

Grand Junction Commission on Arts and Culture  
Minutes  
April 26, 2006

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

Commissioners Absent: Doug Clary

Others Present: Jon Ritchey (artist), Tom and Jean Latka (artists), Traci Altergott (Recreation Superintendent), Emily Wright (Recreation Supervisor), Stacy Pike, (Recreation Coordinator), Shawn Cooper (Parks Planner), Reford Theobald (Parks & Recreation Advisory Board liaison), Cheryl Taylor (Pear Park Elementary School Principal), Miffie Blozovich (Mesa County Public Library Foundation Director of Community Programs), Jacquie Chappell-Reid (Trumbo Memorial Committee), and Priscilla Mangnall (Trumbo Memorial Committee)

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 Lora Quesenberry, to approve the minutes of the Commission meeting on March 22, 2006 as written. The motion carried unanimously.

ONE PERCENT FOR THE ARTS PROJECTS: Commission members and representatives from the Parks and Recreation Department and the new Pear Park Elementary School listened to presentations from Jon Ritchey of Earthworks Studio in Boone, Colorado, and Tom and Jean Latka, of Latka Studio in Pueblo, Colorado, showing proposed designs for ceramic tile murals at the City's new Bookcliff Activity Center and the joint-use gymnasium at Pear Park Elementary School. Jon Ritchey distributed pictures of his redesigned art concept which retained the same basic design of athletic balls and weights submitted at the last Commission meeting but also incorporated stylized symbols of additional activities. He showed slides of his other work and passed around samples of the type of brick tiles and fired-on glaze colors he would use. He noted that the bricks are very vandal resistant and weather proof and easily cleaned if spray painted. The murals would be mounted in a steel frame and attached to the buildings.

Tom and Jean Latka showed slides of their other artwork and new design concepts for brightly colored ceramic tile murals at both schools, with an explanation of the thinking behind each design. The mural "Handwoven" at Bookcliff Activity Center depicts the weaving of community interests and activities in a heavy relief glazed tile and fused glass "jewel" at the center. The mural "Soaring" at the Pear Park Elementary School gymnasium would be a four foot long kite with a 22 foot long tail trailing along the building wall. The tiles would be attached directly to the building surface with a thin-set mortar mix and the edges grouted and sealed. Several committee members asked if the kite might be tilted in a more upward rather than downward direction and placed slightly lower on the building and the Latkas said they would be happy to do that. The Latka noted that the tiles would be vandal resistant, easily cleaned if spray painted, weather-resistant, and very low maintenance.

Cheri Taylor, Principal at Pear Park Elementary, expressed a preference for the Latkas design ideas, and Karen Kiefer, Jeanine Howe, and others on the Commission noted that the Latkas design was the more imaginative, abstract, and artistic of the two proposals. Traci Altergott, Recreation Superintendent, expressed a preference for the Latka designs also. Reford Theobald liked the Latkas' Pear Park kite but liked Jon Ritchey's design for Bookcliff better, because it would be more understandable to the casual observer. Shawn Cooper suggested including the artists' explanation on the name plaque. A motion was made by Lora Quesenberry, seconded by Vera Mulder, to recommend to the City Council that Tom and Jean Latka be commissioned to create two ceramic tile murals for the new

construction projects at Bookcliff Activity Center and the gymnasium at Pear Park Elementary through the 1% for the Arts program. The motion carried, eleven in favor and one opposed.

(Commissioner Gunilla Bishop, the Parks & Recreation representatives, and Principal Cheri Taylor then left the meeting about 5:20pm.)

**TRUMBO MEMORIAL COMMITTEE:** Jacquie Chappell-Reid, Miffie Blozovich, and Priscilla Mangnall spoke to the Commission on behalf of the Dalton Trumbo Historic Recognition Committee and distributed information about the possible creation of a life-size bronze sculpture of Trumbo as a permanent memorial. The Trumbo Committee members explained that this project is a continuation of the Trumbo “Eclipse” novel reprinting project and 100<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration which the Mesa County Public Library sponsored in 2005, and the tribute to Dalton Trumbo and “Red, White & Blacklisted” play which the Commission sponsored in 2004.

