

State of the Arts

GRAND JUNCTION COMMISSION ON ARTS & CULTURE

January 2004

2003 Annual Report

Established in 1990, the Commission on Arts & Culture is dedicated to creating and nurturing a climate and conditions in which arts and culture can thrive and grow in our community.

State of the Arts

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COMMISSION MEMBERS

Pamela Blythe, Chair
Doug Clary, Vice Chair
Lee Borden
Jack Delmore
Karen Kiefer
Priscilla Mangnall
Joan Meyers
Janet Prell
Bill Whaley
*Allison Sarmo, Cultural
 Arts Coordinator*

New Projects in 2003

❖ The Arts Commission participated in the first Colorado Art Expo in Denver in December with several local artists. The Commission organized and staffed a booth and distributed brochures and information from numerous GJ arts and cultural organizations. It was an excellent opportunity to promote the local cultural community and artists to a statewide audience, and 4,000 – 5,000 people attended the two-day event.

As part of the Expo, the Cultural Arts Coordinator spoke on *The Arts and the Economy* panel at the “Arts Café”, offering statistics from the Commission’s report on the *Economic Impact of the Arts in the Grand Valley*.

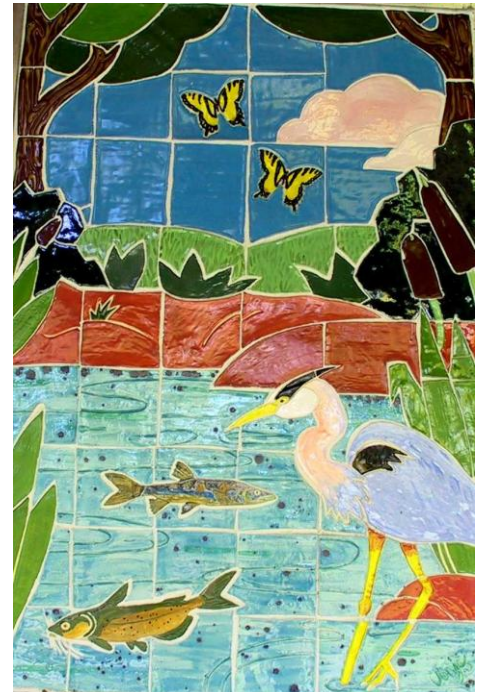


Commission booth at the Colorado Art Expo

❖ Hosted the Arts Roundtable meeting of arts and cultural organizations’ staff and board members held at the Art Center in November. Mary Ewell, former Associate Director of the Colorado Council for the Arts, enthused the 45 attendees from 25 different cultural groups who were there with stories about collaboration and cultural community building.

❖ Selected artists and commissioned tile and mosaic art pieces through the 1% for the Arts program for the new

restroom buildings in Columbine Park and Riverside Park.



“Riverside” ceramic mural by Vinje Lawson

❖ Began the selection process for 1% artwork for capital construction projects at Canyon View Park, Westlake Park, and the new Redlands Fire Station. The parks’ “Call for Entries” (Request for Proposals) elicited unique sculpture proposals from 30 Colorado artists, including four from Grand Junction.

❖ In July began hosting opening receptions for each new art exhibit at City Hall, at the urging of local group JABOA (Just a Bunch of Artists). Fifty – 100 people attended various openings. City employees displayed their artwork again this year.

❖ In February launched the Commission’s own website – gjarts.org – designed and maintained by Commission member Doug Clary.

On-going Programs

- * Implementation of the *Grand Junction Strategic Cultural Plan* including recommendations involving arts education, cultural facilities, funding resources and economic development, historic preservation, support for local artists, marketing and promotion, and urban design and public art;
- * Financial support for arts and cultural events and projects;
- * Administration of the City's 1% for the Arts program;
- * Rotating art exhibits at City Hall;
- * Publication of *The Sourcebook: A Directory of Grand Junction Area Artists and Arts Organizations*;
- * Publication of the *Community Cultural Events Calendar*;
- * Annual Business in the Arts Awards;
- * Slide presentations about arts activities and economic impacts;
- * Facilitation of networking, marketing, and informational opportunities for arts and cultural groups and local artists.



