

Grand Junction Commission on Arts and Culture  
Minutes  
May 26, 1999

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

Commissioners absent: Priscilla Rupp and Dennis Woodrich

Others present: Pamela Blythe (Blythe Design+Co.) and Kristin Winn (City Hall)

The regular meeting of the Grand Junction Commission on Arts and Culture was held on the above date. In the absence of the Chair, Vice-chair Peter Ivanov called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. Karen Kiefer noted that in the minutes of the previous meeting, page 2, paragraph 7, the phrase “the primary function of that staff person [in Denver] will be to put together the annual Consortium conference...” should actually read “the primary function of that staff person will be to do grant writing and coordination, and he will also help put together the annual Consortium conference...” Also in reference to the minutes, Beth Buys noted that she had not volunteered to help with the Art & Jazz Festival information booth since she will be out of town, so her name should be deleted from the list of Commission volunteers on page 2, paragraph 2. A motion was made by Kiefer, seconded by Donegan, to approve the minutes of the previous meeting held on April 28, 1999, as amended. The motion carried unanimously.

CITY HALL 1% FOR THE ARTS PROJECT: Architect Pamela Blythe presented plans, drawings, and a scale model of the proposed new City Hall building for the Commission’s review. She noted that the City Council is still discussing the design of the main entrance on Rood. Blythe made several suggestions about where artwork might be placed in the new building, such as the main entrance lobby, the Fifth Street entrance and stairwell, the hearing room waiting area/hallway, and the elevator lobby. Kristin Winn, who was invited to represent City Hall in the artwork project, recommended the art be located in the most public spaces of the building, which was the general consensus. Winn also suggested a need for designed display spaces, particularly in the main lobby.

It was noted that the outdoor sculptures of the “Ten Commandments” and “Arches” at the current City Hall will be retained on the site. It was suggested that the 1% for Arts funds be spent on indoor artwork, and it is hoped an additional piece of outside artwork might be obtained through the Art on the Corner exhibit.

Blythe also recommended that if artwork is to be placed along selected hallways, either now or in the future, a grid system could be designed on the walls to accommodate this and to encourage uniform pictures or photographs and discourage a hodgepodge of styles. How many pieces could be purchased with the estimated \$60,000 in funds was discussed, as well as potential placement. After much discussion a motion was made by Killgore, seconded by Reidy, to purchase an aerial or mobile piece of artwork which would be suspended from the ceiling of the main entrance lobby. The motion carried, six in favor, one opposed. Buys spoke up for the architect’s recommendation to design a grid system for the hallway, but other Commissioners felt that if this was done it should be part of the building itself, not done with 1% funding.

Expanding the selection committee to include more than just the Arts Commission was discussed, Sarmo recommending including an artist or two. After further discussion it was decided that the artwork selection committee should include the Commission plus Pamela Blythe, Kristin Winn, a City Council person if possible, and artists Vernon Mosher, Tricia Berg, and Don Meyers. It is

envisioned that selection of the aerial artwork will occur in September following a Call for Entries mailing to all appropriate Colorado artists.

**FIVE YEAR BUSINESS PLAN FOR THE ARTS COMMISSION:** The Coordinator noted a need for the Commission to write a five year business plan, which is being done by all departments and divisions of the City. The consensus was to devote the entire monthly meeting in June to this purpose as a mini-retreat.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** A thank you letter was read from the Italian Cultural Society for Commission grant funding. Thank-you letters for advice and assistance from the Coordinator were read from Mary Erickson of the Pastel Society, Mary Geer of the Senior Theatre, Katherine Nelson of the DAR, and Bill Kain of the Western Colorado Guitar Association.

**REPORTS:** The Coordinator updated Commissioners about Commission funded musical events being planned by the Italian Cultural Society and the Guitar Society. She is attending meetings of the Italian Society to help with plans for the September 17-18 International Italian-American Jazz Festival, and also attended a meeting of the Western Colorado Classical Guitar Society. She noted that the two founding members of the Guitar Society have left the organization because of a conflict with other board members over the direction the group is going--the newer members want it to be simply a club while the founders wanted a more professional, higher caliber association.

The Coordinator also updated Commissioners about Arch Archuleta's artwork at the roundabout project. They are still seeking an organization to lead the fund raising drive and she recently contacted the Junior Service League and the American Association of University Women, but to no avail. Archuleta has increased his offer of funding to \$10,000.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Allison Cowan Sarmo  
Cultural Arts Coordinator