

**Minutes of the
LOUISIANA STATE ARTS COUNCIL
QUARTERLY MEETING
Baton Rouge, Louisiana
Monday, September 30, 1996
10:30 a.m.**

WELCOME/CALL TO ORDER

Elizabeth Chubbuck-Meche, acting chairperson, opened the quarterly meeting of the Louisiana State Arts Council, which was held at the Capitol Annex building at 10:40 a.m. The following members were **present**:

Suzanne Arceneaux	Virginia Riley
Gloria Callais	Beverly Wilson
Jean S. Hurley	
Elizabeth Chubbuck-Meche	
Raelene Pell	

Council members **absent**, but naming a proxy for the meeting were:

Marilyn Cox	Penne Mobley
Sara Herrington	
Beth Kaplan	

Council members **absent** from the meeting included:

Cynthia Ardoin	Freda Lupin
Katie Planche Friedrichs	Mary Ann Netterville
Johnnie Kocurek	

Staff members of the Louisiana Division of the Arts in attendance were:

James Borders	Dee Waller
Velma Gray	Mickie Willis
Maida Owens	
Ann Russo	

Also present was Teri Cober, Administrative Manager, Louisiana Partnership for the Arts.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

A motion to accept the minutes of the June 28, 1996, meeting was proposed by Jean Hurley and seconded by Beverly Wilson. The motion carried unanimously.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

There was no chairman's report. However, Elizabeth Chubbuck-Meche thanked the Council members for their attendance at the meeting. She also pointed out that even though the Council is in a state of limbo—awaiting the appointment of new Council members, perhaps, under Gov. Foster's regime—current Council members are encouraged to continue serving actively until they receive notification in the mail that their terms are over. There is still no definite word from the Governor's office or the office of Boards & Commissions about a timetable for making new appointments.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Individual Artist Mini-Grants

Mr. Borders reported on the results of the first round of grants in the new Individual Artist Mini-Grant Program. The deadline was September 1, 1996. The Division received 74 applications from artists around the state and made 20 mini-grants of \$500 each, for a total of \$10,000. Decisions were made by the DOA program staff, and all disciplines were supported in this first round. The next application deadline will be March 1, 1997. The Division hopes it will continue to receive applications from artists of different disciplines. Mr. Borders stated that the Division was really pleased with the amount of response to the mini-grants and he thanked the staff for their hard work in adjudicating the applications so quickly, thoroughly and fairly. Mr. Borders reminded Council members of a press release recently mailed out to them announcing the winners of the first Individual Artist Mini-grants and asked the Council members to spread the word about the new program to artists around the state.

Jean Hurley inquired about whether or not the mini-grants are given to artists outside of Louisiana. She stated that one mini-grant recipient (Wendell Mayo) recently moved to Ohio, and she was curious about how this was handled. Mr. Borders replied that there are residency criteria associated with the program and assured her the issue would be looked into later. (As it turned out, the grant award was later rescinded because the applicant had indeed ceased to be a Louisiana resident by the time of the application deadline; an alternate applicant was then selected to receive the mini-grant.)

Decentralized Arts Funding Program

Mr. Borders reported that the Decentralized Programs in most regions have had their FY97 application deadlines. These deadlines were mainly between September 13, 1996 and September 30, 1996 for proposed activities taking place between January 1, 1997 and September 30, 1997. Mr. Borders stated that he expects to receive a tally of the number of applications in about a week. Preliminary indications are the number of applications is beginning to level off. Later in the fall, grants review panels will convene around the state to consider those applications.

Mr. Borders added that the total amount of funding available to support these applications is still the same for this year as it was for '95-'96, thanks to the Legislators and all the hard work of the Council and the advocates in the field. However, the per capita allocations are down from the \$.50

because the funding formula for 1997 has been adjusted to be based on the 1995 census data, at the behest of the regional program administrators. The 1995 population estimates show that the state's population has gone up from 4.2 million to over 4.3 million. Which means that the \$2.1 million the Division supplies to the Decentralized program does not quite provide \$.50 per person per parish. It is now down to \$.486 per person. This is one of the reasons, Mr. Borders added, that the Division, the Council and the field need to get prepared to talk to our Legislators about adjusting the appropriation to the Division. Mr. Borders stated that a more appropriate appropriation would be \$5.2 million for the DOA rather than the current \$4.2 million.

