

**CULTURAL SERVICES BOARD MINUTES**  
**Tuesday, September 28, 2010**  
**4:30 P.M.**

**LOVELAND MUSEUM/GALLERY**  
**503 N. Lincoln Ave.**  
**Loveland, CO 80537**

The September 28, 2010 meeting of the Cultural Services Board was called to order at 4:37 p.m. by Juanita Cisneros in the Upstairs Conference Room of the Loveland Museum/Gallery.

**Board members present:** Juanita Cisneros, Kris Ortmann, Rose Watson and Jan DesJardin.

Also in attendance: City Council liaison Kent Solt along with Councilor Joan Shaffer; Cultural Services staff members Susan Ison, Jan Sawyer, Maureen Corey Jenni Dobson, Kim Akeley-Charron and Michelle Standiford; and Acting City Manager Rod Wensing.

**Additions/Changes to the Agenda**

The Museum Reports section was amended as follows:

- Bud Shark Exhibit item was moved to item number 3
- Threads to China was added as item number 11

**Additions or Corrections/Changes to the Minutes**

There were no changes or corrections to the August 24<sup>th</sup>, 2010 minutes. Jan DesJardin moved to accept the August 24<sup>th</sup>, 2010 minutes; Kris Ortmann seconded. All approved.

**Board Reports**

Jan DesJardin had concerns regarding Propositions 60, 61 and 101 and how they would impact the Museum and Rialto Theater if they pass. She sought clarity from Susan Ison and learned that the passage of these items would affect four employees at the Museum and one employee at the Rialto Theater as well as mean cost reductions in education, marketing, city sponsored events at the Rialto, art and history exhibits, advertising and the printing and mailing of the schedule of events brochure.

Juanita Cisneros met with the accreditation team and was pleased with the process and reviewing members. Their final decision will be made in the spring.

Kris Ortmann went to a training event at the Denver Art Museum and felt it was a very valuable experience. She brought back a lot of information pertaining to volunteers and visitors that she will share with the curators. She encouraged the Board and staff to seek ways to bring in the 5 – 9 year olds and the Hispanic population to continue growing Museum visitation.

## Museum Reports

### Halloween Event

Jenni Dobson announced that the Halloween Family Fun Festival will be Saturday, October 30 and volunteers will be needed from 8 am till 3 pm. Kris Ortmann and Juanita Cisneros volunteered to assist at the event. Promotional material will be going within the next week. Entertainment will include the act that had to cancel at the July 4<sup>th</sup> Celebration due to rain. He will be performing at the Halloween Event for no additional charge.

### Art Steps

Art Steps is a partnership between the Museum and the Thompson School District. This year, the theme was plein air painting and was held at Fairgrounds Park on September 18<sup>th</sup>. Of the 110 registered students, 106 attended the event despite the cold, rainy weather. Eleven artists and eight teachers participated to help the students during the event. Board member Dena Kirk did amazing workshops for both the teachers and students prior to the event. After the students spent the day painting, their pieces were judged and 31 were selected to be included in the exhibit at the Museum. The exhibit will run from October 2<sup>nd</sup> through November 14<sup>th</sup>. An opening reception is scheduled for October 8<sup>th</sup> during Night on the Town. Leftover food from the event was donated to the Community Kitchen.

### Bud Shark Exhibit

A complaint was received from a citizen regarding the Bud Shark exhibit. The citizen felt that the piece *The Misadventures of the Romantic Cannibals* by artist Enrique Chagoya was suggestive and offensive. He presented this complaint to Susan Ison, Rod Wensing and City Council. Susan responded to this gentleman and told him that his concerns would be presented to the Cultural Services Board. According to Rod Wensing, Councilor Klassen was upset with the piece and adamantly wanted it removed from the Museum in a timely manner. In addition, Councilor Klassen stated that he would continue seeking all options to get the piece removed if the Cultural Services Board refused to act.

Maureen Corey, Curator of Art, gave an overview of the exhibit and how the Museum came to have the show. She also shared information about artist Enrique Chagoya and a brief explanation of his artistic style. The exhibit opened on September 10<sup>th</sup> and since its opening, the Museum has seen approximately 500 visitors for this exhibit.

Prior to the Board meeting, Board members were asked to view the exhibit and come prepared with their thoughts on the piece. The Board members shared their opinions and were all in favor of the piece remaining in the exhibit. The Board was also dismayed that this controversy has stemmed from one complaint.

