

Grand Junction Commission on Arts and Culture
Minutes
July 28, 1999

Commissioners Present:	Seth Brown	Peter Ivanov
	LeRoy Donegan	Bill Reidy
	Karen Kiefer	Priscilla Rupp
	Jeanne Killgore	Bill Whaley

Commissioners Absent: Beth Buys

The regular meeting of the Grand Junction Commission on Arts and Culture was held on the above date. Chair Priscilla Rupp called the meeting to order at 4:10 p.m. A motion was made by Brown, seconded by Kiefer, to approve the minutes of the previous meeting held on June 23, 1999. The motion carried unanimously.

SELF-ASSESSMENT SURVEY: The Commission reviewed the results of their self-assessment questionnaire and discussed general procedures for meetings and management of the organization.

FIVE-YEAR BUSINESS PLAN: The Commission reviewed the five-year business plan formulated at the last meeting. Ivanov asked about the reference to helping the Lion's Club purchase a portable stage and what the Commission's involvement would be and Rupp explained that Chuck Buss had discussed this idea with her and the Commission's involvement would simply be to help find a suitable stage to purchase and make a recommendation to the Lion's Club. The Coordinator will research portable stages in Parks Department catalogues and Peter Ivanov will research Mesa State College Theater Department catalogues. There were no revisions to the business plan.

The Coordinator reported that Visitor and Convention Bureau board members are each responsible for monitoring and attending one or two of the events the VCB donates funding for annually. She asked Commission members if they wanted to do this with the projects and events the Commission underwrites, as a way to keep a closer eye on how City/Commission money is being used. The consensus of the Commission was that at least one or two members attend most of the events the Commission funds already and closer oversight was not necessary. Sarmo was asked to provide a list with the dates and times of all Commission funded events and to ask organizations receiving grants to provide two free tickets to the Commission so that members could attend.

Sarmo updated the Commission about the on-going conflict between current board members of the Western Colorado Classical Guitar Society and the Society's two founders, who are no longer active with the group. She reported that the Society will be doing a public concert and master class October 3 with a visiting professional classical guitarist, as per the grant they are receiving from the Commission.

PRIDE OF THE VALLEY ART FESTIVAL: The Coordinator reported that Karen Kiefer would have a booth representing both the Commission and her stained glass company, Rainbow Artistry, at the Pride of the Valley Festival at Cross Orchards over Labor Day weekend. Kiefer will distribute the Commission's calendar and *The Sourcebook*, plus display the Commission banner and a poster for the Arts Expo, along with her stained glass work and the Homebuilder's Association cookbook. Ivanov pointed out that the Pride of the Valley Festival will be very similar to the Arts Expo on November 6 and the two events are only two months apart. It was noted that this was discussed when the decision was made to donate funding to the Pride of the Valley Festival. Sarmo reported that information on the Arts Expo was mailed out two months ago and reservations have been received for about two-thirds of the available booth spaces at the Expo.

HORIZON DRIVE ROUNDABOUT SCULPTURE: Placement in the roundabout of Lyle Nichols' Colorado flagstone spheres sculpture (which Arch Archuleta would like to donate \$10,000 for) was discussed. Sarmo

noted that to date she has been unable to find an organization willing to do the fundraising necessary to raise the additional \$90,000 needed to pay for the \$100,000 sculpture. Sarmo and Killgore reported they met recently with Archuleta, Mark Fenn, and Lena Elliott, and Archuleta is committed to donating his money toward this particular sculpture. They noted that his wish is to have a work of art which is original, unique, and monumental, something which makes a dramatic, artistic statement and is readily recognized as the entrance piece to Grand Junction. The potential conflict between the current natural landscaping and the geometric urban look of the sculpture was discussed, plus the fact that the large size of the sculpture could overwhelm the roundabout. Sarmo distributed drawings from landscape architects Ciavonne and Associates showing that the sculpture would easily fit into the space. Several people expressed the opinion that the sculpture may not be appropriate for this particular site. After lengthy discussion, a motion was made by Donegan, seconded by Killgore, to recommend to the City Council the placement of the Lyle Nichol's Colorado flagstone sculpture in the Horizon Drive Roundabout, assuming funds are raised to purchase the piece. The motion failed by a vote of three in favor and five opposed.

GOVERNOR'S AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE IN THE ARTS: The Commission discussed possible nominations for the Governor's Awards for Excellence in the Arts, and a motion was made by Whaley, seconded by Brown, to nominate Dave Davis for this year's awards. The motion carried unanimously. The consensus was to keep the nomination a surprise from Davis.

CORRESPONDENCE: Thank you letters were read from Rich Helm, Museum of Western Colorado, for the Commission's grant funding, from Ginger Burns for ideas for several magazine articles for "Life and Times", from Jan Rickman for the invitation to participate in the Pride of the Valley Festival, and from Denise Kayser of Gaithersburg, MD, for a packet of information on cultural planning.

CITY HALL ARTWORK: The Coordinator reported that final design drawings for the new City Hall will be completed by August 19 and that she had communicated the Commission's recommendation to purchase a large aerial work of art for the entrance lobby to the City Council. Sarmo noted that she had not received any negative responses from City Council about this but got two suggestions, one to consider waiting until the building is completed before purchasing artwork, and one to work with the Museum to do rotating historical displays. Ideas about doing a rotating art display and purchasing artwork by well-recognized Grand Valley artists were also mentioned.

COMMISSION WEB SITE: Whaley asked about the Commission's being on-line and Sarmo reported that the City now has a web site which includes the Arts Commission, but that instead of getting a page on the site the Commission only has a couple paragraphs. Whaley reported that he received training through the Colorado Council on the Arts' Open Studio Program two years ago on how to create a web site for the Commission and that he was willing to do this if the Commission still wanted to have it's own site. Sarmo will contact Kristin Winn about this and linking to the City/VCB site and collaborate with Whaley on this idea.

REPORTS: The Coordinator's Report for July and the Commission's Financial Report of expenditures to date were distributed. A meeting of the BUDGET COMMITTEE was scheduled for Thursday, August 5 at 2pm in the Parks office building. Sarmo will notify Beth Buys. The Commission reviewed brochures done in 1998 inviting nominations and artwork for the BUSINESS IN THE ARTS AWARDS and decided to use the same format, timeline, and guidelines again this year. Sarmo will revise and mail both brochures.

Planning was done for the up-coming ARTS EXPO, Sarmo reporting that the *Daily Sentinel* has agreed to print a pull-out piece to include in the newspaper two days before the event. The consensus of the Commission was to ask KAFM and K-Joy/KNZZ about radio media sponsorship and KKCO about television sponsorship. Whaley will contact a friend at Channel 11 and Sarmo will contact the radio stations. Ivanov will contact Kevin Taylor about being the stage manager/sound technician for one of the Expo

stages and Rupp will contact Gordon Rhodes to staff the other stage. Ivanov will research a suggestion to place the stages on the long walls of the exhibit hall rather than on the end walls.

The Coordinator reported that Mesa State College President Michael Gallagher would like to have a community kick-off meeting for the performing arts facility study and has tentatively scheduled this for August 25 or 26. Sarmo and Ivanov will meet with Gallagher and other prior to the community meeting to work out an agenda. Ivanov noted that his acquaintance with and recommendation of the Sarasota architect hired to do the facility study might be perceived as a conflict of interest by other arts groups. Due to the resignation of Dennis Woodrich from the Arts Commission, Ivanov is the only member currently on the Commission's Cultural Facilities Committee, besides the chairperson. Brown, Donegan, and Kiefer volunteered to also serve on this committee.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Allison Cowan Sarmo
Cultural Arts Coordinator