

Grand Junction Commission on Arts and Culture
Minutes
December 1, 2010

Commissioners Present: Melonie Buchanan-Murray Vera Mulder
 Randall Cupp Joy Potter
 Gisela Flanigan Kat Rhein
 Jeanine Howe Felicia Sabartinelli
 Lancer Livermont Lorie Gregor

Commissioners Absent: Gary Smith

Others Present: Traci Wieland, Layne Whyman

The regular meeting of the Grand Junction Commission on Arts and Culture was held on the above date. Chair Gisela Flanigan called the meeting to order at 4pm. A motion was made by Lancer, seconded by Jeanine, to approve the minutes of the Commission's meeting on October 27, 2010 with one change of the "open space tour" to "open studios tour". The motion carried unanimously and the minutes will be adjusted.

2011 GRANT CYCLE FUNDING:

We will likely not know about all of our grant funding until possibly April so we will adjust our dates for the Potential impact on grant funding could be up to \$20,000, which is significant, so we need to make sure we know what we have for funding before we start looking at requests.

- January 14th available for download
- March 18th first date they can apply
- April 15th is the deadline for applications

From Colorado Creates we must sit out of the grant cycle for next year because we have received funding the past three years. This was approximately \$6500 of funding that we will not be receiving for next year. We will then be able to reapply for the 2012 funding opportunities.

Question from Gisela to the city: are we allowed to look for outside funding/contributions for our grant funding; according to Traci that is acceptable as far as she knows but she will verify that is true with her finance committee. If the funding is given, we request that it would stay within the Arts Commission monies rather than be distributed within the City general fund.

If we want to apply for national grants, it is possible that we will need to change our perspective on what kind of grants we are giving? Many national organizations are looking for creativity, innovation, and the entrepreneurial spirit within the grants that we would fund to receive their organizations support. Is there something different we could request from the applicants that could demonstrate more of these "focus" ideas. Key ideas we could encourage: collaborative projects, diversity, innovation, creativity, interdisciplinary projects, etc. to hopefully help them "think outside the box". Perhaps we can start by changing the title of the grant that will stimulate these thoughts within the applicants and inform them of the type of projects we will be looking for this year – highlight what will be different from previous years funding. If we can have a concise description of what we will be looking for in this years' projects that includes

descriptors such as those listed above (diversity, innovation, interdisciplinary, creativity). The commission agrees that it would be appropriate to give the artists some examples of things that will stimulate that thought process for them such as suggestions of: flash mob art, collaborate an artist with a physicist, etc. One of the concerns in the past has been that we request full disclosure from applicants on where the applicants will be receiving other funding from and we need to hold them accountable to provide that information and the commission can then take necessary steps to inquire about that additional funding/reporting if needed. VCB reviews their grants monthly and Lorie can communicate with them about organizations that are possibly applying for funding from both organizations.

Suggestions to become more formal: modify an official contract that grant applicants must sign and be held accountable to specific requirements. A new committee will be formed to look at different ways that we can make this granting process more formal and accountable – this committee will be comprised of: Felicia, Gisela, Vera, Lancer, Kat, and Lorie. This group will meet to explore the changes to the application and reporting process of the grants.

SOCIAL NETWORKING:

Felicia provided a handout with the information necessary for Facebook and our Gmail accounts. When you post via it will show as City of GJ, not individual commission members, so make sure you are careful about what you post/announce. Suggestion that we rotate weeks to monitor and post to the site – perhaps on a calendar basis – if we all take different weeks it will help to monitor it and keep it current. We need to make sure that we develop our guidelines for posting by arts commission members as well as what exactly the requirements are. A committee will be formed to discuss the technology issues that will be coming up with the use of Facebook and its appropriate use (with the City’s perspective from Traci): Felicia, Vera, Lancer, Gisela, Kat, Randall

REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Coordinator’s Monthly Report:

Sarah Oakley has invited the Commission in a paint-along session; meet at Lincoln Park Barn the 3rd Sunday each month from 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.; all materials would be provided and commission members would attend as a group – we need to pick a month that we would like to attend; the commission would like to look at doing this in the summer sometime

Received letter from High Desert Opera regarding their production of “The Sound of Music”; they will offer (6) sets of tickets available for 7:30 December 31st and 2:00 or 7:00 on January 8th. If any members are interested in attending contact Lorie to check on availability of tickets.

Reports on Commission funded events attended:

Western Colorado Chorale was contacted regarding the omission of the Commission support in their program that was funded. It was an oversight by their organization and they apologized and plan to include an insert in their next program with a thank you.

Culture Fest was attended by Gisela and was told that the event was extremely successful and that the organization will consider making it an annual event because of its success.

Champion of the Arts Awards Committee:

This committee would like to change how we are doing this award for next year; the gala will not be happening in the future due to budget constraints and we need to look at what type of “award” that we are giving. We can consider a plaque/certificate of recognition (instead of a work of art) and present it as part of one of the City Council meetings. We need to discuss the issue further when looking at funding availability and how we want to best use our funds. One suggestion from Layne: the person that is honored with the award has some of the grant funding given “in their honor” for the next year’s grant funding cycle and they are allowed to present the award to that organization. The existing committee will meet and come up with options to present to the commission for a vote on how this award will “look” for next year.

City Hall Art Exhibit Committee:

Lorie will email us the list for the year; January’s artists include: Fran Borne, Betty Roy Pitts, Maya Nichols, Colorado National Monument
City Hall exhibit reception for Friday, January 7th at 5:30 p.m. – Melonie, Lorie, and Vera

There are (4) seats that will be open beginning in January so encourage others to apply. Only one seat is vacant for term limits and the other members are able to reapply.

Next meeting will be on January 26 at 4:00 p.m.

As there was no further business to come before the Commission, the Chair declared the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Joy Potter
GJCAC Secretary