

Grand Junction Commission on Arts and Culture  
Minutes  
June 1, 2000 (Postponed from May 24, 2000)

Commissioners Present: Seth Brown Priscilla Mangnall  
Beth Buys Peter Ivanov  
LeRoy Donegan Bill Reidy

Commissioners Absent: Bill Whaley

Others Present: Drew Martorella, Producing Director, and Phil Hampton, Production Manager for TheatreWorks, Shad Durham, Parks & Recreation Department summer intern, and Ginger Burns, reporter for *Life & Times* magazine.

The regular monthly meeting of the Grand Junction Commission on Arts and Culture, postponed from May 24 for lack of a quorum, was held on June 1, 2000. In the absence of Chair Priscilla Mangnall at the beginning of the meeting, Vice-chair Peter Ivanov called the meeting to order at 4:00pm. A motion was made by Brown, seconded by Reidy, to approve the minutes of the previous meeting of April 26, 2000. The motion carried unanimously.

SHAKESPEARE IN THE PARK: Drew Martorella and Phil Hampton from the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs' TheatreWorks company appeared before the Commission to discuss their Shakespeare in the Park production which will take place in Lincoln Park August 3-6, 2000. Martorella explained that TheatreWorks annual summer Shakespeare Festival was founded by Artistic Director Murray Ross in Colorado Springs 18 years ago. At least one-third of the seats for every performance are free, to encourage people who might not be able to afford the show otherwise to attend. He said TheatreWorks has always wanted to take their show on the road, and just received a \$5,000 grant from El Pomar, a major Colorado Springs foundation, to do this summer's production "Twelfth Night" in Grand Junction.

Martorella explained that the company includes professional actors, college students, and some community members. He said the grant from El Pomar would cover salaries, honoraria, meals, and transportation, and that the \$4,900 budgeted by the Commission would need to cover everything else (publicity, programs, security, accommodations for 25 actors and crew members, etc.). Martorella outlined various requirements for the production, including:

- Eight-ten volunteers to help with setting up the tent, stage, risers, seating, and equipment beginning at noon, August 1, and again to help tear down the tent, etc. after the show August 6;
- One-two volunteers to act as general laborers/gofers on August 2 and 3;
- Electricity, restrooms and dressing room spaces;
- Accommodations for 14 actors August 2 - 6 and rooms for 11 technicians August 1 - 6;
- Ticket printing and distribution, ushers to distribute programs and take tickets at each performance;
- A 50'X70' space for the tent, preferably the grassy area on the golf course chipping green adjacent to the Parks maintenance building, or, as a second choice, the central fenced area of Lincoln Park beside the tennis courts.

Martorella noted that TheatreWorks will provide publicity posters which the Commission can attach Grand Junction information to and then distribute around town. Providing concessions during intermission was discussed, Sarmo noting that the Parks Department suggested asking the woman who runs the concessions at the pool if she wants to do this.

Recruiting 8-10 able-bodied volunteers was discussed, Ivanov suggesting writing letters to local theater organizations the Commission has donated funding to and asking their members to help. Sarmo noted that the Parks Department could probably provide half the volunteers. Ticket prices were discussed, the consensus of the Commission being that if possible, tickets should all be free. Sarmo will compile a budget for the production to determine if ticket revenue is needed. It was suggested that the media be

contacted when the tent is being set up August 1. Martorella and Hampton thanked the Commission for their sponsorship of this Shakespeare production and left the meeting.

NEW BUSINESS: A Commission staffed information table at the Art & Jazz Festival June 10 was discussed, however, because only three Commissioners will be available to volunteer that day, it was decided not to do the table this year.

The Coordinator distributed a list of up-coming dates for events the Commission is donating funding toward this year, so Commission members can plan to attend.

The Coordinator reported that the Fruitvale Lions Club has asked the Commission to present their slide presentation about arts and culture in Grand Junction to the club Monday, July 10 at 6:45pm, asking for a helper to operate the slide projector. Brown volunteered to assist the presentation.

The Coordinator reported that Fran Holden, Executive Director of the Colorado Council on the Arts will be visiting Grand Junction June 2, and a social hour has been scheduled with her at the Rockslide at 4:30pm. Holden will also be attending the opening reception of the Brush & Palette Club Regional Art Exhibit at the Art Center that evening from 7pm-9pm, and Sarmo encouraged Commission members to attend either the social hour or the Art Center opening.

The Coordinator reported that there will be a quarterly meeting of major arts organizations, with John Dandurand, Executive Director, of the Colorado Arts Consortium, June 15 at 9am in the Parks conference room, and Commission members are welcome to attend.

A thank you letter was read from VSA—Grand Junction for the Commission's support of the Very Special Arts Adult Art Festival.

REPORTS: The Coordinator's monthly report for May was distributed and reviewed. Sarmo reported that the City Council is expected to appoint new Commission members at their June 7 meeting. The Commission's skit for the Colorado Arts Consortium conference in Cortez was discussed, and Ivanov volunteered to write a script for the five minute presentation.

ARTS EXPO COMMITTEE: Mangnall reported that the committee met May 16 and she volunteered to be committee chair. She noted that the committee would like to have Ivanov, Donegan, Reidy, and Whaley serve as the Performance Committee, asking that Ivanov be in charge of hiring two stage managers and picking up and installing the marley dance floor, to which he agreed. The Performance Committee will also have to pick up the sound equipment, find a tape player, install the marley floor, and call all the performing groups two weeks prior to the show as a reminder. The Arts Expo Committee also recommends that the Commission form a calling committee to contact Expo participants and encourage them to do hands-on activities and demonstrations at their booths, not just pass out information. Sarmo noted that the Commission should be thinking about what activities they would like to have at the Commission booth as well.

Mangnall reported that the Expo Committee recommends doing away with door prizes this year, since prizes don't seem to be a major draw to the Expo, and half the prizes have to be mailed to recipients after the show. The consensus of the Commission was not to have door prizes. The Expo Committee would also like to appoint Beth Buys as the Publicity Committee to contact local media two days prior to the Expo and to distribute publicity flyers to all area schools, and Buys agreed.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Allison Cowan Sarmo  
Cultural Arts Coordinator