

Grand Junction Commission on Arts and Culture  
Minutes  
April 24, 2002

Commissioners Present: Pamela Blythe  
Doug Clary  
4:15pm)  
Jack Delmore (arrived 4:50pm)  
Karen Kiefer  
Priscilla Mangnall  
Joan Meyers (arrived  
Janet Prell  
Bill Whaley

Commissioners Absent: LeRoy Donegan  
Others Present: Tom Watson, Joe Wilcox, Connie Robbins-Brady, and Dennis Brady

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 Karen Kiefer, seconded by Doug Clary, to approve the minutes of the previous meeting held on March 27, 2002. The motion carried unanimously.

JUNCTION ARTS COLLECTIVE: Tom Watson, Joe Wilcox, Connie Robbins-Brady and Dennis Brady appeared before the Commission to inform the board about a new non-profit organization and center they are founding, the Junction Arts Collective (JAC). They are currently looking for a facility in the downtown area in which to establish a resource, retail, educational, studio, storage, and performing arts center primarily aimed at local artists. They hope to locate the center/artist incubator in the historic Reed Building currently owned by the Downtown Development Authority, but have not yet discussed a possible lease or lease purchase with DDA. Karen Kiefer recommended the group investigate the Business of Art Center in Manitou Springs, Whaley recommended investigating the Smiley School in Durango, and Pamela Blythe recommended the Salida Steam Plant Center as models for the new facility. Funding for the new center will come from their education programs, membership and fundraising drives, grants and corporate sponsorship, and retail art sales.

“THE SONG OF TWO RIVERS”’: The newly installed sculpture at Two Rivers Convention Center was discussed at length, particularly with regard to the fact that it differs from the design submitted by artist Ivan Kosta and approved by the Commission and City Council. The original proposal and picture was reviewed. The Commission noted changes in the design, including: 1. Flattening the configuration of the two broken circles so the piece has less of a fluid and ribbonlike appearance; 2. Repositioning the open areas of the circle from the upper sides to the top of the piece; 3. Changing the way the water flows so it arcs across the upright steel rods rather than flows down each rod; 4. Significantly decreasing the number of rods from about 44 to eight and repositioning the rods only in the center not across the entire top of the piece (eliminating the appearance of what Kosta described as a “harp”); and 5. Eliminating the steel beads along each rod. In addition to the aesthetics of the piece, Commission members also expressed disappointment in the workmanship and attention to detail, and noted that it might not be constructed of stainless steel, as promised. The fact that the liner is visible under the rocks is also a problem.

The Coordinator noted that Parks and Recreation Director Joe Stevens wants the final \$10,800 payment to Kosta withheld until the various technical and aesthetic issues are resolved. The Commission agreed, and the consensus of the Commission was to recommend to City Council, if requested, that the best options would be to either have Kosta remove the sculpture and reconstruct it as originally proposed and replace it, or remove the sculpture completely and return all the money already paid to him.

A motion was made by Blythe, seconded by Kiefer, to engage an expert and obtain a professional assessment of the structural integrity and materials from which the sculpture is constructed. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Kiefer, seconded by Clary, that the Coordinator to find out from the City Attorney what legal precedent there might be and what the City's contractual grounds are for contesting the changes in the appearance of the sculpture.

A motion was made by Prell, seconded by Meyers, authorizing an ad hoc committee of the Commission, comprised of any available members, to deal with this issue if immediate action becomes necessary. The motion carried unanimously.

**NEW BUSINESS: COLORADO COUNCIL ON THE ARTS 2003 GRANT:** The Commission discussed what project to apply for grant funding for from the Colorado Council on the Arts. A motion was made by Prell, seconded by Mangnall, to apply for the same project as in past years, additional funding for financial support of arts and cultural events/projects/programs. The motion carried unanimously.