"Columbines" mosaic by Karina Stevens

Cultural Events & Projects Benefit an Audience of 40,000

The Commission donated \$26,400 through their competitive grant process to 15 local arts organizations for arts or cultural activities. This grant program helps bring more arts to more people by encouraging new cultural events, arts education and children's events, and projects which have broad community benefit. The various grant awards for 2003 included:

- Mesa State College Grand Mesa Summer Dance Festival
- Mesa Co. Valley School District #51 Artists-in-Residence Program
- Western Colo. Center for the Arts Charles Hardy retrospective exhibit
- KRMJ Public Television "Western Bounty" programs
- KAFM Public Radio "Arts & Entertainment Calendar"
- GJ Musical Arts Association symphony music purchase
- Reader's Festival
- MESA Youth "Sound of Music" musical
- Mesa Co. Public Library puppeteer performances
- Performing Arts Conservatory "Hello Dolly"
- St. Andrews Guild Grand Valley Renaissance Festival
- DTA's Art & Jazz Festival
- Mesa County Community Concert Association school music programs
- JABOA (Just a Bunch of Artists Studio Tour)
- Bookcliff Barbershop Harmony Chorus service clubs performances

Twenty-one thousand people attended all these events, including over 5,000 children, plus another estimated 20,000 television viewers and radio listeners through KRMJ and KAFM.

Public Art Abounds

Beautification of public spaces and promotion of local artists are the impetus behind the Commission and City Hall Art Exhibit Committee's rotating art exhibits at City Hall, which feature numerous outstanding visual artists and groups.

Parks projects were the focus of the 1% for the Arts program during 2003. Ceramic and stone tile mosaic artwork was selected and installed at the new Columbine Park and Riverside Park restroom buildings, and sculpture proposals requested and reviewed for Canyon View Park Phase II and Westlake Skate Park.

Public art projects for 2004 include the Redlands Fire Station and Wingate Park, and artwork as part of the City gateways project still remains a Commission goal.

Collaborations

The Commission worked with the Marillac Clinic during their recent remodel and expansion project to help them solicit works of art from local artists for the new dental clinic addition. Karen Kiefer and Janet Prell helped clinic staff with phone contacts and final installations, and Kiefer created and donated a stained glass window. Over 50 new paintings, textile pieces, stained glass, and sculptures were added to the 50 works of art generously donated to the clinic in 1998 by area artists when they originally moved into the current facility.

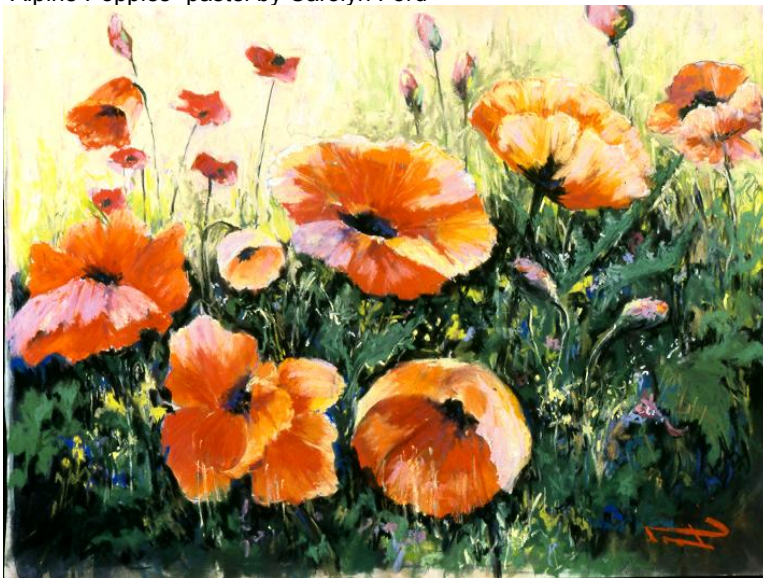
Commission members volunteered their time once again to help with the Art on the Corner Sculpture Change. Pamela Blythe, Doug Clary, Jack Delmore, Karen Kiefer, Priscilla Mangnall, and Janet Prell all pitched in to clean the sculptures and paint the pedestals on May 31 when the rotating exhibit was taken out to get ready for the new exhibit.

The Commission continued to host monthly meetings of the major local arts and cultural groups (all those with paid staff.)

"East of Yellowstone" oil by Bud Marcos



"Alpine Poppies" pastel by Carolyn Ford



Business in the Arts Award Winners for 2003

This year's winners of the Grand Junction Business in the Arts Awards are Cole & Co. Realty in the Corporate Business category and The Coffee Studio in the Small Business category. Cole & Co. was nominated by Cinema at the Avalon for their continued and generous support of the film series. The nomination asserted that, "They are committed to supporting our artistic vision for independent films in the Grand Valley." Dale Cole's sponsorship helped expand the Avalon Theater movie showings from one weekend a month to almost full-time.

The Coffee Studio was nominated by artist Linda Rybak for displaying artwork by area artists and actively promoting and advertising each exhibit. Rybak says of owners Dawn Sagar and Kelly McKephan, "They are delightful young women who go out of their way to support artists in this community."

