

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

Commissioners Present: Pamela Blythe Priscilla Mangnall  
Doug Clary Joan Meyers  
Jack Delmore Janet Prell  
LeRoy Donegan Bill Whaley (arrived at 4:20pm)  
Karen Kiefer

Others Present: Steven Bradley, Executive Director of the Art Center.

The regular meeting of the Grand Junction Commission on Arts and Culture was held on the above date. Vice-chairperson Pamela Blythe called the meeting to order at 4:00pm. A motion was made by Karen Kiefer, seconded by Jack Delmore, to approve the minutes of the Commission's meeting of September 25, 2002 as written. The motion carried unanimously.

APPOINTMENTS: Steven Bradley, the new Executive Director of the Art Center attended the meeting to introduce himself to the Commission and update them about the organization. Bradley noted that the Art Center is in good shape and he is pleased to be working there. He noted that the Center has expanded classes and exhibits into the building space previously occupied by the Performing Arts Conservatory since PAC moved to White Hall. The possibility of the Art Center eventually relocating to either Los Colonias Park or the Greyhound Bus Depot property was briefly discussed, Bradley saying that the Center is keeping all future location options open, but at present is concentrating on maximizing use of the current site and facility. Bradley also noted that 2003 will be the official 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Center, the organization having first incorporated as a non-profit in 1953.

CORRESPONDENCE: The Coordinator noted a thank you letter from Pilgrim Home Assisted Living for Commission sponsorship of a performance by Bookcliff Barbershop Harmony Chorus.

ARTRAIN: The possibility of bringing the Artrain art exhibit to Grand Junction in 2003 or 2004 was discussed and various information brochures were distributed. The Coordinator explained that Artrain is a art exhibit in train cars which travels around the country. Bradley said that Kelley Raymond, the Art Center's Education Coordinator, worked as a curator on Artrain for two years and could help organized a Grand Junction project. He also noted that the Art Center is very interested in being involved, would help present the idea to the school district, and could possibly do a complementary exhibit when Artrain is in town. The Coordinator noted that when the Commission first decided to bring Artrain to Grand Junction in 1999, the school district was reluctant to commit to students attending the exhibit, so the proposal was dropped. Total cost of an Artrain visit is about \$10,000 and a very large volunteer force is needed. Bradley noted that Artrain is a wonderful opportunity for the community and a great media promotional opportunity for the arts in general. A motion was made by Bill Whaley, seconded by Karen Kiefer, to establish a Commission subcommittee to

meet with the school district superintendent and curriculum coordinator and assess their interest in an Artrain visit. The motion carried unanimously. Volunteers for the committee included Whaley, Kiefer, Priscilla Mangnall, and Joan Meyers. The Coordinator noted that former Commission member Beth Buys would also be interested in helping.

**COMMISSION GRANT PROGRAM:** The consensus of the Commission was to continue the current application and review procedure for the annual grant/donation program for local arts and cultural events and programs, and to schedule a pre-application screening meeting in early January for organizations that have never applied before or that have new project ideas.

**CITY HALL ART:** The Commission discussed purchasing a piece of artwork from one of this year's City Hall art exhibits—akin to a people's choice award but without formal voting—the Coordinator and Kiefer noting that Diana Woods' flower paintings had been particularly popular according to comments from Customer Service personnel. Because the cost of sculpture display pedestals was less than originally planned, and other expenses were minimal this year, \$3,300 remains in the City Hall art budget. The Coordinator also suggested that Tricia Berg's lithograph "Cove at Dusk" at the end of the front hallway would be better viewed if it had a more nonreflective glass, noting that its current location is already one of the least light-impacted. After further discussion a motion was made by Whaley, seconded by Clary, to purchase "Red Flower" by Diana Robertson Woods for City Hall and to allocate \$300 toward new museum-quality glass for the Tricia Berg lithograph. The motion carried unanimously. Security of small sculptures displayed at City Hall, and the lack of options for, was also discussed.

