GRAND JUNCTION COMMISSION ON ARTS AND CULTURE MINUTES Wednesday, July 26, 1995

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Paula Andrews Ann Sanders

Richard Leinaweaver Janet Terry

Phil Rogers

COMMISSIONERS EXCUSED: Ursula Hemmerich Karen Kiefer

Jeanne Killgore Peter Ivanov

OTHERS PRESENT: Rebecca Grady (Performing Arts Conservatory), Kristen Dillon (Mesa County Civic Forum), Joann Mills and Theresa Williamson (muralists), Barb Bowman (VCB), Jane Quimby (CO Council on the Arts), Ralph Powers, Bonnie Hensen, Allison Sarmo (Cultural Arts Coordinator).

The regular meeting of the Grand Junction Commission on Arts and Culture was held at 4:00 p.m. on the above date. Chair Richard Leinaweaver called the meeting to order. As there were no additions or corrections to the meeting agenda or to the minutes of the previous meeting of June 28, 1995, he declared the agenda and minutes approved as written.

APPOINTMENTS: Rebecca Grady appeared before the Commission to present brochures and information about the new Performing Arts Conservatory program at the Western Colorado Center for the Arts. She described the summer dance and theater classes for children as well as the upcoming community theater season for 1995-1996. She explained the program's budget and financial needs, and answered questions.

Kristen Dillon, director of the Mesa County Civic Forum, showed the Commission the video produced by the Community Health Task Force. The video referenced "arts and recreation" as one of five top areas of need that must be addressed in order to make Mesa County a health community, pointing out that "most health issues are socially related." It was noted that the arts are sometimes forgotten in favor of discussing such recreational/health related concerns as fitness, sports and teen programs. Dillon told the Commission about the September 5 kickoff meeting which will begin the second phase of the community health study, and invited the Commissioners to participate in the process, which several members will do. The consensus of the Commission was to direct a letter to the Community Health Task Force, in care of Carolyn Bruce at St. Mary's Hospital, expressing the concern that the arts not be overlooked in lieu of the health aspects of recreation and other issues.

Sarmo noted that no ideas for artist-inspired community development and planning projects had been submitted to the Commission in response to the letter mailed to 400 local artists regarding the "Arts in Community" grant program funded by the Colorado Council on the Arts.

Barb Bowman of the Grand Junction Visitors and Convention Bureau appeared before the Commission to discuss the possibility of having the 1996 Colorado Arts Consortium's annual conference in Grand Junction. Sarmo explained that the Consortium had sent a "Request for Proposals" with a deadline of September 1, 1995, and that one of the requirements is \$3000-\$4000 in local cash contributions to help offset conference costs. Sarmo stated that this year's September conference in Steamboat Springs is being funded in part with donations of \$1000 from the Steamboat Springs Ski Corporation, \$1000 from the Chamber of Commerce, and \$1000 from Public Service Company, as well as a dinner hosted by the Steamboat Springs Art Council. Bowman explained that the policy of the Visitors and Convention Bureau is not to "buy" conventions, but that the VCB could help with logistics, finding accommodations and meeting sites, and presentation of the proposal. Sanders suggested appointing a committee to investigate this idea and report back to the Commission at their next meeting. Leinaweaver, Sanders, and Sarmo volunteered to serve on this committee and a meeting was scheduled for 1:00 p.m. Friday, July 28.

Joann Mills and Theresa Williamson spoke to the Commission about various murals they have painted around Grand Junction. Mills noted potential problems with the sign code if a mural includes the name of the business on which it appears. Sanders suggested involving school children in the proposed mural project in hopes of eliminating possible graffiti problems. Mills noted that the two murals she did at the Quincy Bar took about one hundred hours. The consensus of the Commission was to have the Mural Committee further research the proposed project and decide how to proceed.

Jane Quimby, a board member of the Colorado Council on the Arts brought several newsletters and other information to the Commission for their files. She said the Council adopted a resolution to send to the U. S. Congress and Senate advocating retaining full funding of the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities. Quimby recommended doing some political advocacy because cuts in the NEA's budget will mean cuts in the Council's budget and, therefore, cuts in the grant funding the Council can offer to local arts agencies. She noted a new on-line network for the arts and a book recommended by Fran Holden, director of the Council, entitled Art Lessons: Learning from the Rise and Fall of Arts Funding.

Sanders moved and Andrews seconded that the minutes note the Commission mourns the passing of Michael Smedley, a member of the Commission from 1991-1994, and of Rolf Hemmerich, the husband of Commissioner Ursula Hemmerich, and that condolence cards be sent to both families. The motion carried unanimously. The consensus of the Commission was to nominate Michael Smedley for the Colorado Arts Consortium's "Arts Are the Heart" Award.

REPORTS: Sarmo distributed the Cultural Arts Coordinator's Report and the Financial Report for the month of July. Leinaweaver reported that the Media Committee met with KREX-TV officials and that a one and a half minute news spot on cultural events will be run four time each week. KREX will secure sponsors. Andrews and Terry had to leave the meeting at 6:00 p.m.

Artwork submitted by local artists for use on the cover of future community cultural event calendars was reviewed, but the Commission decided none of the work sent in was appropriate. As there was no further business to come before the board, the Chair declared the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Allison Cowan Sarmo, Cultural Arts Coordinator