

**MINUTES**  
**Grand Junction Commission on Arts and Culture (GJCAC)**  
**June 27, 2012, Parks and Recreation Administration Office, Lincoln Park**

Commissioners Present: Miranda Ashman, Randall Cupp, Judy Dyrud, Charity Finnigsmier, Gisela Flanigan, Diane Kress Hower, Lancer Livermont, Jephtha Sheene

Commissioners Absent: Elizabeth Nelson

Also Present: Lorie Gregor

At 4:00 p.m. Chair Gisela Flanigan called to order the regular meeting of the Grand Junction Commission on Arts and Culture (**GJCAC**). The minutes of the April 25 meeting were already approved at the May 16 joint review of public safety art, which did not generate minutes.

**NEW BUSINESS: REPORTS FROM EVENT ORGANIZERS**

**24<sup>th</sup> Annual Downtown Grand Junction Art & Jazz Festival** (May 11-13), GJCAC grant \$3500: Kathy Dirks said the festival had about 250 artists and musicians and 12,000 attendees, of which 30% were from out of town, according to a survey. All 3 downtown hotels filled Friday and Saturday nights. Both art and music were well received, in particular the new Main Street Art School in a tent leased with part of the GJCAC grant. The lessons were so popular that some timeslots were opened to 2-4 students each. For next year the organizers will consider closing 5<sup>th</sup> Street to vehicle traffic and adding another stage to showcase dance or theatre.

**Super Rad Art Jam** (April 7-14), GJCAC grant \$2000: Naomi Barlow said the successful Mesa Mall exhibition had 120 high school student artists and attendance of 3000-5000. Lorie Gregor added that the **Super Rad Mural Jam** of skate park painting (June 16) also was a great success.

**Spring Art Week at the Arts Center** (April 23-27), GJCAC grant \$1500: Camille Silverman said children learned about painting, sculpture, bookmaking, music and dance from 14 instructors, including singer-guitarist Theresa De Rush, who performed some of her educational songs for the Commissioners. Next year's Art Week may possibly extend to a week and a half and add a special program for students with mental or emotional disabilities.

**Calabash Gourd Festival** (June 9), GJCAC grant \$1000: Laurie Elisha said with free admission attendance doubled over last year to 800-1000 people for demonstrations of gourd art, a silent auction, vendors and entertainment. Forty cars made from gourds raced down a slot-car track. Organizers donated the \$1800 profit to the Botanical Gardens. Next year they may sell gourd car kits through radio stations and extend the festival to 2 days to enable classes in making gourd art.

**OTHER NEW BUSINESS**

**Donation: Riverfront Cleanout artwork:** Lorie said the Colorado Riverfront Foundation has proposed donating a cast bronze bas-relief depicting and honoring volunteers who cleaned the riverfront. The marker would stand on a vacant spur off Riverside Parkway on the Riverfront Trail. A plaque would explain the marker. No maintenance would be required. The artwork is

by 3 mentored art students at Colorado Mesa University. After discussion Gisela called for a vote and the Commissioners accepted the proposal unanimously.

**Donation: sculptures of cactus** by Tim Patty were proposed for location on the roundabout at G Road and 23 Road, the median on 24 Road between Starbucks and City Market, or the Canyon View Park parking lot. Arranging a multi-sculpture grouping might be more difficult on the 8' wide median. The roundabout location offers free sculpture delivery by the contractor who built the roundabout and free installation by the artist. After discussion Gisela called for a vote and the Commissioners accepted unanimously the proposal with the roundabout location.

**City Hall Art Exhibit:** Lorie said that teardown of the current exhibit will be at 10:00 a.m. July 9 and new setup at 2:00 p.m. July 10. Randall Cupp and Charity Finnigsmier volunteered for setup. The Friday opening reception will be July 13 at 5:30, with the artists in attendance. Diane Kress Hower and Jeptha Sheene volunteered for reception setup at 5:00; Gisela also might be able to help and said she would inform Elizabeth Nelson.

