

MINUTES

Grand Junction Commission on Arts and Culture (GJCAC) Wednesday, July 23, 2025 – Lincoln Park Barn

Commissioners Present: Robbie Breaux (Chair), Julie Matthews (Vice Chair), Pamela Blythe, Laurel Cole, Dora Fang, Cynthia Zaitz, Porcia Silverberg

Commissioners Absent: Hank Braxtan, Libbie Early, Nora Hughes, Kristin Mercer, Amy Wall

Others Present: Haley Van Camp, Jonathan Wheatley, guest Javier

Chair Robbie Breaux called the meeting to order at 4:34 p.m. followed by brief introductions of all in attendance. Porcia Silverberg noted she was listed as present in the June 25 meeting minutes even though she was unable to attend the meeting. Cynthia moved to approve the minutes with the amendment to list Porcia as absent, the motion was seconded by Porcia, and the motion passed unanimously.

BUSINESS

Robbie explained the GJCAC Bylaws will need to be amended to include language clarifying the GJCAC Council liaison is a voting member. The Commission did not feel comfortable voting on the item until new language was provided to be approved. There were also other clarifying amendments that had been suggested. Robbie and Pamela Blythe agreed to work together on language for the amendment about the Council liaison and other updates and will at least bring back language about the Council liaison to the August meeting to be voted on.

Discussion was had regarding the Arts Education section of the Strategic Cultural Plan. There was mention of previous Strategic Plan celebrations that included partners of the plan gathering to check on the progress of the goals outlined in the plan as well as celebrate the goals that had been accomplished. Haley will reach out to previous GJCAC chair and member Sarah Dishong to learn more about the celebration and look into the possibility of holding another celebration event in the near future. Additional discussion was had regarding an arts brochure or map that could be created in collaboration with GJ Creates and Visit Grand Junction for people to learn about the art opportunities in the area. Haley will reach out to both teams and begin the conversation and Laurel Cole will also plan to mention the idea at the Visit Grand Junction board meeting. It was also discussed that it made sense to align grant awards to the strategic plan in the future.

There was discussion on the GJCAC grant request letter draft that was presented to the Commission, and the amount that the Commission would like to request for the 2026-27 grant cycle. Staff expressed that this would be an even tighter budget year and recommended the ask stay flat at \$70,000. Cynthia motioned to ask for \$105,000. Further discussion was had regarding the ask, and for the economic impact to be made more prominent in the letter, as well as the ROI of the programs the grant program supports, and the lost opportunities when turning down organizations because there are not enough funds. In addition, adding that the program enhances the quality of life and community health. Dora motioned to recommend \$100,000 to be the request amount in the letter, and to include the discussion points about economic impact, ROI and lost opportunities, and quality of life and community health in the letter. Porcia seconded the motion, and it was passed with Laurel abstaining.

CITY STAFF REPORTS/UPDATES

Haley gave a brief update on the 1% projects. The Commission reviewed two new exhibit proposals for the Public Art Exhibit program. There was concern that Jeffrey Pickett's work was AI generated, which does not align with the clause in the agreement of the program that artwork must be original creations by the artist. The Commission recommended that language be added to the agreement that specifically mentions artwork must not be generated by AI, and that Haley will ask Jeffrey Pickett for a statement that the artwork was not AI generated. Cynthia motioned to approve the Western Colorado Astronomy Club's proposal for the Public Art Exhibit program, Porcia seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Haley gave a brief update about the Conex Box Mural Project and mentioned that they were unable to have all artists complete their murals due to the timeline of the grant the department received that would help fund the project. Haley also mentioned she and Jonathan would be presenting about the role of arts and culture in Parks and Recreation at the upcoming Colorado Parks and Recreation annual conference in Vail.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

There were no new grant evaluations to present, but there was discussion on if the funds that had been returned from a grant recipient that was no longer able to hold their event could be used to support an additional event. Jonathan mentioned he will check back with the accounting team and report back, and if it's possible to utilize them, Haley will bring back options on where the funds can be spent.

As there was no further business, Pamela moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:52 p.m. Julie Matthews seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Haley Van Camp