

Grand Junction Commission on Arts and Culture
Minutes
November 20, 2002

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

Others Present: Harold Stalf, Executive Director of the Downtown Development Authority, and Kay Berry, Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors.

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 Doug Clary, seconded by Karen Kiefer, to approve the minutes of the Commission's meeting of October 23, 2002 as written. The motion carried unanimously.

APPOINTMENTS: Harold Stalf, Executive Director of the Downtown Development Authority, appeared before the Commission to introduce himself and discuss downtown cultural issues. Stalf told the Commission about his background and explained the difference between the DDA and the Downtown Association, the DDA being a tax-funded entity dealing mainly with capital projects and Art on the Corner and the DTA being the merchants' association which does events and promotions. Stalf noted that the annual May installation of Art on the Corner sculptures might be rescheduled to coincide with the June Arts and Jazz Festival. Stalf discussed the importance of cultural activities and facilities to downtown as well as the importance of the Avalon Theatre and Two Rivers Convention Center as Main Street anchors. Pamela Blythe suggested establishing some type of "stepping stones" which would lead people from I-70 to downtown, such as sculptures or signage. Janet Prell suggested a downtown visitor center. Stalf discussed the possibility of being accepted into the Main Street Program which would address those types of issues.

BUSINESS IN THE ARTS AWARDS: Whaley reported that the Business in the Arts Awards Committee met November 19 to review nominations from arts organizations for worthy businesses to be honored, as well as review slides from local artists for artwork to be presented as the awards. The committee's recommendation is to select Old Chicago Restaurant, nominated by the Mesa State College Theatre Dept., in the Corporate Business category, and the Neon Factory and owner Paul Cruz, nominated by the Mesa State College Art Department (John Warren), Mesa County Partners (Joe Higgins and Juanita Trujillo), the Western Colorado Math & Science Center (John McConnell), Lawrence Kaufman, and Bruce Manchee, in the Small Business category. A motion was made by Kiefer, seconded by Prell, to accept the committee's recommendation and chose Old Chicago Restaurant and the Neon Factory as the 2002 Business in the Arts Award winners. The motion carried unanimously.

The Commission viewed and discussed twenty possible works of art brought in by nine artists selected as finalists by the committee. A motion was made by Prell, seconded by Donegan, to purchase "Cold Shivers Point" by Charles Morris to award to

Old Chicago Restaurant and "Walk to Town I & II" and "Orbital Movement" as a set to award to the Neon Factory. The motion carried unanimously.

ONE PERCENT FOR THE ARTS – ENGINEERING LAB: The Coordinator noted that the Commission needed to select 1% for the Arts artwork for the recently remodeled City Engineering Lab, and that the building's staff had suggested local landscape or wildlife paintings for the reception area of the facility. Sarmo reported that the project construction cost was \$215,957, making the 1% amount \$2,160. She noted that she had visited the facility to view the available space, and suggested that since the type of paintings for the business awards were the same type of paintings wanted for the engineering building, selection of both could be done from the same pool of artists' submittals. Lori Bang-Aussenmacher, Engineering Lab administrative assistant, and Walt Hoyt, Engineering/Construction Supervisor, were both invited to attend yesterday's Business in the Arts Awards Committee meeting and today's Commission meeting and be part of the selection process. Hoyt had planned to attend the committee meeting but had to cancel.

After some discussion a motion was made by Clary, seconded by Delmore, to recommend that the City Council purchase two paintings: "Monument Trail" by Daniel Logé, at a cost of \$1,400, and "Arch in Winter" by Freya Hite, at a cost of \$700, for the newly remodeled Engineering Lab building. The motion carried unanimously.