**SPECIAL PROJECTS/PURCHASES:** The Commission discussed additional possibilities for the purchase of artwork including, continued acquisition of paintings with a river theme for Two Rivers Convention Center, a sculpture from the current Art on the Corner exhibit, and sculpture as part of various City vehicular "gateway" entrances to town. Blythe suggested that since the Commission's annual budget for special projects/purchases is only \$10,000, the Commission could develop a five year plan to acquire artwork to beautify City entrances, which is in line with recommendations from the *Grand Junction Strategic Cultural Plan*. A motion was made by Whaley, seconded by Prell, to form a Commission sub-committee to develop a five-year gateway enhancement plan. The motion carried unanimously. Various suggestions were made for identifiable City entrances including I-70 exits at 24 Road and Horizon Drive, Fifth Street/Highway 50 immediately south of downtown, Highway 6 & 50 near Mesa Mall, the I-70 Business Loop east of downtown, the First Street and Grand Avenue intersection, and the new median on Broadway. Volunteers for the committee included Blythe, Clary, Prell, and Whaley, and a meeting was scheduled for Thursday, November 7 at 9am in the Parks office.

The Commission's November monthly meeting was rescheduled from November 27 to November 20, and the upcoming Business in the Arts Awards Committee meeting November 19 at noon in the Parks office was noted. The consensus of the Commission was to invite artist Terry Shepherd to help with selection of the artwork for the business awards. Rescheduling the December meeting was tabled. Prell reported that the new law office at Third and Main Streets has an exhibit of Mesa State College art students.

ONE PERCENT FOR THE ARTS PROJECTS: The Coordinator reported that she recently discovered the Two Rivers Convention Center remodel project budget has been closed out by the Finance Department, so no further expenditures can be made in conjunction with that account, meaning that the Commission has effectively lost the approximately \$4,000 - \$5,000 remaining in the 1% for the Arts program budget for Two Rivers. The Coordinator stated that she had assumed all City budget funds were available until the end of each fiscal year, but apparently this is not always the case; therefore, any decision about additional art purchases for Two Rivers is moot. In the future, the Coordinator recommended that rather than retain a portion of the 1% funding for artwork (or artwork lighting) purposes following completion of a capital construction project the Commission should spend the allocated funding prior to construction completion.

Blythe presented a video and information about the "Solar Sails" sculpture by Mark Lechlitter of Loveland, Colorado which is a possible 1% project purchase for Canyon View Park. The sculpture costs \$15,000 per 18' high "sail". Blythe will check with the artist about a possible redesign of the sculpture so it would be unique to Grand Junction and possible moving parts. The Commission's scheduled appearance at the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board's November 21 meeting was discussed, and Vice-chair Blythe will make the presentation since Chairman Whaley cannot attend. Commissioners Kiefer and Prell volunteered to attend also. The presentation will include the Commission's various ideas and possible locations for 1% art at Los Colonias Park Phase 2 as discussed at the Commission's August and September meetings, ideas for artistic elements in parks projects as discussed at the Commission's August meeting, and what should be included in the cultural center designated at Los Colonias Park, as discussed at the Commission's July meeting.

REPORTS: The Coordinator's report for October was distributed and reviewed. With regard to the mural at the Avalon Theatre, the Coordinator reported that purchase of acrylic to protect the mural would cost approximately \$680 for a 20' X 8' sheet of Lexium, according to SSD Plastics, but that plastic can scratch easily. She will check into finding an acrylic that can be buffed, as well as the possibility of cleaning the mural. The suggestion was made to offer the \$300 approved for purchase of museum glass for the Tricia Berg lithograph toward protecting the Avalon mural. The Coordinator will discuss this with the Two Rivers/Avalon manager.

With regard to the two historic William Henry Jackson photographs of Grand Junction offered for loan to City Hall by Ron Scribner (as suggested some time ago by then mayor Gene Kinsey), the Coordinator reported that they are still available and Scribner would welcome placing them at City Hall on a semi-permanent loan, and/or would sell the larger one to the City for \$2,000. The Coordinator suggested getting an appraisal prior to any purchase and Mangnall said she would take a look at the photographs, since she often deals with old photos, and that she will ask her sister to professionally appraise their condition and value. The consensus of the Commission was to proceed with the loan option, pending the appraisal.

The Coordinator reported that the Marillac Clinic has undertaken a major addition to their clinic and would like the Commission's assistance getting artwork by local artists donated to decorate the new part of the building, as was done when the

clinic moved into the current facility several years ago. Commissioners Kiefer and Prell volunteered to assist, along with the Coordinator.

A meeting of the City Hall Art Exhibit Committee was scheduled for Monday, November 25 at 4pm at Gladstone's to discuss exhibits for 2003.

Discussion about creating a new Commission website was tabled until the next meeting.

As there was no further business before the board, the vice-chair declared the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Allison Cowan Sarmo  
Cultural Arts Coordinator