

Grand Junction Commission on Arts and Culture
Minutes
December 9, 2009

Commissioners Present: Gisela Flanigan Don Meyers
 Jeanine Howe Vera Mulder
 Jeanne Killgore Katherine Rhein

Commissioners Absent: Melonie Buchanan, Lancer Livermont, Pam McLaughlin, Lora Quesenberry, and Tanya Smith
Others Present: Traci Wieland (Recreation Superintendent)

The combined November and December meetings of the Grand Junction Commission on Arts and Culture were held on the above date. Chair Kat Rhein called the meeting to order at 4:20pm. A motion was made by Vera Mulder, seconded by Don Meyers, to approve the minutes of the Commission's last meeting on October 28, 2009. The motion carried unanimously.

COMMISSION GRANT PROGRAM: The goals and criteria for the Commission's annual grant program, the process for which begins the first week of January, were distributed and reviewed. The Coordinator noted that the grant program, like most grant programs, helps provide local artists with exhibition and sales opportunities, local musicians and entertainers with paying performance opportunities, and those working for local non-profit organizations cultural activities which strengthen their organizations and by extension their jobs. She suggested that the employment benefits for community members through these grants be emphasized. She recommended eliminating the current Goal #5 (Promote projects with the potential for self-sufficiency) since that is often unrealistic, and replacing it with a goal which focuses on job creation and stabilization in Grand Junction's creative industries.

The Coordinator also recommended that a question about the number of employees and artists impacted by the arts or cultural project being applied for should be added to the grant application. A motion was made by Jeanne Killgore, seconded by Jeanine Howe, to: 1.) Change the wording in the Commission's granting goals to Goal #1. "Creation and preservation of jobs for artists in all creative fields and/or those working for arts and cultural organizations"; 2.) Eliminate the current Goal #5; and 3.) Add a question to the application form asking about the number of artists employed by or workers impacted by the specific cultural event or project. The motion carried unanimously.

GRAND VALLEY ARTS STUDENTS LEAGUE: Artist and art teacher Sara Oakley made a presentation to the Commission about her idea of partnering with the Commission to form a new Grand Valley Arts Students League, a proposal which she had first presented at the Commission's August meeting, and which was discussed again in September and October but then tabled for more information. Oakley presented a brochure from the Denver Art Students League, as an example of a very successful program, and answered the Commission's questions which had arisen at the last meeting. She noted that the new organization was intended to promote and market arts education for adults and provide an opportunity for a large number of artists to get together and create art on a monthly basis in an "open studio" session.

Oakley noted that sponsorship of the fledgling organization by the Commission would allow use of the Lincoln Park Barn at no cost once a month. Traci Wieland explained that the Commission could either sponsor the new Art Students League and use the Barn at no charge but this would mean the City would be liable as a partner, or the Commission could pay the rent for the group at the non-profit rate of \$250 a session and not be liable in any way.

Chair Kat Rhein recommended that Oakley apply to the Commission to fund the Barn rental cost through the up-coming grant program. A motion was made by Jeanine Howe, seconded by Vera Mulder, not to sponsor the new Grand Valley Art Students League but to encourage Oakley to apply to the Commission for a grant. The motion carried unanimously.

ARTSPACE REQUEST TO CO-HOST AN ARTISTS FORUM: The Coordinator presented a request from Artspace & Open Studios for the Commission to help host a forum for local artists on January 26 to discuss what artists need to be successful in their business. Because there was no cost to do this, and because it would provide some good information to support local artists, the consensus of the Commission was to co-host this forum with Artspace.

REPORTS: The Coordinator's Report for November was distributed and reviewed, including information about the following public art projects that the Coordinator is working on:

1. *Chipeta Elementary 1% Project* – artist is working on (to be completed in April)
2. *Lincoln Park Pool "Wooshie" Sculpture* – artist working on new piece (was vandalized)
3. *Rocket Park Tile Mural* – Orchard Ave. Elem. working on; rocket was reinstalled as art
4. *City Cemetery 1% Project* – new building was approved and Call for Entries for a tile mural will be drafted
5. *Legends Sister Mary Balbina Sculpture* – sculptor Greg Todd is working on the maquette

GJ ARTS DISTRICT: Chair Kat Rhein explained to the Commission her idea of creating an arts district somewhere in downtown Grand Junction which would help provide studio and retail space for artists as well as help revitalize some under-utilized parts of town. Rhein noted that several representatives from the City and Heidi Ham with the DDA have been meeting to discuss this, and referenced the Canyon Road Arts District in Santa Fe as an example.

CITY HALL ART EXHIBIT: A list of artists which the City Hall Art Exhibit Committee decided to invite to exhibit during 2010 was distributed. The Coordinator reported that 45 artists had responded to the Commission's invitation to display artwork, and of those, 35 were approved by the committee. The next City Hall art installation will be January 5, and Vera Mulder, Gisela Flanigan, and Jeanne Killgore volunteered for that. The reception will be January 8, and Killgore and Pam McLaughlin volunteered to attend.

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