

Grand Junction Commission on Arts and Culture
Minutes
November 29, 2000

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

Commissioners Absent: Pamela Blythe, Bill Whaley
Others Present: Ann Sanders (Mesa Repertory Dance)

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 Reidy, seconded by Ivanov, to approve the minutes of the previous meeting held on October 25, 2000. The motion carried unanimously.

END OF YEAR EXPENDITURES: The Commission's expenditures for this year were reviewed. A motion was made by Prell, seconded by Reidy, to purchase Charles Morris' watercolor "Reflections of Dallas Creek" for \$600, as tentatively approved at the Commission's September meeting, and hang it in the Parks and Recreation office. The motion carried unanimously. A motion was made by Ivanov, seconded by Mangnall, to purchase the 2001-2001 *Colorado Grants Guide* for \$125 and donate it to the Mesa County Public Library, as done in previous years. The motion carried unanimously.

DECEMBER MEETING RESCHEDULED: A motion was made by Mangnall, seconded by Reidy, to reschedule the Commission's December meeting for Wednesday, December 15, 2000 at 5:00PM, at the Paradise Restaurant, to finalize guidelines, procedures, and a committee for art exhibits at City Hall, since that agenda item will be tabled. The motion carried unanimously.

COLORADO DANCE INITIATIVE: Ann Sanders, Director of Mesa Repertory Dance at Mesa State College informed the Commission about Colorado's designation by the National Dance Education Association as one of four target states selected for a pilot program aimed at strengthening the art of dance, primarily through increased dance education in the public schools. Sanders reported that local dance groups met November 12, 2000 to discuss this initiative and other issues of mutual concern. They all concurred that dance education should be part of public education and taught by certified dance teachers, not by P. E. teachers as part of the physical education program, which it is currently. Sanders noted that the number one issue among those in attendance is a good, affordable performance space for dance concerts, i.e. a new performing arts center, since the Avalon Theater stage is not optimum. Other important issues include better free publicity in the local media, more cooperation among dance groups, creation of a master calendar, distribution of complimentary recital tickets to school children, and a new Grand Junction Dance Festival. The group will be meeting again in January. The Commission encouraged non-profit dance organizations to apply for funding for a new dance festival through the Commission's re-granting program at the beginning of next year.

PERFORMING ARTS FACILITY/SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL FACILITIES TAX DISTRICT: Sarmo reported that she helped facilitate a Grand Junction Symphony Board retreat November 11, 2000, where one of the major topics was the need for a new 2000 seat performing arts center. Such a facility would probably include both a large auditorium and a smaller 200-300 seat theater. The feeling of those present at the retreat was that one way to pay for either the estimated \$20 million dollar capital construction cost or for the estimated \$400,000 - \$500,000 annual subsidy necessary to operate the center would be a Mesa County Scientific and Cultural Facilities Tax District similar to the SCFD tax in the Denver Metro area.

She noted that a sales tax of 1/10 of 1% was campaigned for in 1992, but lost by 16% of the vote. The issue was on the ballot again in 1994 and lost by only 1% of the vote. She asked if the Commission was willing to host a public information forum in early 2001 to discuss the idea of a cultural tax district and a new performing arts facility, and the consensus was that this is something the Commission should do to inform both the cultural community and the general public. Sarmo also noted that the City will be doing a visioning process in the spring which the cultural community and the Commission should be involved in, since several groups are discussing the need for new facilities, including the Symphony, the Art Center, and dance organizations.

RE-GRANTING PROGRAM FOR 2001: The criteria for distribution of grant funds by the Commission was reviewed, the consensus being to keep the criteria the same as this year.

ARTS EXPO & CULTURAL TOUR: The November 4th Arts Expo & Cultural Tour was discussed. Sarmo reported that the Museum had 140 visitors that day--four times their normal Saturday admissions--and that the Zoo reported being much busier than normal, so the addition of the cultural tour part of the event was definitely a success. Because of the renovations and closure of Two Rivers Convention Center next year, the Expo cannot be held at that location, and the Lincoln Park Barn is also unavailable. The Adams Mark, Mesa State College gymnasium, and public school gyms were suggested as possible sites and will be investigated. The Commission was uninterested in working on the Museum's Pride of the Valley Arts Festival as an alternative to the Arts Expo. A motion was made by Brown, seconded by Prell, to table a decision about if and where to hold next year's Expo until the December meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

CITY HALL ART GUIDELINES: Draft guidelines for the rotating art exhibits at City Hall written by Pamela Blythe as well as several revisions by Sarmo were discussed, but because Blythe was absent from the meeting a motion was made by Buys, seconded by Prell, to table this item until the December meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE: Thank you letters were read from the Italian Cultural Society for the Commission's support of Festival Italiano 2000, and from the Museum of Western Colorado for support of the Pride of the Valley Arts Festival. Receipt of a \$20 donation for "Shakespeare in the Park" last summer was noted. An upcoming vacancy on the Commission was noted, because Beth Buys' term will end in February and she is not asking for her tenure to be renewed at this time (but may in the future.)

1% FOR THE ARTS PROJECTS: The Commission discussed locations near but not next to the new traffic building behind City Stores, the consensus being to purchase a sculpture and place it in front of the City Print Shop. A motion was made by Prell, seconded by Brown, to issue a "Call for Entries" in January asking for potential artwork, either existing or to be commissioned, and possibly incorporating the City's old traffic signals. The motion carried unanimously. As there was no further business, the chair declared the meeting adjourned at 5:55PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Allison Cowan Sarmo
Cultural Arts Coordinator