

# MINUTES

## Grand Junction Commission on Arts and Culture (GJCAC)

Wednesday, May 27, 2026 – City Hall Auditorium

**Commissioners Present:** Robbie Breaux (Chair), Julie Matthews (Vice Chair), Libbie Early, Pamela Blythe, Hank Braxtan, Mayor Laurel Lutz, Kristin Mercer, Gilberto Ramirez Macias, Porcia Silverberg, Cynthia Zaitz

**Commissioners Absent:** Bill Lebach, TJ Smith, Amy Wall

**Others Present:** Sara Trappett, Haley Van Camp, Jonathan Wheatley

Chair Robbie Breaux called the meeting to order at 4:33 p.m. and brief introductions were made.

Pamela Blythe moved to approve the April 22 regular meeting minutes. Porcia Silverberg seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

### PRESENTATION

Citizen Sara Trappett gave a presentation to the GJCAC about a proposed Sister City relationship between Grand Junction and Ito, Japan. Brief discussion was had following the presentation. There was a consensus to support the initiative. Cynthia moved for GJCAC to send a letter of support recommending that the City support this initiative, and then it would be sent up through City leadership to City Council. Mayor Laurel Lutz seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

### BUSINESS

Haley Van Camp presented two options of mural designs for the CRC Transformer Box Mural Project based on the top scores provided by the GJCAC. Discussion was had regarding both options. Kristin Mercer moved to recommend the second option. Cynthia seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Haley presented scores provided by the GJCAC assessing the conditions of the murals along the Riverfront trail. There were 14 murals that were assessed, but with a \$9,000 budget, and \$1,000 per mural, only nine of the murals can be repainted. It was noted that the four murals that were vandalized would be repainted, so that would leave five others. It was also noted that these murals are temporary and are repainted every other year as funding allows. Discussion was had regarding the murals and the scored conditions. Pamela moved to let the math of the scoring do the work and leave line items 13, 14, and 15 as were all scored as high quality and in good condition, and replace all of the others. Cynthia seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Haley presented a resolution to establish a Strategic Cultural Plan Subcommittee. Brief discussion was had on the subcommittee resolution. Pamela moved to approve the resolution, Libbie Early seconded the motion. Additional discussion was had regarding the meeting frequency, and length the subcommittee would be in place. As outlined in the resolution, the subcommittee will meet generally on a monthly basis for a period of 18 months or until the assigned work is completed, whichever comes first. The motions was brought to a vote and it passed unanimously. GJCAC members interested in serving on the subcommittee will email Robbie and Haley.

### CITY STAFF REPORTS/UPDATES

Haley reminded the GJCAC of the current 1% projects in the works including the CRC Recognition Wall artwork, the Story Wall artwork, and then three murals, one in the mezzanine fitness area, one in the child watch area, and one in the community room. Local artist Jeff Bates is currently working on the monument shelter, and it should be installed sometime this summer. It was mentioned the GJCAC would be interested in a tour of the CRC once all artwork has been installed. City staff will work on setting up a tour.

The GJCAC reviewed two new public art exhibit proposals from Rick Ahern and George Wood to be added to the rotating artist list. Cynthia Zaitz moved to approve both artists and add them to the rotating list. Porcia seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Haley gave a brief summary of the funding program survey that the GJCAC filled out. Based on the results, the top three areas to focus on improvements for the next cycle were eligibility verifications, timeline, and application clarity. A working group has already been established for eligibility verifications, and Haley will bring updates on improvements of the other areas. There was a consensus that the GJCAC felt comfortable moving forward with focusing on those three areas for improvement. Haley will be on a panel reviewing Colorado Creates grant applications for Colorado Creative Industries and will bring back any insights from the experience to help improve the GJCAC funding program applications process.

Jonathan gave an update that the City Information Technology Department, IT, is working on drafting some language and that will be reviewed by the City attorney, to then draft a policy that is going to go before City Council. Although this is not specific to arts and culture and it is a city-wide AI policy, it would go before City Council for adoption. Staff suggested the GJCAC hold on any AI recommendations until staff gets some idea on the direction City Council and leadership is going, as that will help GJCAC make any further decisions as they look to try and address this topic. Concerns were brought up regarding Administrative AI use versus Artistic AI use, as they are very different. Mayor Laurel Lutz will bring this up when she meets with the City attorney and see if it's included in the drafted policy, and can also bring back a timeline for when that policy will through so the GJCAC can plan accordingly. Haley has also been reaching out to other communities/creative districts about how they're handling AI, and can present that information at a future meeting.

Haley reminded the GJCAC that Take Part in Art is happening on Saturday, June 20, 10am-12pm at Lincoln Park, and will reach out to the working group soon to schedule duties.

There were no Commissioner evaluations, and it was noted that GJCAC members should reach out to Haley once they have attended an event, and she can send them the evaluation form to complete.

Brief discussion was had regarding a past agenda item, the OVG report submitted to the GJCAC. Jonathan gave a brief update that the OVG item had been brought to City Council early in the last budget cycle for a possible resolution, and the discussion didn't come up with any resolution and no additional funds were allocated to it, but issues were brought forward to City Council.

Pamela moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:00 p.m. Cynthia seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Haley Van Camp