Chappell-Reid explained that the committee would like the Commission’s assistance, expertise, and endorsement for the project, which, as a permanent sculpture, would become part of the City’s art collection. She stated that research has estimated the cost of the project at about \$40,000, noting that the Trumbo Committee is willing to do the necessary fundraising and already has a \$5,000 commitment from an anonymous donor.

Mangnall noted that this memorial sculpture would expand the artwork already downtown and throughout Grand Junction by adding a piece which has historical significance, unlike the Art on the Corner sculptures. She said the committee thinks the most appropriate location for the Trumbo sculpture would be in the vicinity of 7<sup>th</sup> and Main near the Avalon Theatre, since Trumbo is most famous as a movie script writer. The Coordinator noted the \$10,000 line item in the Commission’s budget for the purchase of artwork which is unencumbered as yet for this year, and which could be used, in whole or in part, toward this project if the Commission wishes. The Coordinator also suggested that if the Commission endorses this project, they could partner with the Trumbo Memorial Committee to make a presentation to the City Council requesting some funding. She explained that there is a difference between the Trumbo sculpture being part of the City’s art collection, like the artwork in various parks, City Hall, etc., or being part of the Art on the Corner collection, which is a Downtown Development Authority program. She said that even if the piece is a City owned piece, the Downtown Development Authority should also endorse the project and perhaps donate as well.

Chappell-Reid noted that this memorial sculpture could be one of a number of other pieces which might be done in future years celebrating historical Grand Junction people. A motion was made by Jeanine Howe, seconded by Karen Kiefer, that the Commission would endorse the Trumbo sculpture memorial project and be a resource to help select an artist. The motion carried unanimously.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** Thank you letters were noted from the Western Colorado Botanical Gardens and the Schumann Singers for the grants they received from the Commission, from the Art Quilt Association for their exhibit currently in the City Hall, and from artist Piera Kllanxhja who was featured on the Commission supported Rocky Mountain PBS program “Western Bounty”.

**REPORTS:** The Coordinator’s report for April and the Commission’s Financial Report for the year to date were distributed and discussed. Commission members Karen Kiefer, Joan Meyers, Vera Mulder, Lora Quesenberry, and Robert Oppenborn volunteered to do the Art on the Corner sculpture cleaning and waxing and the pedestal painting on May 7 [along with Doug Clary and Gunilla Bishop]. The Coordinator reported that the Parks and Recreation Department is hosting a grand opening for the new dog park at Canyon View Park at 6pm on Wednesday, May 24, and that the Arts Commission can have two minutes on the agenda to recognize the new kite sculpture. The Coordinator also reported that the Commission will make a brief presentation to the City Council about the artists selected to do the 1% for the Arts projects for the Bookcliff Activity Center and the joint-use gymnasium at Pear Park Elementary on Monday, May 1 at 7:15pm.

She noted a request from two local artists, Donna Page and Linda McBride, to exhibit “A Tribute to the Grand Mesa Art Show” at City Hall in October 2007 – and other venues in the community – which would include artwork by area artists celebrating the beauty of the Grand Mesa prior to the drilling rigs and oil and gas exploration which may be there in the future. The Commission discussed the idea and possible implications and decided they needed more information from the organizers. The Coordinator will invite Page and McBride to make a presentation at the Commission’s next meeting.

The Coordinator reported that she was contacted by one of the City’s project managers about artwork possibilities for the two new roundabouts which are being built in conjunction with the Colorado Department of Transportation 24 Road and I-70 intersection redesign project. She noted that CDOT has allocated \$50,000 for art in each roundabout and that the Commission could serve as a resource to help select an artist to create art for the roundabouts. A meeting of the Public Art Committee was scheduled for Tuesday, May 9 at 9am to discuss this project, as well as the up-coming City 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration and an art component for that event.

Chair Joan Meyers noted that she had attended the April “Messiah” concert and the public library’s “One Book, One Mesa County” Author Presentation, and Lora Quesenberry reported on attending the Pomona Elementary School Art Night.

As there was no further business to come before the board, the chair declared the meeting adjourned at 6:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Allison Cowan Sarmo  
Cultural Arts Coordinator