

MINUTES
Grand Junction Commission on Arts and Culture (GJCAC)
Wednesday, January 23, 2019 Hospitality Suite, Lincoln Park

Commissioners Present: Sarah Dishong, Kristian Hartter, Roseann Lyle, Honora Thompson, Donna Fullerton

Commissioners Absent: Mark Marino, Dean Harris, Gary Ambrosier

Others Present: Lorie Gregor, Bennett Boeschstein, John Cooper

Sarah Dishong – Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:00pm. Kristian Hartter motioned to accept the minutes of the November meeting. Honora Thompson seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Final reports were presented by the following:

First Presbyterian: Debe Colby & John Howard

Writers Forum: Linda Skinner

Culture Fest: Karen Kllanxhja

Western CO Dance Theatre: Britni Dodd

KAFM: Ramona Winkeller

Music Spark: tabled until March due to illness

Riverside Education: Joy Hudak

Operation Revamp: Wendy Hoffman

Downtown Development Plan: Brandon Stam, Executive Director of Downtown GJ presented information on Vibrant Together, A Downtown Initiative. It began in August, 2018 – and will be completed in Spring. Brandon will bring flyers to the Cultural Plan Celebration.

Grant Training: Lorie Gregor presented the 2019 grant training.

OLD BUSINESS

Cultural Plan Celebration: Sarah and Lorie reviewed the agenda for the Celebration on Feb.7. Plan on being there by 5:00pm to help set up/check people in.

Art Exhibits: Lorie thanked all who helped install. All locations have been installed and posted to Facebook.

REPORTS

Champion of the Arts: Sarah and Lorie reported that it was a huge success: both at the Avalon and City Hall.

Write On!: Kristian reported this year was very successful with record participation. Next year we will coach kids on how to present their pieces for the reception.

First Presbyterian: Honora gave her evaluation of First Presbyterian's event – attached. Mark was absent.

Music Spark: Donna presented her evaluation of the event – attached.

Riverside Education: Due to an unknown date change, adoptees weren't able to attend. Kristian attended during set up of the event. No written report was given.

The next regular meeting will be February 27 at 4:00pm at the Parks and Recreation office. As there was no further business, Sarah declared the meeting adjourned at 6:20pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Lorie Gregor

**GRAND JUNCTION COMMISSION ON ARTS AND CULTURE
EVENT/PROJECT/PROGRAM EVALUATION**

Organization: First Presbyterian Church of Grand Junction

Name of event/program/project: Christmas Choral Concert

Your name: Honora Thompson

Date(s) of event: December 15-16, 2018

Date you attended: December 16, 2018

Number of people in attendance: Appx. 400

Number of participants (artists): 100+

Describe the event: Five "On Christmas Night" performances were held over the weekend with two morning performances and three evening performances. I attended on Sunday, Dec. 16 at 6:00 p.m. and was told upon entering that the show was "sold out." The church was packed. Organizers even added additional chairs alongside the pews. Musicians ranged from singers, to bell ringers, orchestra members, to an organ player. There were also a few songs performed by small children. John Howard, the group's conductor and performance director, did an outstanding job leading the show and displaying a lot of energy, despite it being the fifth and final show. The church's minister thanked the Commission and recognized the grant by allowing us to stand and wave to attendees. The songs were both traditional and historical.

What were the strengths of the event? The music was uplifting and of high-caliber. The wide-range of musicians were enthusiastic and delivered good sound together. The organ was dramatic. The children added levity and an innocence to the show. It's also nice that the concerts are free and they use local musicians.

What were the weaknesses of the event? On the night I attended, I suppose if more people tried to get in after me, they would have been turned away. However, I'm not sure the group or the musicians would benefit from moving locations or doing additional concerts. It would have been a nice bonus to have a solo vocalist, had it been attainable and affordable.

What suggestions do you have to improve this event? None.

Publicity: Was the GJCOAC logo used in:

Program/brochure: Yes

GJCOAC listed as a donor/supporter: Yes

Received professional pictures from organization: Yes

GJCOAC link on organization's website: No

Is the organization's website linked on our website: No

Organization worked with you before/during/after event: Yes



Grand Junction Commission on Arts and Culture - Event/Project/Program Evaluation

Organization: Music Spark
Name of event: Holiday Concert 2019
Evaluation by: Donna Fullerton
Date & Location: Tuesday, December 11, 2018, 6:15, at the Dual Immersion Academy
Number of Attendees: 100+
Number of Artists: 24
Cost: Free and included a Holiday Concert Program

Description: Members of Music Spark performed their Holiday Concert to a large crowd of donors and family members in the DIA's cafeteria. The performers comprise three teams by order of age and ability: The Brahms Team, the Mozart Team and the Beethoven Team. Doctors Gisela and Sean Flanigan are the Directors with Suzanne Nadeau-Porter as the site Coordinator and Teaching Artist. The children put on a wonderful and energetic performance of diverse music ranging from Traditional to a Scottish Dance and even Ukrainian and French Carols. I attended a practice session as well as the concert and was equally inspired and impressed by the enthusiasm, energy and compassion of the directors and volunteer teacher. They made me want to volunteer!

The Strengths of MusicSpark includes the commitment and enthusiasm of the directors, teacher, musicians and their families. The students were well-behaved and respectful of their instructors. The family members' faces were alight with happiness as they watched & photographed their children as they played their violins. They are truly committed to the success of the MusicSpark program even cleaning the practice room, setting up and tearing down chairs for each rehearsal. The buckets were surprisingly functional as chairs being stackable and free while promoting good posture which is a fundamental aspect of any musician's practice.

The Weaknesses should mostly be rectified with the Dual Immersion Academy's Gym addition which will include a Music Room. The practices are now held in one of the classrooms with performances in the cafeteria. Music Spark has a Facebook page that would benefit from a Donor Button. It has no website. There were no professional photos taken nor was there a videographer for the performance.

GJCAC was listed as a donor in the Holiday Program, logo included and was thanked by Dr. S. Flanigan during the performance and also on the GJCAC's website. I was personally thanked on both my visits.