

Grand Junction Commission on Arts and Culture
Minutes
September 23, 2009

Commissioners Present: Melonie Buchanan Don Meyers
 Gisela Flanigan Vera Mulder
 Jeanne Killgore Lora Quesenberry
 Lancer Livermont Tanya Smith
 Pam McLaughlin

Commissioners Absent: Jeanine Howe, Katherine Rhein

The regular meeting of the Grand Junction Commission on Arts and Culture was held on the above date. Vice-chair Don Meyers called the meeting to order at 4pm. A motion was made by Lancer Livermont, seconded by Jeanne Killgore, to approve the minutes of the Commission's meeting on August 26, 2009. The motion carried unanimously.

CHAMPION OF THE ARTS AWARDS: The Champion of the Arts Awards Committee presented their recommendations for this year's awardees, noting the following nominations:

St. Mary's Hospital & Medical Center, nominated by The Art Center, with letters of support from GJ Musical Arts Assoc., Charles Morris, Kirby Roll, Carol Fennell, David Mosier, Marcia Blom, Penny Creasy, Meredith Nemirov, and Joan Anderson; *Pamela Blythe*, nominated by The Art Center and Hospice & Palliative Care of WC, with letters from Dianna Fritzler, Cobb & Associates, Charles Morris, Kirby Roll, Carol Fennell, David Mosier, Marcia Blom, Penny Creasy, Meredith Nemirov, and Joan Anderson; *Super Rad & Jason Bradham*, nominated by School District 51 Art Instructors Sal Salas, Gary Hauschulz, and Susan Metzger; *Stephen Boelter*, (posthumously) nominated by Martha House, and *Krystyn Hartman*, nominated by Mesa State College Assist. Prof. of Art Ed & Visual Arts Deborah Snider, with letters of support from Teresa Coons, Julia Hall, and Miffie Blozovich.

The recommendation from the committee was to honor St. Mary's Hospital and Pamela Blythe jointly for their selection and purchase of \$375,000 worth of original and reproduction artwork by Colorado artists for the new Century Project addition and to honor Krystyn Hartman and her *Grand Valley Magazine* for its promotion of local artists and the cultural community. It was also recommended, though not usually done, to recognize Stephen Boelter as an Honorable Mention. A motion was made by Jeanne Killgore, seconded by Gisela Flanigan, to accept the recommendation of the Champion of the Arts Committee. The motion carried unanimously.

The Commission looked at nine works of art offered by seven local artists (narrowed down by the committee from an original list of 31 submitted pieces) to decide which to purchase as the award artwork (rather than give a trophy or plaque). The Commission discussed at length which pieces would be most appropriate for each honoree and a straw vote narrowed the choices to four. A motion was made by Pam McLaughlin, seconded by Melonie Buchanan, to purchase "Ecstasy" a small bronze dancer by Raymon Anderson for Krystyn Hartman. The motion carried unanimously. A motion was made by Pam McLaughlin, seconded by Lancer Livermont, to purchase John Lintott's painting "Ouray Pastures" for St. Mary's Hospital. The motion carried with four in favor and three opposed. A motion was made by Lora Quesenberry, seconded by Gisela Flanigan, to purchase Sylvia Wilhelm's painting "Lake's Edge" for Pamela Blythe. The motion carried unanimously.

1% PUBLIC ART PROJECTS: A design proposal was presented from artist Tracy Munson, who was selected to create the sculpture of Chipeta for Chipeta Elementary School. Munson offered two possible designs for a 30” tall figure of Chipeta, the first with both hands reaching out in a welcoming gesture and the second showing Chipeta standing with her left hand out and an Indian child on her right. The artist noted that to include the child would cost approximately \$800 more in casting costs at the foundry than the \$10,000 allocated for the project, but that she would donate her additional time to add a second figure to the piece.

The Coordinator reported that she had shown both designs to officials from the school and they liked the statue which included a child best but were unable to provide any additional funding to help pay for that. The Commission decided that they would assist the school in getting the sculpture they most wanted with the funding in the Commission’s budget to purchase art, and a motion was made by Killgore, seconded by Flanigan, to approve the design option with the child. A motion carried unanimously.

GRAND VALLEY ART STUDENTS LEAGUE PROPOSAL: The Commission discussed the idea of starting an art students league in Grand Junction, as presented by Sara Oakley but tabled at the last meeting. Some of the concerns of the board included understanding who would run the organization’s operations, and would it be open to all artists and publicized to all artists, since it is important, if the Commission is a partner in the project, that it be as inclusive as possible.

The Commission asked the Coordinator to ask Oakley for a basic business plan for the project/organization which includes, among other things: 1.) The composition of the board, 2.) A program for each of the first twelve monthly sessions, 3.) How and to whom would the league be marketed, 4.) Evaluation criteria – how will success be measured, and 5.) Names of or letters from local artists committed to being involved in the league. A motion was made by Buchanan, seconded by McLaughlin, to ask Oakley to put together a business plan for the organization and to table a decision on this project until the next meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS: The Coordinator’s Reports for August and September were distributed and reviewed. The Coordinator updated the board on several public art projects currently in the works: 1.) The new sculpture at the *GVT Bus Transfer Station* will be installed Oct. 1; 2.) “*Wooshie*” sculpture at *Lincoln Park Moyer Pool* was vandalized about a month ago and the artist is creating an identical piece in steel rather than fiberglass for only \$1,000; 3.) The 5th *Street & Riverside Parkway “Aspen Trees”* have lost several “branches” and will be repaired by the artist Oct. 2 (under warranty); 4.) *Rocket Park 1%* – art teacher Vinje Lawson will work with her students at nearby Orchard Avenue Elementary to create a tile mural for the new restrooms; 5.) *Legends William Moyer sculpture* will be unveiled Oct 16; and 6.) A new 9/11 memorial sculpture “Remember” was dedicated as part of the Art on the Corner collection Sept. 10.

Commissioners Livermont, Meyers, and Mulder volunteered to help with the installation of the next art exhibit at City Hall Oct. 1 and setting up the opening reception Oct. 2. As there was no further business, the vice-chair declared the meeting adjourned at 5:35pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Allison Cowan Sarmo
Cultural Arts Coordinator