

## MINUTES

### Grand Junction Commission on Arts and Culture (GJCAC) September 25, 2012, Parks and Recreation Administration Office, Lincoln Park

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

Commissioners Absent: Jephtha Sheene

Others Present: Lorie Gregor, Recreation Coordinator, Traci Wieland, Recreation Superintendent

Chair Gisela Flanigan called this regular meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. A motion was made by Lancer Livermont, seconded by Diane Kress Hower, to approve the minutes of the Commission's meeting on June 27, 2012. The motion carried unanimously.

### NEW BUSINESS: FINAL GRANT PRESENTATIONS

**Salt Wash Dance Theatre Grand Valley Performing Arts Festival**, July 12-15, GJCAC grant \$3500: Connie Monroe presented the final report on the festival held at the Colorado Mesa University Moss Performing Arts Center and outdoor quad. The festival was a great success. Individual events included dance in classical and modern styles, chamber music, theatre, knights' duels, tumbling/acrobatics, choral music, belly dance instruction, face painting, chalk art and individual singer/musicians. A poetry reading in the Black Box theatre sold out. Ms. Monroe thanked the actors, dancers and artists for their participation, GJCAC for their grant, and Sutherlands Lumber Co. for donating air conditioning for backstage and the children's zone.

**High Desert Opera: *The Elixir of Love***, July 20 and 28, GJCAC grant \$3000: Marnie Werner presented the final report on Gaetano Donizetti's comic opera at the Avalon theatre. Ms. Werner said *Elixir of Love* was successful in giving the local singers an opera experience comparable to larger cities, with full orchestra, costumes, sets, choreography, and principal singers recruited nationwide and internationally. However, the production had poor attendance of 605 people and resulted in a \$14,000 loss. Ms. Werner speculated that ticket sales were hindered by the Broadway Series performance of *Cats* one week before the opera. She expressed optimism that *I Do! I Do!* to be presented Dec. 31 and Jan. 5, will do better without Broadway Series competition. She thanked the Commission for their grant and said the opera company, which operates largely through hundreds of volunteer hours, could not produce fully staged and orchestrated shows without GJCAC funding.

After Ms. Werner's departure the Commissioners discussed the report. Miranda Ashman said the Broadway Series got good media promotion because they pursued it in ways that High Desert Opera perhaps did not. The company attempted to compensate for the opera's unfamiliarity by use of an English libretto and an innovative setting in 1890s Grand Junction. However, it was still 3-1/2 hours long and may have required extra publicity to generate sufficient interest. Local media coverage, such as morning talk shows, is free. The Commissioners agreed that the Commission should not view the Broadway Series or other entertainments as competition, but should support all arts-related events, enlarging the cornucopia of cultural opportunities in the Grand Valley. Miranda added later that the High Desert Opera's production was delightful and they did a fantastic job; notwithstanding the financial loss and previous discussion, she recommended that GJCAC continue to fund them.

### OTHER NEW BUSINESS

**City Hall Art Exhibit:** Lorie Gregor announced the schedule for the teardown at Two Rivers Convention Center and hanging the new exhibit at City Hall. She encouraged all Commissioners to attend and publicize the opening reception 5:30-7:00 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 5. The winners of the student creative writing contest “What Art Means to Me” will read their winning essays at the start of the reception. Video recording is planned but not yet finalized as of this meeting.

**Champion of the Arts Competition:** Gisela announced that a deadline was needed. Lorie will do the calls for entries and nominations Oct. 1. Entries are usually narrowed down by the Champion of the Arts Committee, but Gisela suggested that the entire Commission review them this time. Gisela moved that GJCAC meet on Monday, Nov. 26. Lancer Livermont seconded, and the motion passed unanimously. Miranda moved that the deadline be set for Friday, Nov. 16. Diane Hower seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

**Creative Writing Contest:** Five entries were received, and all were winners; the contest rules allowed up to 9 winners. The entries were read aloud by Education Committee members and the Commissioners agreed they were all of high quality and deserved to win. Lorie will include essay excerpts in the press release for newspaper coverage. Suggestions to increase submissions next year included starting earlier with a May or June Education Committee meeting, sending publicity and/or letters to school principals before the contest and after this year’s City Hall presentation, inviting the District 51 Concerned Parents to the reception, and putting information in the city Activity Guide.

