



# State of the Arts

January 1997

GRAND JUNCTION COMMISSION ON ARTS AND CULTURE

## State of the Arts

Grand Junction Commission  
on Arts and Culture  
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### COMMISSION MEMBERS:

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## ~Annual Report to the City Council for 1996 ~

### *The Commission's Year in Review and the State of the Arts in the Grand Valley*

## NEW EDITION OF *THE SOURCEBOOK*

A major project this year for the Commission on Arts and Culture has been the updating and reprinting of the fourth edition of *The Sourcebook: A Directory of Grand Junction Area Artists and Arts Organizations*. The idea for this directory was first conceived over a decade ago as part of a Chamber of Commerce focus group activity, and local artists working with the Art Center compiled and printed the first edition. In 1992 the Commission undertook a revision of the directory, and has continued to update and reprint the book every two years.

*The Sourcebook* contains listings for over 500 local artists in 28 different categories ranging from painters to sculptors to writers to musicians. There are over 60 listings of cultural organizations and providers plus another 60 art-related businesses.

*The Sourcebook* is used extensively by people interested in commissioning artwork, hiring entertainment, getting involved in an arts group, or contacting artists about exhibitions or similar opportunities. Many local schools and others use the directory to find art teachers or volunteers. Each listing contains the artist's or organization's name, address, and telephone number, and a brief description of the type of artwork they do. In this year's edition, notations were added to denote artists who teach private lessons and artists willing to work in the schools.

Updating the directory involved about a hundred hours of staff time and just over \$1000 in printing costs for 1000 copies. *The Sourcebook* is distributed through the Commission, the Art Center, the Chamber of Commerce, the Visitor and Convention Bureau, and the Mesa County Public Library.

## SUPPORT FOR ARTS EVENTS & PROJECTS

In keeping with its mission to promote arts and culture, and because the Commission is not a presenting organization itself, one of its major functions is to help underwrite cultural events, projects, and programs provided by local arts groups.

In March the Commission received nineteen applications for funding, totaling over \$47,000 (double the amount requested in 1995). Fourteen different cultural events, projects, and programs were supported with \$14,000 in City, Colorado Council on the Arts, and Public Service Company *Art With Energy* funding.

The bulk of the Commission's support went to children's events and art educational programming: The Grand Junction Symphony's annual *Kinderkonzert*, the Art Center's *May Art Week*, the Museum of Western Colorado's *Cowboy Poetry Gathering*, Family Empowerment Center's presentation of the theater group *Su Teatro*, DooZoo Children's Museum Family Theater productions, Riverside Task Force's *Fun in the Summer Arts & Craft Classes*, and the Altrusa Club's Student Visual Arts Workshop. (Unfortunately the Museum's *Cowboy Poetry Gathering* for 1997 and the Riverside Task Force's Arts and Crafts classes last summer were subsequently canceled.)

Programs supported specifically for presentation in area schools included the Art Experiences for Children Committee's *Artists in Residence* project, Performing Arts Academy's tour of the play "Alex in Numberland", Monument Arts Institute's Chamber Music Workshops, Colorado West Dance's Dance History Workshops, School District 51's Art Heritage Program, and Mt. Garfield Middle School's bronze mascot sculpture and gymnasium mural.

Other support helped underwrite the Art on the Corner *Art & Jazz Festival* and a concert by the Western Colorado Chorale. The Commission just received another \$3000 from Public Service Company in December through their *Art With Energy* Program. The funding is to be used specifically for arts education programs in public schools. The Commission was also awarded \$4000 from the Colorado Council on the Arts for 1997, to be regranted in support of art and cultural events and projects.

## **1996 BUSINESS IN THE ARTS AWARD WINNERS**

Grand Valley businesses are very supportive of cultural events and organizations. In an effort to recognize this, the Commission and the Chamber of Commerce instituted the Grand Junction Business in the Arts Awards in 1994. The first award was given to Norwest Bank. In 1995 two business categories were awarded: First Federal Bank won in the corporate business category and Frame Works & Gallery was named the small business winner.

