

# State of the Arts

## Grand Junction Commission on Arts & Culture 2008 ANNUAL REPORT TO THE CITY COUNCIL

### *The Year in Review . . .*

**Grand Junction  
Commission on Arts &  
Culture**  
1340 Gunnison  
Grand Junction,  
CO 81501  
P: (970) 254-3865  
F: (970) 242-1637  
allisons@gjcity.org  
www.gjarts.org  
www.gjcity.org

**COMMISSION  
MEMBERS:**  
Kat Rhein, Chair  
Don Meyers, V-C  
Dr. Gisela Flanigan  
Jeanine Howe  
Jeanne Killgore  
Pam McLaughlin  
Vera Mulder  
Lora Quesenberry  
Tanya Smith  
Allison Sarmo, Cultural  
Arts Coordinator

*Making arts  
and culture  
part of  
everyday life in  
our community  
since 1990!*

In 2008 the Arts Commission actively pursued its mission to create a climate and conditions in Grand Junction where arts and culture can thrive and grow by accomplishing these projects:

- Commissioned three new works of art through the City's 1% for Art program, purchased two Art on the Corner sculptures for City parks, and worked with the Legends Historic Sculpture Committee to complete a commemorative bronze of Walter Walker,
- Donated \$39,000 to help support 27 GJ arts and cultural events and projects, reaching an estimated audience of 44,000,
- Published 12,000 bi-monthly community cultural events calendars to advertise arts activities,
- Showcased works of art by 70 local artists at City Hall and hosted exhibit receptions for about 140 attendees,
- Published a new edition of *The Sourcebook* directory of Grand

Junction area artists and arts and cultural organizations,

- Celebrated the generosity of local businesses and the dedication of arts volunteers with the annual Champion of the Arts Awards to Enstrom Candies and potter Terry Shepherd,
- Published the first *Grand Junction Area Gallery Guide* promoting local galleries,
- Worked closely with other local and regional arts, cultural, and scientific organizations on more than a dozen collaborative community projects and programs, informational presentations, and joint publicity ventures.



*Detail of new Orchard Mesa Community Center mural by GJ artist Corky Miller*

## Commission Supports 27 Arts & Cultural Projects & Events

The arts and cultural community received \$39,000 in financial support from the Arts Commission, made possible by funding from the City and the Colorado Council on the Arts.



*Two Rivers Chautauqua  
"Eleanor Roosevelt" Performance at  
Cross Orchards Historic Site*

The annual grant program helps underwrite many types of arts and cultural events, programs, and projects ranging from festivals to art exhibits to concerts to arts education. The Commission fully funded six requests:

- Art Mobile's Traveling Art Exhibits & Classes in schools
- Two Chairs Theater Company play
- The Center for Independence Art Classes for the Disabled
- Colo. Flute Assoc.'s Flute Workshop

- Museum of W. CO's Two Rivers Chautauqua Festival
- Grand Junction Music Teachers' Associations' 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Sonatina Festival

Performing arts activities included:

- Cinema at the Avalon's Independence Film Festival
- Grand Junction Symphony concert
- High Desert Opera New Year's Gala
- Grand Junction Centennial Band
- Bookcliff Barbershop Harmony Chorus Youth in Harmony program
- The Art & Jazz Festival
- Western Colorado Chorale
- Messiah Choral Society
- The Schumann Singers

- Western Slope Chamber Music Series
- Aspen Dance Connection GJ Showcase
- Grand Valley Community Theatre
- Botanical Garden's summer concerts

Visual arts beneficiaries included:

- The Art Center Summer Art Camp
- Western Colorado Watercolor Society
- COPMOBA/Brown Cycles Bike Festival bike films, and bike sculptures
- Caprock Academy Art History/Education
- Artspace & Open Studios seminars
- Super Rad Art Jam 2008

Promotion of community cultural activities and local artists was enhanced with underwriting for:

- KAFM Community Radio's "Arts & Entertainment Calendar", and
- Rocky Mountain Public Television KRMJ's "Western Bounty" programs

In addition to the Commission's grant funding, these organizations hoped to raise another \$164,000 in donations from businesses, individuals, and other agencies. The events and projects are expected to reach an audience of about 44,000 people, including 8,000 youth and children.

*The Art Center Summer Art Camp students*

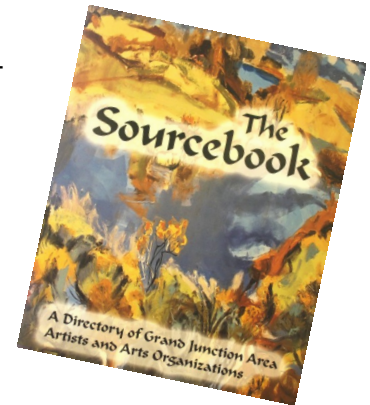


*Commission funded arts and cultural activities reached an estimated audience of 44,000, including about 8,000 youth.*

## 10th Edition of the Sourcebook Artists Directory Published

In October the Arts Commission updated and published the 10<sup>th</sup> edition of *The Sourcebook: A Directory of Grand Junction Area Artists and Arts Organizations*. The book lists information for 250 local artists of all types and disciplines (visual, performing, and literary), 65 arts and cultural organizations and artists' clubs, 10 art galleries, 13 dance studios and dance groups, and nine theaters and theatre companies.