Southern Arts Exchange

The Division of the Arts participated in the 1996 Southern Arts Exchange (SAE) in Mobile, September 26-29 by representing eleven performing arts groups who are ready to undertake regional touring but don't yet have professional booking representation. Dee Waller reported that at the Southern Arts Exchange, the DOA booth in the Exhibit Hall was the most decorative one along State Row and that there was a lot of interest in the artists from presenters from all across the southeast region. She also added that the Division received a lot of support manning the booth from several people in the state, including M.K. Wegmann and artists Jerri Ford, Kathy Randels, Karen-Kaia Livers and Jose Torres Tama. The Louisiana Presenter's Network also met during the conference, Ms. Waller reported, and accomplished a great deal. She also pointed out that the brochure the Division produced to provide a summary overview of our 1996 artists did not include Dog and Pony Theater, which was selected to be an alternate for SAE representation and was able to move up at the last moment when Mary Bozeman Osborn decided not to pursue the opportunity.

Mr. Borders pointed out that another Louisiana artist group, Cheryl Cormier and the Cajun Sounds, was also marketed at the SAE through another artist development program operated directly by the Southern Arts Federation, the Traditional Artist Technical Assistance Program (TATAP). Maida Owens nominated the Cormier Band to be included in the TATAP about a year ago and they seemed to generate a lot of interest among prospective presenters. The TATAP program is a new initiative to help traditional artists improve their marketability throughout the region. It is just getting started, Mr. Borders stated, but the idea is that each year a small number of artists working in traditional art forms will be selected to receive up to 3 years of extensive assistance and training designed to make them more professionally viable. Among the benefits of the TATAP program is that the artists will also have the opportunity to make contact with presenters at conferences such as the Southern Arts Exchange.

Mr. Borders stated that the Southern Arts Exchange is an opportunity to bring together the sellers of artists and arts groups with the buyers of arts activities. It is also an opportunity for the presenters from around the region to talk with each other. Louisiana has some very fine artists who are capable of shining on the regional, national and international levels. The Southern Arts Exchange is our attempt to help them get exposed and on the pathway toward a successful career as a touring artist.

Other Issues

Mr. Borders introduced Teri Cober as the executive director of LA Alliance for Arts Education. Effective September 1, 1996, Teri is also the administrative manager for the Louisiana Partnership for the Arts. She will attend all of the LSAC meetings.

Mr. Borders explained to the Council the process the Division has initiated to revise grants guidelines for 1998-2000 years. The Division sent out the first round of suggestions for changes to the Local Arts Agency Program and the General Operating Support Program for comments. The Louisiana Partnership for the Arts has indicated that they would like to make one collective set of responses to the recommendations. Their comments are due by October 16, 1996. Mr. Borders said the current plan is to have some of these recommendations available for discussion and/or action by the Council at the December LSAC meeting. The overall goal, he explained, is to try and have any and all needed revisions in place by July 1997, the beginning of the next fiscal year, so that the Division can begin to work on and produce new guidelines. It's important to get as much comment and feed back as possible from the field.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

There was no executive committee report.

ADVOCACY COMMITTEE REPORT

There was no advocacy committee report.

POLICY COMMITTEE REPORT

There was no policy committee report.

SPECIAL EVENTS COMMITTEE REPORT

Virginia Riley reported that the 1997 State Arts Conference and the Governor's Arts Awards are coming up soon. Virginia asked Mr. Borders to discuss the Arts Conference and the Governor's Arts Awards so that everyone will know the status of the preparations. Ms. Riley stated that the Special Events Committee realizes that all of the council members need to work together to make these events successful.

