Grand Junction Commission on Arts and Culture Minutes January 14, 2002

Commissioners Present: Pamela Blythe Karen Kiefer

Doug Clary Joan Meyers

LeRoy Donegan

Commissioners Absent: Peter Ivanov, Priscilla Mangnall, Janet Prell, and Bill Whaley Others Present: Mari Steinbach (Recreation Superintendent), Sherry Swager (Recreation intern), Elizabeth Gardner, Deborah Snider, Karleen Dunning, Cindy Rhodes, Andrea Court, Trina Lindsey, Gayla Auten, Lorna Naegele, Tim Winegardener, and Ursula Hemmerich.

A special meeting of the Grand Junction Commission on Arts and Culture was held on the above date to offer potential grant applicants an opportunity for a pre-application screening. Chair LeRoy Donegan called the meeting to order at 4:05pm. A motion was made by Pamela Blythe, seconded by Joan Meyers, to approve the minutes of the previous meeting held on December 11, 2001, with the addition of Karen Kiefer in the list of Commissioners present at that meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

Representatives from eleven local non-profit organizations and agencies appeared before the Commission to discuss ideas and options for grant applications to the Commission, and to ask the Commission's advice about which events and projects would be the most worthwhile and competitive, according to the grant program's goals and guidelines.

Elizabeth Gardner, the parent of a New Emerson Elementary School student, discussed an artist-in-residence program for New Emerson through the Museum of Outdoor Arts in Englewood, Colorado. The "Design and Build" sculpture project would cost about \$800, plus materials and supplies for a permanent sculpture the students would create. The consensus of the Commission was that this would be a good application, and that the Museum of Outdoor Arts should apply for the grant since the Commission does not fund individual schools. Gardner also discussed a second artist-in-residence idea involving Hoby Ford, a puppeteer from New England, which would be partially funded by the LIVE! at the Library program at Mesa County Public Library. It was recommended that Gardner encourage the library or Mesa County Valley School District to apply for this project, because the Commission does not wish to change it's policy of not funding individual schools.

Deborah Snider, organizer and steering committee member for the up-coming Western Slope Arts Educator Conference at Mesa State College on March 2, 2002, discussed the Commission helping fund the \$600 cost of field trips, two presenter fees, and printed materials. Snider noted that the steering committee wants to keep registration fees to a minimum and also hopes this will become an annual gathering. The consensus of the Commission was that this would be a good application and that Snider should apply through the Mesa State College Foundation rather than the college, since each organization can only

apply for one project and there are other potential projects at the college which might seek grant funding.

Karleen Dunning, organizer of the annual Native American Film Festival at Mesa State, discussed underwriting for this festival, which the Commission funded in 1999. Dunning told the Commission about her hope of having writer/director Sherman Alexie as the festival's keynote speaker, which could cost \$12,000. The consensus of the Commission was that this would be a good application.

Cindy Rhodes, manager of the Grand Junction Symphony, told the Commission about the symphony's up-coming 25th annual 2002–2003 season, and asked what type of event they would be most interested in supporting: A fundraising event, the annual children's concert, or the Aspen Ballet performance. Rhodes noted that children's events are usually the easiest to obtain funding for, because these are the most popular with foundations, granting agencies, and the Symphony Guild. The consensus of the Commission was that the ballet would be the most unique and appropriate grant application.

Andrea Court, Assistant Curator of History at the Museum of Western Colorado, discussed applying for support for the 23rd annual Apple Jubilee at Cross Orchards History Farm. Court noted that the Museum will not be doing the Pride of the Valley Festival this year but has expanded Apple Jubilee to include two stages of live entertainment, numerous arts and craft vendors, and historic folk art and craft demonstrations. The consensus of the Commission was that this would be a worthwhile application.

Trina Lindsey, art coordinator for the Art Center, asked the Commission which project they would be more likely to support: A series of exhibits or children's classes such as Summer Art Camp or May Art Week. Lindsey noted, as Cindy Rhodes had earlier, that children's events are often the easiest to find financial assistance for, and that the Center's real need is exhibit underwriting. She would like to apply for support for three exhibits: "Colorado Collections", historic artworks from a Denver collector; "Til the Cows Come Home" paintings by a local artist, and "Contemporary Colorado" the annual abstract exhibit. The consensus of the Commission was that the exhibits would be a good application.

Gayla Auten, a local storyteller and wife of a sculptor, discussed doing a festival involving local artists, as recommended in the *Grand Junction Strategic Cultural Plan*. Auten noted two possible ideas, a "Storefront Art School" where artists work with students of all ages, and/or a "Procession of the Species" where artists and community members help create characters following a given theme. Auten noted that the festival could be an expansion of either JABOA's Studio Tour or the Downtown Development Authority's Art & Jazz Festival. She was encouraged to pursue the festival idea and to contact both the DDA and JABOA as potential applicants.

Lorna Naegele, Executive Director of the Western Colorado Botanical Society, asked the Commission whether they would be more interested in supporting capital improvements (grass and an irrigation system) for the garden's new amphitheater or a September concert series at the amphitheater. The consensus of the Commission was that the best long-term use of grant funding in this case would be the capital improvements, since the amphitheater provides a unique and needed cultural venue in town. Tim Winegardner, president of the

Bookcliff Harmony Barbershop Chorus, discussed several options for a grant application, including purchase of sheet music, purchase of concert tickets for students, or sponsoring concerts at local senior centers and nursing homes. The consensus of the Commission was that concerts for seniors would be the best application.

Ursula Hemmerich, president of the Grand Valley Rose Society, discussed applying for \$500 to help sponsor the Society's second annual rose show. The consensus of the Commission was that this application would not be very competitive because of the lack of involvement by artists and the lack of a strong artistic or cultural component.

A letter was presented from the Mesa County Community Concert Association noting that they were unable to do the elementary students' concert for which they received \$1,300 in 2001 from the Commission, although they did host 300 middle school students at the concert. They asked to retain the \$979 left unspent, and use the money this year for middle school and high school music clinics, rather than return the money and apply for a new grant. A motion was made by Kiefer, seconded by Clary, that the Mesa County Community Concert Association be allowed to retain the remaining \$979 for a school tour, clinic, or concert during the 2002 grant year. The motion carried unanimously.

Up-coming art exhibits at City Hall were discussed, the Coordinator noting that Frank Francese will soon be moving to Florida and cannot display his artwork in February. Kiefer suggested, and the Commission concurred with, having Diana Woods exhibit during February-March-April, and Kiefer will contact Woods. Sarmo noted a request from the Thunder Mountain Camera Club to hang a 2' X 4' club banner alongside their photo exhibit, but the consensus was that this was too large and should not be allowed. As there was no further business before the Commission, the Chair declared the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Allison Cowan Sarmo
Cultural Arts Coordinator