

Grand Junction Commission on Arts and Culture  
Minutes  
January 29, 2003  
Pre-Application Screening Meeting

Commissioners Present: Pamela Blythe Priscilla Mangnall  
Doug Clary Joan Meyers  
Karen Kiefer

Commissioners Absent: Jack Delmore, LeRoy Donegan, Janet Prell, and Bill Whaley

Others Present: Piera Kllanxhja, Tony Coppola, Deborah Snider, Bob Denning, Frances Crowell, Kristine Kampf, Amy Nuernberg, Jerry Smith, and Karen Housego.

A pre-application screening meeting for the Grand Junction Commission on Arts and Culture's 2003 grant program to support arts and cultural events and projects was held on the above date. Chair Pamela Blythe called the meeting to order at 4:00pm. Final copies of the Commission's *State of the Arts* annual report for 2002 were distributed. The Coordinator's Report for January 2003 was distributed.

Piera Kllanxhja, representing JABOA (Just a Bunch of Artists), spoke to the Commission about applying for approximately \$800 to cover publicity for the October 25 JABOA Artists Studio Tour--\$552 to print 2000 brochure maps and \$278 for newspaper advertising. Kllanxhja explained that JABOA is a 12 year old group of ten local artists, all of whom open their studios to the public for the studio tour, which attracts about 100 attendees. Questions were raised about the small size of the organization and audience, Kllanxhja saying that the group is selective and requires artists to be juried into the organization, which keeps it small. Kllanxhja was told that this would be a worthwhile grant application. Kllanxhja also noted that JABOA members would welcome and help host an artists' reception in conjunction with their exhibit at City Hall in July.

Tony Coppola and Deborah Snider, representing the Mesa State College Dance Department, explained that they would like to apply to the Commission to fund guest artists/instructors for a new dance workshop, the Grand Mesa Summer Dance Festival, to be held July 23 - August 2. Coppola stated that he has been asked to direct the eight-year-old Snowy Range Summer Dance Festival previously held in Laramie, Wyoming but now moving to Grand Junction. The festival provides dance training for students and instructors of all ages, in the past has attracted participants from 15 states, and will be the only one of its kind on the Western Slope. Colorado Ballet from Denver is the co-host. They need to raise \$36,000, \$10,000 of which is already committed from a private donor. Coppola and Snider were told that this would be a worthwhile grant application and an exciting opportunity for Grand Junction.

Bob Denning, Frances Crowell, and Kristine Kampf represented the Reader's Festival which is co-sponsored every other year by the Mesa State College Foundation and the American Association of University Women. They asked about applying for funding to help pay the six guest authors/speakers for the October 18 festival. They stated that the college provides free use of Liff Auditorium plus a percentage of the proceeds from book sales of the various authors' books at the college bookstore, but doesn't help with

funding, and that registration fees are kept to a minimum. They reported that the festival covers a wide range of literary genres and attracts 150-200 attendees. The group was told that this would be a worthwhile grant application.

Amy Nuernberg presented the idea of applying for funding to produce a self-guided audio walking tour of Art on the Corner on compact discs which people could rent or purchase at downtown galleries, businesses, or restaurants. She distributed a written outline showing the goals and work steps required to accomplish the project. She explained that Harold Staf, Executive Director of the Downtown Development Authority which administers Art on the Corner, is working toward easier access to information about the exhibit, and that redesigned and better distributed exhibit brochures are a higher priority than an audio tour. Nuernberg noted that the audio tour could be part of a grant application from the DDA to the Commission for various publicity materials or could be a project for 2004. The Coordinator confirmed that the Art on the Corner Committee is in the process of developing better and smaller brochures and invited Nuernberg to attend the February 8 Art on the Corner Committee meeting to discuss her idea. There was a question about the Commission awarding a grant to the DDA since it is a City agency and the Coordinator stated that there is no legal prohibition and that the Downtown Merchants Association, not the DDA, would be applying for the Arts & Jazz Festival. Nuernberg was told that this would be a worthwhile project, but should be coordinated through and approved by the DDA and Art on the Corner Committee.

Jerry Smith and Karen Housego attended the meeting for insight into a possible grant application in 2004. They explained that they don't currently have a nonprofit organization but hope to form one in order to sponsor concerts around town. Their plan is to divide any concert proceeds with other nonprofit organizations like the Avalon Theatre and KAFM public radio station, noting that they want to be a nonprofit group because they don't care about making money. Information about the group and upcoming concerts is available at [www.bluedogentertainment.com](http://www.bluedogentertainment.com).

The Coordinator reported that the Schumann Singers were so successful in their fundraising efforts this year that they have made a conscious decision not to apply to the Commission for funding since there are undoubtedly other organizations who need financial support more than they do.

The Coordinator also reported that Elizabeth Gartner is having some difficulty filling all the seats for the student performance February 13 of David Taylor Dance Theatre because some schools cannot afford the transportation cost and because Scenic Elementary canceled their participation after learning that the show is also sponsored by the Gay & Lesbian League. Commission members expressed dismay at the cancellation and noted that the Gill Foundation/Gay & Lesbian League is a major sponsor of many arts and cultural events and activities all over the state. The Coordinator stated that she and the principal of Scenic had traded telephone messages a couple weeks ago but at the time she didn't know any details and would call him again. Sending a letter from the Commission to the school or the newspaper was also discussed.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Allison Cowan Sarmo  
Cultural Arts Coordinator