

Grand Junction Commission on Arts and Culture
Minutes
May 27, 1998

Commissioners Present: Seth Brown Jeanne Killgore
 Beth Buys Bill Reidy
 LeRoy Donegan Priscilla Rupp
 Karen Kiefer Dennis Woodrich
 Peter Ivanov

The regular meeting of the Grand Junction Commission on Arts and Culture was held on the above date. Chair Peter Ivanov called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m. A motion was made by Brown, seconded by Kiefer, to approve the minutes of the previous meeting held on April 22, 1998. The motion carried unanimously.

SOURCEBOOK UPDATE: Artwork donated by Piera Kilanxhja and Gabriella Denton was reviewed for use on the cover of the new edition of the *Sourcebook* and a picture by Denton was selected. How inclusive to be in the *Sourcebook* listings was discussed, Sarmo stating that she has traditionally included artists within a 20 mile radius (from Mack to Mesa) as being "Grand Junction area artists", but just received a request from an artist in Molina. After much discussion about the directory being a benefit specifically to Grand Junction artists vs. the directory being a benefit to all artists for whom Grand Junction is the major large city and retail center, a motion was made by Woodrich, seconded by Donagan to include only the one artist from Molina but no others outside the Mack to Mesa boundary, and only for the 1998 edition. The motion carried unanimously.

The Coordinator also noted a suggestion by a jewelry artist that the Gem and Mineral Club be included in the directory as an arts and cultural organization. After some discussion it was decided not to include the Gem and Mineral Club since it's not specifically an arts organization.

The Coordinator noted that only about 50% of the artists and arts organizations in the *Sourcebook* have returned the name and address postcards mailed to them for inclusion in the new edition. Rupp said she didn't realize her card needed to be sent in, having assumed she'd be in the new book since she's in the current directory. Sarmo said it is impossible to distinguish between artists who unintentionally fail to return their card, and those who don't return their card purposely because they don't want to be in the directory or have moved away. She noted that artists not listed might be upset, even if they don't make a specific request to be in the book, because they assume that since the Commission knows about them, they will be listed. How to obtain a better response rate was discussed, Woodrich suggesting that the directory be linked to a statewide association to show a broader benefit to local artists to be included. The need for an Arts Commission web site was also discussed, Sarmo noting that free training is available to design a home page. Woodrich offered to undertake the training, and Ivanov suggested the Media Committee pursue this. Sarmo will contact the trainer in Telluride and Ivanov will schedule a Media Committee meeting.

PUBLIC SERVICE STEAM PLANT REUSE STUDY: The Coordinator reported that the Public Service Steam Plant Building Reuse Study begun in 1995 has finally been completed for the Downtown Development Authority and the Arts Commission. The study was done by the Western Colorado Business Development Center (small business incubator) and Jon Schler, Colorado Center for Community Development. The study does not have an executive summary but basically recommends that the best use of the building would be as an artists incubator

facility with other art related businesses and possibly a foundry. The study reviewed various options for the City-owned building, including private commercial/retail space, a children's museum, public uses such as a recreation center, a small business incubator, and use as a housing facility. Sarmo noted that it has been estimated to cost potentially up to one million dollars to renovate the building for any potential use. Sarmo asked if the Commission would endorse the study, assuming that the DDA will move forward with whatever action now needs to be taken, probably approaching the City Council in the near future with a recommendation.

It was suggested that perhaps a better location could be found for an arts incubator, but Sarmo noted that this was not the purpose of the study, only finding the best possible use for the steam plant building. It was also noted that several Commissioners have joined the board since the study originated three years ago, and have not been able to follow the progress of the report. Woodrich noted that this incubator facility would only benefit visual artists, that musicians could not use the renovated building. He noted that musicians as a group are underrepresented and he hopes to form an association of individual musicians. Woodrich also noted that he could not endorse a study he has not read, and moved, Reidy seconded, to table the study and give each Commissioner a copy. Kiefer and Woodrich wanted to read the study and were given a copy to share, and the motion was withdrawn. After further discussion, Brown moved, Woodrich seconded, to table the study until those who wanted to read it in its entirety had done so. Sarmo noted that there is a chance the study will be presented to the City Council sometime before the Commission's July meeting, and Kiefer noted that Commission endorsement is important. The motion failed on a vote of three in favor, six opposed. Rupp moved, and Reidy seconded to approve the study as written. The motion carried on a vote of eight in favor, one opposed.

