

Grand Junction Commission on Arts and Culture  
Minutes  
March 27, 2002

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

Others Present: Ross Barefoot (FLEXISS, L.L.C.) and Mari Steinbach, Recreation Supervisor

The regular meeting of the Grand Junction Commission on Arts and Culture was held on the above date. Chair Bill Whaley called the meeting to order at 4:00pm. A motion was made by Priscilla Mangnall, seconded by Karen Kiefer, to approve the minutes of the previous meetings held on February 26, 2002 and February 27, 2002. The motion carried unanimously.

ARTISTS WEBSITE: Ross Barefoot of FLEXISS, L.L.C. appeared before the Commission to explain his new website [www.artisansofcolorado.com](http://www.artisansofcolorado.com), which is designed to showcase artwork by visual artists throughout Colorado, beginning with those on the Western Slope, and put artists together with potential art purchasers. He explained that to create an individual website, an artist generally hires a specialist to develop their site, at a cost of several hundred dollars. [ArtisansofColorado.com](http://ArtisansofColorado.com) offers artists the opportunity to have an Internet presence for \$99 the first year and \$45 for subsequent years. Barefoot asked the Commission to consider assisting him in promoting the website in one or more of the following ways:

1. Include a brochure (provided by FLEXISS) in the Commission's next mailing to local artists;
2. Help host a workshop for local artists explaining the site and how to utilize it easily;
3. Contribute \$800 for temporary staff to contact local artists about the site and help people join;
4. Contribute \$1400 to develop a mechanism within the site that would make the site easily useful to visitors, decorators, contractors, and galleries, focusing on Grand Junction artists;
5. Contribute \$200, and \$30 per month, to create a separate ArtistsOfGrandJunction web address as a specific entry into the site.

The Commission discussed the fact that the *Grand Junction Strategic Cultural Plan* recommends development of a website to showcase local artists to developers and interior designers, and that [ArtisandofColorado.com](http://ArtisandofColorado.com) could serve that function but be done privately rather than by the Commission. The Commission also discussed the precedent of assisting a private venture, noting that this is the only website of its type appealing to mainly Western Slope artists, and that there are ways to assist which don't involve actual funding. A motion was made by Prell, seconded by Clary, to include the [ArtisansofColorado.com](http://ArtisansofColorado.com) brochure in the up-coming mailing to local artists about the *Sourcebook* directory update, and to look into scheduling a workshop for training artists to join and use the site. The motion carried unanimously. The Cultural Arts Coordinator

will investigate whether the website can be linked to the Colorado Council on the Arts funded site [artistsregister.com](http://artistsregister.com).

**PUBLIC ART PROJECTS:** The Coordinator informed the Commission about upcoming 1% for the Arts projects. City parks public restrooms are scheduled to be replaced at a rate of one each year over the next ten years. Costing about \$150,000 - \$180,000 each, the 1% portion will be approximately \$1,500 - \$1,800. The Coordinator noted that she and the Parks Planner had discussed artwork possibilities, especially in light of the fact that whatever is done needs to be very vandal-proof, and that some type of mural on each building might be a possibility. Adding something architecturally to each building--murals, benches, tiles, etc.—appears to be the most appropriate option. Construction and improvements at Westlake Park are probably completed for the foreseeable future, and the Commission at some point soon will need to address about \$15,000 in artwork for that approximately \$1.5 million project, art which again must be very vandal-proof or which might be placed in another City park. This project has also been discussed with the Parks Planner, and input from the Parks and Recreation Director will also be sought.

A new phase of construction at Canyon View Park, costing \$3 – 4 million, will eventually mean more artwork for that site, however, those improvements are not yet budgeted and may not happen for some time. A new \$1 million maintenance facility at Tiara Rado Golf Course is in the City's Capital Improvements Plan for 2003, and there has also been discussion about constructing a fire station on the Redlands, also in 2003. The Coordinator will check into cost estimates for restroom murals, and keep the Commission updated.

