

Grand Junction Commission on Arts and Culture
Minutes
September 22, 1999

Commissioners Present:	Seth Brown	Jeanne Killgore
	Beth Buys	Peter Ivanov
	LeRoy Donegan	Priscilla Mangnall (Rupp)
	Karen Kiefer	Bill Reidy
Commissioners Absent:	Bill Whaley	

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 4:10 p.m. A motion was made by Brown, seconded by Kiefer, to approve the minutes of the previous meeting held on August 25, 1999. The motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS: Chair Priscilla Mangnall arrived and assumed chairmanship of the meeting. A letter was read from the Brush & Palette Club thanking the Commission for their donation to the Members' Show.

New drawings furnished by the architect for the City Hall lobby aerial artwork "Call for Entries" packet were reviewed.

The Daily Sentinel's recently published survey polling people about what local news they're interested in reading was discussed, in light of the fact that the survey does not include anything about arts and culture. It was also noted that the *Sentinel* recently hired former Mesa State College Theater Department chairman Bill Robinson to write reviews of local theatrical productions. Sarmo reported that she discussed the Commission's concern about the lack of play reviews in the newspaper with Managing Editor Dennis Herzog. Subsequently Herzog hired Robinson (on a trial basis, at Robinson's request) to review one play per season by each of the four major local theater companies—Mesa State College, Performing Arts Conservatory, The Cabaret, and Mesa Theatre & Club.

The Commission discussed what they might do to participate in National Arts and Humanities Month in October. Because several of the ideas suggested by Americans for the Arts are already being done, the consensus was to send a weekly news release to the media about National Arts and Humanities Month with a list of five-ten ways for the public to participate in artistic, cultural, and literary activities.

The Coordinator noted a request from Connie Robbins-Brady, Mesa County Valley School District #51, for volunteers from the Commission to help select which school art projects should receive grant funding through the Art Experiences for Children Program. This is a cooperative program funded by the Commission (\$5,000 in 1999-2000) and administered by the school district. Commission volunteers include Kiefer, Killgore, Mangnall, and Reidy.

REPORTS: The Cultural Arts Coordinator's Report for September and the Commission's Year-to-Date Financial Report were distributed and reviewed. Sarmo noted in particular the El Pomar Foundation's Rural Community Leadership Seminar she attended in mid-September with directors of numerous other nonprofit organizations. The outcome of this seminar will be to work toward having a western slope office of the Colorado Association of Non-Profit Organizations in Grand Junction in the near future and/or toward an expansion of the Human Services Council to include all area nonprofits, human services as well as arts and cultural groups. Sarmo explained that nonprofit groups would like to have a stronger and more collective voice in the community, as well as a better network through which to operate among themselves. She reported on other issues discussed at the seminar, including the need for all nonprofit board members to be activists and advocates for their organization and the possibility of doing an economic impact study of the nonprofit sector in Mesa County. Ivanov recommended Sarmo contact Dan Arosteguy director of the Mesa State College Economic and Business Research Bureau about the economic impact study.

The Coordinator and several Commissioners reported on cultural events they attended in September which were partially underwritten by the Commission, including the Pride of the Valley Arts Festival, the Grand Junction Symphony “La Boheme” concert, the Italian Cultural Society’s “Festival Italiano” concerts, and the Performing Arts Conservatory’s “I Do, I Do” musical. Sarmo noted that a letter had been sent to the Museum of Western Colorado reminding director Rich Helm that the Museum had been awarded \$3,000 in Commission grant funding in part to pay the entertainers at the Pride of the Valley Festival, although this was not done. Sarmo said that she was assured this would be taken care of by the Museum and KAFM and read another letter to this effect.

The expenditure of the final \$1,000 budgeted for the Commission’s re-granting program was discussed at length, ideas including: 1.) Awarding additional funding to one or more of the Commission’s 1999 grant recipients; 2.) Giving mini-grants to Arts Expo participants for projects or materials used at the Expo; 3.) Purchasing tickets to upcoming cultural events and donating them to low-income clients through human services agencies; 4.) Soliciting project ideas from the new charter school at East Middle School; 5.) Underwriting development of a permanent exhibit similar to John McConnell’s “Leonardo on Wheels” exhibit for the school district. It was decided to table this issue until the next meeting.

BUSINESS IN THE ARTS AWARDS: Seth Brown, chair of the Business in the Arts Awards Committee reported that the committee received six nominations in the corporate business category and eight nominations in the small business category this year. He stated that the committee’s recommendation is to select Energy Air Drilling Service Company, owned by Dale Rennels, as the corporate business winner, and Picture This, owned by Patty Costello, as the small business winner. A list of the nominees was distributed, including Alpine Bank, KREX/KGJT-TV, BMC West Building Materials, Grand Villa, Colorado Beverage Distributing, Inc., Art Depot, KJYE/KNZZ/KSNY, Center for Independence, Adams Quickprint, Inc., Big Nuggett Supply, Grande River Vineyards, and Woodbury’s Plumbing and Heating. A motion was made by Brown, seconded by Killgore, to accept the recommendations of the Business in the Arts Awards Committee and select Energy Air Drilling Service Company the corporate business winner, and Picture This the small business winner. The motion carried unanimously.

Brown reported that the committee received slides of almost 50 works of art by local artists to be chosen as the awards to the two business winners. They had narrowed these down to five finalists. The Commission looked at the five original works of art brought in by the artists. A motion was made by Kiefer, seconded by Killgore, to give the painting “Winter, Mesa Lakes” by Frank Francese to Energy Air Drilling Service Company, and to give the painting “Sunday Afternoon” by Arleen Ruggeri to Picture This. The motion carried unanimously. The award presentation will be at 1:00 p.m. during the Arts Expo November 6. Sarmo will invite the mayor to make the presentations.

COMMITTEES: A meeting was scheduled of the Arts Expo Committee Wednesday, October 13 at 4:00 p.m. in the Parks Administration office. The Chair reported that Gordon Rhoades cannot be a stage manager at the Expo this year due to work conflicts and Ivanov will find a replacement. As there was no further business to come before the board the Chair adjourned the meeting at 5:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Allison Cowan Sarmo
Cultural Arts Coordinator