

Grand Junction Commission on Arts and Culture  
Minutes  
January 23, 2002

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

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 4pm. A motion was made by Karen Kiefer, seconded by Doug Clary, to approve the minutes of the previous meeting held on January 14, 2002. The motion carried unanimously.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2002: The Coordinator read the duties of the chairperson and vice-chairperson from the Commission's By-Laws. Priscilla Mangnall moved to nominate Bill Whaley as chair, and Janet Prell seconded the nomination. The motion carried unanimously and Whaley was elected chairperson. Peter Ivanov moved to nominate Pamela Blythe as vice-chair, and Janet Prell seconded the nomination. The motion carried unanimously and Blythe was elected vice-chairperson. The newly elected officials will take office February 1, 2002. The Commission recognized and thanked current chair LeRoy Donegan for his two years of service.

CALENDAR OF MEETINGS AND PROJECTS FOR 2002: The Coordinator reported that the City Council approved the newly revised *Grand Junction Strategic Cultural Plan* on January 2, 2002. A calendar of Commission meetings, publications, and projects for 2002 was distributed. The Commission then reviewed the various categories in the cultural plan to determine a time frame for implementing numerous recommendations for action. The Coordinator noted that the Commission's major projects in January and February include the annual grant program (with two additional meetings - the January 14 pre-application screening and the February 26 application presentations), writing the *State of the Arts* annual report for City Council, compiling the March/April cultural events calendar, and hanging a new art exhibit at City Hall. She recommended that no new projects be added until March or April.

FUNDING RESOURCES and CULTURAL FACILITIES: The Coordinator reported that Vicki Maddox of George K. Baum Associates, a Denver bonding firm, would come to Grand Junction at no charge to do a presentation about special district elections and a possible Mesa County Scientific and Cultural Facilities District. This is preferable to paying Floyd Ciruli at least \$2600 for the same workshop. The consensus of the Commission was to

proceed with the workshop from the bonding firm and schedule it for the next bi-monthly meeting of major arts and cultural organizations on March 12.

**ARTS EDUCATION:** The Commission decided to facilitate the formation of an Arts Advocacy Committee--to encourage more arts in the schools--by convening a meeting of interested individuals in early April. A grant to the school district was discussed, in light of the fact that the school district does not seem supportive of arts and culture even when offered funding, but some individual schools are very interested in providing arts education. The consensus of the Commission was that while they do not want grant applications from individual schools, if School District #51 decides not to apply for a Commission grant then applications will be accepted for artist-in-residence programs from a consortium of at least three schools, preferably one of them being a secondary school.

**SUPPORT FOR LOCAL ARTISTS:** The Commission will undertake a major update of *The Sourcebook: A Directory of Grand Junction Area Artists and Arts Organizations* in April-May-June. The Downtown Development Authority/Downtown Association will be encouraged, possibly through the Commission's grant process, to expand the Art & Jazz Festival to include more local artists.

**MARKETING AND PROMOTION:** The idea of forming a new Marketing Committee to do additional marketing of local cultural events and artists through a new web site will be addressed in June or July, possibly as an item during a bi-monthly meeting of major arts organizations.

Whether or not to do the Arts Expo & Cultural Tour again this November was discussed. Establishing measurable goals for the promotional event was proposed, as well as doing a different type of event, either a Halloween Ball and/or a week-long fall arts festival. Attracting more artists to the Expo by allowing artwork sales this year was discussed, as well as the idea of gearing a promotional event toward what the George K. Baum Associates representatives feel is the greatest need for public awareness.

**URBAN DESIGN AND PUBLIC ART:** The Coordinator will continue to work with Kathy Portner in Community Development to include the recommended changes to the City's planning and zoning code to encourage more public artwork. The Commission discussed the DDA's reluctance to continue to fully fund the Art on the Corner program, the Commission's consensus being that this is such an important and direct benefit to downtown that it should remain a DDA program.

**GOVERNOR'S AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN THE ARTS:** A reception was scheduled for the evening of February 22 in honor of the Commission's nominee Don Meyers winning the Governor's Award for Excellence in the Arts. The Coordinator will confer with Don and Joan Meyers on an invitation list and check prices on possible venues (Art Center, Two Rivers, or Liff Auditorium). Donegan, Blythe, Kiefer, and Mangnall volunteered to be the Reception Committee. The Commission also is invited to the official award presentation March 14 in Denver with Governor Owens.

CORRESPONDENCE: A thank you letter was read from artist Gerald Fritzler for the Commission's purchase of one of his paintings for Two Rivers Convention Center. A thank you letter was read from The Latimer House staff and another letter from Hilltop Community Resources, which oversees The Latimer House, for Commission donated tickets to "The Nutcracker" in December. A thank you letter was read from the Art Center for the pre-application screening meeting the Commission did January 14.

REPORTS: The Coordinator's Report for January 2002 was distributed and reviewed. Multiple grant applications from Mesa State College for Commission funding were discussed, the Coordinator asking if anyone knew an organization which would sponsor a grant request from Mesa's dance department. Only one application per organization is allowed. Bill Whaley will contact KAFM.

CITY HALL ART EXHIBIT COMMITTEE: Because Frank Francese and Diana Woods cannot display artwork during February-March-April, the consensus of the Commission was to contact Burgess Roye. Kiefer and Prell volunteered to help take down the Hardy and Stubbs exhibit January 30. Blythe and Prell volunteered to help hang the Thunder Mountain Camera Club exhibit February 6. The Coordinator will remove sculptures with Terry Shepherd and Scott Shaffer January 30 and install sculptures with George Turner January 31. Blythe reported that she had an estimate of \$2,000 from a local company to build three wooden display pedestals for sculptures at City Hall. She gave the Coordinator catalogues of other available pedestals.

As there was no further business to come before the board, the chair adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Allison Cowan Sarmo  
Cultural Arts Coordinator