

Grand Junction Commission on Arts and Culture  
Minutes  
August 23, 2000

Commissioners Present: Pamela Blythe  
Seth Brown  
Beth Buys  
LeRoy Donegan  
Priscilla Mangnall  
Peter Ivanov  
Bill Whaley  
Commissioners Absent: Janet Prell, Bill Reidy  
Others Present: Rick Marcus

The regular meeting of the Grand Junction Commission on Arts and Culture was held on the above date. Chair LeRoy Donegan called the meeting to order at 4:00pm. A motion was made by Brown, seconded by Whaley, to approve the minutes of the previous meeting held on August 1, 2000. The motion carried unanimously.

APPOINTMENTS: Rick Marcus appeared before the Commission to offer to lend two uniforms which replicate the mid-1800's military uniforms worn by topographic engineers of the Army Corp of Engineers and by dragoon officers of that period. Marcus' idea was to display the uniforms in the new City Hall on a temporary basis, with the stipulation that they be protected by some type of barrier. The Commission thanked Marcus for his suggestion, stating that they would be discussing guidelines and artwork for the City Hall later in the meeting.

SHAKESPEARE IN THE PARK: A final report on the first "Shakespeare in the Park" production by the University of Colorado, Colorado Springs' TheatreWorks was distributed and discussed, with several Commissioners noting that the event was very well received by the public. All 600 free tickets for the four performances were distributed almost a week before the play opened, and at least a hundred people who wanted tickets were turned away because of limited seating. The Commission received \$658 in donations during the performances, and should be right on budget for the event. It was noted that although the TheatreWorks production was popular with the audiences, an even better performance could be done by Mesa State College, and it would be beneficial to support a locally produced outdoor summer Shakespeare festival. The consensus of the Commission was to send a letter to the college encouraging them to consider a "Shakespeare in the Park" production for next summer which they could submit to the Commission as part of the grant process in February.

BUDGET FOR 2001: Next year's Commission budget was distributed and discussed, the Coordinator noting no changes from the 2001 budget already adopted last year during the two year budget cycle, except for her request to become a regular, not a "temporary", part-time staff person, and to be paid for five hours more each week. Explaining that she consistently works several hours more than her half-time allotment of 20 hours a week, Sarmo asked the Commission to consider increasing her job from 20 to 25 hours per week, which would be a 25% increase in her current salary of \$1200 per month. Sarmo noted that additional Commission projects, such as "Shakespeare in the Park" and the Arts Expo, and increased administrative duties, especially in connection with the 1% for the Arts program, continue to add to her workload. She noted that she has discussed this with her supervisor, Mari Steinbach, who will make a request through

Director Joe Stevens for a job audit of the Cultural Arts Coordinator position. After further discussion, the consensus of the Commission was to increase not only the number of paid hours, but also the rate of pay, since the salary for the position has not increased during the six years the job has existed. A motion was made by Whaley, seconded by Ivanov, to increase the Cultural Arts Coordinator's hours and salary by 25%, from 20 to 25 hours per week, and, in addition, to increase the rate of pay by at least 10%. The motion carried unanimously.

Expenses associated with obtaining and hanging artwork prior to the opening of City Hall were discussed, as well as potential expenses which will be incurred for rotating exhibits and for maintaining the permanent artwork, such as cleaning "Cloud Round-up". The consensus of the Commission was that a new line item is needed in the budget for general artwork maintenance and supplies, and a motion was made by Whaley, seconded by Buys, to add \$5,000 to the Commission's 2001 budget for art maintenance, curation, and administration. The motion carried unanimously.

**CITY HALL ART GUIDELINES:** The Coordinator presented draft guidelines for art at the City Hall. They were discussed and revised to stipulate that "the artwork included inside and outside the building exemplify the pride the community and the City employees have in this building. These guidelines strive to maintain a consistent, professional, and high quality physical appearance with regard to the art selected and displayed in and around the facility.

It is recommended that all art in the public spaces on the first floor of the building be original, or a serigraph or lithograph of an original, not prints or posters. Art in the public areas on the second floor may be either original or reproductions. All artwork should be appropriately framed or displayed. The Commission on Arts and Culture would like to assist in promoting a uniform, complimentary, and quality approach to selection of the art in the public areas of the building, and offers to serve as the selection committee for artwork in the public spaces. Selection of artwork within private offices may be done by the occupant(s). Public areas shall be commonly considered to be all parts of the building that the general public will visit, such as hallways, lobbies, the City Council auditorium, hearing rooms, shared training rooms, and the break room/waiting area."

After discussing the idea of displaying the two historic military uniforms, the consensus of the Commission was to limit rotating exhibits to two-dimensional artwork which can be hung on the walls for the foreseeable future. A motion was made by Mangnall, seconded by Whaley, to recommend that Rick Marcus approach the Museum of Western Colorado as a more appropriate venue for his uniforms. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Ivanov, seconded by Brown, to approve the guidelines for art at City Hall as amended. The motion carried unanimously.

**MURALS:** The Coordinator presented a suggestion from a City Council member to consider promoting murals as a rewarding art project, as well as a possible graffiti deterrent, citing the fact that both Philadelphia and Delta are quite proud of their reputation as the "city of murals". It was noted that the Commission investigated doing a mural project downtown in 1996 but the feedback from several business owners was more negative than positive, so the project was dropped. The Commission discussed revisiting the mural idea again. The consensus was that Art on the Corner is such a

successful exhibit that an additional type of art might detract from it, and that murals can be a particularly controversial art form.

CORRESPONDENCE: A thank you letter for presenting "Shakespeare in the Park" was read from Valery Isham. A letter was read from David Varley offering the new City auditorium as a possible meeting space for the Commission, but the consensus was to remain at the Parks office building.

REPORTS: The Coordinator's reports for July and August were distributed and discussed. The Coordinator also reported that the Commission, Museum, Art Center, Botanic Garden, and Doo Zoo received a grant for \$6,500 from Qwest which will be used to expand the November 4<sup>th</sup> Arts Expo into the Qwest Arts Expo & Cultural Tour of Grand Junction. The Commission had submitted a grant request for this funding in April. Qwest funds will pay the admission fee for all Expo attendees and everyone at the Expo will receive free tickets to visit the other four Grand Junction cultural facilities as well that day. The Arts Expo Committee chair, Priscilla Mangnall, reported on a recent committee meeting where the expanded Expo and cultural tour was discussed. The Coordinator noted three up-coming meetings: a September 8 meeting with the Museum, Art Center, Botanical Society, and Doo Zoo to organize the Expo cultural tour, a September 14 Colorado Council on the Arts Statewide Teleconference which the Coordinator is facilitating, and a September 19 meeting of the Business in the Arts Committee.

As there was no further business to come before the Commission, the chair adjourned the meeting at 6:10pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Allison Cowan Sarmo  
Cultural Arts Coordinator