

Grand Junction Commission on Arts and Culture

Minutes

September 27, 2000

Commissioners Present: Pamela Blythe Peter Ivanov  
Beth Buys Janet Prell  
LeRoy Donegan Bill Whaley

Commissioners Absent: Seth Brown, Priscilla Mangnall, Bill Reidy

Others Present: Vern Mosher (Mesa State College Professor of Art), Janet Andrews (guest)

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 4:00 p.m. A motion was made by Ivanov, seconded by Prell, to approve the minutes of the previous meeting held on August 23, 2000. The motion carried unanimously.

**BUSINESS IN THE ARTS AWARDS:** The following nominations were received for this year's awards:  
CORPORATE CATEGORY (Over 15 employees)

<u>Nominee:</u>	<u>Nominator:</u>
Elam Construction, Inc.	Italian Cultural Society and GJ Musical Arts Assoc. (Symphony)
Grande Villa	Palisade Art Lovers
Comet Cleaners	Colorado West Dance

SMALL BUSINESS CATEGORY (15 or fewer employees)

Hang Ups	Judy Harer (artist)
Working Artists Studio	Linda Rybak (artist)
Remarque Fine Art (Michael Harshman)	Art Center

The Business in the Arts Awards Committee recommended that Elam Construction Company be chosen the winner in the Corporate Category and Working Artists Studio the winner in the Small Business Category. After further discussion a motion was made by Buys, seconded by Whaley, to accept the recommendations of the committee and select Elam Construction and Working Artists Studio. The motion carried unanimously.

The Commission looked at the seven paintings and one sculpture by six local artists in order to chose two works of art to give as the awards. After discussion and a straw vote a motion was made by Buys, seconded by Whaley, to purchase "Colorado Natives", a sculpture by Terry Bridgman for \$1,100, and award it to Elam Construction, and to purchase "On the Corner", a batik painting by Susan Metzger for \$640, and award it to Working Artists Studio. The motion carried with six in favor (including Commissioners and Mosher), Blythe opposed.

A motion was made by Blythe, seconded by Buys, to purchase "Reflections" a watercolor by Charles Morris for \$600 for the City Hall, if there are funds available in the Commission's budget at the end of the year and if the painting is still available. The motion carried with six in favor, Prell abstained.

**CITY HALL ART GUIDELINES:** The Commission discussed how to pursue rotating art exhibits in the lobby and front hallway of the City Hall, including questions about length of time for the displays, whether to invite individual artists or arts organizations, how the works will be insured, who will be responsible for hanging the art, etc. Because finalizing any procedure appeared very complex, a motion was made by Buys, seconded by Whaley, to table this topic until the next meeting. The motion carried unanimously. Blythe will draft a set of guidelines for the Commission and Sarmo will obtain sample guidelines from the Mesa County Public Library for their art exhibits.

**PUBLIC ART PROJECTS:** Two pending 1% for the Arts projects were discussed: The new traffic department office building, which will generate \$2,056 in funding for artwork, and the police department building remodeling, which will generate \$766 in funding for art. Sarmo reported

that she had visited the police department and met with Lt. Bob Knight and that they discussed the possibility of spending the \$766 on a landscape painting for the lobby of the building. She also noted that she had visited the new traffic building, under construction, and discussed the art program with Tim Moore, Public Works Manager.

Because the traffic building is located behind the City's print shop/stores building and is not a very public site, Sarmo suggested asking the City Council's permission to spend the \$2,056 on art for the City Hall rather than for the traffic building, although 1% artwork is to be site-specific. Putting art in the traffic building for the benefit of the employees was discussed, and the desire for additional input from both traffic employees and police department employees was discussed. How to choose the artwork was discussed, whether to put out a "Call for Entries" for each project and solicit proposals and slides from local artists, as was done for the Business in the Arts Awards, or to visit local galleries to buy art.

After further discussion the consensus of the Commission was to appoint a committee for each project and meet with the departments involved. LeRoy Donegan and Janet Prell volunteered for the traffic building committee, and Peter Ivanov and Bill Whaley volunteered for the police building committee. Sarmo will schedule meetings with the appropriate people and the Commissioners. Sarmo will also obtain information about a proposed Fire Department storage building project, which would generate \$1,300 in 1% for the Arts funding for that site.

**COMMISSION MISSION AND DUTIES:** The Chair suggested the Commission discuss what role it wants to play in facilitating community cultural development, whether the members want to be a working board or an advisory board. Buys reported on a session she attended at the recent Colorado Arts Consortium Convention in Cortez where the suggestion was made to involve experts from the community to help by serving on board committees. The Chair noted that the amount of work members are willing to do will influence the type of people interested in being on the Commission. Buys suggested having a mini-retreat to address this question in depth, Ivanov asked what other arts councils are responsible for, and a motion was made by Whaley, seconded by Ivanov, to set aside the regular meeting in October as a two-hour mini-retreat to define the Commission's function and duties. The motion carried unanimously.

**COLORADO ARTS CONSORTIUM:** Mangnall reported that she volunteered to serve on the board of the Colorado Arts Consortium and assumed office at the recent CCA Convention.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** A letter was noted from Mayor Kinsey thanking the Commission for helping with the grand opening of the new City Hall. A letter was noted from the Western Colorado Botanical Society thanking the Commission for getting the Qwest grant funding to do the expanded Arts Expo and Cultural Tour, because much of the money will go to the Botanic Garden, the Museum of Western Colorado, the Art Center, and the Doo Zoo for free admissions. Thank you letters were noted from the Grand Valley Blacksmith Guild and the Institute of Dancing Arts for Commission grants they received and from IHS at Mantey Heights for a program presented to their residents by the Institute of Dancing Arts. A letter from the Colorado Council on the Arts was noted announcing that the Commission has been awarded \$5,000 in funding for 2001. (The CCA funds will be included in the Commission's regranting program which supports arts events, projects, and programs done by local organizations.)

**REPORTS:** Blythe and Sarmo reported that they met with the Mesa County Commissioners and County staff about including art at the new Justice Center, but that the Commissioners, while appreciating art, had no money to purchase artwork. The County is working with Art on the Corner to have an AOTC sculpture installed at the site, which, if it is appropriate, might be purchased in the future.

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