

Grand Junction Commission on Arts and Culture
Minutes
May 23, 2005

Commissioners Present: Gunilla Bishop Joan Meyers
 Lee Borden Vera Mulder (arrived at 4:30pm)
 Doug Clary Lora Quesenberry
 Karen Kiefer

Commissioners Absent: Terra Anderson and Pamela Blythe
Others Present: Reford Theobald (Parks & Recreation Advisory Board)

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 Karen Kiefer, seconded by Joan Meyers, to approve the minutes of the Commission's meeting on April 27, 2005 as written. The motion carried unanimously.

1% FOR THE ARTS PROJECTS – DUCK POND PARK: The Commission reviewed the three proposals submitted for artwork in conjunction with the new restrooms at Duck Pond Park by Reven Swanson (Denver), Ken Pierce (Gunnison), and Vinje Lawson (Grand Junction). After discussing the various ideas, a motion was made by Karen Kiefer, seconded by Joan Meyers, to accept the design by Ken Pierce for a ceramic tile mural of two ducks in flight, with the recommendation that the artist make the ducks more colorful and as well as add a colorful background so they stand out against the building's CMU block. The motion carried unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE: A thank you letter was noted from the Mesa State College Art Department for the Commission's donation to their Design/Build public art project for high school students.

ART ON THE CORNER: Several Commission members volunteered to help with the annual Art on the Corner Sculpture Change by cleaning sculptures and painting pedestals on June 4.

LINCOLN PARK MOYER POOL TILE ART PROJECT: Final plans were made for the Commission's children's tile painting project at the pool June 18. Vera Mulder reported that 4" square tiles from Tile Meister would cost \$4.75 for a sheet of nine tiles, and that Tile Meister recommended putting them on 3' X 5' cement board. Karen Kiefer will investigate getting the cement board donated, the Cultural Arts Coordinator will purchase the tiles and grout, and Mulder will get glazes and paint brushes.

REPORTS: The Coordinator's Report for April was reviewed, as well as the Coordinator's notes from speakers at the recent Colorado Council on the Arts and Colorado Business Committee for the Arts' *Culture.Commerce.Community* conference in Denver. The Coordinator and Commission members Gunilla Bishop, Karen Kiefer, and Joan Meyers who had attended the conference discussed various issues that had been addressed regarding economic development and arts and culture.

Keynote speakers at the conference included Richard Florida, researcher and author of *The Rise of the Creative Class* and *The Flight of the Creative Class*, and Joel Kotkin, researcher and author of *The City: A Global History*. Ideas for future Commission endeavors were discussed included: 1.) Updating the *Economic Impact of the Arts in the Grand Valley* study in 2006, which the Commission does about every five years, and doing a major presentation of the results to the community; 2.) In conjunction with this study, conducting another random sample telephone survey of local residents' arts and cultural activities and attitudes; 3.) Including local professional artists and arts-related businesses in the economic impact study in addition to the nonprofit arts organizations it surveys, in order to more realistically reflect the full impact (Lee Borden noted the number of employees and annual budget of The Cabaret Dinner Theatre, which employs more people than all the nonprofit groups combined); 4.) Encouraging the Art Center, Museum, Botanical Gardens, and perhaps the Math & Science Center to do a "Grand Junction Passport" and offer entry to all four facilities at a reduced price, which would be sold at the Visitors and Convention Bureau Welcome Center; and 5.) Encouraging the major cultural organizations to do a "Grand Junction Sampler" for visitors and residents alike which would include three or four different events (a museum visit, a symphony concert, a play) at a reduced price. The need to include the arts as an economic development tool, and to pursue the "creative communities" idea with area economic development efforts was discussed.

The Coordinator also reported that Ann Sanders, Commission nominee and winner of the Gully Stanford Professional Services Award, would be pleased to be recognized for this honor at the July 1 City Hall Art Exhibit Opening Reception.

Chair Doug Clary and the Coordinator reported on a recent meeting and a proposal to start an artists incubator in Grand Junction, which is being spearheaded by a local artist, Linda Brotman-Evans, who helped organize the Manitou Springs Business of Art Center. It was noted that this idea has been discussed by many entities at length for years and perhaps the time is right, although a good location and building will be key to the success of the project. It was explained that a facility might come later, as part of a phased development program, and that organizers mentioned starting with professional development and training opportunities first. Numerous organizations are involved in the planning, including the Art Center, the Western Colorado Small Business Incubator, Mesa State College, the Downtown Development Authority, the Commission, and several artists.

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