

Grand Junction Commission on Arts and Culture
Minutes
January 24, 2001

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

Others Present: Doug Clary (applicant for Commission vacancy)

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 Mangnall, seconded by Ivanov, to approve the minutes of the previous meeting held on January 9, 2001. The motion carried unanimously.

COMMISSION BUDGET FOR 2001: The Cultural Arts Coordinator distributed the 2001 budget approved by City Council, noting that because of the City's two year budgeting process, the only increase allowed to the budget originally submitted in 1999 for 2000 and 2001 would be a salary increase for the Coordinator position. It was noted that the additional \$5,000 the Commission had requested for artwork exhibits, expenses, and supplies would have to wait until the 2002 budget, and this year any expenses in conjunction with City Hall exhibits, etc., would have to come from the line item for general secretarial supplies. The Coordinator suggested adding spotlights to highlight the two statues in the elevator lobby, particularly "Ouray and Chipeta", and said she could work with City Hall on this expenditure. A motion was made by Whaley, seconded by Brown, to approve the Commission's 2001 budget. The motion carried unanimously.

CALENDAR FOR 2001: The Coordinator distributed a calendar outlining Commission meetings, deadlines, and special events during 2001, plus the Commission's five-year plan detailing projects and programs. There was a discussion about the projects the Commission will pursue and the timeline in which to do them. Developing a vision for the arts throughout the community was promoted and the consensus was to update the 1991 *Grand Junction Strategic Cultural Plan*, with the vision as the starting point. The City's up-coming visioning process was also discussed, as well as possible projects which could include artwork. Blythe suggested having someone from the planning department make a presentation to the Commission about future plans and developments. Sarmo will arrange a presentation at the March meeting.

The RFP for re-use of the former Public Service steam plant was discussed. The Coordinator reported that the DDA, the Western Colorado Business Development Center, and, hopefully the Commission, might put together a task force to facilitate use of the building, and Whaley volunteered to represent the Commission. It was suggested that the Mesa County Economic Development Council also be contacted about the RFP, which Sarmo will do.

The sequence of 1% for the Arts projects at Two Rivers Convention Center, Westlake Park, the traffic building, and the fire station storage facility was discussed. The Coordinator suggested that one "Call for Entries" could be sent out for all projects

at the same time, probably in April. Buys reported that she's talked with the Art Center and the Junior Service League about helping bring Artrain to Grand Junction, and that she will continue to work on this idea.

COMMISSION OFFICERS FOR 2001: A motion was made by Mangnall, seconded by Reidy, to elect LeRoy Donegan to a second term as Commission chairman. The motion carried unanimously and Donegan accepted the position. A motion was made by Prell, seconded by Reidy, to elect Priscilla Mangnall to a second term as Commission vice-chair. The motion carried unanimously and Mangnall accepted the position.

CITY HALL ART: Blythe reported on the first meeting of the City Hall Art Exhibit Committee and presented a list of thirty individual local artists who the committee recommended be invited to exhibit. The committee further recommended that artists be invited in groups of three—one sculptor and two two-dimensional artists—to display their work for a period of three months. The committee recommended that the first exhibitors include Tom Stubbs, Jerry Fritzler, Jac Kephart, Marilyn Wounded Head, Gordon Brown, Tricia Berg, and Terry Shepherd. Blythe noted that the committee had contacted the family of Tom Stubbs but they were not ready to have an exhibition of his artwork at the present time. She noted that the safety of the pieces was a major consideration, since Stubbs' paintings were irreplaceable, and that Fritzler had raised this issue as well. How to secure the art without damaging the walls was discussed, ideas ranging from video cameras (or fake cameras) to plexiglass cases to security mountings. It was noted that some artists are less concerned than others about the safety of their work as long as it is adequately insured. A motion was made by Whaley, seconded by Brown to accept the recommendations of the art exhibit committee, with the deletion of one artist for health reasons, and to authorize the committee to begin negotiations with artists for exhibition times. The motion carried unanimously.

The Coordinator reported an offer via Mayor Kinsey from Ron Scribner at Sentinel Printing to loan two framed photographs taken by William Henry Jackson in 1891 of Grand Junction and numerous area buildings for permanent display in City Hall. The photographs could also be purchased for \$2,000. She had looked at the pictures and thought they would be of great interest to the public, recommending the loan option rather than purchase, and recommending that one or two Commission members also check them out. Sarmo noted that she had suggested the photographs might be more appropriately given to the Museum of Western Colorado but the owner was interested in having them displayed not archived. A motion was made by Brown, seconded by Whaley, that City Hall Art Exhibit Committee representatives Blythe and Prell look at the Jackson photographs and report back to the Commission. The motion carried unanimously.

The Coordinator distributed a newly designed form to be used to accept donations of artwork and permanent loans of artwork to the City. The form asked for information about the donor, artist, work of art, and maintenance of the piece, and established a procedure for considering gifts or loans, since this issue has arisen before and would again. A motion was made by Prell, seconded by Ivanov, to accept the form for donations of artwork to the City and amend the form slightly for permanent loans of artwork to the City. The motion carried unanimously.

ARTS EXPO: A summary of the evaluations from participants of last year's Arts Expo & Cultural Tour was distributed and reviewed, the evaluations generally very positive. The Coordinator reported that this year's Expo has been tentatively scheduled in the Mesa State College Sanders Field House November 3, because of renovations at Two Rivers, and will be finalized in April. It was suggested that the dance studio in the gymnasium might also be leased for the event. Blythe reported that last year's Expo resulted in a several thousand dollar commission for one member of the Grand Valley Blacksmith Guild for a large candelabra for the new Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church, Sarmo noting that the blacksmith guild is one of several groups that want to rent double booths at this year's Expo.

CORRESPONDENCE: Thank you letters for underwriting support were noted from the Art Center, the Grand Valley Blacksmith Guild, and Advocates for Children's Enrichment. ACE returned \$81 of the funding from the Commission which they did not actually use.

REPORTS: The Coordinator reported that Mayor Wellington Webb of Denver is receiving the "Local Arts Leadership" award at a ceremony in Washington, D. C. from Americans for the Arts and the United States Conference of Mayors, with honorees that include President Clinton.

COMMISSION VACANCIES: The Commission reviewed seven applications received by the City Clerk/City Council to fill the three vacancies coming up on the Commission in February. Two applicants, Seth Brown and Bill Whaley, are completing their first terms on the Commission and wish to be reappointed. Letters and resumes from the other five applicants were discussed, and guest Doug Clary, who is one of the applicants, left the meeting prior to the vote. Clary's obvious interest and business expertise were acknowledged, however, several thought that because arts education and arts appreciation are so important, it would be beneficial to maintain a tie with the school district by appointing Joan Meyers, a recently retired school teacher. After thoughtful consideration and discussion, a motion was made by Blythe, seconded by Buys, that the Commission recommend to the City Council that Seth Brown and Bill Whaley be reappointed to a second term on the Arts Commission and Joan Meyers be appointed to fill the third vacancy. The motion carried with seven in favor, Brown and Whaley abstaining.

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