

Grand Junction Commission on Arts and Culture
Minutes
February 22, 2006

Commissioners Present: Gunilla Bishop Vera Mulder
 Doug Clary Robert Oppenborn
 Karen Kiefer Lora Quesenberry
 Jeanine Howe Katherine Rhein
 Joan Meyers

Others Present: Mickie Harshman (art student) and Craig Griffin (Refocus, Inc.).

The regular meeting of the Grand Junction Commission on Arts and Culture was held on the above date. Chair Joan Meyers called the meeting to order at 4:00pm. A motion was made by Karen Kiefer, seconded by Vera Mulder, to approve the minutes of the last regular meeting on January 25, 2006. The motion carried unanimously.

COMMISSION GRANT PROGRAM: The Commission reviewed applications from 22 local nonprofit organizations for financial support of arts and cultural events, projects, and programs. The requests total \$57,700 and available Commission grant funding is \$28,000. In addition to the requested City funds, the applicant organizations expect to leverage another \$141,000 in donations from businesses, individuals, and other agencies. The 22 applications for grant funding were discussed at length by Commission members and a straw vote was taken to designate each application a “yes”, “no”, or “maybe” for funding.

The consensus of the board was not to award grants to the four applications with a majority of “no” votes, and the major reason for the “no” votes was that the projects didn’t meet the Commission’s stated guidelines and criteria. The organizations not recommended for funding include: Grand Valley Community Theatre (Commission doesn’t fund fundraising events), Refocus, Inc. (which has very limited board members and a very limited number of artists involved in the project), Saint Andrews Renaissance Guild (has been funded for four years already), and Partner’s Western Colorado Conservation Corps (Commission doesn’t fund scholarship programs). Commission members explained to Craig Griffin, who was in attendance, the reasoning behind their decision, in order to help him improve his application and opportunity for future grants.

After additional discussion, Commission members scored the remaining 18 applications from 1 – 10 (with 10 being the best) and the scores were totaled and a ranking determined. By reviewing the ranking and requests, the Commission determined the amounts to allocate for each project. The Commission discussed their desire to encourage new cultural activities of all kinds, as well as foster arts education programs, support projects with broad community benefit, and promote collaborative ventures like major festivals and city-wide programming. Six of the proposed activities are first time events or ventures, and two others are in their second year.

The consensus of the Commission was to recommend that the City Council approve awarding \$28,000 in grants to the following organizations, events, and projects in the following amounts (listed in order of rank from best to least):

Mesa County Valley School District #51 “Artists-in-Residence Program”	\$7,500
Mesa County Public Library “Mesa County Reads—One Book, One Community”	\$2,000
Rocky Mt. PBS KRMJ-TV “Western Bounty” Arts Segments Underwriting	\$2,000
Western Colorado Botanical Gardens “Summer Music in the Gardens” Concerts	\$1,500
Cinema at the Avalon Senior Wednesday Matinees	\$1,200

KAFM Community Radio “Arts & Entertainment Calendar” Underwriting	\$4,000
Grand Junction Downtown Association Art & Jazz Festival	\$1,000
Artspace & Open Studios “Mesa County Artists Invitational Exhibition”	\$1,000
Western Colorado Center for the Arts “Marketing for Membership”	\$1,000
Grand Junction Musical Arts Association/GJ Symphony “Mozart’s 250 th Concert”	\$1,000
Museum of Western Colorado Two Rivers Chautauqua Festival	\$1,500
High Desert Opera First Annual Summer Opera Festival	\$1,000
Western CO Watercolor Society “WCWS National Juried Exhibition”	\$1,000
Graham Celtic Productions “A Celtic Evening of Entertainment”	\$400
Messiah Choral Society of Grand Junction “Messiah” Performance	\$500
Western Colorado Chorale Annual Fall Masterworks Concert	\$500
The Schumann Singers Purchase of an Acoustical Shell	\$500
Artmobile of Montana/Artmobile of Colorado “Traveling Exhibit of Original Art”	\$400

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