The winners of the awards for 1996 were Hoskin, Farina, Aldrich & Kampf (corporate category), who were nominated by the Grand Junction Symphony for their support of the annual Pops Concert, donated hours, and assistance, and Haining Plumbing & Heating (small business category), nominated by the Avalon Theater for countless hours of volunteer work repairing and maintaining the building's plumbing and heating systems.

The winners were each presented with an oil painting by Tricia Berg at a ceremony last April.

## **ANNUAL ARTS ROUNDTABLE MEETING**

In October the Commission's annual Arts Roundtable for local arts organization board members and staff was greatly expanded this year into a day-long seminar. The meeting featured presentations by Robert Lynch, Executive Director of Americans for the Arts (formerly the National Alliance of Local Arts Agencies), John Dandurand, Executive Director of the Colorado Arts Consortium, and Christine Leusch, Development Director for the Museum of Western Colorado.

The program provided training in board development and effective fundraising. The annual Roundtables offer a chance for local arts organizations to get together at least once a year for networking and discussion. Numerous groups were represented among the participants. Interest has been expressed in continued board member training, and the Commission is considering hosting similar workshops, particularly aimed at new board members of cultural organizations, perhaps in the spring of each year.

## **STATUARY**

There will be two children permanently at play in the new Canyon View Park at 24 and G Roads with the purchase and installation of two life-sized bronze statues by the Commission and donors Max and Helen Krey. The Arts Commission is buying "Twist in Time" by James Haire, which depicts a boy on a swing. The statue was part of last year's Art on the Corner exhibit. Max and Helen Krey, the Commission, and the Art on the Corner Committee are teaming up to buy "The Natural" by Gary Price, the boy waiting to play baseball now standing on the corner of Fifth and Main.

The Commission hopes the purchase of these statues will encourage the inclusion of artwork in other public capital improvement projects.

The Cultural Arts Coordinator is also serving on a committee put together by the local chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution to commission and raise funds for a life-sized bronze statue commemorating the pioneer women who helped settle the Grand Valley. Paonia sculptor Lincoln Fox was chosen in December to do the artwork. A press conference will be held January 21 to introduce the project and the artist.

## **STATE-WIDE EVENTS**

Several Arts Commission members and representatives from other local arts organizations traveled to Denver last March to attend the annual Colorado Arts Consortium Legislative Luncheon, along with Senator Tilman Bishop and Rep. Tim Foster (Rep. Dan Prinster was detained in a committee meeting).

Later that evening the Commissioners and a crowd of Grand Junctionites applauded the presentation of the Governor's Award for Excellence in the Arts to former Mesa State College theater department director Bill Robinson by Governor Romer. Robinson had been nominated by the Arts Commission for this award.

The Commission's Cultural Arts Coordinator served a one year term on the board of the Colorado Arts Consortium, a state-wide association of local art councils and agencies. Quarterly meetings were held throughout Colorado, with the annual conference in La Junta. Grand Junction has been chosen to host the Consortium's 1997 conference coming up in September.

# **News From Other Arts Organizations ~ The State of the Arts in the Grand Valley**

## Museum of Western Colorado

In 1996 the Museum completed the Grand Junction Historic Survey, Phase 2, for the City of Grand Junction's Community Development Department and local Historic Preservation Board. This study inventoried the architectural style, date of construction, ownership, and historic significance of 4000 buildings in the city limits. Two parks and 998 buildings were placed on file with the Colorado Historical Society and another 3000 buildings were also catalogued.

The Museum's various sites continued to offer a vast array of programs and special events: The first Grand River Indian Artists Gathering, Cross Orchard's Apple Jubilee, Fall Day on the Farm, and Country Christmas, the Dinosaur Days Festival downtown, expeditions with Dave Fishell to Western Colorado historic sites, genealogy trips to Salt Lake City, museum trips to Denver, Seventh Street guided walking tours, a new World Wide Web page online, and a new one-room school exhibit at the Main Museum. Classes and lectures included such topics as dinosaurs, history, mammals, archeology, quilting, and black smithing.

