

Grand Junction Commission on Arts and Culture  
Minutes  
July 19, 2006  
REGULAR MEETING & COMMISSION BOARD RETREAT

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

Commissioners Absent: Karen Kiefer

Others Present: Illene Roggensack (Third Sector Innovations)

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 Doug Clary, seconded by Jeanine Howe, to approve the minutes of the Commission's meeting on May 24, 2006 as written. The motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS: The Coordinator reported on a recent meeting of the City Hall Art Exhibit Committee regarding a request for a special exhibit at City Hall in the fall of 2007 celebrating the beauty of the Grand Mesa. The committee's recommendation is not to accommodate this request because it would interfere with the already scheduled and invited artists who will be exhibiting next year. Lora Quesenberry explained that committee members didn't have a problem with the theme or content of the exhibit, but felt that this proposal didn't warrant changing the established procedure of doing exhibits by invitation. A motion was made by Clary, seconded by Quesenberry, to accept the recommendation of the City Hall Art Exhibit Committee. The motion carried, seven in favor, and Vera Mulder opposed.

REPORTS: The Commission's Second Quarter Financial Report was distributed and briefly reviewed. Chair Joan Meyers then turned the meeting over to facilitator Illene Roggensack.

BOARD RETREAT

Roggensack asked Commission members to each explain what they think the mission of the Commission is, and what their personal role on the board is. Following this exercise, Roggensack noted that a general rule of thumb is that board members should strive to give an average of six hours per month to the organization – two hours in board meetings, two hours in committee or other meetings, and two hours doing outreach and advocacy (attending events, phone calls, etc.).

A number of suggestions and issues relative to board involvement, expectations, outreach, and connectivity with other community organizations and entities were brought up. Roggensack distributed handouts related to board roles and responsibilities and other information. Jeanine Howe suggesting amending the Commission's board member job description since it is somewhat outdated. Roggensack suggested doing a board self-assessment and having an expectations agreement for new members. Ways to accomplish additional outreach activities were discussed and which stakeholder organizations the Commission should liaison with.

Board members agreed that the Commission's mission statement is applicable, all-encompassing, and doesn't need to be changed: *The mission of the Grand Junction Commission on Arts and Culture shall be to help create and nurture a climate and conditions in Grand Junction in which the arts and culture can thrive and grow.*

Roggensack led the board through a review of the Five Year Business Plan (2005 – 2009) and current Commission projects, and several changes were incorporated into the plan, as follows:

1. Continue all existing, on-going Commission programs:
  - ~ *Grand Junction Strategic Cultural Plan* development and implementation
  - ~ Grant Program of financial support for local arts events, projects, programs
  - ~ One Percent for the Arts Program for certain City capital construction
  - ~ *The Sourcebook: Directory of GJ Area Arts Organizations & Artists*
  - ~ *Community Cultural Events Calendar* publication (every other month)
  - ~ Annual Arts Roundtable meetings of arts and cultural organizations
  - ~ Annual Business in the Arts Awards to local businesses and arts supporters
  - ~ Annual *State of the Arts* report to the City Council
  - ~ *Economic Impact of the Arts in Grand Junction* Study (every five years)
  - ~ Professional development workshops for local artists
  - ~ Art Exhibits at City Hall
2. Promote the local arts industry as a necessary and beneficial economic development component.
3. Continue to encourage and promote the establishment of an arts business incubator facility.
4. Encourage arts and cultural organizations to do additional school outreach programs, as well as encourage organizations to do more arts education classes and workshops for all age levels.
5. Expand the Business in the Arts Award program to include individuals as well as businesses.
6. Sponsor an Artrain USA exhibit in Grand Junction in 2006, utilizing partner organizations to provide volunteers and additional promotion. *(This project was cancelled due to Artrain scheduling conflicts.)*
7. Advocate for including a large amphitheater in a public park, and ensure that it includes adequate sound and lighting equipment.
8. Encourage, develop, and help fund a high quality annual community-wide arts festival in Grand Junction, working with other area arts organizations and local artists.
9. Help develop and promote local cultural tourism programming, working with the GJVCB.
10. Help expand the public art program throughout Grand Junction by purchasing artwork annually for visible public locations. Work with other organizations and businesses to promote and acquire public art.
11. Continue to be a clearinghouse for cultural information, promotion of local artists, resources related to arts and culture, and public artwork acquisition and maintenance.
12. Improve the quality and design of Commission flyers and brochures, and publish a brochure about City owned public art.
13. Promote the local arts industry, local artists, and Commission programs through some type of on-going media programming on the radio (KAFM) and/or in the newspapers. *(Board members could help accomplish this as an outreach program.)*
14. More effectively update, revise, and utilize the Commission's website [www.gjarts.org](http://www.gjarts.org). *(Include additional funds for web site maintenance in the 2008 – 2009 budgets.)*
15. Continue to support and promote all artistic disciplines in the performing and visual arts.

The Commission decided to discuss the following items further at up-coming meetings:

- Ways board members can improve outreach; amendments to Commission job description (August);
- Grant procedures, guidelines, a three-year limit, additional promotion of the program (September);
- City Hall art exhibit docent training for Commission members and changing the reception day;
- Expanding and promoting more cultural diversity;
- Expanding the City's 1% for the Arts program for additional capital improvement projects.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Allison Cowan Sarmo  
Cultural Arts Coordinator