**Lincoln Park:** Tracy Wieland of the City informed the Commissioners about numerous planned upgrades. Planners hope to get a climbable art piece funded by 1% for the Arts for the renovated playground. Only \$3000 was dedicated for this, but Lorie said it might be possible to add money left from the stadium tower project. GJCAC would post a Call for Artists, using supplied specifications for dimensions and adherence to the playground's tree theme. Lorie asked the Commissioners to note other ideas they see that may be useful in play areas, take pictures if possible and bring them to the next meeting.

## **OLD BUSINESS: 1% FOR THE ARTS PROJECTS**

**Lincoln Park Sports Complex Tower:** GJCAC posted a Call for Artists to design a 10' x 30' banner for when the Rockies, CMU teams and JUCO are not in residence. The competition, open to all Mesa County residents, required adherence to the theme Life in the Grand Valley. Lorie showed slides of the 24 submissions, and after discussion the Commissioners reduced the field to 3 by voice vote. The finalists will undergo a silent ballot vote of City Council at their July 9 meeting. The Parks Improvement Advisory Board will also vote to select one design. The winning artist will be awarded \$1500 and additional "1%" money will fund execution and installation of the banner. Finalists are Cathey Pabst, David Rowe, and Deb Elliott.

**Public Safety Art:** Greg Todd, winning sculptor for the Police Department exterior, submitted alternate sculpture designs. One design depicts a police officer helping two children on a bicycle and the second shows a policeman helping two children raise a flag. The artist priced the former proposal at \$74,000 and the latter at \$80,000. City Council will select the winning design. The sculpted brickwork of Police Department interior winner Ken Williams requires specific infrastructure. Because this will take more time, the city will return to this project after taking possession of the building in September.

## **REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Public artwork maintenance:** All American Powerwashing cleaned between 9 and 11 public artworks and Commissioners, primarily Lancer Livermont, waxed and buffed. Gisela said this is part of the official work of GJCAC and next time we will try to involve more Commissioners, especially those who have not yet taken part.

**Poetry in the Streets:** Jephtha gave a favorable evaluation. The organizers kept her informed. She showed a written response including a photograph and list of poetry locations.

**Grand Valley Community Theatre “Some Enchanted Evening”:** Jephtha gave a less favorable evaluation. The organizers had to reschedule and did not contact her to say when. The event still has not happened and they have not applied for the money. GJCAC will not try to reach them.

**Calabash Gourd Festival:** Diane gave a favorable evaluation. The organizers kept her informed. She found many attendees and excellent craftsmanship at the festival. GJCAC was named at the top of the donor sign. Diane saw many posters for the event, and they also had a video clip.

**ArtSpace at the Career Center:** Diane gave a less favorable evaluation. Although there was good communication at the beginning, they did not inform her of changes. They had problems getting students to the Center after school and the activity had little teaching of skills, especially job-related skills. On asking about the public exhibition, Diane was told it “didn’t work out” and an impromptu exhibit had already been held at the Career Center without inviting her.

**Clay Sculpture Class at the Center for Independence:** Miranda Ashman gave a favorable evaluation. Approximately 35 people with physical and cognitive disabilities attended. The instructing artists were sensitive to student needs and each student received a photograph with their instructor and art materials to take home. GJCAC was thanked repeatedly at the event.

Gisela thanked the Commissioners for adopting projects related to their own fields and said their expertise was invaluable for the evaluations. Lorie read aloud thank-you notes from Super Rad Art Jam, the Center for Independence and the Bookcliff Barbershop Chorus. Posters for the High Desert Opera “Elixir of Love” were distributed for Commissioners to post.

The next GJCAC meeting will be July 25 at 4:00 p.m. in the City Hall Executive Conference Room, to choose artwork for the new Fire Department building.

The meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy M. Dyrud