

Grand Junction Commission on Arts and Culture  
Minutes  
August 23, 2006

Commissioners Present: Doug Clary Robert Oppenborn  
Karen Kiefer Lora Quesenberry  
Joan Meyers Gunilla Bishop (arrived 5pm)

Commissioners Absent: Jeanine Howe, Vera Mulder, and Katherine Rhein

Others Present: Traci Altergott (Recreation Superintendent), Kent Harbert (Public Works Dept.), and  
Jacquie Chappell-Reid and Miffie Blozovich (Trumbo Memorial Committee)  
Present via conference call to Denver: Renee Henningfeld and Steve Wilensky (Carter & Burgess)

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 Lora Quesenberry, to approve the minutes of the Commission's meeting on July 19, 2006 as written. The motion carried unanimously.

**PUBLIC ART FOR I-70 AND 24 ROAD PROJECT:** The Commission, Public Works Project Manager Kent Harbert, and Carter & Burgess representatives reviewed three proposals received from sculptors in Mesa County to create artwork for the two new roundabouts in the I-70 and 24 Road redevelopment project. The Coordinator explained that the City had advertised the project's Request for Qualifications in the newspaper twice and she had sent the RFQ to six qualified and experienced Mesa County artists. Those responding to the RFQ were Darrel McKay, Harlan Mosher, and Lyle Nichols.

After everyone read through and rated each proposal, the group went around the table and each person made comments about their rankings and the project and artists. Selection criteria included relevant experience for this type of project, qualifications, references, ability to meet the project schedule, and ability to obtain liability insurance during on-site installation of the artworks. Based on these criteria, a motion was made by Doug Clary, seconded by Rob Oppenborn, to select Harlan Mosher as the artist for the I-70 and 24 Road redevelopment project. The motion carried unanimously.

The Coordinator will confirm with Mosher that he can complete the project as required in the RFQ by July 1, 2007, will confirm the budget for the project with the Public Works Department, and find out how Public Works wishes to handle the contract with the artist. The Commission thanked Kent Harbert for his assistance with this selection, and the Carter & Burgess representatives thanked the Arts Commission for their involvement.

**CHAMPION OF THE ARTS AWARDS:** The Commission discussed the guidelines and procedures for the annual Champion of the Arts Awards. The consensus of the board was to keep the criteria and awards the same as last year, and to again present the awards during the Grand Junction Symphony Gala, which will be on November 11. Upgrading the Request for Nominations flyer and the Request for Award Artwork flyer to include photographs of the 2005 winners and their prizes was suggested, as well as handing the winners award certificates during the presentation, so they are recognized more fully than simply standing on the stage.

**ANNUAL ARTS ROUNDTABLE:** The Coordinator reported that there had been a discussion at the last monthly meeting of major arts and cultural organizations about having the Colorado Council on the Arts make a presentation explaining their grant program to local arts groups. The Coordinator noted that the Commission has also discussed addressing the Commission's grant program with local cultural organizations, and suggested that these two topics be combined and that grants should be the focus of this year's roundtable meeting. The consensus of the board was to proceed with this idea and aim for a November date for the arts roundtable if that fits the Colorado Council on the Arts' schedule.

**PUBLIC ART FOR THE TRUMBO MEMORIAL:** Jacquie Chappell-Reid, Miffie Blozvich, and Priscilla Mangnall made a presentation to the Commission requesting a \$10,000 contribution to help fund the proposed Dalton Trumbo memorial sculpture. They noted that the City Council has committed in-kind support for the project worth up to \$5,000 for installation, landscaping, and other costs, but no cash funding, and asked the Commission to consider donating from their budget line item earmarked for general art purchases (which is \$10,000 each year). Blozvich read letters and e-mails from the Trumbo family stating their excitement and support for the Trumbo Memorial Committee's idea of commissioning a sculpture which reproduces the iconic photo of Trumbo writing in the bathtub. She also noted that a \$5,000 donation has been made by an anonymous donor and that grant applications and extensive fundraising efforts are planned.

It was noted that this sculpture memorial project is the logical next step following the Arts Commission's four-day Trumbo Festival and hosting of the play by Chris Trumbo, "Red, White, and Black-listed" in 2004, and the Mesa County Public Library's reprinting of Trumbo's novel "Eclipse" about Grand Junction and the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration in 2005. The Coordinator noted that no other artwork purchases have been discussed with regard to the Commission's 2006 budget, so there is funding available. Following discussion, a motion was made by Doug Clary, seconded by Gunilla Bishop, that the Commission donate \$10,000 to the Trumbo Memorial Committee's sculpture project, and that the money be spent no later than March 31, 2007. The motion carried unanimously.

**NASA "SUNWORKS" ART EXHIBIT:** NASA Outreach volunteer Jim Stryder appeared before the Commission with a request to have an international art exhibit at City Hall sometime during the first quarter of 2007. Stryder explained that he has worked diligently with area artists, students, and art teachers to encourage participation in the Outreach and Educational Program for the International Heliophysical Year which interprets the sun through works of art. The involvement of Grand Valley and Montrose area artists in the program has been extensive and several local artists in different media have had their pieces selected to be part of an international art exhibit which NASA and the United Nations plans to tour around the world. Stryder is looking for a venue to hang the exhibit in Grand Junction, in recognition of the regional artists and art students, for two – three weeks sometime between January and March of next year. The exhibit includes 25 works of art, six by Grand Junction or Montrose artists and students.

Stryder said he has been unsuccessful in finding someplace to display the pieces. Possible exhibit expenses, which Stryder estimated to be perhaps \$500, including advertisement of the show, were discussed. A motion was made by Karen Kiefer, seconded by Lora Quesenberry, to display the exhibit at City Hall as requested, in recognition of the local and regional artists whose work is in the international show, in addition to the already scheduled artists who are showing there next year, provided the Commission doesn't have to bear the cost of shipping, insurance, advertising, and other expenses of having the exhibit in Grand Junction. The motion carried unanimously.

**REPORTS:** The Coordinator's Report for August was distributed and reviewed, and other general information handouts. Bishop and Oppenborn noted that they have not been appointed to serve on any Commission committees and the Coordinator will send them a list of standing committees so they can select those for which they want to volunteer.

The Coordinator reported that there will be a meeting at noon on September 19 with directors and board presidents of the major local arts and cultural organizations and the Grand Junction Visitor and Convention Bureau to do some long-range planning for promoting the area's cultural amenities and activities. [Note: The September 19 meeting was subsequently postponed to October 3.]

The Coordinator noted that the Grand Junction Passport tourist promotion, which gives out-of-towners discounted admission to all cultural facilities, has been printed and is in circulation at the Visitors' Center. The Commission, local arts entities, and the GJVCB have been working together on this idea all year.

A meeting of the Champion of the Arts Awards Committee was scheduled for Monday, September 18 at 4pm to review nominations and artwork proposals and select the winners and award art. As there was no further business to come before the board, the chair declared the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Allison Cowan Sarmo  
Cultural arts Coordinator