

Grand Junction Commission on Arts and Culture  
Minutes  
October 25, 2000

BOARD RETREAT AND MONTHLY MEETING

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

Commissioners Absent: Janet Prell

Others Present: Kelly Arnold (City Manager), Illene Roggensack and Erin Ginter (Third Sector Innovations)

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. The Commission and new City Manager Kelly Arnold exchanged introductions, Arnold explaining that he is familiarizing himself with City employees and City board and commissions. Sarmo reported that a visitor to Grand Junction named Clay Smith called recently offering to donate 11,000 antique calendars which he has been collecting for the last 20 years to the City. He valued the calendar collection at about \$5,000 and believes it is the largest such collection in the world. Smith has no expectations about the City actually displaying the calendars, he simply wants to donate them to someone. Sarmo reported that she recommended he contact the Museum of Western Colorado, and that the City and Commission are primarily interested in artwork which can be displayed in the new City Hall.

RETREAT

The meeting was turned over to Illene Roggensack to facilitate a board mini-retreat addressing several issues: The Commission's mission and goals and the Commission's role in the community, board member responsibilities and a working board v. a policy-making board, and how to improve board orientation and expedite meetings.

Commissioners each talked about their backgrounds and what expertise and community connections they bring to the board. Roggensack distributed a "Board of Director Self-Assessment" questionnaire which members completed and discussed. Major issues included: 1.) Strong reaffirmation of the Commission's mission "to help create and nurture a climate and conditions in Grand Junction in which the arts and culture can thrive and grow;" 2. ) The need to improve orientation of new board members; 3.) The need to limit some discussion at monthly meetings because agendas are so full, 4.) Possible revision of the 1991 *Grand Junction Strategic Cultural Plan*; and 5.) Financial reports, budgeting, e-mails, general communication, and board members' freedom from having to do extensive fund-raising like other non-profits all work well.

Roggensack discussed common responsibilities of boards, noting that the general recommendation for members is to spend about six hours each month actively working for their organization: Two hours at regular meetings, two hours at committee meetings, and two hours doing outreach. Various types of outreach activities were examined, including arts advocacy, attending events or programs on behalf of the Commission, doing speeches and slide presentations, producing special events, etc. Hand-outs were distributed about "Outreach Opportunities for Non Profit Board of Directors Members", "Ten Most Common Mistakes Made by New Board Members", and "New Board Member Orientation".

The Commission's on-going programs and events were listed and discussed, including:

- Establishment and administration of the 1% for the Arts program;
- Establishment and administration of a new rotating art exhibit in City Hall;
- Annual Arts Expo;
- Annual Business in the Arts Awards;
- Administration of a grant program which support local arts and cultural events and programs;
- Accomplishment of various studies about cultural facilities and economic impacts of the arts;
- Acting in an advisory role to City Council, to local arts organizations, and to local artists;
- Outreach activities—events attendance, encouraging new arts groups, representing the City/Commission statewide at arts events such as the Governor's Awards for Excellence in the Arts and on the board of the Colorado Arts Consortium, television promotion spots;
- Publication of *The Sourcebook: A Directory of Grand Junction Area Artists and Arts Organizations* every two years;
- Publication of the *Cultural Events Calendar* every two months;
- Sponsorship of the "Entertainment Calendar" on KAFM Public Radio;
- Workshops for local artists and arts organizations to provide technical training;
- Volunteer workers for the annual Art on the Corner sculpture change;
- Event production such as "Shakespeare in the Park."

The Commission discussed ways to efficiently accomplish a rotating art exhibit in City Hall, without members becoming overloaded with the work involved. Ideas included having two separate art selection committees, one to do 1% for the Arts projects and one to do rotating exhibits; including committee members from the community rather than only Commission members, with a Commissioner as chair; and appointing a committee to write guidelines and policies.

The Commission also discussed how to accomplish special events like "Shakespeare in the Park" without excessive work overload, and the consensus was that the Commission doesn't wish to actively produce major special events other than the Arts Expo, but will continue to financially support such endeavors through their grant program. It was noted that much of the work necessary for "Shakespeare" was a surprise both to the Commission and to the theatre company, since they had never done a traveling show before. Additional evaluation to be done after the Arts Expo was discussed, as well as the need to revisit the strategic cultural plan in the near future.

The Commission thanked Roggensack for her facilitation of the retreat portion of the meeting.

#### REGULAR MEETING

The chairman called the regular meeting to order and a motion was made by Whaley, seconded by Brown, to approve the minutes of the previous meeting held on September 27, 2000. The motion carried unanimously.

ARTS EXPO: Final arrangements for Expo publicity were made with Mangnall volunteering to do the KREX-TV interview and Whaley volunteering to do the KAFM radio interview, and Sarmo will contact Karen Kiefer about doing KAFM as well. Sarmo will do two additional radio interviews. Commissioners reviewed the list of performing groups and divided up names to call. Ivanov reported that he will make arrangements to pick up the marley dance floor and is still waiting for confirmation from two stage managers. Mangnall will have her husband pick up the sound equipment from Back Porch Music. Commissioners also divided up the new cultural events calendars to distribute around town.

CORRESPONDENCE: A letter was read from VSA Arts—Grand Junction (formerly Very Special Arts) requesting Commission support of their Arts Festival (for disabled adults and children) at the Art Center in February, which will be just prior to the Commission’s grant funding cycle for the year 2001. A motion was made by Whaley, seconded by Reidy, to donate \$100 to VSA Arts—Grand Junction as a special gift in support of their annual arts festival. The motion carried unanimously.

ONE PERCENT FOR THE ARTS PROJECTS: Donegan reported that he, Prell, and Sarmo met October 16 with Tim Moore, Public Works Manager, Jodi Kliska, Traffic Engineer, and another member of the department at the new traffic department office building to discuss possible artwork for the building. The total budget for art is \$2,056. Photographs taken by Prell of the building and the surrounding area and of the Police Station and lobby were reviewed. Donegan reported that the traffic building sits on the back portion of the property and is hidden from view, suggesting that a better location for art would be in front on the City Print Shop next to the traffic building. At the request of the traffic department and Tim Moore, purchase of any art will be postponed until 2001, and the matter was tabled until the next meeting.

With regard to the purchase of a painting for the Police Station renovation, a motion was made by Whaley, seconded by Brown, to recommend purchasing “Mesa Reflections” by Carolyn Ford, (submitted to the Commission for the Business in the Arts Awards) for the Police Dept. lobby. The motion carried unanimously. Sarmo will contact the City Council and Lt. Bob Knight for final approval.

Blythe will present draft guidelines for rotating art exhibits at City Hall at the next meeting.

As there was no further business to come before the Commission, the chairman declared the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Allison Cowan Sarmo  
Cultural Arts Coordinator