**BUSINESS IN THE ART AWARDS:** Because the Commission decided not to do the Arts Expo for a year, there was a discussion about when to present the annual Business in the Arts Awards, usually given out during the Expo. The City of Denver's Business in the Arts Awards presentation, which several Commission members attended recently in conjunction with the presentation of the Governor's Awards for Excellence in the Arts, was also discussed. Denver's award ceremony was attended by 600 people and included five different awards. Ways to include more businesses in the Commission's awards were discussed, as well as when to present the awards, and the matter was referred to the Business in the Arts Award Committee for a recommendation. A meeting was scheduled for Monday, April 15 at 10:00am at Higher Grounds Coffee Shop with committee members Karen Kiefer, Priscilla Mangnall, Joan Meyers, and Janet Prell.

**ARTS EDUCATION:** The Commission decided to host an organizational meeting April 16 or 18, depending on location availability, to form an Arts Advocacy Council recommended in the *Grand Junction Strategic Cultural Plan*. The Commission will help organize the council with the idea that the group will then operate independently to advocate for more arts education in the schools.

**COLORADO ARTS CONSORTIUM:** Consortium board member Karen Kiefer reported that CAC will hold one of their regular meetings in Grand Junction June 22. She will send a letter to local arts organizations about the meeting. It is one of the few times the statewide association has met on the Western Slope.

SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL FACILITIES DISTRICT: Several Commission members reported on the excellent presentation by Vicki Mattox of George K. Baum Co. March 12 regarding formation of a Mesa County cultural district to raise funds for arts, cultural, and scientific organizations. The election campaign necessary to establish a district will likely cost nonprofit groups as much as \$50,000 - \$70,000 to accomplish. How and whether or not to involve proponents of the proposed event center was discussed.

CORRESPONDENCE: Thank you letters were read from the Italian Cultural Society for the Commission's supporting Festival Italiano, the Grand Valley Blacksmith Guild for workshop underwriting, and the Schumann Singers for concert sponsorship. A letter was read from the Colorado Alliance for Arts Education praising the participation of Arts Commissioner Joan Meyers on the CAAE state board, and the Commission's financial support for her travel expenses. Another thank you letter was read from artist Jerry Fritzer for the Commission's purchase of his watercolor painting for Two Rivers Convention Center.

COMMISSION COMMITTEES: New committee appointments for 2002 were addressed. It was decided to discontinue the Arts Expo Committee, Strategic Cultural Plan Committee, and Steam Plant/Artists Incubator Committee as no longer needed. Commission members signed up for their preferred assignments and the chairman will make final appointments at the next meeting.

REPORTS: The Cultural Arts Coordinator's monthly reports for February and March were distributed and reviewed. The Coordinator asked permission to attend the Americans for the Arts nationwide Public Art Conference in Nashville, Tennessee June 6-8 rather than the Colorado Arts Consortium Conference this year, noting that the public art conference is an excellent training opportunity which she attended in Denver several years ago. She stated that the state conference doesn't offer nearly the range and depth of information as the national conference, and that the cost to the Commission would be basically the same since she has family to stay with in Nashville. A motion was made by Blythe, seconded by Kiefer, that the Coordinator attend the Americans for the Arts Public Art Conference instead of the Colorado Arts Consortium Conference this year. The motion carried unanimously.

CITY HALL ART EXHIBIT COMMITTEE: The Coordinator reported that the Historic Preservation Board does not wish to exhibit their student art show on the second floor of City Hall in May for National Historic Preservation Month, so a new exhibitor needs to be invited. This was referred to committee. The new committee chair LeRoy Donegan will schedule a meeting next week with committee members Janet Prell and Karen Kiefer.

DOS RIOS ART PROJECT: Janet Prell reported that a teacher at Dos Rios Elementary wants to put together an art project for elementary age students and various ideas were offered.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Allison Cowan Sarmo  
Cultural Arts Coordinator