Raelene Pell inquired about how the awards will be presented. Elizabeth Chubbuck-Meche stated that a local artist in Baton Rouge made beautiful glass discs for each recipient and that they also each got diplomas. It was decided after the last Governor's Arts Awards that the Council really wanted to start a tradition of involving our artists and each year have one of the artists in the state make the awards. Jean Hurley proposed that the winner of the previous professional artist of the year make the awards. For next year, then, the idea would be to speak to Phillip Gould to see if he can create a gift using photography.

Jean Hurley asked would it be the responsibility of the committee to decide if the Governor's Arts Awards will be presented at the State Arts Conference or separately. Virginia Riley stated that it was decided upon previously that it would alternate—one year at the mansion and one year at the conference. Mr. Borders stated that the tentative dates for the conference are Wednesday, May 14th through Friday, May 16th. Decisions will be made about the hotel, either the Hilton or the Radisson, based on the availability of function rooms.

Mr. Borders stated that there will be lots of support for the conference. The Division has already begun to solicit ideas for programs from the staff and from the field. The evaluations from last

year's conference also had lots of ideas about things people thought they wanted to see at the conference. Jean Hurley stated that she would like to see the Council do some state-wide advertising for the State Arts Conference. Mr. Borders stated that he will get back to the Council members with more details and information.

Mr. Borders mentioned that one of the things we need to do in the long term is to make our State Arts Conference pay for itself. One way to do this would be to attract exhibitors who want to make contact with people who would attend the conference. It will take a while to identify those people and to also establish a larger number of conference goers to make it beneficial for those potential exhibitors. In the future this conference should grow into an event that provides more services to artists and arts organizations.

In other news, Mickie Willis mentioned that Myrtle Kerr, who was the Arts Supervisor for the Louisiana State Department of Education, passed unexpectedly last month.

Teri Cober also stated that LAAE (Louisiana Alliance for Arts Education) is establishing a memorial fund in Myrtle Kerr's memory. This fund will be used to provide scholarships to give art teachers opportunities for professional development.

NEW BUSINESS

Elizabeth Chubbuck-Meche called for a vote to approve Council for A Better Louisiana as the fiscal agent for the Arts Conference expenses.

Raelene Pell moved to accept CABL as the fiscal agent for the Arts Conference. Virginia Riley seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Borders stated that Ms. Billie Tripp, who worked with the Division and the Council during the last conference, will work with us again on this conference as a professional meeting planner contracted through CABL.

There was discussion about some members of the Council continuing to work on projects to help the Arts even if they are not on the new Council. Maida Owens inquired as to whether or not policy states that all committee members of the Council must be Council members. Mr. Borders stated that any members who are not appointed, but would still like to help, may be committee members anyway. That is also the purpose of the Liaison Committee with the Partnership of the Arts.

Returning to the issue of exhibitors for the State Arts Conference, Beverly Wilson stated that she is the co-chairperson for the LA Arts Education Association Conference. She offered to talk to the vendors of that conference about the State Arts Conference. Mr. Borders stated that he doubts that we will be ready to begin selling booth space to exhibitors for this 1997 conference. We may look to create an expanded resource room and invite people who would be prospective exhibitors. At this point what we need to do is get a list of people who are active exhibitors in related conferences, LAM exhibitors, SEMC exhibitors, Art Educators exhibitors, etc. Jean Hurley stated that another way to make money is to open a Louisiana Store. Mr. Borders stated that a decision was made by the Louisiana Presenters Network to do a showcase of Louisiana artists during the conference. They would like to try and do it without charging the artists anything to showcase, but we will still have

expenses associated with that showcase. The tentative plan is to hold the event at an LSU facility. But these details, like many others, still have to be ironed out, Mr. Borders said, adding that these issues will take on a higher priority for the staff from now until the conference actually occurs.

Mr. Borders thanked the Council for all their support and energy that they continue to bring to this process to help the arts in Louisiana.

On behalf of Penne Mobley and the Council members absent from the meeting, Elizabeth Chubbuck-Meche also thanked the Council and Staff for all their work.

ADJOURNMENT

Beverly Wilson moved to adjourn the meeting. Her motion was seconded by Gloria Callais, and the meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.