

GRAND JUNCTION COMMISSION ON ARTS AND CULTURE
MINUTES
December 3, 1997

Commissioners Present: LeRoy Donegan Peter Ivanov
 Ursula Hemmerich Bill Reidy
 Karen Kiefer Priscilla Rupp
 Jeanne Killgore

Commissioners Absent: Phil Rogers, Bill Whaley
Others Present: Allison Sarmo

The regular meeting of the Grand Junction Commission on Arts and Culture for November and December (combined) was held on the above date. Chair Karen Kiefer called the meeting to order at 4:10 p.m. A motion was made by Ivanov, seconded by Killgore, to approve the minutes of the previous meeting held on October 22, 1997. The motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS: The Commission discussed presenting the *Economic Impacts of the Arts in the Grand Valley* study to local groups and clubs in conjunction with an updated slide presentation. The Coordinator noted that copies of the brochure were sent to all arts and cultural organizations, media, City Council, County Commissioners, as well as the boards of the Chamber, Visitors and Convention Bureau, Mesa County Economic Development Council, and Downtown Development Authority. The consensus was to mail copies of the brochure to area service clubs for their information but not offer to make presentations unless asked, and to give additional copies to the Chamber and MCEDC for their use.

NEW BUSINESS: Thank you letters were noted from the Brush and Palette Club, Advocates for Children's Enrichment, and Colorado West Dance for donations to their cultural events.

The Coordinator noted having sent a thank you letter to Ann Sanders and Mesa Repertory Dance for her donation of sixteen tickets to a recent dance concert, which the Commission then donated to Partners as part of the ArtReach program. The Coordinator suggested that although the ArtReach Committee has not developed an official distribution procedure for donated cultural events tickets yet, a letter should be sent to the organizations contacted in September to let them know the program is still being considered. The consensus was to send this follow-up letter.

The Commission discussed the Arts Education Roundtable held October 27 with Mesa County Valley School District 51 to develop an action plan for additional arts in the schools. The Coordinator noted that a follow-up meeting will be held in January to review the newly adopted *Colorado Model Content Standards for Visual Arts and Music*. The Commission discussed the idea of holding an Art Expo in 1998 at Two Rivers Convention Center similar to the Chamber of Commerce's Business Expo, where arts organizations and artists set up booths to display information about their activities, classes, artwork, etc., and performances are given by local talent. The Coordinator noted that if such an event occurs it will probably be up to the Commission to take the lead in organizing it and provide initial funding, some of which could be recovered with booth fees from the organizations and other presenters. The consensus was to pursue this project and appoint a committee at the January meeting.

Allocation of the funds remaining in the Commission's budget for donations to arts and cultural events, projects, and programs was discussed. A letter was read from the Musical Arts Association asking for additional funding for the Grand Junction Symphony's *Music in the Schools* program. The Symphony has presented over fifty concerts in local schools at a cost to the Symphony of \$4,970 for the \$35 stipends to participating musicians, for which the Commission already donated \$1,000. A list of concert dates, schools, and musician payments was included. The Commission agreed that this program has been very successful in bringing classical music experiences to numerous schools.

A letter was read from Colorado West Dance asking the Commission to purchase \$1,500 worth of tickets to be donated to deserving dance students and children for "An Intimate Evening of Classical Ballet" featuring principal dancers from the Joffery Ballet, American Ballet Theatre, New York City Ballet, Alvin Ailey, and the Pennsylvania Ballet. This will be the first time ballet dancers of this caliber perform in Grand Junction and ticket prices are \$20, \$30, and \$50. The Commission agreed that providing tickets to an event of this type for students who might not be able to afford them is a high priority for the Commission, and would like the tickets given out through all local dance studios and the college within certain Commission established guidelines.

A letter was read from the Western Colorado Center for the Arts asking for assistance in raising \$4,500 out of the total \$7000 needed to bring the artist Christo and his partner Jeanne-Claude to Grand Junction to attend the opening of an exhibit of his work at the Art Center and give a free public lecture. The importance of having Christo attend the exhibit was discussed but the Commission felt his fee and first class travel requirements were excessive.

The Coordinator presented a verbal request for financial support of the Art on the Corner Art and Jazz Festival, noting that the Commission has donated \$1,000 toward the festival for the past two years. The Coordinator also presented a verbal request for assistance in purchasing the statue "Diadems" (girl with watering can), currently in Art on the Corner, for the Western Colorado Botanical Society's new greenhouse/butterflyhouse.

Vandalism and thefts of several sculptures in town was discussed and what might be done about this increasing problem. A neighborhood watch of artwork was suggested, although most crimes occur in the middle of the night when there are no possible witnesses. The Coordinator noted that the DAR is also very concerned about potential vandalism to the "Spirit of Pioneer Women" statue which they are commissioning for Eagle Rim Park. Ivanov stated that our prolific public artwork is what makes Grand Junction unique and that we want to be known as an "art friendly" city. It was suggested that the Commission donate funding to Crime Stoppers to apprehend artwork vandals and thieves, and also facilitate a January meeting of groups and agencies who might be interested in working on this problem.

A motion was made by Killgore, seconded by Hemmerich, to donate \$1000 to the Musical Arts Society for the Symphony's "Music in the Schools" program, \$1000 to the Art on the Corner Art and Jazz Festival, \$1000 to the Western Colorado Botanical Society toward purchase of the sculpture "Diadems", to purchase \$1000 in tickets for "An Intimate Evening of Classical Ballet" from Colorado West Dance for distribution to worthy underprivileged dance students, and to donate \$700 to Crime Stoppers, Inc. to encourage apprehension of vandals and thieves of public artwork. The motion carried unanimously. A motion was made by Killgore, seconded by Ivanov that if the Commission is legally or otherwise prohibited from donating funds to Crime Stoppers then \$1700 be donated to the Western Colorado Botanical Society for their statue. The motion carried unanimously.

After some discussion about problems with meeting attendance vs. business obligations, it was decided to change the Commission's meeting time from 4:00-6:00 p.m. to 5:00-7:00 p.m. beginning in January. A discussion about the Commission's annual retreat was postponed until the January meeting.

REPORTS: The Coordinator's report for November was distributed. Sarmo noted the Commission's annual report will be presented to City Council probably at their workshop Jan. 19.

Donegan asked everyone to be thinking of a new name for the ArtReach program because that name is copyrighted by the Denver organization. Developing a procedure for distributing free tickets was placed on the Commission's January meeting agenda.

Rupp reported that she attended a meeting of the board of the Museum of Western Colorado and discussed the *Economic Impacts of the Arts in Grand Junction* study with them. She reported that the Museum is trying to purchase the Dinosaur Valley building and is looking for new board members and a curator at Cross Orchards, and recently hired a new marketing and membership director. They are also planning an auction of artwork donated by an Aspen collector.

It was noted that this is the fourth meeting in the last twelve months which Commissioner Bill Whaley has missed and that according to the by-laws he must be removed from the Arts Commission by the City Council for these absences. It was also noted that Hemmerich, Rogers, and Whaley's terms will expire in February and that the City Clerk is advertising the vacancies.

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