

MINUTES

Grand Junction Commission on Arts and Culture (GJCAC) Wednesday, June 24, 2026 – Lincoln Park Hospitality Suite

Commissioners Present: Robbie Breaux (Chair), Hank Braxtan, Libbie Early, Bill Lebach, Kristin Mercer, Gilberto Ramirez Macias, Porcia Silverberg, TJ Smith, Amy Wall, Cynthia Zaitz (TEAMS)

Commissioners Absent: Pamela Blythe, Julie Matthews (Vice Chair), Mayor Laurel Lutz

Others Present: Sheryl Thompson (Avalon Theatre Foundation (ATF)), Matt Thornton (ATF), Haley Van Camp, Bryan Wade (ATF), Jonathan Wheatley

Chair Robbie Breaux called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. and brief introductions were made.

Bill Lebach moved to approve the May 27 regular meeting minutes. Kristin Mercer seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

PRESENTATION

Matt Thornton with the Avalon Theatre Foundation gave a presentation to the GJCAC regarding the Save-a-Seat Artwork currently hanging in the Avalon. Matt explained the significance and historical importance of the piece, and its importance to major donors of the Avalon, and asked the GJCAC to consider allowing the artwork to be displayed longer than the three months it was given to be displayed, which was past due. Discussion was had regarding the artwork. Bill moved for the Save-a-seat Artwork to stay up indefinitely until deemed necessary to remove. Hank Braxtan seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

BUSINESS

Haley Van Camp notified the GJCAC that the artist originally selected for Project #4 of the Community Recreation Center Transformer Box mural project informed the team that they would not be able to complete the project, and so she reached out to all top artists that were scored by the GJCAC to see if they had interest, and if so, how they would approach the project based on their original proposals. Discussion was had regarding the project and designs. Libbie Early moved to recommend artist Sarah Wandzilak for Project #4. TJ Smith seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Haley proposed a timeline for the 2027-28 funding program including tentative dates for applications opening, deadlines, application review, presentations, etc. and walked the GJCAC through each date. Discussion was had regarding the timeline and on the necessity of the presentations. Due to time, there was a consensus to have the conversation added to a near future meeting to be continued.

Robbie reminded the GJCAC that two subcommittees have been created, the Bylaws subcommittee and the Strategic Cultural Plan subcommittee. Haley provided an update on the members that expressed interest in each subcommittee as following: Bylaws Subcommittee: Robbie Breaux, Bill Lebach, and TJ Smith; Strategic Cultural Plan Subcommittee: Robbie Breaux, Pamela Blythe, and Bill Lebach. It was determined that it would be best for a couple more members to join the Strategic Cultural Plan subcommittee, and Haley will send a follow up email to the GJCAC requesting interest by a certain date before the next meeting.

CITY STAFF REPORTS/UPDATES

Haley provided an update on the current 1% projects in the works. The 24.5 and Four Canyons Parkway Phase II project is underway with the artist working on obtaining materials and the Monument Shelter by Jeff Bates is scheduled to be installed within the next week. The CRC Box murals and inside CRC murals will be installed in July. The Recognition Wall artwork and the Story Wall artwork will be installed in August. Haley also provided an update that the CRC Natatorium tile and vinyl mural was being installed and shared photos. The GJCAC will be able to view all CRC artwork during a soft opening or tour once the opening date has been finalized.

Haley also mentioned that Visit Grand Junction has started hosting small artist receptions for the artists displaying their work in that facility as part of the Public Art Exhibit Program. There will be a reception for artist John Edwards on Tuesday, June 30 from 2-5 at the Visitor Center off of Horizon Drive.

Haley gave a brief debrief of the Take Part in Art event that happened Saturday, June 20, 10am-12pm. Overall it went well with 20 arts and culture organizations participating and approximately 300 attendees. Ten of the organizations performed or demonstrated throughout the event, and the Sugar and Ice Food truck by Strive was there to provide snacks.

Haley also gave a brief update that a letter of recommendation from the Commission on Arts and Culture was written in support of the Sister City with Ito, Japan and Grand Junction and provided to City Council. A copy of that letter was also given to Sara so she could translate it and bring it with her on her trip to Japan.

COMMISSIONER UPDATES

Libbie provided a brief report on GJ Toastmaster's True Stories Live event on June 13 and that it was successful and had a great turnout with entertaining speakers.

TJ mentioned he noticed some of the fiber artwork on the Art on the Corner sculptures have disappeared, but overall it's a great program with cool installations.

It was mentioned John Anglim's celebration of life will be held on Saturday, June 27 at 5:30pm at The Art Center.

Porcia provided a brief report on the monthly Writers' Forum Writer's Night. It was a wonderful event with about 26 attending with a local author.

Kristin mentioned the Sphere in Vegas is a great venue to go to if anyone has the opportunity to go.

Robbie provided a brief update that she met with Ken Sherbenou, Parks and Rec Director, and had a good conversation, and that he will be attending the July 22 meeting to provide an update on the 1% for the Arts fund.

Hank invited the GJCAC to see his movie coming up on August 14 at the Avalon in support of the Avalon Theatre Foundation.

As there was no further business, Libbie moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:57 p.m., seconded by Porcia, and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Haley Van Camp