OTHER PUBLIC ART PROJECTS: With regard to the Commission's proposal to develop a five-year plan for the purchase of artwork to enhance the City's gateways or vehicular entrances, Blythe reported that she and the Coordinator had discussed this idea with Public Works Manager Tim Moore and City Manager Kelly Arnold, and the Coordinator had spoken with Parks and Recreation Director Joe Stevens. They learned that the City Council's current strategic planning process also includes identifying and deciding how to enhance City entrances. Blythe noted that the City Manager recommended waiting until the strategic plan is further developed and locations determined before discussing possible art purchases, and that the Commission's budgeted funds for art could be carried over to 2003 since this would be a capital purchase. The Coordinator reported that Parks and Recreation Assistant Director Don Hobbs confirmed the option of carrying forward funds for capital purchases from one year to the next, and that this could be done during budget revisions in February. Clary reported that he had investigated the cost of signs and a 5'X5' sandstone sign would be approximately \$5,000, while a 5'X5' concrete sign would be about \$2,500. Blythe noted that Moore thought the Public Works Department could provide a concrete pad for art placement. A motion was made by Delmore, seconded by Prell, to carry forward the \$10,000 in the Commission's budget for Special Projects/Art Purchases from 2002 to 2003 to be used for a major art purchase. The motion carried unanimously.

NEW COMMISSION WEBSITE: Clary showed the Commission what a new website would look like if he did the design work, noting that it would count and record the number of hits per page. He stated that a site would cost about \$10 per month plus an additional \$30 per year. Possible domain names were discussed. The consensus of the Commission was to include the following on the site: 1. Commission grant application and guidelines, 2. Cultural event calendar information, 3. City public artwork, 4. *The Sourcebook: A Directory of Grand Junction Area Artists and Arts Organizations*, 5.

Commission annual report, and 6. Business in the Arts Award winners. A motion was made by Kiefer, seconded by Prell, to authorize Clary to develop a new website for the Commission. The motion carried unanimously. Chairman Bill Whaley noted that Clary's efforts and time are much appreciated.

COLORADO GRANTS GUIDE: A motion was made by Prell, seconded by Mangnall, to purchase the new *2003-2004 Colorado Grants Guide* and donate it to the public library so it will be easily available to local arts and cultural organizations. The motion carried unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE: A copy of a letter from the Art Center to City Property Manager Tim Woodmansee was read stating the Art Center's decision not to submit a proposal for redevelopment of the Greyhound Bus Station but thanking Woodmansee for the idea. A letter was read from the Grand Junction Academy of Dance asking for financial assistance to help underwrite their January performance of "Peter Pan", but no action was taken due to lack of funds.

ONE PERCENT FOR THE ARTS – RIVERSIDE RESTROOM: The Coordinator reported that a Request for Proposals to construct a new restroom facility at Riverside Park had been issued, and the Commission discussed possible artwork for the building or site. The project will be slightly over \$100,000, with a 1% for the Arts budget of about \$1,000. The Coordinator noted a suggestion from Parks Planner Shawn Cooper to incorporate artistic tile work into the sidewalk area directly in front of the building. The consensus of the Commission was to pursue this type of tile project, perhaps with community involvement of some kind.

REPORTS: The Coordinator's Report for November was distributed and reviewed. The Coordinator reported that the Artrain traveling art exhibit will not be able to come to the Grand Junction area until the spring of 2004 because it is being renovated in 2003, and that they will be sending brochures. She noted that the Commission appearance before the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board has been rescheduled for January 16, 2003 to discuss the proposed cultural complex in Los Colonias Park and what it should include and to discuss art purchases for the next phase of Canyon View Park and creative park facilities in general.

Mangnall reported that she and her sister had visited Sentinel Printing to take a look at the two William Henry Jackson photographs being offered for loan or sale to the City. Their appraisal is that the photos are worth the \$2,000 asking price together and the Commission should consider purchasing the photographs when funds are available, and in the meantime should accept them on semi-permanent loan from Ron Scribner and hang them in City Hall. They recommended that the larger photograph should not be reframed or re-matted, because the existing frame and mat are valuable antiques, but that both photos need to be taken apart, cleaned, and the backs re-secured. Mangnall suggested that the composite photos in the smaller piece should be identified, which the Coordinator thought the Museum of Western Colorado staff would do, and said the smaller piece was probably framed in the 1970's and could be re-matted and/or reframed. Mangnall also provided a copy of an article from Scribner stating that the Colorado Historical Society owns another copy of the Jackson photos and the glass negative of the large photograph.

The Commission's regular meeting on December 25 was cancelled. 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