

Grand Junction Commission on Arts and Culture
Minutes
May 26, 2004

Commissioners Present: Pamela Blythe Priscilla Mangnall
Lee Borden Joan Meyers
Doug Clary Janet Prell
Jack Delmore Lora Quesenberry
Karen Kiefer

Others Present: Bruce Hill (Mayor of Grand Junction)

The regular meeting of the Grand Junction Commission on Arts and Culture was held on the above date. Chair Doug Clary called the meeting to order at 4:00pm. A motion was made by Lee Borden, seconded by Joan Meyers, to approve the minutes of the Commission's meeting of April 28, 2004 as written. The motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS: The Coordinator reported that Curious Theatre Company in Denver recently called about their traveling production of the play "Trumbo: Red, White, and Blacklisted", written by Christopher Trumbo about his father Dalton Trumbo. The company would like to perform in several cities around the state, including Grand Junction, sometime in November, and is looking for venues and sponsors. The fee to host the play would be around \$2,000, plus publicity costs. The possibility of the Commission sponsoring the play at the Avalon Theater was discussed, as well as the history and background of Dalton Trumbo, who grew up in Grand Junction and went on to become a famous screenwriter and one of the blacklisted "Hollywood Ten" in 1947. Because no one was familiar with Curious Theatre Company, Jack Delmore, Karen Kiefer, and Lee Borden will do some research on the organization. Various dates were discussed, with the first weekend in November being preferred. The Coordinator will contact the Avalon Theater about availability.

Priscilla Mangnall recommended doing an expanded event or festival with a Trumbo theme, which would culminate with the play performance, capitalizing on Trumbo's notoriety and Grand Junction connection. Mangnall suggested involving Cinema at the Avalon—to show Trumbo scripted movies—and the Museum of Western Colorado, and she offered to contact them. Delmore will contact Mesa State College about being involved also, noting that the play could be performed at the college and might be tied into the college's lecture series. Mangnall and Kiefer volunteered to be on a planning committee. The Coordinator will request a copy of the play for the

Commission to read, and get a proposal in writing about the cost of sponsoring the production, so the Commission can make a final decision.

Grand Junction Mayor Bruce Hill stated that he is visiting as many of the City's boards and commissions as he can, and that he wanted to update the Commission on the progress of the new City gateway features. The Mayor noted that currently the project has shifted from the Gateway Committee to the City's engineers, who are working on designing consistent elements which would be included in all City vehicular entrances. The Mayor has also recommended planning for places to put artwork along the Riverside Parkway, saying that the Commission's help might be useful in the future with regard to possible art components. He said that with the parkway project in particular, one or more gateway projects might be completed in the near future. He noted that City Council does not have an extensive budget for the gateways, and asked that the Commission continue to hold the \$10,000 currently being carried over in their budget for purchase of art as part of an entrance feature, rather than spend it on the kite mobile at Canyon View Park, as proposed at the last Commission meeting. The board concurred with this request, as they have had an interest in including artwork in the gateway projects for some time. Chairman Doug Clary recommended Pamela Blythe as a possible member of the Gateway Committee, because of her design background and expertise, and Blythe said she is very willing to help in any way with the gateway or parkway projects.

OLD BUSINESS: Commission members volunteered to attend various Commission funded events: Botanical Gardens Friday Evening Concerts May 28 – Joan Meyers, and June 25 – Karen Kiefer and Janet Prell; Art and Jazz Festival June 11–13 – Jack Delmore and Priscilla Mangnall.

REPORTS: The Coordinator's Report for May was distributed and discussed. The Coordinator reported sending extensive information to Child and Migrant Services because they are considering commissioning a sculpture for their building. The Coordinator offered to help, or ask Commission members to help, with the artist selection process. Meyers and Kiefer both reported compliments about the new bronze fire fighter sculpture at the Redlands Fire Station.

BUSINESS IN THE ARTS AWARDS COMMITTEE: The consensus of the Commission was not to change the procedure or criteria for selection of the Business in the Arts Awards and; therefore, not to schedule a committee meeting. Ways to advertise for nominations were discussed.

CITY HALL ART EXHIBIT COMMITTEE: Kiefer reported that arrangements are underway to exhibit the Altrusa Club High School Student Art Show winners on the second floor in July, and that she sent a letter to all the students about the display.

MARKETING AND MEDIA COMMITTEE: Chairman Clary reported on ideas and possible donors for funds needed to purchase the kite mobile by sculptor Gunnar Anderson. The committee would like to offer several levels of sponsorship – a lead sponsor who would donate \$5000, and others at the \$3,000 and \$1,000 level. However, with \$10,000 less in the Commission’s budget to spend on the piece, the lead donor might be asked for \$10,000. Clary intends to create a computer-generated picture of the mobile in Canyon View Park, along with other promotional materials, to present to potential donors. What incentives to offer donors and what type of name plaque and/or sign to have on or near the sculpture were discussed at length. Blythe offered to contact a major potential donor when the presentation materials are ready. The Coordinator reported that the sculptor who will donate \$1,000 toward purchasing the piece as a charitable donation in order to help kick off the fund raising campaign.

ART ON THE CORNER SCULPTURE CHANGE: Commission members all volunteered to do various jobs involved with the sculpture/pedestal cleaning and pedestal painting in conjunction with this year’s sculpture change June 6 and 12.

COLORADO ARTS CONSORTIUM WORKSHOP: The Coordinator, Kiefer, Blythe, Borden, and Mangnall will attend and/or be panelists at the Consortium/Commission workshop June 19. As there was no further business before the board, the Chair declared the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Allison Cowan Sarmo
Cultural Arts Coordinator