

Grand Junction Commission on Arts and Culture
Minutes
April 23, 2008

Commissioners Present: Gisela Flanigan Vera Mulder
 Jeanine Howe Lora Quesenberry
 Jeanne Killgore Katherine Rhein
 Don Meyers Tanya Smith

Commissioners Absent: Pam McLaughlin

Others Present: Traci Altergott (Recreation Superintendent), sculptor Michael McCullough and members of the Legends Historic Sculpture Committee Miffie Blozovich, Jacquie Chappell-Reid, Patti Hoff, and Katherine Lopez, and members of the City's Neighborhood Services Div. Kathy Portner and Kristen Ashbeck.

The Commission on Arts and Culture and the Legends Historic Sculpture Committee met informally at 4pm to view and critique sculptor Michael McCullough's maquette for his statue of Walter Walker, with his son Preston Walker on his shoulders flying a toy airplane. Michael noted that the sculpture will weigh about 700 pounds and be atop an 18" diameter column and bearing assembly weighing about 300 pounds. The bearing assembly will be shielded by a steel "clam shell" so it is protected but can be repaired if necessary.

The artist explained that the figures replicate the two Walkers' ages in 1910 and that the creation of the statue ready to be sent to the foundry will be completed within three months. The group suggested that the newspaper under Walter Walker's arm be redesigned to be more prominent so it could have more readable headlines. McCullough changed the position of the paper and noted that by the end of July he will need to know what the Legends Committee wants written on the newspaper.

There was a lengthy discussion about the height of the column on which the statue will stand, the artist explaining that he is recommending a 30" high base so that it can include a bar at that height to grab and turn the piece. With a 30" base, the top of the sculpture – Preston's hand and toy airplane – will be at about 11' 3". The consensus of the Legends Committee and the Arts Commission was to approve the 30" base height and to approve the maquette's design and concept. McCullough invited anyone interested to visit his studio in Ridgway to see the sculpture as it's being created or when it is done. Legends Committee members then left the meeting.

The regular meeting of the Grand Junction Commission on Arts and Culture was held on the above date. Chair Kat Rhein called the meeting to order at 4:40pm. A motion was made by Jeanne Killgore, seconded by Don Meyers, to approve the minutes of the Commission's meeting on March 26, 2008. The motion carried unanimously.

1% FOR THE ARTS PROJECT – NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES REMODEL: Commission members and Neighborhood Services Manager Kathy Portner discussed the 1% for the Arts project artwork to be done in conjunction with the remodeling of the Neighborhood Services offices on River Road. The Coordinator and Portner presented photographs of the building and discussed ideas for possible exterior artwork which could be acquired for the 1% for Art budget

of \$3,000. The consensus of the group was to solicit proposals from artists throughout Colorado, to suggest colorful pieces in tile or metal which could go on the side or corner of the building, but to leave the Call for Entries fairly open ended so artists can come up with ideas. Vera Mulder suggested sending the Call for Entries to Colorado colleges and universities and offered to provide those addresses.

COMMISSION WEBSITE UPDATE: A draft Request for Proposals to redesign, upgrade, and maintain the Commission website, www.gjarts.org, was reviewed. Gisela Flanigan reported that the Grand Valley Scientific and Cultural Alliance is also working on creating a website for community arts, cultural, and scientific organizations. The Coordinator noted that once the revisions to *The Sourcebook* artist directory are completed the end of July, then she'll work with a firm on the website. It was suggested that Commission members look at similar arts groups' websites for examples and Mulder will bring her laptop to the next meeting for this purpose.

SOURCEBOOK DIRECTORY UPDATE: A draft letter to local artists and arts organizations and businesses about the upcoming biennial republication of *The Sourcebook* was reviewed. The Coordinator explained that about half the cost of printing 2000 copies of the directory is covered by selling advertising in the book, and the cost of those ads was reviewed. The Coordinator noted that the cost of advertising was increased in 2006, the last time the directory was updated, and the consensus of the Commission was to keep the ad costs the same but to try to sell more ads. The Coordinator noted a few requests from artists and galleries outside the Grand Junction area – in Delta, Cedaredge, etc. – to be in the book, but that because the directory is funded by the City of Grand Junction, these requests are always denied. After further discussion, the consensus of the Commission was to allow out-of-town art galleries – but not artists – to purchase advertising in *The Sourcebook*, since that could be a benefit to local artists, but to charge them double the price for ads plus \$10 for a listing (local artists and organizations are listed at no charge). The Coordinator noted that she will begin working on *The Sourcebook* once the Art on the Corner Sculpture Change is completed in May.

ART ON THE CORNER: Commission members Killgore, Meyers, Mulder, Quesenberry, Rhein, and Smith – along with several spouses and former Commission members Karen Kiefer and Joan Meyers – volunteered to help with the annual Art on the Corner Sculpture Change by doing the necessary sculpture and pedestal cleaning, painting, and waxing on May 4.

CORRESPONDENCE: A thank you letter from the Center of Independence for their Commission supported arts and crafts classes was noted.

REPORTS: The Coordinator's report for April was distributed and reviewed. With regard to the up-coming 1% for Art project at the new Columbine Elementary School, the Coordinator reported that Chipeta's great-great-grandson Roland McCook, lives in Montrose and is an artist, and might be a possibility to creating artwork for the school. She is working on contacting the school's new principal to explore this option.

The Coordinator also reported that another up-coming 1% for Art project will be the final phase of construction at Canyon View Park in late 2008 and 2009, suggesting that the Commission consider purchasing the large limestone and steel sculpture "Grand Current" from the Art on the Corner exhibit for this project. The sculpture costs \$30,000 and Art on the Corner

would forgo their 25% commission, the 1% for Art budget would cover \$15,000, so the Commission would need to contribute \$7,500. If the Commission is potentially interested in this sculpture for this project, the artist would need to be contacted as soon as possible about leaving the piece in Art on the Corner for another year. The consensus of the Commission was to seriously consider this piece for Canyon View Park, so the Coordinator will ask the artist to keep the sculpture in the Art on the Corner exhibit.

OTHER REPORTS: Don Meyers congratulated Jeanine Howe on the success of the play, “Angels in America”, which she recently directed at the college. Vera Mulder noted that Fruita’s free Thursday night concert series will be starting soon. The Coordinator showed the Commission a large advertisement which the *Daily Sentinel* ran at no charge for Americans for the Arts promoting arts education in the schools, and it was suggested that the Commission send the *Sentinel* a thank you letter.

Don Meyers reported on the April 3 Centennial Band concert that he attended on behalf of the Commission, noting that the band did a good job and there were 300 – 400 people in the audience. Rhein reported on the April 19 Bookcliff Barbershop Harmony Chorus concert, saying that it was a really great show and there were 700 – 800 people in the audience, including many children. Vera Mulder reported that the Super Rad Art Jam location in Mesa Mall was very good exposure for the student art exhibit.

As there was no further business to come before the Commission, the Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 6pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Allison Cowan Sarmo
Cultural Arts Coordinator