

Grand Junction Commission on Arts and Culture  
Minutes  
April 25, 2001

Commissioners Present: Pamela Blythe  
Seth Brown  
LeRoy Donegan  
Priscilla Mangnall

Joan Meyers  
Bill Reidy  
Bill Whaley

Commissioners Absent: Peter Ivanov and Janet Prell

Others Present: Stephen Boelter (Boelter Design Group)

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 Bill Whaley, seconded by Seth Brown, to approve the minutes of the previous meeting held on March 21, 2001. The motion carried unanimously.

STEAM PLANT BUILDING: Stephen Boelter, a developer who has recently moved to Grand Junction, outlined a proposal for re-use of the Public Service Steam Plant building. The proposal is in response to the City's *Request for Proposals* for the building and the City Council has authorized continued negotiations with Boelter and his partners with the hope that the project proceeds as quickly as possible. Boelter is collaborating with Mark Maurer, a local architect, and Don Bell, a local attorney, to utilize the building as the Grand Valley Cultural and Art Center, and are forming a non-profit organization to accomplish this. Their proposal hopes to find a variety of compatible tenants and includes the following possible uses:

- performance space for audiences of 300 - 500, shared with the Unitarian Universal Society, a faith-based organization;
- visual art exhibit space;
- specialized education, child care and adult care facilities;
- visitors' information center;
- retail and office space;
- space for unique community functions and recreation.

Boelter acknowledged that the proposal is not fully funded and they hope to attract development dollars to undertake the project. He recognized that at present this is a risky proposition for developers because of the surrounding neighborhood, but this provides an opportunity to extend downtown southward and continue to upgrade the

area. He also acknowledged that there are few models for this type of building use and almost none in smaller communities. He presented drawings of the existing building and proposed improvements, noting that the building has approximately 25,000 usable square feet on one – three floors. The parking lot will accommodate 60 cars, plus on-street parking and other lots nearby. Boelter explained that his understanding is the City would continue to own the building until the project is completed and then give the building to the umbrella non-profit organization for a nominal fee. Estimates for renovation and remodeling are from \$2–3 million. Boelter asked that the Commission help as a resource, which the Commission will do, and the Cultural Arts Coordinator offered to supply Boelter with names and addresses of potential arts and cultural users as well as other information about arts incubators and similar operations. Several board members suggested other resources to contact.

**COMMISSION RE-GRANTING PROGRAM:** The Commission reviewed the goals and criteria for granting funds for art and cultural events, projects, and programs in 2002. After extensive discussion, a motion was made by Mangnall, seconded by Reidy, to amend the grant criteria as follows:

- In “Goals” delete #2 “Increase both public and private resources for the arts” (which is unclear) and add “Promote projects with the potential for self-sufficiency after three years”;
- In “Objectives” add #5 “Foster the development of fundraising capabilities of emerging organizations and projects”;
- In “Review Criteria” add #5 “The level of community participation, volunteers, and/or financial contributions”;
- In “What the Commission Does Not Fund” change #4 “Capitol expenditures over \$500” to “over \$1,000”, and #5 “Equipment purchases over \$500” to “over \$1,000”.

The motion carried unanimously.

It was decided to offer a pre-application meeting with the Commission in mid-January for any new organizations and organizations unfunded in past years, to review their proposed ideas and projects prior to submittal of a request for funding.

**ART ON THE CORNER:** A volunteer sign-up sheet was circulated for the May 19<sup>th</sup> Art on the Corner sculpture change.

**CITY HALL ART:** The Coordinator reported that she was told there is no available funding in the City Hall maintenance and operations budget to purchase a spotlight or two for the sculptures in the elevator lobby, but that the Commission could submit a

budget request for the necessary \$800–\$900 for next year. She suggested that spotlighting “Ouray and Chipeta” with one new light would be sufficient, asking that the Commission consider purchasing the light using their own 2001 budget for special projects and artwork purchases, since better lighting for the artwork would be advantageous. Blythe noted that she, the lighting engineer, and Jim Stavast from facility management also looked at the lobby and that new lighting can be added fairly simply without an additional switch. A motion was made by Brown, seconded by Whaley, to purchase a spotlight for “Ouray and Chipeta” for approximately \$400–\$500. The motion carried unanimously.

The Coordinator also reported that Finance Director Ron Lappi recommended Grace Hendricks as a second City Hall representative on the City Hall Art Exhibit Committee, because Grace is an artist herself and is the temporary facility manager for City Hall. The Coordinator noted that having another City Hall employee on the committee would be very helpful, even though the committee is already quite large, since Sue Schore has been unable to attend the meetings and communication with City Hall is sometimes problematic. A motion was made by Mangnall, seconded by Blythe, to appoint Grace Hendricks to the City Hall Art Committee. The motion carried, six in favor and one opposed.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** Thank you letters for Commission funding support were noted from the Brush and Palette Club, Latin–Anglo Alliance, Friends of the Mesa County Public Library District, and Lisa Bush with the Grand Junction Music Teachers Association. The Coordinator also read a letter of support for the Friends for Native American Communities group and noted receipt of an extensive list of entertainers and artists participating in the Rocky Mountain Indian Festival May 19–20, with names, addresses, and amount each will be paid through Commission grant funding. The Native American group also submitted written proof that they are fulfilling their obligation to repay a disputed check to Alpine Bank. Sarmo noted that Matchen asked to receive the grant funds from the Commission two weeks prior to the event, rather than on the day of the event, in order to pay travel and housing costs for the participants. Because of the additional paperwork submitted, Sarmo said she is comfortable disbursing the check as requested, which is still two weeks later than most checks are given to organizations, and the consensus of the Commission was to proceed with dispersal of the grant funds to Friends for Native American Communities.

**REPORTS:** The Coordinator’s report for April and Financial Report for the First Quarter of 2001 were distributed and discussed. There was a discussion about what the Commission’s 2002 grant request should be to the Colorado Council on the Arts, the

consensus being to apply for the same project as in previous years--funding to augment the re-granting program supporting arts and cultural events, projects, and programs.

Arts Expo Committee: There was a discussion about hours and other details for this year's Arts Expo, in preparation for mailing invitations to participate to local cultural organizations and artists.

Chairman Donegan appointed new Commission member Joan Meyers to serve on the Business in the Arts Committee and Meyers also volunteered for a seat on the board of the Colorado Alliance for Arts Education, a statewide organization to encourage more arts in the schools.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Allison Cowan Sarmo  
Cultural Arts Coordinator