There was a discussion of changing the Arts Commission meetings back to 4 - 6pm, rather than 5 - 7pm, but Buys said she works until 4pm and will have to arrive late to 4pm meetings during the school year. The consensus of the other members was that the original meeting time of 4pm is preferable, so the Commission will return to 4 - 6pm meetings in the future. Chairman Ivanov asked if the July meeting could be changed from the 22nd to the 15th and there was no objection, so this will be done.

CORRESPONDENCE: A thank-you letter and schedule of performances was read from the Institute of Dancing Arts, and a thank-you from Senior Daybreak for the Commission's sponsorship of the Institute of Dancing Arts performance at their facility. A thank-you was read from Ann Sanders for a letter of recommendation, and a reply from Senator Tilman Bishop re the cancellation of funding for the performing arts facility at Mesa State College in the state legislature's budget for next year.

CULTURAL ARTS COORDINATOR'S REPORT: The Coordinator's report for May was presented. Sarmo said that as a result of a recent conversation with Woodrich, she'd reviewed her reports for the last five months to ascertain where she, and the Commission, spend most of their time and resources. She noted that of the ten goals and interest areas, a great deal of time goes to #2 and 3: "encourage and facilitate cooperation/collaboration/partnerships with arts/government/education/business" and "provide information and education to artists and arts agencies to enhance funding/management/marketing". Almost 50% of the Commission's budget goes to #4: "provide advice to the City Council concerning community arts priorities and expenditure of resources" through the Commission's support of arts events/projects/programs. Significant time and Commission funding is spent on #6 Arts education, #8 Marketing and promotion (cultural events calendar and the Arts Expo) and #9 Support for local artists (1% program, Art on the Corner, Economic Impact of the Arts report, Marillac Clinic art exhibit, and

the *Sourcebook* directory publication). On the other hand, little time is spent on #7 Cultural facilities (only as facility issues arise), and no time is spent on #1 Cultural planning, because a strategic plan was completed in 1991, and most of the recommendations in the plan are continually being implemented through the other Commission goals.

REPORTS: The Coordinator noted the possibility of a grant application in 1999 from the Art Center asking for Commission support of an auxiliary Art Center facility downtown which would display exhibits and include a gift shop. Sarmo asked if the Commission would consider this idea an acceptable grant, noting that this is at present only a possibility and that funding would be needed to cover about \$750 per month rent and utilities, only part of which would come from the Commission. After some discussion the consensus of the Commission was that although such a request meets the guidelines for Commission support, it would not be the best and most competitive grant application the Center might submit for an art or cultural event, project, or program. The Commission was generally in favor of a downtown Art Center auxiliary, however.

Donagan reported that the Bookcliff Chorus Barbershoppers donated 20 free tickets to their recent concert which the Commission then donated to Grand Valley Catholic Outreach and Individual and Family Counseling Center. It was noted that ArtReach still needs a new name and a specific procedure for ticket distribution and a committee meeting should be scheduled.

Sarmo noted several decisions needed by the Arts Expo Committee and Kiefer will schedule a committee meeting. Sarmo also noted that she'd been asked to again bring up the possibility of artists and organizations being able to sell their work or memberships at the Nov. 7 Arts Expo, and Kiefer explained that they should make arrangements to sell work after the show is over, not take their displays apart to sell artwork during the Expo.

A meeting of the Artrain Committee was scheduled for Tuesday, June 16 at 10am at the Parks office building in Lincoln Park. A meeting of the Business in the Arts Awards Committee was scheduled for Tuesday, July 23, at 4pm at Gladstone's.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Allison Cowan Sarmo
Cultural Arts Coordinator