Staff and Commission will work together to make sure compliance continues to be met, and it will be brought back to the April meeting to discuss further when more Commission members are present.

CITY STAFF REPORTS/UPDATES

Haley explained there was interest from the Colorado Creative Industries x GJ Summit planning committee to display invited artists' work at the Convention Center during the Summit. As this space is

part of the Public Art Exhibit program, the committee was looking for approval from the Commission to invite artists to display their work due to the short timeframe. There was brief discussion on this and a consensus to allow artists to be invited by City staff, the Downtown Development Authority (DDA), and CCI x GJ Summit planning committee to display at the Convention Center during the Summit, staying inline with the exhibit program guidelines and timeframes.

Haley presented a new artist proposal from local artist Patrick Metoyer submitted for the Public Art Exhibit program. There was a consensus to approve Patrick Metoyer's proposal and add them to the rotating artist list.

Haley gave a brief update regarding the Fire Station 7 Artwork project, and that the GJ Fire Department is moving forward with artist Seth Weber from the recommendation of the Commission, and that a contract is underway.

Haley also gave updates regarding upcoming 1% for the Arts projects including two new calls for artists to be opening the end of the month, one for the Monument Connector Trail Shelter, and the other for the Natatorium vinyl and tile mural at the new Community Recreation Center currently under construction. Haley also mentioned Phase II of the 24.5 Road and Four Canyons Parkway art project would be coming this year as well.

Haley gave a brief update on one of the recently funded grant projects, GJ Creates Urban Fibers quilt project, in that they are pivoting the project slightly and moving forward with a different artist and medium due to the unavailability of the original selected artist.

Due to limited time and the absence of many Commission members, there was a consensus to table the Annual Report agenda item to the April meeting.

As there was no further business, Julie moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:12 p.m. The motion was seconded by Libbie, and the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Haley Van Camp