

Grand Junction Commission on Arts and Culture  
Minutes  
September 26, 2001

Commissioners Present: Pamela Blythe                      Priscilla Mangnall  
   Doug Clary                      Joan Meyers  
   LeRoy Donegan              Janet Prell  
   Peter Ivanov                      Bill Whaley

Others Present: Dan Roberts, Joe Warner, and Mike Anton with the Events Center

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, and a motion was made by Priscilla Mangnall, seconded by Pamela Blythe, to approve the minutes of the previous two meetings on July 25, 2001 and August 22, 2001. The motion carried unanimously.

EVENTS CENTER: Dan Roberts appeared before the Commission representing the Regional Hub Committee for an Events Center, and introduced fellow committee members Joe Warner, and Mike Anton. Roberts made a presentation about the proposed regional events center which included the following information: In 1998 the Chamber of Commerce decided to find a way to augment Grand Junction's threatened status as a regional hub, noting that people come to Grand Junction for medical services, education services, transportation services, and retail outlets, but that the latter two reasons are being adversely impacted by airports in other cities/towns and catalogue/Internet retail sales. The Chamber decided that the regional attraction of a 10,000 seat indoor events center would be the answer. The event center could host entertainment events, large concerts (perhaps including the Grand Junction Symphony), Broadway shows, sporting events such as arena football, rodeo, monster truck shows, trade shows, and expositions. The projected direct economic impact would be \$5.6 million annually, and it would create nine permanent full-time jobs and up to 230 part-time positions. Three comparable facilities in other states were discussed.

Peter Ivanov noted that classical music concerts and Broadway shows require very different physical spaces, technical equipment, staging, and acoustics than sporting events, and the committee members said this would be taken into consideration. Priscilla Mangnall pointed out that even if the proposed event center is constructed, it won't adequately address the need for a high quality performing arts center.

1% FOR THE ARTS PROJECTS: The Cultural Arts Coordinator reported that the sculpture for the traffic engineering building is being powder coated black and will be installed

soon. The Coordinator also reported that the contract for the sculpture/water feature at Two Rivers Convention Center is being finalized with artist Ivan Kosta. Pamela Blythe noted that the total budget for the Two Rivers Convention Center project is \$6 million according to newspaper reports, but the Commission is only being allowed to spend 1% of the building's construction cost (\$3.8 million) rather than 1% of \$6 million. The Coordinator explained that this is because of the wording in Resolution #20-97 which created the 1% for the Arts program. Blythe recommended the Commission consider asking City Council to amend the resolution so that the 1% amount for art is computed against the total cost of any building projects. Re the Two Rivers artwork, the Coordinator suggested that the Commission consider spending some of the remaining \$7,000 earmarked for artwork in their 2001 budget toward the concrete work necessary for the base of the water feature. The Coordinator reported that because it is customary for the purchaser of a sculpture to provide the concrete pad to place it on, Ivan Kosta assumed the City/Commission would help bear some of the expense of the concrete pool area construction. (The Coordinator noted that the Parks Dept., not the sculptor, is pouring the pad for the traffic building sculpture.) She also noted that the contract with Kosta will be for \$36,000 but that the total 1% amount is actually \$38,673, so the Commission has another \$2,673 to spend for additional expenses related to the water feature. Of this \$2,673, a small portion has been spent to install electrical lines for the fountain and slightly different water and drainage lines than originally planned for the space when it was to be a planter. The Coordinator noted that the Commission probably has about \$2,000 available in the 1% funding but would probably need another \$2,000 - \$3,000 to equal an amount comparable to the cost of a large concrete pad necessary had they commissioned a monumental sized sculpture rather than a sculpture/fountain combination. A motion was made Mangnall, seconded by Whaley, to expend the funds necessary from the Commission's existing budget for artwork to assist with completion of the concrete work for "The Song of Two Rivers", subject to City/Commission approval of the artist's Final Design Plan and cost estimates as specified in the contract, and up to an amount equal to what would be expected for a large concrete pad. The motion carried, seven in favor and Blythe abstaining. Blythe recommended that any costs the City/Commission will incur be more clearly delineated in the next 1% project "Call for Entries".

REPORTS: The Coordinator's Report for September and the year to date Financial Report were distributed and reviewed. The Coordinator read a letter from the Colorado Council on the Arts notifying the Commission that their grant application was successful and they will receive a grant of \$3,200 in 2002. The Coordinator also reported that Ursula Hemmerich is working on organizing a Rose Festival next year and may apply to the Commission for some funding. A list of organizations that have

signed up to participate in the annual Arts Expo and of organizations that have returned their Economic Impact of the Arts survey forms was distributed and reviewed. Commissioners will call those who haven't either returned the survey or registered for the Expo.

The Business in the Arts Awards Committee reported that three nominations were received for this year: In the Corporate Category–Alpine Bank was nominated by the Grand Junction Musical Arts Association and the Bank of Colorado was nominated by Ursula Hemmerich; in the Small Business Category–Planet Earth & the 4 Directions Gallery was nominated by Alice Rupp. The committee's recommendation was to select Alpine Bank and Planet Earth, and a motion was made by Prell, seconded by Meyers, to chose Alpine Bank and Planet Earth & the 4 Directions Gallery as the 2001 Business in the Arts Awards winners. The motion carried unanimously.

Artwork by local artists Janet Mayerik, Terry Shepherd, Linda Rybak, and Herb Urban was viewed and discussed. A motion was made by Blythe, seconded by Whaley, to purchase the two ceramic vessels by Terry Shepherd as the awards to be presented to the business winners. The motion carried unanimously. A motion was made by Prell, seconded by Whaley, to purchase pedestals for displaying the pottery pieces. The motion carried unanimously. The Coordinator will check with Caole Lowry at Planet Earth before ordering to ask if she would like a pedestal.

After a discussion about the up-coming Governor's Awards for Excellence in the Arts, a motion was made by Blythe, seconded by Prell, to nominate Don Meyers, former head of the Mesa State College Art Department for this award. The motion carried, seven in favor and Joan Meyers abstaining. 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