

GRAND JUNCTION COMMISSION ON ARTS AND CULTURE

MINUTES

Wednesday, December 20, 1995

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Karen Kiefer
Jeanne Killgore
Peter Ivanov
Richard Leinaweaver
Phil Rogers
Ann Sanders

COMMISSIONERS EXCUSED: Paula Andrews, Ursula Hemmerich, and Janet Terry.

OTHERS PRESENT: Ralph Powers, Trend Benders, and Allison Sarmo, Coordinator.

The regular meeting of the Commission on Arts and Culture was held on the above date. Chair Richard Leinaweaver called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. As there were no additions or corrections to the minutes of the previous meeting, November 29, 1995, or to the agenda for this meeting, the chair declared them approved as written.

COOPERATION AND COLLABORATION: There was a discussion about the opportunity to encourage increased cooperation and coordination between the Art Center and the Museum of Western Colorado, as well as other major arts organizations. This idea was raised by Sandra Brown at the last Commission meeting because of the current turnover in executive directors at both the Center and Museum. The consensus of the Commission was to make this issue the focus of the January quarterly meeting of major arts organizations which the Commission and Art Center will be hosting. Sanders suggested inviting a nationally known speaker as well as all the board members of various arts groups. Kiefer recommended Bob Lynch, Executive Director of the National Association of Local Arts Agencies, the keynote speaker at the recent Colorado Arts Consortium conference. Sarmo will contact Lynch to see if he is planning a trip to Colorado in the near future and would come to Grand Junction.

CULTURAL ARTS COORDINATOR REPORT: The Cultural Arts Coordinator's Report for December was distributed. Sarmo noted that the financial report would be prepared at the end of the year. Sarmo also noted the draft summary of the Public Service Steamplant Reuse Study sent out with the agenda, stating that the study should be completed in the next three months, and that an artists business incubator/foundry has quickly emerged as the most practical use of the building, although how this would be financed has not been addressed.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING: A meeting to discuss arts education in the schools with Judy Thornburg, Principal Coordinator for School District 51, was noted for Monday, January 8, 1995 at 9:00 a.m. at the Emerson Building. Kiefer and Sarmo reported on the December 9 *Art Mind/Business Mind* Artists Workshop which was attended by 22 local artists. Sarmo reported sending out twenty packets of advertising materials to local schools and arts organizations about the *Arts and Prevention* Initiative ("The arts give kids better things to do than drugs") and that to date four organizations had agreed to sell advertising space to the Commission in their upcoming event programs and playbills. Updates and year-end reports from artists and arts groups which the Commission awarded funding to in 1995 were also reviewed. Sanders recommended adding all school art, music, and theater teachers to the cultural events calendar mailing list.

GRANTS TO ARTS ORGANIZATIONS: Sarmo reported that the Commission has been awarded a grant of \$3000 through the Public Service Company *Art With Energy* program to distribute to schools and arts organizations for art education programs in the local schools.

TREND BENDERS: Ralph Powers noted a lack of ideas and information involving the arts at the Community Health Assessment Trend Benders Tack Force meetings, saying that the Arts/Recreation Task Force is concentrating mainly on youth recreation issues. He asked how the arts could be better included in the study and suggested the possibility of a separate task force on art and culture. Sanders noted that the task force should be reminded that the initial work by the community health assessment survey found both arts and recreation issues were important and need to be addressed. Rogers and Powers reported on a recent meeting of all the Trend Benders Task Forces. Rogers distributed minutes from that meeting.

BUSINESS IN THE ARTS AWARD COMMITTEE: Killgore reported that Jeff Wendland from the Chamber of Commerce had declined the opportunity to continue to serve on the committee. Kiefer suggested contacting Jacquie Chappelle-Reid, Chamber Marketing Director. Killgore will schedule a committee meeting in early January to formulate recommendations for requesting artwork to be given as the awards, decide how the three award categories will be structured, and to draft letters to local artists asking for artwork and letters to local arts organizations asking for nominations.

PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD: Ivanov reported on a meeting of the Parks and Rec Board which he attended saying that board members expressed interest in the arts. He distributed a summary of the Canyon View Parks/Sports Arena Project. He recommended that rather than build a permanent amphitheater as planned at that park in phase two of the construction, a portable, trailered stage could be purchased for significantly less expense which could be moved to different parks as needed.

ACTION PLAN FOR 1996: Proposed projects and a tentative time schedule for 1996 were discussed. The consensus of the Commission was to update the *Sourcebook* in late spring and summer rather than in January, due to other projects early in the year, including Business in the Arts awards, grants to arts organizations, annual report to the City Council, quarterly meeting of major arts organizations, etc. Sarmo noted a need to finish updating the *Strategic Cultural Plan* in 1996, since most of the plan's recommendations have been accomplished.

A letter was read from Sandy Kappes regarding the annual Missoula Children's Theater production. Kappes suggested that the event needs to be undertaken by a nonprofit organization in 1996 rather than volunteers. The Commission recommended the DooZoo Children's Museum as a possible sponsor. A thank you letter was read from Bill Robinson. As there was no further business before the Commission, the chair adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Allison Cowan Sarmo
Cultural Arts Coordinator