

Grand Junction Commission on Arts and Culture
Minutes
January 27, 2010

Commissioners Present: Melonie Buchanan Vera Mulder
 Gisela Flanigan Lora Quesenberry
 Jeanine Howe Katherine Rhein
 Jeanne Killgore Tanya Smith
 Lancer Livermont

Commissioners Absent: Don Meyers

Others Present: Traci Wieland (Recreation Superintendent), Connie Monroe (visitor), and Deborah Snider (Mesa State College Professor of Art Education and Arts Administration)

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. A motion was made by Jeanine Howe, seconded by Jeanne Killgore, to approve the minutes of the Commission's meeting on December 9, 2009. The motion carried unanimously.

COMMISSION 2010 CALENDAR: A list of up-coming meeting dates, project activities – City Hall exhibits and receptions, publication of the cultural events calendars and *The Sourcebook* artists directory – and other Commission programming was distributed and reviewed. The Coordinator asked for a Commission member to replace her on the Legends Historic Sculpture Committee and Vera Mulder volunteered to do so. The Coordinator also recommended that after April 1st board members take turns attending the monthly meetings of the arts and cultural organizations, and Lancer Livermont volunteered to attend the April 13 meeting.

Traci Wieland updated the board on plans for staffing the Commission and its programs and projects following the resignation of the Coordinator on April 1st, noting that the intent is to keep the position as whole as possible and utilize Recreation Division staff to do most of the work. Wieland said that Parks and Recreation Director Rob Schoeber and Economic, Visitor and Convention Services Director Debbie Kovalik will attend the February 24 Commission meeting for a further update. Chair Kat Rhein thanked Wieland for her support and guidance.

The Commission's hosting an Arts Forum in mid-March was discussed. The consensus of the board was to organize a roundtable meeting and invite local artists and arts and cultural organizations to discuss the Colorado Council on the Arts recent creative economy study, ideas for helping artists and Grand Junction's creative industries become economically successful, and the idea of a downtown arts district of some kind. Saturday, March 13 from 10am – 1pm was selected as the date and time for the forum [date later changed to March 20.] The Commission decided to invite Colorado Council on the Arts Executive Director Elaine Mariner as the keynote speaker to talk about CCA's statewide creative industries initiative.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS FOR 2010: Due to the impending vacancy of four Commission seats due to resignation or terms ending, a motion was made by Jeanine Howe, seconded by Vera Mulder, to table the election of new officers and the appointment of Commission committees indefinitely, and to retain the current officers and committee assignments. The motion carried unanimously.

COMMISSION ARTS EDUCATION GRANTS: The goals and process for the Commission's arts education grants to schools for visiting artists-in-residence projects were distributed and reviewed, with few changes from 2009. The deadline for schools to submit project proposals will be March 15, and the Commission will review the applications at their March 24 meeting.

Mesa State College Professor Deborah Snider updated the Commission on plans for the June 13 – 18, 2010 Integrated Arts Biennial Institute at Mesa State for local K – 12 teachers, distributing a “fact sheet” about the program. Snider noted that she has offered summer teacher training classes for credit hours in the past, but this is the first to incorporate many creative disciplines – art, dance, music, theater, and literature – in the course schedule.

Snider noted that the idea for an interdisciplinary aesthetic institute grew out of a meeting the Commission's Arts Education Committee put together last April, and that while economic obstacles precluded the group's original hope of bringing in nationally known speaker Daniel Pink, author of *A Whole New Mind*, the college is working to create an exciting and informative set of classes to inspire teachers at all grade levels to embed the arts in their classrooms. Snider was encouraged to apply to the Commission for a grant to support the Arts Institute.

REPORTS: The Coordinator's Report for January was distributed and reviewed, including the following public art projects:

1. *Chipeta Elementary 1% Project* – artist Tracy Munson is working on (to be completed end of April)
2. *Lincoln Park Pool vandalized "Wooshie" Sculpture* – artist Terry Burnett is working on new piece (to be completed in April)
3. *Rocket Park Restrooms Tile Mural* – Orchard Avenue Elementary students working on
4. *City Cemetery 1% Project* – the building is under construction but the original location for a tile mural (which the Commission planned to find an artist to create) on the front of the building was eliminated during construction, so another option might be considered.

Jeanine Howe reported on the High Desert Opera New Year's Eve Gala, funded in part through the Commission grant program, saying that the production was much better than last year's and well attended.

Guest Carol Monroe updated the Commission on photographer Mark Mabry's photo exhibit at the Saccomanno Center and a local church, and asked for ideas to publicize the display. Monroe also mentioned Arts Advocacy Day at the State Capitol in Denver on February 26.

CITY HALL ART EXHIBIT: The Coordinator presented a request from the Colorado National Monument Association to exhibit artwork related to the Monument's 100th anniversary at the City Hall in either April – June 2011 or July – September 2011. The consensus of the Commission was to include this display in the 2011 exhibit schedule.

As there was no further business, the Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 5:45pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Allison Cowan Sarmo
Cultural Arts Coordinator