A thousand copies of the directory were distributed free of charge this year at Grand Junction locations, in an effort to publicize area artists and cultural groups. (*Book cover artwork by Joelyn Duesberry.*)



## Community Collaborations and Outreach Activities

The Commission facilitates partnerships among arts organizations and between the cultural community and the business, government, and education communities. Participation in local, regional, and statewide projects which help develop cultural opportunities for Grand Junction continues to be an important focus.

Board members and the Cultural Arts Coordinator took part in many collaborative programs and projects, including:

- Organized, published, and distributed the first *Grand Junction Area Gallery Guide* listing ten Grand Valley galleries
- As part of the Colorado Council on the Arts Peer Assistance Network, facilitated board retreats and the development of strategic plans for The Art Center and the Durango Independent Film Festival
- Presented programs about the Arts Commission, Art on the Corner, and GJ's 1% for Art in Fruita and Grand Lake/Granby
- Worked closely with the Legends Historic Sculpture Committee to help fund, commission, facilitate, and install the first of five memorial sculptures — *Daily Sentinel* publisher Walter Walker—on Main Street
- Served on the Grand Valley Scientific and Cultural Alliance board and helped sponsor a presentation about Denver's Scientific and Cultural Facilities Funding District

- Served on the Downtown Development Authority Strategic Planning Steering Committee
- Served on the Mesa County Public Library Strategic Planning Steering Committee
- Arranged and hosted monthly meetings of local arts and cultural organizations
- Organized and edited the weekly "Cultural Confidential" page articles for the *Free Press* Friday entertainment section, in conjunction with the Grand Junction Symphony Director
- Promoted cultural activities by doing bi-monthly "Art Talk" interviews on KAFM Community Radio, in conjunction with the Mesa State College Fine and Performing Arts Department



- Served on the Rocky Mountain PBS—KRMJ Local Advisory Committee
- Served on the Mesa County Valley School District #51 Community Partnerships AIM Committee
- Commission members again helped with the annual Art on the Corner Sculpture Change, cleaning and waxing permanent pieces and repainting sculpture pedestals.

*Aspen Dance Connection's Grand Junction Showcase (sponsored in part by the Arts Commission)*



## Grand Junction Commission on Arts & Culture

1340 Gunnison Avenue  
Grand Junction, CO 81501

Phone: 970-254-3865  
Fax: 970-242-1637  
E-mail: allisons@gjcity.org

***Making arts and culture part of everyday life in our community!***

*The City of Grand Junction Commission on Arts and Culture was established in 1990 by the Grand Junction City Council to advance and promote the growth and development of the city's arts and cultural community and activities. The mission of the nine member volunteer board is to create a climate and conditions where arts and culture can thrive and grow in the community.*

*The Arts Commission and Cultural Arts Coordinator administer a grants program, the 1% for the Arts program, and the city's public art collection; conduct research and provide information and assistance to area arts organizations and artists; assist in marketing cultural events and promoting local artists; and act as a clearinghouse of information on arts and culture.*

*For additional information about Commission programs and projects, contact the Commission at 254-3865, allisons@gjcity.org, or visit the Commission's website at [www.gjarts.org](http://www.gjarts.org) or the city's website at [www.gjcity.org](http://www.gjcity.org).*

### ***Grand Junction Strategic Cultural Plan Vision:***

***"Grand Junction is recognized as a place where people live and visit because arts and culture are a major attraction and an important element to the quality of life of the community."***

## City Public Art Projects

Two local ceramic artists, Lylamae Chedsey and Vinje Lawson, created unique handmade ceramic tile murals for the new restroom buildings in Duck Pond Park (5<sup>th</sup> and Santa Clara Avenue) and Sherwood Park (2<sup>nd</sup> and Glenwood Avenue).

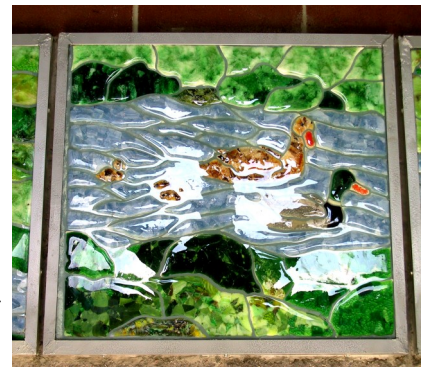


*Sherwood Park tile mural by Vinje Lawson*

The artwork projects were done through the City of Grand Junction's 1% for Art program, which allocates 1% of the construction cost of certain City capital improvement projects for the purchase of art for the site. The murals are located in the alcove at the front of each restroom and depict scenes from each parks.

Another Grand Junction artist, Corky Miller, created artwork for the Orchard Mesa Community Center pool when the new waterslide was installed. A 20' ocean themed mural was painted alongside the existing mural, with a "ribbon" of fish circling the room. A colorful array of acrylic water drops and fish hang from the upper beams on the south wall.

Two sculptures in the downtown Art on the Corner exhibit were purchased for two other City parks —



*Detail of Duck Pond Park tile mural by Lylamae Chedsey*

"Wooshie", a large brightly colored fiber-glass fish by Fruita artist Terry Burnett, was installed at the Lincoln Park Moyer Pool entrance, and "Grand Current", a 10' tall Utah limestone piece by Moab sculptor Micheal Dunton, is going in between the new restrooms and new tennis courts at Canyon View Park.