

Grand Junction Commission on Arts and Culture
Minutes
September 22, 2004

Commissioners Present: Pamela Blythe (arrived 4:25pm) Karen Kiefer
Lee Borden Priscilla Mangnall
Doug Clary Joan Meyers (arrived 4:25pm)
Jack Delmore Lora Quesenberry

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 Priscilla Mangnall, seconded by Karen Kiefer, to approve the minutes of the Commission's meeting on August 25, 2004 as written. The motion carried unanimously.

BUSINESS IN THE ARTS AWARDS: The Business in the Arts Awards Committee reviewed the various nominations for the annual awards and recommended honoring the *Grand Junction Free Press* in the corporate business category and The Crystal Café in the small business category. The *Free Press* was nominated by the Museum of Western Colorado for their significant impact on the community, promotion of cultural organizations and activities, and their "A Day in the Life of the Grand Valley" photography feature. The Crystal Café was nominated by Sara Oakley representing The Limner's Guild and Grand Valley Artists, and 17 other artists, for the restaurant's enthusiastic and on-going display and sale of local artists' work and promotion of artists of all ages and abilities. Other nominees included Colorado Java House, Original Accents, and Unique Expressions. The committee was particularly impressed with the support The Crystal Café gives to artists since art is not their business, yet they have exhibited over 200 artists' work.

The Commission also looked at paintings by six local artists (finalists out of 21 artists who submitted artwork) to decide which two pieces to purchase as awards for the winning businesses. A motion was made by Priscilla Mangnall, seconded by Lora Quesenberry to accept the committee's recommendations and award the *Grand Junction Free Press* the 2004 Business in the Arts Award Corporate Business category, and The Crystal Café the 2004 Business in the Arts Award Small Business category. The motion carried unanimously. After much discussion, a motion was made by Priscilla Mangnall, seconded by Jack Delmore, to purchase "Still Life" by Debbie Cope for The Crystal Café and "Badlands, Near Devil's Kitchen" by Stephen Datz for the *Free Press*. The motion carried unanimously.

COMMISSION GRANT PROGRAM: The Coordinator reported that the Commission received a grant and a check for \$5,280 from the Colorado Council on the Arts to go toward the Commission's grant program which supports arts and cultural events, projects, and programs. She explained that because of City budget rules, and because CCA changed the month checks are mailed out and the Commission has received the money; therefore, the funding must be spent during 2004 rather than during 2005 as planned. The Commission can allocate the funding to local arts organizations' projects through another grant application and review cycle before the

end of the year or the Commission can devise another method of awarding the extra funding.

The Coordinator recommended using a formula system similar to what CCA used last year, whereby the organizations that have already been awarded funding through the Commission's grant program earlier this year could be given additional funding based on their percentage of the total amount of grant funds given out. In February the Commission gave grants to 17 organizations to help sponsor cultural events in Grand Junction, but the grant program was insufficient to allow full funding for most of groups and projects, and these additional funds would help partially make up the difference. The Commission discussed various formula ideas as well as other ways to allocate the funds fairly and simply. Since \$5,280 is not a large amount to donate if divided among possibly 20 or 30 local groups, the consensus was that utilizing a formula to give additional dollars to events already approved would eliminate the necessity of a full-fledged grant application and interview process.

There was further discussion about one organization which the Commission awarded funding for in February but which never provided adequate documentation for their event and did not actually receive any money. The Commission's consensus was not to include this project in the allocation of CCA funds. There was also discussion about the fact that another organization awarded funding in February has subsequently turned their youth program over to a local theater business (not eligible for grants). The program will continue through the Parks and Recreation Department. A motion was made by Mangnall, seconded by Lee Borden, to distribute the Commission's \$5,280 grant from the Colorado Council on the Arts on a percentage basis to the arts and cultural organizations and events approved through the Commission's 2004 grant program, with two exceptions: the allocation for Mesa Youth will be donated to the Parks and Recreation Youth Theater Program Scholarship Fund, and the Mesa State College Native American Student Council will not be included. The motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS: The Cultural Arts Coordinator's report for September and the Commission's year-to-date financial report was distributed and reviewed. A budget for the upcoming play "Trumbo: Red, White & Blacklisted" which the Commission is sponsoring in November was also distributed and discussed. The Coordinator recommended raising the ticket price to \$10, to cover all necessary expenses, and the consensus of the Commission was to charge \$10 per person, with group rates for students of \$8 if arranged through the Coordinator. Ticket prices, location, and food choices for the post-play dessert reception were discussed, the Commission's consensus being to go with sliced desserts rather than just cookies and brownies, even though the cost – and, therefore, the tickets – will be higher.

CITY HALL ART EXHIBIT COMMITTEE: A committee meeting was scheduled for October 27 at 3:00pm immediately preceding the next Commission meeting, to plan the exhibits for 2005. Commission members Blythe, Clary, Kiefer, and Mangnall volunteered to help with installation of the next exhibit at 10:00am on October 1 and the opening reception that evening.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Allison Cowan Sarmo
Cultural Arts Coordinator