Discussion will follow at the City Council Study Session for later in the evening. If four Councilors agree, the item would be added to the October 5<sup>th</sup> City Council agenda. At that point, it would take a majority of the Council voting to have the piece removed from the exhibit. Councilor Solt recommended that the Cultural Services Board prepare a statement to be presented at the City Council Study Session and he would present it on behalf of the Board. He also asked for the Board's recommendation on whether the piece should stay or go. After some discussion, the Board prepared the following statement: *"The Cultural Services Board recognizes that art can be provocative and may create discussion. The Board supports these conversations and the benefits resulting from them."* In addition, the Board was unanimous in their feeling that the piece should not be removed from the exhibit and there has been just this one complaint.

Kris shared items from her conference at the Denver Art Museum regarding how staff and volunteers should deal with provocative art when confronted by visitors. These will be discussed further with staff and the docents.

Councilor Shaffer inquired about what other measures would be considered by the Board as reasonable accommodations to perhaps defray further conflict. The Denver Art Museum displays a sign stating "The DAM is a forum for a broad range of ideas, perspectives and images. These galleries contain art that may evoke strong reactions." The Board felt that this sign would be beneficial for this exhibit as well and staff will create and install a similar sign at the exhibit entrance. In addition, staff will also provide more information on Chagoya's artistic process and have that available at the docent's desk in the gallery.

#### Accreditation Visit

Juanita mentioned that the accreditation team has some wonderful recommendations and hope that we can get them put in place. One recommendation was that we needed a succession plan. The team also recommended a couple from Boulder, the Scramstedts (?), who help write policies, programming and fundraising. Susan will contact them and see about the possibility of bringing them in for further discussions.

#### Ethics Policy

It was called to the attention that the Board needed to vote and approve the *Handbook on Ethics for Staff, Board and Volunteers*. This policy was last adopted in 1997, but never approved. The Board took a brief break to read through the policy. It was questioned if we needed to include information about electronic issues. Susan will consult with the accreditation team to see if this is needed. Kris Ortmann made the motion to adopt the Ethics Policy as written barring any recommendations on the question of information technology and its application to the handbook and Jan DesJardin seconded. All approved.

#### Threads to China (item moved up in the agenda to allow for staff presentation)

Kim Akeley-Charron presented the *Threads to China* program. She prepared and received a grant from the Colorado Creative Office. This is an opportunity for partnership between the Rialto Theater and Museum and some outside sources as well. Staff is still finalizing programming. Yu Wei will be conducting several assemblies at some of the area schools in conjunction with her performance at the Rialto. Maureen Corey added that there will be an exhibit in the main gallery with three Chinese artists and Jennifer Cousino is finalizing the details for a green room exhibit on Chinese Legacy.

#### Collections Management Policy

The accreditation team recommended that the Museum compile their collection policies into one document that includes the statement of authority, the mission statement, the scope of the collection, documentation, acquisition, deaccessioning and NAGPRA. The Board had questions about the NAGPRA text being in red. Susan will check with Jennifer for clarity but feels it is red because it was added to this document. In addition, the gray text on page 3 was there for clarity purposes only and will not be included in the final document. Jan DesJardin had several grammatical changes that she gave to Susan for correction. Jan DesJardin made the motion to adopt the Collections Management Policy with the recommended grammatical changes and the gray text on page 3 removed. Kris Ortmann seconded and all approved.

## SOSH

Jennifer Cousino's program "Saving Objects, Saving History" received a donation of \$1500 from the Questors earlier in the year. She also received another \$500 from the Hodges Family Trust for the conservation towards the Native American pieces.

## Resolution of Council Support

The accreditation team inquired about the level and the ongoing support that the Museum receives from our governing board, the City Council. Their recommendation was to seek a formal resolution of support. This will be discussed again at an upcoming meeting.

## Strategic Planning

Susan tabled this item for discussion at a future meeting.

## Volunteer Recognition

A recognition party has been scheduled for October 21<sup>st</sup> at 7 pm for the Museum volunteers. This will be a dessert reception and the Board was invited to attend.

## Rialto Report

### Rialto Bridge Update

The weekly meetings continue with the Rialto Bridge Design Team. Staff is also meeting every other week with city employees to develop the operating and maintenance expenses for the building. The Rialto Bridge design will be presented later this evening to City Council at their study session to take their first look at the design. On October 12<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>, the operating and maintenance expenses and the construction budget will be presented at study sessions as well.

Thursday evening (September 30<sup>th</sup>) in the lobby of the Rialto will be a public comment session from 5 – 7pm.

## Miscellaneous

*Hot Eight Brass Band* will be at the Rialto on Friday, October 1. They will also be at Conrad Ball Middle School doing a residency that day as well.

## In Closing

The next Cultural Services Board meeting is scheduled for October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2010 at 4:30 pm in the Loveland Museum/Gallery conference room.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:05 pm with a motion from Jan DesJardin and a second from Kris Ortmann.

Submitted by Michelle Standiford