

Grand Junction Commission on Arts and Culture  
Minutes  
September 27, 2006

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

Commissioners Absent: Katherine Rhein

Others Present: Bruce Hill (City Council), Sam Rainguet (Communications Director), Traci Altergott (Recreation Superintendent), Miffie Blozovich (Mesa County Public Library Community Relations Director/Trumbo Memorial Committee), Lois Becker (Mesa County Public Library Development Director/Trumbo Memorial Committee), Ken Johnson (Trumbo Memorial Committee), Jacquie Chappell-Reid (Trumbo Memorial Committee), Priscilla Mangnall (Trumbo Memorial Committee), Tilman Bishop (Mesa Co. Commissioner/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. Doug Clary noted that the minutes of the last meeting showed Priscilla Mangnall in attendance but that was not correct. A motion was made by Clary, seconded by Vera Mulder, to approve the minutes of the Commission's meeting on August 23, 2006 as amended. The motion carried unanimously.

**PUBLIC ART PROJECTS – CRAWFORD AND TRUMBO SCULPTURES:** Proposals from artists interested in creating memorial bronze sculptures of Grand Junction founder George Crawford and Grand Junction notable, novelist, and award-winning screenwriter Dalton Trumbo were distributed, along with a rating sheet for evaluating the artists' proposals. Commission members, and others in attendance who comprised the selection committee for each sculpture, reviewed the proposals and photos of the artists' past work, and rated each sculptor according to the criteria. Clary asked if the Commission is limited to only purchasing artwork from Colorado artists, since this has been done in the past, and the Coordinator explained that every project is unique and the Commission can establish whatever criteria they wish, and that artists from outside the state were invited to submit proposals for these two pieces in order to find those most qualified, because doing portraiture work in bronze is a specific skill and the pool of possible artists is limited.

The following sculptors submitted their qualifications and cost estimates for the Crawford sculpture: Raymon Anderson, Richard Arnold, Michael McCullough, Scott Shaffer, and Mark Wahlberg. After extensive discussion, the selection committee members each gave their first and second choices for the artist who should do the Crawford piece, and Mark Wahlberg of Pasadena, CA (formerly of Grand Junction) received the majority of votes. A motion was made by Doug Clary, seconded by Vera Mulder, to commission Mark Wahlberg to create a bronze sculpture of George Crawford. The motion carried unanimously. It was noted that the Crawford sculpture will be installed somewhere at the intersection of 7<sup>th</sup> and Grand Avenue, and the Trumbo piece will be placed somewhere near the Avalon Theatre.

The following sculptors submitted qualifications and cost estimates for the Trumbo sculpture: Raymon Anderson, Michael McCullough, Mark Wahlberg, and Michael Wilson. The Coordinator noted that in the case of the Dalton Trumbo sculpture, the Commission is only acting in an advisory capacity on this project to help the Trumbo Memorial Committee, many of whom were in attendance. After further discussion the selection committee members each stated their first choice for the artist who should do the Trumbo piece, and Michael Wilson of Springville, Utah, received the majority of votes. A motion was made by Clary, seconded by Mulder, to recommend that the Trumbo Memorial Committee commission Michael Wilson to create a bronze sculpture of Dalton Trumbo. The motion carried unanimously.

**CHAMPION OF THE ARTS AWARDS:** A list of nominees and their nominators for the 2006 Champion of the Arts Awards was distributed and reviewed. Champion of the Arts Awards Committee members Karen Kiefer and Jeanine Howe noted that the committee recommends honoring FCI Constructors, Inc. and FCI Safety Director Raleigh Sorensen (nominated by the Downtown Partnership and Art on the Corner) as this year's winner in the Business Category, and honoring artist and arts activist Sara Alyn Oakley (nominated by Lise MacGregor, Cathey Pabst, and Dianna Fritzler, with 13 additional letters/e-mails of support) in the Individual Category. They explained how the committee evaluated the 11 nominations, noting that both Oakley and FCI have volunteered extensive time and expertise to further Grand Junction's arts community, and heavy equipment in the case of FCI, for little recognition.

Kiefer also noted that the committee was pleased by the record number of nominations received this year. A motion was made by Kiefer, seconded by Howe, to accept the committee's recommendation and give the 2006 Champion of the Arts Awards to FCI Constructors, Inc. and Sara Alyn Oakley. The motion carried unanimously.

