

Grand Junction Commission on Arts and Culture  
Minutes  
February 24, 2010

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

Commissioners Absent: Don Meyers, Lora Quesenberry

Others Present: Rob Schoeber (Parks and Recreation Director), Debbie Kovalik (Economic, Visitor and Convention Bureau Director), Layne Whyman (Economic, Visitor and Convention Bureau Convention Services), Lorie Gregor (Recreation Coordinator)

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 Lancer Livermont, to approve the minutes of the last meeting on January 27, 2010 as written. The motion carried unanimously.

Rob Schoeber and Debbie Kovalik updated the Arts Commission about how the various projects and job of Cultural Arts Coordinator will be accomplished following Allison Sarmo's retirement April 1. Schoeber noted that overall the City has scaled down 70 employee positions, but departments are trying to continue to provide all the same services simply with fewer employees, which is the case with the Arts Commission. Kovalik introduced Layne Whyman, who will be the liaison between the Arts Commission and the Economic, Visitor, and Convention Bureau, explaining that the VCB will be taking over production and distribution of the Commission's community cultural events calendar. Lorie Gregor was also introduced, and she will take over all the other functions of the Cultural Arts Coordinator position, except for Art on the Corner, which will be returning to the Downtown Development Authority and staffed out of that agency.

COMMISSION GRANTS: The Commission reviewed at great length the 23 applications for financial assistance to support arts and cultural events and projects in Grand Junction which had been presented the previous night. The following potential conflicts of interest were noted for the record, and these Commission members did not vote on the applications for which there might be a conflict: Melonie Buchanan – Aspen Dance Connection, Mesa State College, and Grand Junction Symphony; Gisela Flanigan – Grand Junction Symphony, Mesa State College, and KAFM Community Radio; Jeanine Howe – Mesa State College. The Coordinator noted that Mesa State College withdrew their application, having found another possible funder for the project.

Commission members discussed the merits, issues, and concerns of each organization's event or project. The suggestion was made that in order to adequately support as many worthy organizations and projects as possible, the Commission should cap the grant awards at \$4,000, and this was confirmed as the general agreement. After careful consideration and extensive deliberation, the consensus of the Commission was not to award funding to two of the projects,

due to major questions about the viability of the projects, the specific use of Commission funding, and/or their proposed budgets. A straw vote was taken on a “yes”, “no”, “maybe” basis to determine a relative ranking of the remaining applications. Following that exercise, the discussion centered on which projects should be awarded full funding and which projects should be award less than full funding.

The consensus of the Commission was to recommend to the City Council awarding grants to support arts and cultural events and projects to the following organizations, in the following amounts:

Grand Junction Downtown Partnership Art & Jazz Festival	\$4,000
Grand Junction Symphony Children’s Concert	\$4,000
KAFM Community Radio “Arts & Entertainment Calendar”	\$4,000
Museum of Western Colorado Two Rivers Chautauqua Festival	\$3,000
Rocky Mountain PBS KRMJ-TV “Western Bounty” arts segments	\$3,000
Artspace Spring and Fall Open Studios Tours	\$2,000
Grand Junction Centennial Band concert music purchases	\$2,000
High Desert Opera “The Sound of Music” New Year’s Eve Gala	\$2,000
Legends of the Grand Valley Sister Mary Balbino Sculpture	\$2,000
Mesa County Public Libraries Culture Fest	\$2,000
Riverside Education Center After School Art Classes	\$2,000
Western Colorado Writers Center Poetry in the Streets Projects	\$1,900
Grand Valley Art Students League Start-up	\$1,700
Aspen Dance Connection Grand Junction Dance Showcase	\$1,500
Super Rad Art Jam	\$1,500
Western Colorado Center for the Arts Artability Art Education	\$1,500
Western Colorado Watercolor Society National Juried Exhibit	\$1,500
Bookcliff Harmony Barbershop Chorus Youth in Harmony Project	\$1,200
Messiah Choral Society “Messiah” Concert	\$1,000
Western Colorado Chorale South American Choral Music Concert	\$1,000
Pastel Society of Colorado International Juried Exhibit	\$ 500
Total Support	\$43,300

REPORTS: The Cultural Arts Coordinator distributed a copy of the draft *State of the Arts* Commission annual report to the City Council and the Commission’s budget and projects for 2010. The Arts Commission will present their grant recommendations and the annual report to Council at the March 1, 2010 meeting.

As there was no further business to come before the Commission, the chair declared the meeting adjourned at 6:10pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Allison Cowan Sarmo  
Cultural Arts Coordinator