**SOURCEBOOK:** The new publication of the *Sourcebook* directory was discussed, Clary recommending the Commission consider a full color cover, a larger format, and a photograph of each artist's work along with names and other information. The Coordinator presented a request from the Art Center to purchase display advertising on the inside front or back cover, and asking for a price for such an ad. A motion was made by Prell, seconded by Blythe, to do the cover in full color this year and to offer the inside front or back covers for advertising at a cost of \$200 for a single full page ad. Changing the format and including examples of artists' work will be considered when the directory is republished again in two years.

**ARTISANSOFCOLORADO.COM:** A request from ArtisansOfColorado.com was presented asking to purchase mailing labels from the Commission of local visual artists. The Coordinator explained that such requests from non-profit organizations are granted automatically, at a cost of \$10, but requests from businesses are decided by the Commission on a case by case basis. Blythe noted that ArtisansOfColorado.com new website supports recommendations in the cultural plan, and a motion was made by Mangnall, seconded by Whaley, to provide visual artists mailing labels to ArtisansOfColorado.com at a cost of \$20. The motion carried unanimously.

**AESTHETIC INSTITUTE:** A request was presented from the annual Aesthetic Institute to help with, or recommend other agencies who could help with, scholarship funds for a local teacher to attend the summer arts education training. The consensus of the Commission was that funding a scholarship for a single teacher would not be fair and that the Institute needs to ask for scholarship funding earlier and in a more comprehensive manner. Commission members suggested the teacher contact local banks, PTA's or PTO's for assistance.

**ART ON THE CORNER SCULPTURE CHANGE:** Blythe, Clary, and Kiefer volunteered to help with this year's Art on the Corner Sculpture Change May 18 starting at 8:00am.

**JUNCTION ARTS COLLECTIVE:** The consensus of the Commission was to write a letter of support for the Junction Arts Collective to the Downtown Development Authority and Downtown Association to assist them in finding a location for their new center/artist incubator.

**COMMISSION COMMITTEES:** Chairman Whaley appointed the following committees for 2002:

Budget and Finance: Pamela Blythe (chair), Doug Clary, LeRoy Donegan, Joan Meyers, and Bill Whaley (who serves on all committees)

Business in the Arts Awards: Priscilla Mangnall (chair), Karen Kiefer, Joan Meyers, Janet Prell, and Bill Whaley

City Hall Art Exhibits: LeRoy Donegan (chair), Jack Delmore, Karen Kiefer, Janet Prell, and Bill Whaley

Marketing and Media: Doug Clary (chair), Pamela Blythe, Jack Delmore, Priscilla Mangnall, and Bill Whaley

**REPORTS:** The Coordinator's Report for April and the Quarterly Financial Report for expenditures to date were distributed and reviewed.

Mangnall and Meyers reported that the Business in the Arts Awards Committee recommends asking the Chamber of Commerce to include presentation of the awards as part of the annual Chamber banquet. The consensus of the Commission was that this is a good idea to pursue.

The City Hall art exhibit will be changed the end of April, and Clary volunteered to help remove the Thunder Mt. Camera Club photographs April 30 at 9am. The Coordinator will let committee members know when other parts of the exhibit will be removed and installed.

Blythe reported that a new life-sized bronze sculpture has been privately purchased and installed in the parking lot of the new shopping center/Remax building on Patterson Road.

Kiefer reported that artwork by local artists will decorate the Homebuilders Association of Northwest Colorado's annual Parade of Homes in June and that a percentage of the purchase price of any pieces which sell will go toward the Homebuilder's Home Aid charity.

The Coordinator reported that David Taylor Dance Theatre's dance performance scheduled for May 9-10 has being postponed until fall and may move from the Avalon Theater to Grand Junction High School because of the lack of necessary lighting and other equipment at the Avalon.

Including the award of scholarships as part of the Commission's annual grant program was discussed. It was decided to pursue this further and investigate how best to have applicants demonstrate need and how best to distribute scholarship funds without the Commission having to review countless applications, such as awarding funds to organizations to distribute.

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