**Board Openings:** Elizabeth Nelson has resigned from GJCAC because of schedule conflicts. The application deadline for the two openings is Oct. 1. Diane will post it on Facebook again. City Council may extend the deadline if the number of applications received does not exceed the openings.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

**Lincoln Park Tower:** The winning art banner was intended to replace the sports team banners between sports seasons. However, because these periods are short, ongoing discussions concern the purchase of a system to install the art banner permanently on the north side of the tower, visible from North Ave. Some remaining money from the project has not yet been allocated.

**Public Safety 1% for the Arts:** The Police Department sculpture design “Legacy” has been finalized to be 11 feet tall with a red-white-blue patina on the flag. The artist has begun work on the sculpture. The design “When I Grow Up” was chosen for the Fire Department building and will go to City Council Oct. 3 for approval to contract with the artist. Painter Scott Freeman has submitted 3- and 5-panel designs for the Fire interior wall. The multi-panel painting will replace the sculpted brick designs, which were cancelled because of infrastructure problems. If the 5-panel painting is chosen the wall will be made convex to accommodate and enhance the design. The donated painting of the Whitehall fire scene, which was based on a photograph, has received the permission of the photographer and will be hung at the fire station.

## **REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Grand Valley Catholic Outreach Art in Transition, GJCAC grant \$1000:** Judy Dyrud gave a favorable evaluation. The project, which provided art therapy sessions to formerly homeless veterans living in Catholic Outreach housing, had its first public showing at the Sept. 20 Downtown

Farmers Market. The artists learned to use 2- and 3-dimensional art to express thoughts and emotions related to their experiences on active duty and as veterans. Nine of the 15 veterans began the sessions, some dropped out and some are still finishing their work. Finished pieces by 3 artists were featured at the Farmers Market booth, with signs above the art describing their service backgrounds. The booth had many visitors, and the GJCAC logo appeared on the 3 small signs plus a large poster at the center. The organizers plan another art showing at the KAFM Radio Room. Judy will email the Commissioners when the date is established and try to ensure that the GJCAC is mentioned on KAFM.

Regarding another grant and funded projects in general, Gisela said that it was an exception for GJCAC funding to go to a single artist, and we should think about that in the future.

**CCI grant for GJCAC:** Lorie applied to Colorado Creative Industries (CCI) for a \$10,000 grant for us and was denied. They said the refusal was because the “majority goes to” Lorie’s salary; Lorie replied that none of it does. They said the grant proposal should have shown this as In Kind. If the reviewers had read the grant they would understand all GJCAC money goes to programs. We are the only group that re-grants CCI funding to multiple projects. Lorie told them it has been this way for years and she had not been properly advised on how to say it in the grant. Approximately 400 organizations applied this year and it is unlikely that they read 400 full grants. More likely they looked quickly for disqualifiers and this single misinterpreted detail served to disqualify us. Lorie said she wrote the \$10,000 into our budget and hopefully it will be approved. The lesson for the Commission is to read all grants submitted to us carefully and completely for full understanding.

**GJCAC officers:** The current officers have served past their official term expiration dates in February 2012 because of the new members added in April. The current officers, Gisela (Chair) and Lancer (Vice Chair), are willing to continue if re-appointed. Judy moved that the current officers be retained. The motion was seconded by Miranda and Diane and passed unanimously.

**Other Announcements** (Lorie): Poetry in the Streets will be held at 6:30 p.m. September 28 at the southwest corner of 4<sup>th</sup> and Main. *City Lights* featured the saguaro cactus public art piece on their first page. The next regular GJCAC meeting will be held Oct. 24 in the Parks & Recreation office.

Gisela adjourned the meeting at 6:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy M. Dyrud