

GRAND JUNCTION COMMISSION ON ARTS AND CULTURE  
MINUTES  
January 28, 1998

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

Others Present: Seth Brown and Alyce Price.

The regular meeting of the Grand Junction Commission on Arts and Culture was held at 4:00 p.m. on the above date. A motion was made by Hemmerich, seconded by Ivanov, to approve the minutes of the previous meeting December 3, 1997. The motion carried unanimously. Setting a date for a Commission retreat was tabled until the March meeting. The "State of the Arts" report was distributed and will be presented to City Council at their workshop February 2 at 7:00 p.m.

COMMISSION REGRANTING PROGRAM: Grant guidelines for the Commission's up-coming award of funding to organizations for arts and cultural events/projects/programs were reviewed at length. The Coordinator explained that \$20,000 was approved in the Commission's 1998 budget for regranting and special projects, and an additional \$5,000 was awarded from the Colorado Council on the Arts, but that the Commission did not receive a donation from Public Service Company this year for arts education in the schools because of Public Service's merger and subsequent reorganization of their foundation. The Coordinator noted that the School District 51 grant program set up and administered by Linda Skinner with 1997 Public Service/Commission funds has been very successful in bringing the arts into the schools. There was a lengthy discussion about the advisability of the Commission's continuing to fund arts education programs in the schools with City/State tax dollars when the school district should be picking up these costs, and the consensus was that the Commission's grant program should begin to de-emphasize arts education in the schools somewhat and encourage new arts and cultural projects or improve existing events and programs. A motion was made by Hemmerich, seconded by Rupp, not to invite individual schools to apply for grants from the Commission, but to invite the school district to apply as one entity. The motion carried unanimously.

ARTS EDUCATION FOCUS MEETING: The Coordinator reported that a meeting has been scheduled in February to continue developing a strategic plan to improve arts education in the schools and asked if the Commission wishes to continue to assist the school district with this planning process by hiring a facilitator for the meeting. It was noted that helping the school district become more self sufficient in their provision of arts education by assisting with planning and with training elementary classroom teachers to teach the arts is an excellent use of Commission time and money. A motion was made by Rupp, seconded by Ivanov, to hire a facilitator for the February Arts Education Focus Meeting and co-host the meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

PIONEER WOMAN STATUE RECEPTION: The Coordinator reported that the Daughters of the American Revolution Coalition for a Historical Marker would like the Commission to co-host a reception February 27 at the Art Center to celebrate their raising the bulk of the funding for "The Spirit of Pioneer Women" statue and the signing of the contract (written by Sarmo) with sculptor Lincoln Fox. Rupp suggested that the Commission's contribution should go toward something artistic and offered to find a musical group to provide background music. The

consensus was to allocate up to \$100 to hire musicians for the reception and ask the DAR to provide refreshments.

ARTS EXPO: Hosting an Art Expo was discussed and the Coordinator reported she'd reserved half of Two Rivers Convention Center for the day, Saturday, November 7. Specifics about the event were mentioned including possible costs to the Commission, fees, insurance responsibilities, sales vs. just displays/demonstrations, the target audience, etc. Donegan moved and Hemmerich seconded that the Commission take the lead on the Art Expo project to promote awareness of the arts in the community and the diversity of our arts industry. The motion carried unanimously.

Outgoing Commissioners Ursula Hemmerich and Phil Rogers were toasted and thanked for their many years of service. Commissioner Killgore had to leave the meeting at 5:20 p.m. Thank you letters were read from the Celtic Society, Performing Arts Conservatory, and Western Colorado Botanical Society. A letter of resignation was read from Bill Whaley and accepted with regrets.

REPORTS: The Coordinator's reports for December and January were distributed. The Coordinator and Chair reported on the January 13 Colorado Legislature briefing which they and Jane Quimby attended in Denver, noting several appreciative comments from the Arts Consortium and Council on the Arts about Grand Junction's being represented at the meeting and about the *Economic Impact of the Arts in the Grand Valley* survey the Commission published.

Hemmerich described her planned rose garden at the Western Colorado Botanic Gardens in memory of her husband. She also discussed photography as an art form and its inclusion in future Commission projects and programs.

Rogers noted the up-coming fund raiser February 6 for Habitat for Humanity and described the book he is illustrating and the stained glass trophy Kiefer is creating for the event.

Hemmerich reported that because the Grand Junction Symphony formed a chamber music group this year, the Marsha Thomas Chamber Music Festival Committee is at a crossroads and is discussing whether their annual festival can continue.

ArtReach Committee: Donegan reported that the Commission's \$1,000 approved at the last meeting purchased 61 tickets to "An Evening of Classical Dance" at a discounted price of \$16 each and these were distributed to area dance students through local dance studios and the college.

Business in the Arts Award: It was decided to postpone the annual Business in the Arts awards usually given out in the March to a later date.

Ivanov reported that Gully Stanford with the Denver Center for the Performing Arts and the Colorado Board of Education is coming to Mesa State College February 22.

None of the Commissioners expressed an interest in heading up a move to resurrect the Trend Benders Arts and Recreation Task Force.

As there was no further business to come before the board, the Chair adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Allison Cowan Sarmo  
Cultural Arts Coordinator