

MINUTES

Grand Junction Commission on Arts and Culture (GJCAC) Wednesday, April 23, 2025 – Parks & Recreation Admin Office

Commissioners Present: Robbie Breaux (Chair), Scott Beilfuss, Pamela Blythe, Hank Braxtan, Dora Fang, Libbie Early, Kristin Mercer, Porcia Silverberg (via TEAMS), Amy Wall, Cynthia Zaitz

Commissioners Absent: Julie Matthews (Vice Chair), Nora Hughes

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

Chair Robbie Breaux called the meeting to order at 4:36 p.m. Pamela Blythe moved to approve the March 26 meeting minutes, the motion was seconded by Amy Wall, and the motion passed unanimously.

BUSINESS

A Final 2024 Grant Presentation was given by Alisha Wenger with the Community Food Bank of Grand Junction about their completed mural project.

There was brief discussion regarding the final draft of the Annual Report that will be sent to City Council. Pamela moved to approve the report, the motion was seconded by Dora Fang, and it passed unanimously.

Hank Braxtan, also a board member of the Avalon Theatre Foundation, briefly presented the Avalon tree artwork. This piece was commissioned by the Avalon Theatre Foundation to be permanently displayed at the Avalon. This was brought to the GJCAC at the November 2024 meeting for approval, but there was a consensus to not display the piece at the Avalon. Since that meeting, additional information on the piece was provided, and the item was brought back to the GJCAC for reconsideration as a temporary installation. Given the historical significance of the seat tags and the contributions of members of the Avalon Foundation, there was a consensus to recommend displaying the artwork as a temporary exhibition within the Avalon for up to three months. Jonathan Wheatley noted that viability would need to be confirmed and coordination with facilities maintenance would be necessary for both installation and removal. Along with the GJCAC's consensus, the GJCAC mentioned as curators they want to support pieces like this and maintain quality, and felt the temporary exhibition was a good compromise to incorporate the historical value.

Haley Van Camp provided a brief background on the 24 ½ and Four Canyons Parkway Phase I roundabout artwork currently being created by artist Alex Bond, and provided information on what Phase II of the project entails, and that the project budget includes 1% for the arts. There was discussion on the direction of artwork for Phase II, and a consensus to invite Alex Bond to submit a proposal(s) for the Phase II project to keep both Phase I and Phase II aesthetically cohesive.

There was brief discussion regarding email best practices for the Commission, and the difference between City staff sending out updates to the full Commission versus discussion over email on any of those items. Staff and Commission will work together to make sure compliance continues to be met. Working Groups and Subcommittees also came up during the discussion, and it was explained that Working Groups are small groups designed for hands-on tasks like setting up artwork and supporting events, not to make decisions or talk through things that the full Commission would vote on. Discussion of anything that could come before the Commission in an official meeting should be avoided, and if a member has ideas or suggestions, they can bring them to a regular Commission meeting so everyone can be part of the conversation. Subcommittees are small groups that work and discuss items that will

be brought back to the Commission for review and/or approval, and these meetings are posted and public.

Discussion was had regarding the Commission's Facebook page. Haley explained she is the one that manages the page and posts and shares content. The majority of the content is sharing the city's calls for artists as well as the GJCAC grant recipients' event/program information. There was brief discussion regarding the possibility of a CMU intern to help with the GJCAC Facebook page. Haley will send email updates periodically about what has been posted to the GJCAC Facebook page. In addition, there was discussion about doing a "Get to know the Commission" campaign, with a video introducing each Commission member. Haley will send questions that will be asked during the video to the Commission before the next meeting, and Hank Braxtan will work on getting footage and creating the video.

There was brief discussion on the upcoming Colorado Creative Industries Summit in Grand Junction May 1-2. Robbie reminded the Commission that the registration deadline is coming up on April 25 and there is a discount for Mesa County residents. Robbie and Dora plan to attend the Summit, and Haley and Porcia Silverberg will both be presenting at the Summit. Haley will also email the Commission information about the public events that are part of the Summit.

There was brief discussion regarding the Public Art section of the Strategic Cultural Plan and what items have been accomplished, and the discussion will be continued further at a future meeting.

Discussion was had regarding grant evaluations by Commission members, and what type of report would be helpful. Robbie and Pamela provided examples, and Haley will work on creating an evaluation form for the Commission to complete in the future.

CITY STAFF REPORTS/UPDATES

Haley shared progress photos of the 24 ½ Rd and Four Canyons Pkwy Roundabout artwork from artist Alex Bond, and photos of the Public Art Exhibit that was recently installed at the Convention Center.

As there was no further business, Cynthia Zaitz moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:58 p.m. The motion was seconded by Dora, and the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Haley Van Camp