

Grand Junction Commission on Arts and Culture  
Minutes – March 25, 2009

Commissioners Present:      Melonie Buchanan      Pam McLaughlin  
   Gisela Flanigan      Don Meyers  
   Jeanine Howe      Vera Mulder  
   Jeanne Killgore      Lora Quesenberry  
   Lancer Livermont      Katherine Rhein

Commissioners Absent: Tanya Smith

Others Present: Traci Wieland (Recreation Superintendent)

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 4pm. Two new members were welcomed to the Commission board – Melonie Buchanan and Lancer Livermont – as well as reappointed Commissioners Gisela Flanigan, Jeanine Howe, and Kat Rhein. A motion was made by Jeanine Howe, seconded by Jeanne Killgore, to approve the minutes of the Commission’s meeting on February 24, 2009 and February 25, 2009. The motion carried unanimously.

**2009 MIDWEST REGION ARTS AND HUMANITIES AWARD:** Traci Wieland reported that the Commission on Arts and Culture has been selected as the winner of the 2009 Midwest Region Arts and Humanities Award, which will be presented during the Midwest Regional Parks & Recreation Conference in late April. Grand Junction is hosting this six-state conference, and the Parks & Recreation Department encouraged the Cultural Arts Coordinator to nominate the Arts Commission’s grant program for this award because Grand Junction is one of only a few cities in Colorado that annually donates funding to local arts and cultural organizations and events, and has been doing so for many years. Wieland invited Commission members to attend the award banquet on April 23 to accept the award.

**COMMISSION COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS & OTHER COMMISSION BUSINESS:** A list of Commission standing committees was distributed and the duties of the various committees explained. Commissioners were asked to write down their first and second choices for committee assignments which were given to the chair to use in making 2009 committee appointments.

Minutes of recent Commission meetings, “Board Member Commitment Statement”, and other information was given to the two new members, and a list of contact information for all the board members was distributed. The Coordinator’s Reports for February and March were distributed and discussed.

**1% FOR ART PROJECTS:** The Commission discussed three up-coming 1% for Art projects: the Grand Valley Transit Transfer Station at 5<sup>th</sup> and South Avenue, the new Municipal Cemetery building, and artwork for Chipeta Elementary. The Coordinator reported that she and Don Meyers had met with Mesa County Facilities Director Sue Gormley and identified two potential locations for some type of outdoor artwork at the new bus transfer station, which is being advertised to Colorado sculptors.

The Coordinator noted that the Parks Superintendent suggested commissioning tile mural artwork for the cemetery building, having liked the tile art installed at several new park restroom buildings, and the consensus of the Commission was to proceed in this direction. The

Coordinator noted that Chipeta Elementary School hoped for some type of artwork which celebrates their Native American connection, but that working with Chipeta's great-great grandson Roland McCook to find an artist might not be an option. A Call for Entries will need to be sent out fairly soon if the artwork is to be a bronze, since that takes months to complete.

**ARTS EDUCATION MEETINGS:** A meeting has been scheduled with representatives from the Commission, Mesa County Valley School District 51, Mesa State College, and Think 360 Arts from Denver to discuss the possibility of sponsoring Think 360's "Aesthetic Institute" teacher training workshop in Grand Junction. The meeting will be April 2 at noon and Commissioners Flanigan, McLaughlin, Quesenberry, and Rhein volunteered to attend. The Colorado Arts Education Summit in Denver April 25 was discussed which Connie Robbins-Brady and several people from the school district and the Art Heritage program will be attending.

**COMMISSION GRANT PROGRAM:** A list of up-coming dates for Commission supported cultural events was distributed and board members volunteered to attend each of the events. The Coordinator recommended reviewing the goals of the Commission's grant program, particularly goal #5 which states that events and projects should aim to be self-sufficient, and the underlying idea that the Commission generally hopes to fund projects for only three years, although this is often not the case and is usually an unrealistic expectation for non-profit organizations. After some discussion a motion was made by Howe, seconded by Flanigan, to delete Goal #5 (Promote projects with the potential for self-sufficiency). The motion carried unanimously.

**CITY HALL ART EXHIBITS:** Commissioners McLaughlin, Quesenberry, and Livermont volunteered to help with the up-coming installation of new artwork on April 1, and Commissioners Meyers and Rhein volunteered to help with setting up the reception on April 3. McLaughlin suggested putting out a Call for Artists in the fall to encourage more artists to apply to be in the City Hall exhibits, and to consider hosting solo artist exhibits or shorter exhibits in order to include more artists, since being in the exhibit would be a benefit on artists' resumé's. The consensus was to continue with the current quarterly exhibit system and the Coordinator will advertise an invitation to artists in September.

**ECONOMIC IMPACT OF THE ARTS:** The executive summary of a study by the Colorado Council on the Arts entitled "Arts & The Economy" was distributed and discussed. The study promoted the benefits of using arts and culture to stimulate economic development throughout the state, noting that the total workforce in the "creative industries" in Colorado is 186,251 people, which ranks as the fifth largest industry in the state.

**ART ON THE CORNER:** Commission members again volunteered to paint sculpture pedestals and clean sculpture during the annual Art on the Corner Sculpture Change. As there was no further business to come before the Commission, the Chair declared the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Allison Cowan Sarmo  
Cultural Arts Coordinator