

MINUTES

Grand Junction Commission on Arts and Culture (GJCAC) Wednesday, March 25, 2026 – Lincoln Park Hospitality Suite

Commissioners Present: Robbie Breaux (Chair), Julie Matthews (Vice Chair), Pamela Blythe, Hank Braxtan, Libbie Early, Bill Lebach, City Councilmember Laurel Lutz (via TEAMS), Gilberto Ramirez Macias, Kristin Mercer, Porcia Silverberg, TJ Smith

Commissioners Absent: Amy Wall, Cynthia Zaitz

Others Present: Haley Van Camp, Jonathan Wheatley, guests from Hilltop

Chair Robbie Breaux called the meeting to order at 4:31 p.m. and brief introductions were made.

It was noted that the titles of the presented minutes were incorrect. Pamela Blythe moved to approve the February 23 special meeting minutes, the February 25 regular meeting minutes, and the March 12 special meeting minutes with the corrected titles. Libbie Early seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

BUSINESS

Haley Van Camp presented the top two finalist proposals for the Community Recreation Center (CRC) Child Watch mural based on scores provided by the GJCAC. Discussion was had regarding the proposals. Libbie moved to recommend John Hasting's proposal with a note to warm the design up by adding contrast and darker orange. Bill seconded the motion, and it passed with 6 in favor, 4 opposed, and 1 abstaining.

Haley also presented the top two finalist proposals for the CRC Community Room mural based on the scores provided by the GJCAC. Discussion was had regarding the proposals. Pamela moved to recommend Chloe Kelly's proposal with a note to make sure the doors and correct walls are painted. Kristin seconded the motion, and it passed with 8 in favor, none opposed, and 3 abstaining.

Haley reported that after reviewing 33 mural proposals, the CRC team did not feel any were suitable for the space or aligned with its evolving vision, and therefore chose not to advance any to the board. Staff requested guidance on next steps and suggested selecting a local artist to develop a design in collaboration with City staff and CRC architects. Pamela moved to recommend City staff and CRC architects choose a local artist to work with for the project, and Julie Matthews seconded. The motion failed, with 2 votes in favor and 4 against.

Further discussion was had regarding the direction for the Mezzanine Fitness mural. Bill moved to recommend City staff bring the top 2-3 artists out of the 33 proposals that were submitted to the GJCAC for review. TJ Smith seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. Due to the timeline of the project, a special meeting will be scheduled for the GJCAC to meet and make a recommendation before the next regular meeting on April 22.

Haley presented the GJCAC Funding Program assignment spreadsheet and noted that almost all funded projects had an assigned Commission member, and Robbie would take the ones that had not already been assigned. Haley will send emails introducing assigned Commission members to the organization contacts within the next few weeks.

Brief discussion was had regarding the creation of two GJCAC subcommittees: a Bylaws Subcommittee, and a Sculpture Garden Subcommittee. Staff mentioned formal resolutions would be needed to create the Subcommittees based on a recommendation from the City's Interim Attorney outlining provisions such as membership, duties, functions, duration, and meetings. There was a consensus that the Bylaws Subcommittee would review the bylaws and make recommendations to the GJCAC. It would consist of up to 3 members and meet monthly for six months. There was additional consensus that the Sculpture Garden Subcommittee would explore the potential support of a sculpture garden in Grand Junction and explore funding opportunities as discussed during the February 25 meeting. It would consist of up to 3 members and meet monthly for 12 months. Staff will provide drafts of resolutions creating these Subcommittees with the above provisions to be brought to a future meeting for formal adoption.

Haley presented the 2026 GJCAC Working Groups list that was created based on the form that each Commission member filled out. Haley will send the list out in an email and will follow up with each group as needed.

Due to time constraints, there was a consensus to move the Call for Artist process and AI use agenda item to the April meeting.

CITY STAFF REPORTS/UPDATES

Haley provided an update on the aRT on the Riverfront Trail mural project, stating that due to the smaller program budget, murals would be assessed in the next month and staff will be seeking a recommendation from the GJCAC at a future meeting on which murals need to be repainted or fixed up. Haley will send a link to the digital map of the murals for the Commission to review in a follow up email.

Haley mentioned that staff is working to put together a debrief survey for the GJCAC Funding Program, to gather the GJCAC's thoughts regarding the Funding Program process, and to help steer areas of improvement. The survey will be sent out within the next few weeks.

Haley gave a brief update on the 1% for the arts projects, mentioning staff was working on contracts for the Monument Shelter project with Jeff Bates and the 24.5 and Four Canyons Parkway Phase II artwork project with Alex Bond.

Jonathan mentioned staff is waiting to receive an update regarding the Public Art Fund letter that the GJCAC sent to City Council, and an update would be provided as soon one is received.

Robbie provided information regarding the Grand Valley Creative Alliance (GVCA) survey and study on the Oak Valley Group (OVG) that was sent to the GJCAC, and that further discussion on how the GJCAC would like to respond would be had at a future meeting.

COMMISSIONER UPDATES

Brief discussion was had regarding the Open Meeting Law and the importance of refraining from meeting with more than one fellow Commission member outside of regularly scheduled meetings.

Haley will provide emails for all Commission members in case they need to get in touch.

Kristin moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:04 p.m. Porcia seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Haley Van Camp