Paintings by local artists Carolyn Ford and Bud Marcos will be given to the business winners during an awards presentation at the annual Chamber of Commerce banquet January 30, 2004

Statewide Partnerships

At the annual conference of the Colorado Arts Consortium, a statewide association of local art councils and commissions, the Cultural Arts Coordinator was elected a Regional Representative for Southwest Colorado. Commission member Karen Kiefer was elected for a fourth year as secretary of the Consortium board.

Commission member Joan Meyers serves on the board of the Colorado Alliance for Arts Education, an advocacy group promoting arts education in the schools.

The Coordinator continued to do consultations for the Colorado Council on the Arts Peer Assistance Network until state budget cuts eliminated this program in July. She facilitated a meeting in March to focus and expand the public art program in Delta. In April and May she helped the Carbondale Public Arts Commission develop a Public Art Master Plan to start a new rotating sculpture exhibit.

State of the Arts in the Grand Valley

News from Other Arts & Cultural Organizations

Art Center

The Western Colorado Center for the Arts celebrated the 50th anniversary of the organization's incorporation in 2003. It was a record year for the Center in several areas. Total gallery attendance for the year increased from about 25,000 in 2002 to over 31,000 during 2003, up 25%. Household memberships are up 22% to 1,090, and class enrollment was also up 7% with 1000 students annually. All types of visual arts classes continue to expand and the Center hopes to raise the money (\$10,000 for materials alone) to replace their large kiln in 2004 to accommodate the increase in ceramics students and constant use.

Local organizations from Brush & Palette Club to The Outsiders to the Western Colorado Watercolor Society displayed artwork during the year. Other excellent exhibits included a 37-year retrospective by Mesa State College Art Professor Charles Hardy, debut shows by several area artists, and the annual contemporary show.

Cinema at the Avalon

What a year for the film series - Saturday Cinema at the Avalon became Cinema at the Avalon and in November expanded from one weekend a month to almost daily movie showings. Memberships and sponsorships are growing steadily, and cutting edge independent films, art and foreign films, and classic movies remain the focus. Gretchen Reist-Henderson recently took over as Executive Director.

Grand Junction Musical Arts Association

The Musical Arts Association provides support for the Grand Junction Symphony, and is also the non-profit umbrella for the Centennial Band, Grand Valley Children's Choir, Western Colorado Chorale, and Western Colorado Jazz Orchestra. In 2003 the Symphony made a major investment in music for years to come by purchasing a new concert grand piano, with key support from the Symphony Guild and the Mesa County Concert Association. Symphony audiences of 1200 to 1500 people per concert as well as other audiences are enjoying this fine instrument which is currently housed at the Grand Junction High School auditorium.

More than 20,000 adults and children heard the Symphony's music at the ever popular summer concert in Lincoln Park, at its Pops, Nutcracker and Children's performances, and through the Springfest educational program for children, including 1162 season tickets holders.

KAFM Grand Valley Community Radio

The radio station had another successful year and kicked off an on-going series of live concerts in their 75-seat "Radio Room" auditorium. They're starting a new program called "Notes" to highlight and educate the community about different types of music and they continue to expand the musical genres they play. Membership jumped to 1300, up 30%, and all of the on air programming is still being done by the very dedicated group of volunteers.

Mesa County Public Library District

The big news at the library, of course, was the November defeat of the ballot initiative to build a new central library facility. The board won't give up the effort and will bring the question before the voters again, although exactly when is undecided. The library is asking for input from the public about the plans, in hopes of a successful election next time.

Museum of Western Colorado

The Museum's many programs, exhibits, dinosaur digs, research library, facilities, and preservation efforts continue to be a huge asset to the community. "The Trial of Alferd Packer" was a very successful fundraiser and membership remains steady.

Performing Arts Conservatory

During 2003 PAC's youth theatre program trained hundreds of students in theater, music, and dance; staged some 20 live performances at White Hall; and visited more than 45 schools with the Arts Education School tour. They continue to offer outstanding youth shows plus a full season of live theater productions for all ages. Their production of "Les Mis" last January was very successful and they are presenting "West Side Story" January 16-17, 2004.

Western Colorado Botanical Gardens

The Botanical Garden's capital campaign has garnered many generous donations and grants from a variety of sources, with donations and pledges of a quarter of a million dollars, including \$25,000 from the City. Several major new garden areas have been completed or are now in the planning stages. Membership to the Botanic Garden remains steady. The Elizabeth Harris Amphitheater has been completed and hosted its first musical event in the fall.

In other news – New Downtown Art Gallery Closes: Unfortunately for local artists and art buyers, the Chilton Weatherly Gallery of Fine Art which opened at 7th and Main about a year ago has closed its doors.