The Commission then took a close look at the seven works of art brought in by local artists which the committee had selected as finalists for the award artwork to be presented to the winners. After much discussion about which pieces might be most appropriate for each honoree, a motion was made by Howe, seconded by Mulder, to purchase Lynn Pavelka's framed fine art photograph "Bear Claw Aspens" for \$320 for Sara Oakley. The motion carried unanimously. A motion was made by Kiefer, seconded by Oppenborn, to purchase Lynn Pavelka's framed fine art photograph "Standing Above It All" for \$390 for FCI Constructors. The motion carried unanimously.

**PUBLIC ART PROJECTS – 24 ROAD/I-70 ROUNDABOUTS AND PARKING GARAGE:** The Coordinator reported that Renee Henningfeld with Carter & Burgess, the landscape firm designing the 24 Road and I-70 enhancements, wants the Commission to have final approval of the design of the 24 Road and I-70 roundabout sculptures. The Coordinator asked Commission members to review a photograph of Harlan Mosher's proposed design concept for the artwork, noting that the photo is not a final design but that Mosher needs to know if the Commission likes the general idea. Comments from the Commission included: 1.) The finish on the metal sculptures should be matt not shiny so sunlight isn't reflected into motorists' eyes; 2.) The sculptures need to have more textural elements rather than their currently sleek sides (Mosher's wall piece on the front of the Western Colorado Community College (formerly UTEC) was a popular design with interesting textural elements); 3.) The design shouldn't include arches, which it doesn't; 4.) The two sculptures should be similar and compatible in style but not identical; and, 5.) The sculptures should be monolithic and monumental in size and scale. The consensus was that the design concept is generally good idea in the broad sense but needs some revision and refinement.

The Commission reviewed a draft Request for Qualifications for the 1% for the Arts downtown parking garage project. The RFQ is aimed at artists who would create artwork which would be integral to the building, not free-standing, and could include artistic window grillwork which compliments the entrance and center "building" in the façade design, and/or a metal entry canopy/archway above or around the entrance to better delineate it, or the art could be metal or tile artwork on the interior walls of the main floor of the building.

The RFQ includes a budget of up to \$75,000 [1% of the total \$7.5 million construction project budget, per Mike Curtis, Public Works Project Manager] for one or more pieces of art. There was a discussion about the possibility of artwork which creates a way-finding path through the building, across the alley, and eventually through the walkway which will be built in the future from the back of the garage to Main Street. The Coordinator noted that a copy of the draft RFQ has also been sent to the architects, the Public Works Department, and the Community Development Department for review and approval.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** A letter was read from the City Clerk noting that the City Council would welcome input from the Commission as what skills and expertise the board is looking for in potential new

members, since there will be three Commission vacancies in February. The consensus of the board was that the Commission would benefit by having a sculptor or other visual artists, since the 1% for the Arts projects often involve sculpture, and by having a business person as a connection to the business community. It was mentioned that it is important for prospective board members to understand that the Commission is a *working* board and applicants must be willing to commit the time to attend the regular monthly meetings as well as help with Commission projects such as the City Hall art exhibit installations and receptions, and that board members should be active participants in the cultural community in some way, and willing to attend various cultural events.

A thank you note was read from High Desert Opera for the Commission's donation toward their recent Summer Opera Festival.

REPORTS: The Commission's regular meeting in November was rescheduled from November 22 (the day before Thanksgiving) to November 29.

The upcoming installation of a new exhibit at City Hall in October was discussed, and Rob Oppenborn and Vera Mulder (if possible) volunteered to help with the installation October 2. Karen Kiefer and Joan Meyers offered to help set up refreshments for the October 6 reception.

Changing the day of the quarterly receptions for the City Hall art exhibits from Fridays to Wednesdays was discussed. The Coordinator noted that the First Friday Art Hops may or may not continue in 2007. A motion was made by Doug Clary, seconded by Lora Quesenberry, to have the 2007 City Hall receptions on Wednesday evenings. The motion carried unanimously.

The Coordinator noted a meeting October 3, organized by the Arts Commission and the Grand Junction Visitor and Convention Bureau, for the major arts and cultural organizations to discuss long-range planning to promote Grand Junction's cultural community and arts amenities.

Several upcoming Commission supported events were noted. Lora Quesenberry and Vera Mulder volunteered to attend Two Rivers Chautauqua, Joan Meyers volunteered to attend the Artspace & Open Studios' Exhibition, and Gunilla Bishop and Meyers will be attending the Grand Junction Symphony's Mozart concert. As there was nothing further to come before the board, the Chair declared the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Allison Cowan Sarmo  
Cultural Arts Coordinator