

## MINUTES

### Grand Junction Commission on Arts and Culture (GJCAC) Wednesday, November 20, 2013, Hospitality Suite, Lincoln Park

**Commissioners Present:** Miranda Ashman, Randall Cupp, Judy Dyrud, Charity Finnigsmier, Jeremy Franklin, Gisela Flanigan, Jennifer Hancock, Diane Kress Hower, Darcy Johnson, Lancer Livermont, Emily Pfeifer

**Others Present:** Lorie Gregor, Traci Wieland

Chair Lancer Livermont called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m. Miranda Ashman moved to approve the minutes of the Oct. 23 meeting without change. Gisela Flanigan seconded, and the minutes were approved unanimously.

### NEW BUSINESS

**Grant Presentation, Mesa County Public Library Culture Fest, GJCAC grant \$1100:** Karen Kllanxhja said the 6<sup>th</sup> annual Culture Fest Nov. 1-2 exceeded expectations. More than 2100 people filled the main exhibit hallway and Community Room, a 67% increase over last year. The Friday night art opening had a Garfield Estates wine tasting, a live jazz duo, and presentation of awards by juror Justin Nordine, who won last year's first prize. The Saturday Culture Fest included multicultural food, exhibits and performers of music and dance from many countries.

**Final Grant Presentation, Grand Valley Art Students League Open Studios, GJCAC grant \$3000:** Janet Kelleher thanked GJCAC for the grant to Downtown Partnership for the Art & Jazz Festival, where her group hosted the Main Street Art School. Regarding Open Studios, she said ~20 people attended the demonstrations and discussions with working artists each day. Composition, focal points, and other topics were covered. Artists were able to network with each other. The League also created a web site where 70 artists have signed up to promote their own events.

**Final Grant Presentation, Plateau Valley Friends of the Library Thousand Cranes Mural, GJCAC grant \$2000:** Shannon Courier thanked GJCAC for the grant, which funded the marquetry mural created from wood pieces cut in part from trees on the grounds of the old Mesa County library administration building. The mural hangs in the new Central Library Community Room and was formally presented at the Nov. 1 art opening. Dan Courier described the 3000-hour process of making the mural and showed some of the many drawings involved.

**Final Grant Presentation, KAFM Arts & Entertainment Calendar, GJCAC grant \$4000:** Tedi Gillespie said GJCAC has funded the calendar for several years as a community resource. The calendar is run by staffers and volunteers, who get training in professional radio production. It is open to all Grand Valley cultural events and is played 6 times daily to provide publicity for local artists including several other GJCAC grantees. Artists and organizers submit events on the KAFM website, where they can also post photos and links to their own websites. Staff filter out non-cultural events and notify those applicants why their piece was rejected. Tedi played a sample calendar.

**Final Grant Presentation, Western Colorado Writers Forum Literary Festival, GJCAC grant \$4000:** Sandy Dorr said our grant put the festival into motion. They received other donations sufficient to give scholarships to the Oct. 11-13 workshops. She will send a written financial report to GJCAC. At the festival ~90 people heard internationally known authors give practical insights on writing as a profession. Volunteers spent 1160 hours transporting authors and helping with food

service, registration and book sales. Some attendees had difficulties with their online registration. Post-workshop evaluations were positive. Jennifer Hancock got the highest rating of all the authors.

**Avalon Theatre:** Debbie Kavolik said the Avalon Theatre Foundation wanted GJCAC to be more involved in raising funds for the project. She distributed flyers for naming rights and film events. They have already pitched to local artists the idea of decorating old Avalon theatre seats, to little response. Gisela asked them to email flyers to GJCAC for us to post on Facebook. Debbie asked the Commissioners to generate ideas for a tour, exhibit, or cocktail party with GJCAC as cosponsor.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

**Future exhibits:** Lorie Gregor said she will send notices of the 2014 art exhibits at City Hall, Two Rivers and Tiara Rado. A photographer from *The Daily Sentinel* will attend each opening reception. A call for submissions with a sports theme has been posted for Tiara Rado. Large crowds are expected at the Jan. 10 opening reception for the Colorado National Monument exhibit. Lorie will be out for surgery in mid-January and requested coverage for exhibition changeouts at the 3 venues. She will follow with emails detailing the schedule of volunteer Commissioners. She requested that all attend the Champion of the Arts reception and City Council meeting Jan. 15. The reception will be 6:00-6:45 p.m. followed by presentation of awards at the 7:00 p.m. meeting.

**Les Miserables:** Lorie said High Desert Opera is providing two \$29 tickets per Commissioner for any 7:00 p.m. performance Dec. 31, Jan. 3, Jan. 4 or Jan. 11. Several Commissioners expressed interest in attending as a group.

**All Things Art:** Lorie has received the small counter stands for All Things Art cards. QR codes on the cards will direct gallery visitors to the GJCAC website. Lorie asked Marketing Committee members to stay after adjournment to take 7 each and deliver to 7 locations on our list.

**Website:** The GJCAC website upgrade is complete with clip art replaced by photos of local art and events. Lorie can change the photos anytime. An interactive map locates the city's public art pieces. Each time the site is visited one artist or organization is featured. Lorie said the galleries and artists on the website were contacted for updates. Diane Hower said she was not; Lorie will look into this. Lorie said a photo of Charity Finnismier can be added to the new Commission photo on the site.

**Grant Writing Workshop:** GJCAC grant writing classes will be Dec. 17 (Lorie) and Jan. 14 (Traci).

**Champion of the Arts:** The Commission reviewed individual and organizational nominees for Champion of the Arts awards. Award criteria were discussed. At Gisela's request, Lorie agreed to specify "for profit or non-profit" organizations in next year's Call for Nominations. Next the nominating letters were discussed. Charity moved to name Super Rad as the organizational Champion of the Arts, Miranda seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Diane moved to select 2 individual Champions this year if possible within our budget, Judy Dyrud seconded and it passed unanimously. Miranda moved to name Vera Mulder as the first individual Champion of the Arts, Randall seconded and the motion passed with 9 Commissioners in favor and 2 opposed. Diane moved to name Lois and Edward Gardner as the second individual Champions, Miranda seconded and it passed unanimously. Lorie showed slides of the 47 artworks submitted for consideration as prizes. The Commissioners selected an Ellen Dean painting to be awarded to Super Rad, a Diana Woods sculpture for Vera Mulder, and a Wendy Vidlock painting for Mr. and Mrs. Gardner.

## **REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Plateau Valley Friends of the Library:** Diane reported that on Nov. 1 ~25 people were at the Mesa County Library art opening when the crane mural was officially presented. GJCAC was not mentioned. A library staffer announced incorrectly that the mural was an in-kind donation from the library. A plaque near the mural names GJCAC but was obscured by other items that evening. Diane had communication problems with the Plateau Valley Friends, and no website links or publicity for the unveiling were offered. However, the mural is a beautiful piece for the community to enjoy.

**Mesa County Public Library Culture Fest:** Judy reported a similar experience. Communication problems with Library contacts may have occurred because our grant was requested and administered by the fundraising Development department but the Culture Fest and its publicity were not. However, the Culture Fest was a rousing success and all library staff were wearing tee shirts with GJCAC listed on the back.

**Avalon Theatre:** After discussing the earlier presentation, the Commissioners agreed GJCAC should support the project, which will receive significant City funds, by promoting an event planned and run by Avalon Foundation people. We can also do a Call for Artists if they ask us.

**Regular Meeting:** The next meeting of GJCAC will be Wednesday, Jan. 22 at 4:00 p.m. in the Hospitality Suite.

As there was no further business, Lancer declared the meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy M. Dyrud