

MINUTES
Grand Junction Commission on Arts and Culture (GJCAC)
Wednesday, January 22, 2014, Hospitality Suite, Lincoln Park

Commissioners Present: Randall Cupp, Judy Dyrud, Charity Finnigsmier, Diane Kress Hower, Darcy Johnson, Lancer Livermont, Emily Pfeifer

Commissioners Absent: Miranda Ashman, Jeremy Franklin, Gisela Flanigan, Jennifer Hancock

Others Present: Traci Wieland

Chair Lancer Livermont called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m. When a quorum of Commissioners was reached Randall Cupp moved to approve the minutes of the Nov. 20 meeting without change. Diane Hower seconded, and the minutes were approved unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Final Grant Presentation, High Desert Opera, GJCAC grant \$2500: Marnie Werner gave a written report and said the success of *Les Miserables* enabled the Opera to pay expenses from ticket sales for the first time. With 150 people at the audition and strong community interest they increased performances from 2 to 4, all well attended. Marnie asked GJCAC to help keep rates at the Avalon Theatre affordable.

Final Grant Presentation, Riverside Educational Center, GJCAC grant \$2500: Joy Hudak showed slides and flyers about the “Look What I Did” show. GJCAC funding supported local professional artists in teaching their specialties. The resulting show included students’ visual art projects, Shakespearean poetry and guitar and percussion performances. Joy gave their written report to Traci Wieland.

Final Grant Presentation, Chatfield Elementary, GJCAC grant \$1500: Jacqueline Stapher reported on the Cheetah Jungle Arts Camp. Invitations went to Pear Park and Rocky Mountain Elementary, but only Chatfield students attended. Lessons covered batik, drawing/painting, performing arts and pottery. Nearly all students surveyed wanted to return next year. A poster thanking GJCAC went missing.

Final Grant Presentation, Colorado Mesa University, GJCAC grant \$2000: Eli Marco showed a documentary video about the CO2 poster show. The GJCAC grant funded a poster to be sent as a thank-you to participating designers. Creating the poster taught the CMU design students about quality papers, typography and letterpress printing. Each Commissioner will be given a copy in colors of their choice.

Final Grant Presentation, Grand Junction Symphony Orchestra (GJSO), GJCAC grant \$3000: Kelly Anderson distributed a report of initiatives funded in part by GJCAC. They hired 2 college interns for the office, marketing and special events. The Instrument Petting Zoo taught children aged 2-8 to play on an orchestral instrument. Keys to the City placed 4 pianos on Main St. for free use and offered 2 short vocal-instrumental concerts. The study guide was dropped and \$500 was returned to GJCAC.

Final Grant Presentation, Rocky Mountain PBS, GJCAC grant \$3000: Greg Mikolai showed one of 12 “Western Bounty” public service spots funded by GJCAC. They feature a single artist or organization and highlight the economic benefits of the arts in the Grand Valley. Greg said some story ideas have come from GJCAC members and Commissioner ideas are always welcome.

Avalon Theatre Project: City Councilman Bennett Boeschstein said ~\$7 million of the required \$8.2 million has been raised and asked Commissioners to donate any amount they can. Construction is on schedule. Avalon will open in summer with a film series. Organizers hope to secure live performances.

Horizon Drive: Jay Moss said the North Avenue Owners Association and Horizon Drive Business Improvement District want to add public art and are investigating funding. Permanent and rotating art on new medians and roundabouts with themes like the horses on the I-70 underpass, peaches, the National

Monument, and the Grand Mesa may inspire visits to other points of interest. The District members requested GJCAC's help in coordinating the art. Mr. Boeschstein said roundabout construction has a 1% for the Arts commitment, and Lancer said we would be happy to facilitate these 1% projects as we have for other area roundabouts. Commissioners can find more information at HorizonDriveDistrict.com.

OLD BUSINESS

Champion of the Arts: The winners' reception was well attended. The Champion of the Arts presentation and Annual Report to City Council received favorable comments from Council members. Lancer thanked the other Commissioners for attending, and they thanked him for a fine presentation.

Grant Program Update: Traci distributed the timeline for upcoming grant submissions, questions, presentations and decisions. She said the first training workshop went well and questions reflected attendees' inexperience with grants and forms. She recommended more workshops in the future.

Traci asked Commissioners to encourage others to apply for 2 open seats on GJCAC. She said Lorie Gregor is working from home and can be reached by email as she completes her recovery from surgery.

REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rocky Mountain PBS: Emily Pfeifer said the Western Bounty spots were very good and covered a wide variety of subjects. Only 7 of the 12 were posted online, which will be fixed. She suggested adding the artist's name on a subtitle throughout to promote the artist to viewers who might miss the beginning.

Centennial Band: Judy Dyrud attended another rehearsal to hear the second set of grant-funded music, which will be performed March 16. This set drew from well-known family film scores in symphonic styles. Also included was a fanfare as avant-garde as anything Judy had heard here. Both types fulfilled the stated goals of the grant to broaden the stylistic exposure of the Band and their audience.

High Desert Opera: Randall said *Les Miserables* was a success, with many actors and a large orchestra. The Grand Junction High School venue offered too few open restrooms, and sound was occasionally uneven. Charity Finnigsmier said the large-scale, lengthy production was educational for the community.

Riverside Educational Center: Lancer had a positive impression overall. He said the percussion section led by Talking Rhythms was very good and he was pleasantly surprised by the high quality of some of the 2- and 3-dimensional student artworks.

Grand Junction Symphony Orchestra: Lancer said GJSO turned in evaluations of the interns. He said the Petting Zoo could have been chaotic but was very structured and organized. Also, Keys to the City could have been a disaster because of weather etc. but went well and was great for the city. He said GJSO is great at tagging onto bigger things like the March of Dimes walk and very good at grant reporting.

New Grant Meeting Schedule: Feb. 7: New grant applications delivered

Feb. 14: Questions about them due to Lorie (answers emailed by Feb. 19)

Feb. 24, 4:00 p.m, Hospitality Suite: Grant presentations

Feb. 25, 4:00 p.m, Hospitality Suite: Grant presentations

Feb. 26, 4:00 p.m., Hospitality Suite: Grant decisions

As there was no further business, Lancer declared the meeting adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy M. Dyrud