

MINUTES

Grand Junction Commission on Arts and Culture (GJCAC) Wednesday, October 23, 2013, Hospitality Suite, Lincoln Park

Commissioners Present: Miranda Ashman, Randall Cupp, Judy Dyrud, Charity Finnigsmier, Jeremy Franklin, Gisela Flanigan, Jennifer Hancock, Diane Kress Hower, Darcy Johnson, Lancer Livermont, Emily Pfeifer

Others Present: Lorie Gregor

Chair Lancer Livermont called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m. A group photograph was taken for the GJCAC website. Diane Hower moved to approve the minutes of the Sept. 18 meeting without change. Emily Pfeifer seconded, and the minutes were approved unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Grant Presentation, Pastel Society of Colorado, GJCAC grant \$1000: Penny Creasy distributed the catalog from the 9th annual Mile High International Pastel Exhibition held Sept. 6-28 at the Art Center. The show was a success with over 260 entries, 70 of which were accepted. She thanked the Commission for our grant, which was used for the catalogs and rack cards and helped expand their budget so they could advertise in national magazines. The Commissioners agreed it was a beautiful show based on their personal attendance and/or viewing the catalog.

Grant Presentation, Grand Junction Centennial Band, GJCAC grant \$1500: Vickie Golike thanked GJCAC, saying our grant allowed the band to spend much more on new music than usual. They incorporated international music, pieces published as recently as 2013, and music with appeal to younger listeners. Most importantly they expanded the repertoire beyond traditional marches to expose Grand Valley audiences to more lyrical and symphonic band music. Vickie distributed the list of music for the Christmas concert (cost \$863). The balance of the grant will purchase music for the spring 2014 concert. Judy Dyrud attended a rehearsal for the Christmas concert and was impressed by the new music and how it fulfilled the stated goals. The concert will be December 15 at Two Rivers Convention Center with matinee and evening performances.

Grant Application Form: Lorie Gregor distributed handouts including a proposed timeline for our 2014 grant process. Our new form will save the old form's project-related detail questions and list of board of directors and add the new budget form and a checklist. A narrative section will be like the Colorado Common Grant with content similar to the Colorado Creative Industries grant questions. Grants that do not meet our published criteria will be rejected before the live presentations. New requirements: applicants must give their project a title, must include 2 contacts, and cannot request funding from us if they got funding from City Council. Applicants will receive written questions from Commissioners after we review their grant, and answers will be due before the live presentations. Including a second contact should ensure questions are answered on time. In addition, the Commission agreed on 5 standard points that each presenter will be required to cover in 3 minutes, followed by 2 minutes of oral questions from the Commissioners. Charity Finnigsmier noted that applicants have requested that Commissioners look at them rather than the applications during the presentations. Lorie will make drafts of the new form and the training workshop content for approval by the Commissioners. We will try to get the form finished and online by mid-December so potential applicants can see it before the holidays.

Lorie said we should try to get all remaining 2013 final grant presentations scheduled for the next meeting except for High Desert Opera, which will happen in January after their performance.

OLD BUSINESS

Art Reception: The 2nd annual student essay contest was a success with 3 times as many entries as last year. Rocky Mountain PBS taped the essay readings at the Oct. 4 reception. Representatives of the organizations that donated prizes presented them to the winners. The reception was attended by several Commissioners, supporters of the contest winners, and a few others. Discussion centered on attendance. Holding the opening on First Friday does not seem to increase attendance. Many First Friday patrons go to dinner when our show starts at 5:30, then to local gallery openings at 7:00. Unlike the galleries our reception cannot include alcohol. However, many more people see our exhibit later as they go to City Hall for other reasons. Lancer said the opening reception is not that important, and the artists get great exposure as the show remains hung for months. The Commissioners agreed we should start requiring all featured artists to attend the opening of their show, and Lorie said she will publicize our opening as an occasion to “meet and greet the artist.” Lorie will ask the Exhibit Committee and Parks & Recreation Marketing for other ideas to increase attendance.

Champion of the Arts: Calls for Nominations and Commissions are out. The process will be like last year, with presentation to City Council. GJCAC will decide winners at the next meeting.

REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Colorado Writer’s Forum, GJCAC grant \$4000: Emily gave a positive evaluation of “The Language of the Fantastic” literary festival held Oct. 11-13 at Colorado Mesa University. Our young essay contest winner also attended. Workshops were held in the afternoon and panel discussions in the evening; all were well received. She found the group very welcoming and open to intellectual and non-intellectual comments. Much of the information was very practical regarding career strategies including successful blogging, etc. The space for one workshop seemed too large. The GJCAC logo appeared on signs and nice brochures and they linked to our website.

Pastel Society, GJCAC grant \$1000: Randall Cupp said the exhibition was great and the opening was packed. Holding this show here gave international recognition to Grand Junction, with potential for economic impact in the community. Charity said juror Lorenzo Chavez was very well known and a great choice.

Web site: The GJCAC web site has been updated and the Commissioners liked the changes. Jeremy Franklin and Diane offered a few minor corrections. Lorie asked Commissioners to let her know any other suggestions. The site software is dated and not easily managed, and Lorie is exploring other options for better control. Commissioners were invited to make a “wish list” for a new site.

Regular Meeting: The next meeting of GJCAC will be Wednesday, Nov. 20 at 4:00 p.m. in the Hospitality Suite. This will be a combined November-December meeting.

As there was no further business, Lancer declared the meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy M. Dyrud