

MINUTES

Grand Junction Commission on Arts and Culture (GJCAC) Wednesday, September 24, 2025 – Lincoln Park Hospitality Suite

Commissioners Present: Robbie Breaux (Chair), Julie Matthews (Vice Chair), Pamela Blythe, Hank Braxtan, Laurel Cole, Libbie Early, Dora Fang, Kristin Mercer, Amy Wall, Cynthia Zaitz (via TEAMS)

Commissioners Absent: Nora Hughes, Porcia Silverberg

Others Present: Haley Van Camp, Shane and Trisha from Hilltop

Chair Robbie Breaux called the meeting to order at 4:33 p.m. followed by brief introductions of all in attendance. A suggestion was made to amend the August 27 meeting minutes to include there was discussion around the next strategic cultural plan and potential strategic planning training for GJCAC members to participate in ahead of the planning process. Jonathan will look into this possibility. Pamela moved to approve the August 27 meeting minutes with this amendment, Julie seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

BUSINESS

Haley gave an update about the HAWK TSB Mural project and that the deadline was extended to October 3 with a special meeting on October 8. Haley also explained that the project gained good traction on Facebook and hopefully the extension will help with the submission of proposals.

Discussion was had regarding the Economic Impact section of the Strategic Cultural Plan. Robbie highlighted the completion of the Americans for the Arts AEP6 impact study, and mentioned a quality of life impact study had not yet been done. Brief discussion was had about the possibility of creating an Economic Development Toolkit as it was referenced in one of the strategies of the plan. Robbie mentioned GVCA completed a case study for a full-time Arts and Culture director/coordinator and it was presented to City Council, and that she plans to reach out to the DDA/GJ Creates to see if they have CCI data that could be utilized. Robbie mentioned the SCFD (Scientific and Cultural Facilities District) in Denver as an example of leveraging revenue strategy. It was noted GVCA workshops and BAM! Business Art Mentorship organizations both work on the strategy of creating business programs for artists. Discussion was had on the idea of allocating funds to help complete some of the action items as well as how the Parks and Rec department works on Arts and Culture tasks.

CITY STAFF REPORTS/UPDATES

Brief discussion was had on the two new Public Art Exhibit program proposals and artwork, Lionel Stone and Faye Rogers. It was brought up that some of the submitted images are poor quality or don't show the artwork well, and that artists can utilize the 970 West resources to help with photographs. Haley mentioned she could list this resource on the Public Art Exhibit page, encouraging artists to utilize it to have quality photos for submission. There was a consensus to approve both artists for the program.

Brief discussion was had about the GJCAC hosting a booth at the Downtown Art Festival Saturday, October 4. Robbie, Julie, Hank, and Cynthia all volunteered to help staff the booth throughout the day. Haley mentioned she will come up with materials for talking points as well as a booth activity for visitors to the booth, and coordinate with Robbie on when to pick up all materials.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Cynthia briefly talked about GJSO Evening Under the Stars event and how it was well attended, had a great selection of music (patriotic but not political), and overall had a positive and uplifting vibe.

Julie briefly talked about the GVT mural at the bus stop on 5th Street near the Library that was completed and revealed earlier this week and that it was very well received.

Discussion was had regarding members contacting past and present grant recipients and invite them to attend City Council meetings and speak on how the grant funds have benefitted them and to thank Councilmembers for their past support during the public comment section.

Robbie highlighted the information on upcoming GJCAC supported events on the agenda and also reminded everyone about the Arts & Humanities Proclamation on Oct 1.

As there was no further business, there was a consensus to adjourn the meeting at 6:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Haley Van Camp