

Grand Junction Commission on Arts and Culture
Minutes
September 28, 2005

Commissioners Present: Gunilla Bishop Joan Meyers
 Pamela Blythe Lora Quesenberry
 Doug Clary

Commissioners Absent: Karen Kiefer and Vera Mulder

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. Clary asked that his statement on page two under "Reports" be clarified to read: "Chair Doug Clary noted a need for Commission members to maintain good meeting attendance, with a *minimum* requirement that Commissioners not miss more than three meetings in any twelve month period, according to the By-laws." A motion was made by Pamela Blythe, seconded by Joan Meyers, to approve the minutes of the Commission's meeting on August 24, 2005 as amended. The motion carried unanimously.

CHAMPION OF THE ARTS AWARDS: The Champion of the Arts Awards Committee reported that seven nominations were received and reviewed for the awards this year, and recommended honoring *The Daily Sentinel*, nominated by artist Gary Hauschulz, the Museum of Western Colorado, the Downtown Development Authority, and Laurena Mayne Davis, as the business winner, and honoring Kay Ambrose, nominated by the Art Center, and Karen Hildebrandt, nominated by the Grand Junction Musical Arts Association, as the individual awardees. The Committee felt three awards, rather than the usual two, were in order this year because both individuals selected were equally deserving and worthy of recognition. A motion was made by Lora Quesenberry, seconded by Gunilla Bishop, to accept the committee's recommendations and designate *The Daily Sentinel*, Kay Ambrose, and Karen Hildebrandt as the winners of the 2005 Champion of the Arts Awards.

Nine works of art by six local artists were displayed for the Commission's viewing and after much discussion, a motion was made by Quesenberry, seconded by Meyers, to purchase a watercolor by Jim Hutton for the *Sentinel's* award, a batik by Susan Metzger for Hildebrandt's award, and a ceramic piece by Tim Wedel as Ambrose's award. The motion carried unanimously. The awards presentation will be made at the Grand Junction Symphony Gala November 12.

ARTRAIN: The Coordinator explained that the Artrain organization is still working with Union Pacific's regional office in hopes of finding a suitable track on which to park the Artrain art museum next year, and that Artrain needs to know which program fee option the Commission would like, if the Commission is able to sponsor an Artrain visit to Grand Junction. The three options for the Commission's payment to Artrain are: 1.) \$10,000 if Artrain charges an admission fee during general public hours of \$5 for adults and \$2 for children/students; 2.) \$12,500 if Artrain does not charge admission but solicits donations with a large sign; or, 3.) \$15,000 if there is no donation solicitation or admission fee. School tours would be free in all cases, and there would be numerous additional costs (fuel, phone hook-up, marketing, opening reception, etc.) associated with hosting the week-long event. After extensive discussion about what the Grand Junction audience could/would/should pay, a motion was made by Blythe, seconded by Meyers, to select the \$12,500 program fee payment option. The motion carried

unanimously. The consensus of the Commission was to promote the Artrain museum visit as a thank you to Grand Junction for their support of the cultural community.

ARTS ROUNDTABLE: The Commission discussed whether or not to organize and host an arts roundtable this year to bring together board members, staff, and volunteers of all the local arts and cultural organizations. The Colorado Business Committee for the Arts will be holding half-day seminars around the state about arts and economic development and is scheduled to host one in Grand Junction on March 10, 2006, depending on when Artrain might be here. The Coordinator suggested that the Commission could wait and use the March 10 seminar as a roundtable gathering, or could do something in October as a prelude to the March 10th meeting. The consensus of the Commission was to organize an arts roundtable for October 20 from 3pm – 5pm and discuss arts and economic development/creative economy issues and ideas.

COMMISSION GRANT PROGRAM: The Coordinator recommended changing the Commission's grant guidelines for 2006 to encourage cultural organizations to do collaborative programs. Currently organizations are allowed to submit only one application for funding, but the Colorado Council on the Arts grant program allows arts groups to submit a second application for a project which is a collaboration with other organizations, and the Coordinator suggesting following this model. The consensus of the Commission was to change the Commission grant guidelines in 2006 to allow an additional request from an organization for a project which involves more than one cultural organization and is clearly intended to be a collaborative venture.

CORRESPONDENCE: Chair Clary read a letter from the City Clerk stating that the City Council would like any input the Commission wished to give about the skills and expertise that would be beneficial pursuant to filling the two vacant Commission positions. Commission members suggested that foremost would be someone working in the performing arts (music, theater, dance) since there is no one on the board with that background or expertise, and secondly it would be helpful to have a sculptor, a business person, or someone who works with the media or in marketing, particularly with a graphic arts background. The Coordinator will draft a letter to Council for Clary's signature.

PUBLIC ART PROJECTS: The Coordinator noted that sculptor Pat Olson still has not completed the artwork for the splash pad, originally promised by the end of May, then subsequently promised by early September. She recommended that the Commission send him a letter giving him a deadline of October 14, 2005 to either deliver the piece or return the \$1,000 down payment to the Commission. The consensus of the Commission was to proceed with this notification.

The Coordinator reported that sculptor Gunnar Anderson is planning to construct the kite mobile for Canyon View Park during October and November and will install it in mid-December.

REPORTS: The Coordinator distributed her report for the month of September and a financial report of Commission expenditures for the year to date. Installation of the next exhibit at City Hall was discussed, with Clary and Quesenberry volunteering to help install the new artwork October 1 and Clary and Blythe volunteering to help with the reception October 7. Clary reported on having recently attended a ballet performance at the new Denver Opera House in the renovated Denver Municipal

Auditorium, and noted a quote in the program by George Balanchine that "Dance is music made visible".

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

Respectfully submitted,

Allison Cowan Sarmo
Cultural Arts Coordinator