

MINUTES

Grand Junction Commission on Arts and Culture (GJCAC) Wednesday, August 27, 2025 – Lincoln Park Hospitality Suite

Commissioners Present: Robbie Breaux (Chair), Julie Matthews (Vice Chair), Pamela Blythe, Laurel Cole, Kristin Mercer, Libbie Early, Amy Wall

Commissioners Absent: Hank Braxtan, Dora Fang, Nora Hughes, Porcia Silverberg, Cynthia Zaitz,

Others Present: Haley Van Camp, Jonathan Wheatley, guests Trisha and Henry with Hilltop

Chair Robbie Breaux called the meeting to order at 4:39 p.m. followed by brief introductions of all in attendance. Robbie suggested an amendment to the agenda to add an item about having a booth at the upcoming Downtown Art Festival and there was a consensus to add the item. Julie Matthews moved to approve the July 23 meeting minutes, the motion was seconded by Pamela Blythe, and the motion passed unanimously.

BUSINESS

Hannah Key, Communications and Engagement Supervisor for the City of Grand Junction, gave an overview of the 2026 City Calendar project and the photography submissions. Final photography selections will be made based on input from the GJCAC in the survey that was sent out and calendars will be printed and distributed before the end of the year.

Brief discussion was had regarding the provided resolution draft with amended bylaws recognizing the council liaison as a voting member. Libbie Early moved to approve the resolution and amended bylaws and Pamela seconded. It was noted that the name of the Commission listed in the resolution was slightly different than how it's presented in other documents, (Grand Junction Arts Commission vs. Grand Junction Commission on Arts and Culture) and that the name in the resolution should align with other official City documents. Libbie amended the motion to approve the resolution and amended bylaws pending changing the name to align with other official City documents. Pamela seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Discussion was had regarding the Creative Districts & Creative Industries section of the Strategic Cultural Plan. Robbie provided an update on behalf of Grand Valley Creative Alliance that they are unable to take on culture week as mentioned in the plan. Brief discussion was also had about how the DEI training action item could be addressed. It was also mentioned it would be helpful to have a spreadsheet with the goals and action items to keep track of progress, similar to past years. Discussion was also had about how to improve the next Strategic Cultural Plan such as defining clear strategies, action items, and how to implement them. It was also discussed it would work well if the structure was similar to the City's Strategic Plan. Additionally, ideas were discussed on how to promote how Grand Junction is maintaining an effective, positive image of the role of the arts (section goal) including posting information from local findings of the Economic Impact Report (AEP6) from Americans for the Arts to the GJCAC Facebook page.

Brief discussion was had regarding having a booth at the upcoming Downtown Art Festival during the Artist Expo October 4. Haley will send an email out to the GJCAC to see who all is available and interested in staffing the booth and will follow up before the September meeting.

CITY STAFF REPORTS/UPDATES

Haley provided an update from Alex Bond, the artist creating the Superbloom artwork for the 24.5 and Four Canyons Parkway roundabout. As Alex is working on refining the color palette for the piece, he wanted to offer the option of using a blend of patina and paint to enhance the industrial charm of the materials. There was brief discussion that the piece was initially recommended due to the colorful nature of the piece and because it was different from the many industrial-type artworks in Grand Junction. There was a consensus for the artist to move forward with the original color palette noting that the colors could be muted slightly while still keeping the sculpture painted.

The Commission reviewed three new exhibit proposals for the Public Art Exhibit program and there was a consensus to move forward with all three artists and have them added to the rotating list.

Haley also gave a brief update that she is working on a partnership with D51 to display student artwork on the second floor of City Hall. She also provided an update that the CCI x GJ Summit community art piece was installed in the hallway of City Hall near the revolving doors.

Discussion was had regarding the redistribution of funds from a grant recipient unable to complete their project. There was a consensus to redistribute the funds to the top two highest scored organizations that had not received full funding so that they are fully funded, and to go down the list to the next highest scored organization if the initial two organizations are not able to use the funds.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

There were no new grant evaluations to be presented and as there was no further business, Pamela moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:04 p.m. Amy Wall seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Haley Van Camp