

MINUTES

Grand Junction Commission on Arts and Culture (GJCAC) Wednesday, January 28, 2026 – Lincoln Park Hospitality Suite

Commissioners Present: Robbie Breaux (Chair), Julie Matthews (Vice Chair), Pamela Blythe, Libbie Early, Dora Fang, City Councilmember Laurel Lutz, Kristin Mercer, Porcia Silverberg, Cynthia Zaitz

Commissioners Absent: Hank Braxtan, Amy Wall

Others Present: Bill Lebach, Haley Van Camp, Jonathan Wheatley, Tricia Sterns and guests with Hilltop

Chair Robbie Breaux called the meeting to order at 4:33 p.m. Brief introductions were made as there were guests present, and a request for more murals around town was made during public comments.

Libbie Early moved to approve the October 22 and December 11, 2025, meeting minutes. Cynthia Zaitz seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

BUSINESS

Discussion was had regarding the proposal of invited artist Alex Bond for artwork of the Four Canyons Parkway Phase II Project. Haley Van Camp noted that there is a chance stamped PE drawings will be required for this project. This has been communicated to Alex, and he may need to adjust the proposed budget by potentially scaling back the art project to accommodate for the PE drawing expenses. Cynthia moved to approve Alex Bond's proposal as presented with the caveat that the artist will work with City Staff including Engineering to amend the proposal as needed. Porcia Silverberg seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

CITY STAFF REPORTS/UPDATES

Haley gave an update regarding the City Hall Fountain that used to be in front of City Hall. Based on City Staff input, two proposed locations were brought to the Commission: the roundabout at 23 Road and G Road, or Parks Operations on High Country Court. Discussion was had regarding both options. Pamela Blythe moved to have the fountain relocated to Parks Operations and for City Staff in landscape architecture and horticulture to redesign and envision the installation. Kristin Mercer seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Haley gave a brief update on the current Calls for Artists that are open for the Community Recreation Center (CRC) 1% for the Arts projects noting that the Acoustic Panel Artwork call deadline was coming up February 8. Proposals will be sent to the Commission the week of February 16, and a recommendation will be made at a special meeting on either February 23 or 24 before presentations for the GJCAC Funding Program. The deadline for the other five Calls for Artists for the CRC is February 22. Proposals for the Recognition Wall Artwork and Story Wall artwork will be sent to the Commission the week of March 2 and a recommendation will be made at a special meeting on Thursday, March 12 at 4:30 p.m. Proposals for the CRC Murals will be sent to the Commission by Wednesday, March 18 and a recommendation will be made at the regular GJCAC meeting on Wednesday, March 25 at 4:30 p.m.

Haley provided an update on the artistic Monument Trail Shelter. After meeting with the artist and Engineering, new engineering requirements were put in the place for the project to ensure the shelter would be structurally stable and safe. As the artist was not comfortable with completing the project with the new requirements, a decision was made to move forward with the next proposal that was submitted during the original call by artist Jeff Bates.

Discussion was had regarding a statement by artist Jeffrey Pickett who had submitted a proposal of AI generated artwork to the Public Art Exhibit program in 2025. After much discussion on AI-generated artwork, Cynthia moved to not accept Jeffrey Pickett's proposal at this time. Libbie seconded the motion, and the vote passed with 5 in favor, none opposed, and 4 abstaining. The Commission noted they are open to the artist demonstrating their work at a future meeting, potentially in April.

There was brief discussion on the proposal by John Edwards for the Public Art Exhibit program. Pamela moved to approve the proposal, Cynthia seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Haley briefly went over the process for 2026-27 cycle of the GJCAC Funding Program, noting that the deadline for applications is February 1, and applications will be distributed the week of February 2. Applicant presentations will be held on February 23 and 24 at 4 p.m. at the Hospitality Suite with decisions made at the regular meeting on February 25 at 4:30 p.m. It was also noted that more information regarding Conflict of Interest for the program will be sent out via email.

Discussion was had regarding clarification on one of the requirements of the Funding Program as organizations interested in applying requested further information on the statement that the program does not fund fundraisers. The Commission came to consensus that this meant it does not fund fundraising events themselves, such as galas, etc.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Brief discussion was had on the intent of the Commission's 1% for the Arts Letter for City Council. Councilmember Laurel Lutz offered to bring the letter to an upcoming City Council workshop.

Libbie briefly discussed the REC Readers to the Theater and Colorado National Monument Artist in Park projects supported by the GJCAC funding program and that overall they were both successful, despite unforeseen challenges.

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