

**GRAND JUNCTION COMMISSION ON ARTS AND CULTURE
MINUTES**

Wednesday, October 25, 1995

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Paula Andrews Richard Leinaweaver
 Ursula Hemmerich Phil Rogers
 Karen Kiefer Ann Sanders
 Jeanne Killgore Janet Terry

COMMISSIONERS EXCUSED: Peter Ivanov

OTHERS PRESENT: Diana Robertson (Western Colo. Center for the Arts), Allison Sarmo.

The regular meeting of the Grand Junction Commission on Arts and Culture was held on the above date. Chair Richard Leinaweaver called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m., and amended the agenda of the meeting to include Diana Robertson.

ARTS EDUCATION IN THE SCHOOLS: Diana Robertson with the Western Colorado Center for the Arts reported on the "Fireside Chat" with the School District 51 Board the previous evening. She stated that they had been receptive to discussing additional arts education in the schools. She presented a proposal outlining the goal of establishing "a centrally located arts education center for students of District 51" which individual schools could send their students to for art instruction. She noted the need for good teacher training, equipment, and "fully operating, functional studios." Robertson said the first step would be to assess the needs of the district and desires of the parents, and that the district would undertake such a study. A meeting with School Superintendent George Straface was recommended and Robertson, Sarmo, Killgore, Andrews, and Kiefer will attend, if possible.

As there were no additions or corrections to the minutes of the previous meeting on September 27, 1995, the chair declared them approved as written. Both items on the agenda under "Old Business" were deferred until the next meeting. Leinaweaver noted an anonymous letter he received from a local resident stating that Grand Junction did not need any additional arts and culture.

CULTURAL ARTS COORDINATOR'S REPORT: Sarmo distributed her monthly report of activity in October and the financial report for expenditures to date. Sarmo stated that she had typed and mailed a final report form to all organizations which received Commission funding for events in 1995, with instructions to complete the form and return by Dec. 1. A letter was read from the Colorado Arts Consortium thanking the Commission for their nomination of Michael Smedley for the Arts Are The Heart Award, but saying that he had not been chosen.

REPORTS: Rogers and Kiefer reported that the recent meeting at the Art Center with the Colorado Council on the Arts had been very productive. Kiefer noted that several attendees suggested the need for a local artist guild or network, an idea which has been tried several times but usually does not last long. Sarmo noted that the JABOA organization is trying to fill that need. Sarmo and Leinaweaver reported on the recent presentation to the City Council about the *Grand Junction Strategic Cultural Plan* outlining specific recommendations the

Commission has accomplished to date. Sarmo noted that arts education should be a high priority, particularly in allocating grant funding to local organizations.

The chair appointed the following committee chairpersons: ArtReach Committee - Phil Rogers, Budget and Finance Committee - Karen Kiefer, Business in the Arts Committee - Paula Andrews, Media Committee - Peter Ivanov, Mural Committee - Jeanne Killgore. Killgore recommended that the Mural Committee be expanded to include the man who painted the murals at Laser Storm.

Kiefer moved, and Hemmerich seconded, that the Commission make available up to \$1000 to assist School District 51 with the proposed feasibility study to research additional arts curriculum in the schools. After discussion, the motion carried, Sanders opposed.

Sarmo explained the up-coming national teleconference *Reasons and Resources: Essential Strategies in Arts Education* which the Commission had been asked to host in Grand Junction. Sarmo noted that it would take place November 14 at 5:00 p.m. at Mesa State College. Speakers and invitees were discussed. Sanders moved, and Andrews seconded, that a budget of up to \$300 be approved for teleconference expenses. The motion carried unanimously. Sarmo also noted that the Commission can tape the teleconference.

Sarmo reported that the Commission's nominee, Bill Robinson, will be given the Governor's Award for Excellence in the Arts. The award will be presented at a reception in Denver March 6, 1996. The Commission discussed the possibility of having a reception for Robinson in Grand Junction in honor of the award, and various dates and options were mentioned. The consensus was to give a reception immediately prior to the next play at Mesa State College ("Macbeth" - December 7-9). Sanders will discuss this idea with Fine Arts Chairman Michael Gerlach and Peter Ivanov, who is directing the play.

As there was no further business to come before the Commission, the chair declared the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Allison Cowan Sarmo
Cultural Arts Coordinator