Tim Foster was tapped in the fall to head the Museum's reorganized capital campaign. As a first step toward expanding the facility, most of the administrative offices were moved into the former C. D. Smith building, joining the Research Center, library, archives, and collection storage already established there. Construction of major portions of the new museum will begin in 1997.

At Cross Orchards the Country Store is currently getting a new coat of paint and a project is underway to turn a donated cabin into a railroad depot/museum. Lottery funds are being used to paint the barn and construct handicapped-accessible walkways.

Dr. Jan McLean completed an activity packed first year as the Museum's Executive Director, filled with reorganization and rejuvenation. Membership at the Museum has remained steady in recent years, about 750.

## Grand Junction Symphony

The Symphony is gearing up to celebrate its 20th anniversary season beginning September, 1997, and commemorative activities are being planned. Currently the '96-'97 season is in full swing and both Verdi's Requiem in November and the Riders in the Sky Christmas Concert in December played to sell out crowds (1500). Season ticket sales remain consistent, almost 1200 annually.

This past summer Norwest again sponsored the annual free concert in Lincoln Park by the Symphony and Centennial Band, with about 3000 people in attendance. The popular annual Children's Concert is coming up February 22. In March the regular subscription season resumes, the orchestra performing with a guest violin soloist, and in April with a cello soloist.

The Symphony, along with the Centennial Band, the Western Colorado Chorale, and the Grand Valley Children's Choir comprise the Grand Junction Musical Arts Association, a privately funded nonprofit organization.

## Western Colorado Center for the Arts

Exhibits continue to rotate on a monthly basis at the Art Center, often with two or three different shows at once. The Center featured many Western Slope artists and organizations in 1996, plus two Front Range exhibits, a group of Utah artists, and a national watercolor show.

The Performing Arts Conservatory is in the middle of a successful second season of community/professional theater and classes. Throughout January they are touring twenty area elementary schools with the play "Alex in Numberland", ending with performances at the Center January 24-25. PAC's '96-'97 season includes five plays, the next one being "I Hate Hamlet" in March.

Other special events at the Center included May Art Week for 3000 elementary students and the first October Micro-Brew Beer Tasting. The Center's courtyard garden was remodeled. Classes and workshops remain popular with offerings of painting, drawing, ceramics, dance, music theater, beadwork, and stained glass.

All the galleries are being repainted in January and on February 1 the Center will host the Park West Fine Art Auction with over 200 paintings, watercolors, sculptures, lithographs, engravings, and etchings by internationally recognized artists. The annual Art Center Members Show opens in February and the annual Abstract Show in March.

The Center expanded its base of corporate and business members and sponsorship, as well as increased its volunteers and fundraising efforts. After a successful year as interim director, Rich Helm was appointed Executive Director of the Art Center in November. The Western Colorado Center for the Arts is privately funded nonprofit organization. Membership has remained steady in recent years at about 780 members.

## The Avalon Theater

The Avalon's Buy A Brick program sold all of its 2479 bricks as of November, raising \$120,000. These funds, along with \$100,000 from the Colorado Historical Society and \$100,000 from the City, will go toward remodeling the building's lobby and mezzanine, plus updating some of the stage equipment and lighting. The Avalon will be closed from January until March 21 for the remodeling work, and no events are scheduled.

The facade restoration, completed at the end of 1995, won two state-level historic preservation awards in 1996. Fundraising efforts continue through the Buy A Seat program. Over half the 1000 seats have been sold.

## DooZoo Children's Museum

Children's theater continues to thrive at the DooZoo with family oriented plays and performing arts classes for children through the Family Theater Company. The DooZoo has just discontinued publication of its monthly "magazine" *Western Colorado Parent*, however, for fiscal reasons, and Executive Director Kirk McConnell now oversees the museum and theater program on a volunteer basis. The DooZoo just completed performances of "Frosty the Snowman". In January they will host a local production of Missoula Children's Theatre's "Betty Lou and the Country Beast". Auditions are January 20 with parts available for fifty local children, and performances will be January 25.

