

MINUTES

Grand Junction Commission on Arts and Culture (GJCAC) Wednesday, February 25, 2026 – Lincoln Park Hospitality Suite

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

Commissioners Absent: Porcia Silverberg

Others Present: Bill Lebach, TJ Smith, Gilberto Ramirez Macias, Haley Van Camp, Jonathan Wheatley, guests from Hilltop

Chair Robbie Breaux called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. and brief introductions were made.

Pamela Blythe moved to approve the January 28, 2026 meeting minutes. Libbie Early seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

BUSINESS

Haley Van Camp presented a matrix with three funding scenarios for the GJCAC to determine funding allocations for the 2026-27 GJCAC Funding Program. After some discussion and adjustments to the funding scenarios, Cynthia Zaitz moved to approve the tiered funding scenario with the adjustments as noted, Libbie seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Recusals: Robbie Breaux – The Art Center, Grand Valley Creative Alliance, GJ Creates
Libbie Early – Colorado National Monument Association
Kristin Mercer – Colorado West Ballet, Theatre Project of GJ
TJ Smith – EUREKA! McConnell Science Museum
Amy Wall – Colorado West Ballet, Theatre Project of GJ, Riverside Education Centers, Grand Junction Toast Masters

With the ending of Chair and Vice Chair first terms for Robbie Breaux and Julie Matthews, Cynthia moved to elect Robbie Breaux as Chair and Julie Matthews as Vice Chair to each serve a second term. Pamela seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Haley provided information on the City securing funds for a Conex box mural at Watson Island, and proposed the option to offer the mural opportunity to Adam Cross. His proposed artwork had previously been approved by the GJCAC during the Conex box project last year but was unable to be completed due to the grant deadline for the project funds ended before they could be used. Julie moved to offer the opportunity to Adam Cross, Libbie seconded, and the motion passed unanimously. In case more funds are secured for additional Conex box murals, Julie moved to approve City staff use the remaining ranked artists' proposals that had been previously approved by the GJCAC for the 2025 Conex box project to be offered the opportunity to paint if the opportunity arises. Cynthia seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

CITY STAFF REPORTS/UPDATES

Haley provided an update on the CRC Calls for Artists and that after the five remaining calls closed on February 22, there were 182 total submissions. The City CRC team will review all proposals, remove any

that do not fit the project, and bring the remaining to the GJCAC for recommendation during the March 12 special meeting and March 25 regular meeting.

Brief discussion was had regarding two new proposals submitted to the Public Art Exhibit program by Jack den Hartog and Sandra McGuire to be put on the rotating list. Cynthia moved to approve Jack den Hartog with the exception of artwork that portrayed copyrighted material. Julie seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Cynthia moved to approve Sandra McGuire, Libbie seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Haley presented a draft of the 2025 GJCAC Annual Report that outlined the 2025 accomplishments of the GJCAC that will be sent to City Council. Haley mentioned some of numbers of the Funding Program were not final and would be finalized by the end of March when the current cycle ends, before sending to City Council. Minor corrections were given including replacing "Grant Program" with "Funding Program." Cynthia moved to approve the report with the discussed corrections. Pamela seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Jonathan mentioned the GJCAC letter regarding the Public Art Fund had been sent to City Council and was being reviewed by the Finance Department, and an update would be provided soon.

Haley mentioned she would send out a Working Groups form for the GJCAC to fill out and identify which groups they would like to be a part of. The GJCAC expressed interest in creating a subcommittee to review the GJCAC Bylaws, and Haley will include a place where the GJCAC can indicate interest in being a part of the subcommittee on the Working Groups form. There was also interest in a GJCAC specific tablecloth and pens for when the GJCAC tables at events, etc.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Cynthia also mentioned a few items to be brought to future meetings for discussion including a meeting for discussion of the funding matrix before presentations in future cycles, clarification on not funding scholarships within the funding program, presenting to City Council on the impact of the arts, and revisit ideas on a Sculpture Garden in Grand Junction. Brief discussion was had on the Sculpture Garden. Cynthia moved that the GJCAC explore the support of a Sculpture Garden, explore funding opportunities for the Sculpture Garden, and create a Sculpture Garden Subcommittee. Pamela seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

As there was no further business, Cynthia moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:00 p.m., Libbie seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Haley Van Camp