January classes include "Animals in Winter", "People of the Far North", and "Super Sleuths".

The DooZoo is a privately funded nonprofit interactive children's development center. Membership has been fairly consistent, with about 75 family memberships and 75 day care provider memberships annually.

**In Other News . . .** The Western Colorado Botanical Society broke ground in November on the new botanic garden greenhouse/butterfly house to be built near Watson Island, realizing a dream that has been years in the making. The Pastel Society of Colorado, formed in late 1995, continues to grow and hosted several exhibitions on the Western Slope. The Western Colorado Watercolor Society hosted its Sixth Annual National Watercolor Exhibition, again bringing paintings by nationally known watercolorists to the Grand Valley. JABOA (Just a Bunch of Artists) hosted its second annual Artists Studio Tour and participated in two downtown gallery tours this past year. The Mesa County Public Library continues to display artwork by local and regional artists each month. The Senior Theatre presented its first very successful showcase "Senior Follies" in 1996 and is now working on a second for March 28-30. The Grand Valley Community Theatre group formed in 1995 continues to perform and just produced "A Christmas Carol".

The Carei Gallery closed in 1996, but two new galleries opened: Artistic Combinations at the top of the Fifth Street hill and The 4 Directions Gallery in Planet Earth downtown on Colorado Avenue. Working Artists Studio moved downtown to Main Street.

Just a note . . . *The total attendance at performances and opportunities of scientific and cultural organizations (7.1 million) [in the metro-Denver area] exceeded the combined home game attendance for the 1995 Colorado Rockies, Denver Nuggets, and Denver Broncos by 2.4 million visitors, according to a 1996 Colorado Business Committee for the Arts survey.*

### *The Arts Build Community: A National Perspective*

*Violent crime, local economic conditions, youth and gang crime, unemployment, quality of education, family stability, and racial and ethnic relations continue to rank among the top ten concerns of our nation's civic leaders. As community leaders seek solutions to these problems, they are increasingly turning to the arts to provide answers. . .*

*NALAA [National Alliance of Local Arts Councils] research shows that more than two-thirds of the nation's 3,800 local arts agencies have developed or provided funding to arts programs that address social issues. In the 50 largest U. S. cities, a full 100 percent are involved in such programing, up from 88 percent just two years ago, and only a handful a decade ago.*

*How these programs work is a fascinating study in local determination and local problem identification; the fact that they work is undeniable.*

*~The arts help youth build self-esteem and self-confidence, crucially needed elements for helping youth say "no" to drugs and alcohol and "yes" to a more positive lifestyle.*

*~Youth involved in the arts in high school score more than 50 points higher on their SAT scores than students who are not.*

*~The arts create jobs and generate revenue.*

*~Attendance at arts events generates related commerce for hotels, restaurants, parking garages, galleries . . .*

*~The arts enrich the lives of public housing residents.*

*~The arts attract cultural tourists (and their money) to the community.*

*Local government leaders continue to fund the arts (more than \$650 million annually) even as they face an uncertain economy and shrinking support from the federal government. NALAA studies show that because of the social, educational, and economic benefits provided by the arts, local leaders consistently increase support for the arts by seven percent in the aggregate annually, often through very innovative funding means.*

*~In Denver, a portion of the sales tax [Scientific and Cultural Facilities District] is used to provide \$22 million in arts funding.*

*~St. Louis uses \$36 million of its property tax to fund*

*its major institutions to that they can provide the community with free admission.*

*~San Francisco uses \$10 million of its hotel/motel tax revenue to fund arts activities that increase cultural tourism.*

*~Deadwood, South Dakota, uses \$5 million of its gambling tax to fund culture and preservation.*

*~Charlotte, South Carolina, in one year, has built a \$26 million cultural endowment to provide a stable base of arts support in the future.*

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