

**Minutes of the
LOUISIANA STATE ARTS COUNCIL
QUARTERLY MEETING
Baton Rouge, Louisiana
Monday, June 23, 1997
10:00 a.m.**

James Borders, executive director, opened the quarterly meeting of the Louisiana State Arts Council, which was held at the Capitol Annex building, at 10:20 a.m. The following members were present:

Cynthia Ardoin	Mary Joseph
Leah Chase	Beth Kaplan
Beverly Covington	Gregory Marcantel
Marilyn Cox	Carolyn McLellan
Ken Ferdinand	Sally Perry
Colleen Fletcher	Charlotte Walter
Dan Henderson	Cynthia Warner
Sara Herrington	Christine Weeks
Quincy Hilliard	Beverly Wilson
Jean S. Hurley	

Council members absent from the meeting included:

Kay Kellogg Katz

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

James Borders	Velma Gray
Pearlie Johnson	Ann Russo
Dee Waller	Mickie Willis
Brad Harris	Charles Hunt

Also present were Mr. Philip Jones, Secretary, Office of Culture Recreation & Tourism; Ms. Gerri Hobdy, Assistant Secretary, Office of Cultural Development; Ms. Pam Breaux, director of the Arts & Humanities Council of Southwest Louisiana in Lake Charles and the new chairperson for the Louisiana Partnership for the Arts; Ms. Teri Cober, administrative manager for the Louisiana Partnership for the Arts and executive director for Louisiana Alliance for Arts Education; and Ann Price, arts reporter for the Baton Rouge *Morning Advocate*.

Mr. Borders thanked the Council members for their attendance and suggested that he be allowed to conduct the meeting in the absence of a Council chairperson, who had yet to be appointed by the governor. He then introduced Ms. Hobdy, Assistant Secretary, Office of Cultural Development. Ms. Hobdy in turn introduced Mr. Phillip Jones, Secretary of the Department of Culture, Recreation & Tourism.

Mr. Jones welcomed the Council members on behalf of Lt. Governor Blanco and thanked them for their time, commitment and interest in serving on the Louisiana State Arts Council. Mr. Jones asserted that the arts provide a tremendous amount of what makes Louisiana such a special place and an important tourist destination. He stated that the department has focused on the state's arts, culture and history in promoting Louisiana and that this approach seems to be working very well. Louisiana has been designated as the fastest growing tourism state in the country, he reported. Louisiana tourism has grown at an amazing rate of 11%; the number of visitors went from 23 million in 1995 to 25 million in 1996. The state's tourism promotion efforts will continue to focus on and emphasize the arts, he said.

Mr. Jones also reported that the Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism's (CRT) budget for fiscal year 1998 (July 1, 1997 to June 30, 1998) had been increased from \$39 million to \$51 million with portions of the increase going to the Office of Cultural Development and Division of the Arts. Mr. Jones ended his remarks by saying that he looked forward to working with everyone on the Council.

Mr. Jones then fielded a question from a Council member about the status of the Economic Diversification Marketing Fund mentioned as a source of funding in the authorizing legislation for the Division of the Arts. She said her research indicated that the fund was scheduled to expire in 1998 and she wanted to know if the Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism had any plans for it. Mr. Jones referred the question to Mr. Borders and Ms. Hobby, who reported that funding for the Division of the Arts was currently provided out of general appropriations and not from any special, dedicated funds. Staff promised to look into the matter (and later found out that the Economic Diversification funds had not been appropriated to the Division by the Legislature in over 10 years).

Mr. Jones then excused himself and returned to the Legislature where he was monitoring other issues of importance to the Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism.

INTRODUCTIONS

Since it was the first meeting of the new Council, Mr. Borders asked the Council members, the Division of the Arts staff, and the visitors to introduce themselves.

Mr. Borders then distributed contact information sheets for Council to correct and update.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

A motion to accept the minutes of the December 16, 1996 meeting was made by Sara Herrington and seconded by Beverly Wilson. The motion carried unanimously.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Council Orientation Materials

Mr. Borders distributed handbooks to the Louisiana State Arts Council members and gave a brief overview of the Louisiana State Arts Council, the Division of the Arts and the Division's state, regional, and national organizational affiliations.

State Arts Conference and Governor's Arts Awards Report

Mr. Borders reported that 278 people registered for the State Arts Conference held May 14-16, 1997. That represents an increase of approximately 100 people over the 1995 conference. He explained that the Conference was basically an opportunity for citizens to acquire training and

information that will help strengthen organizations and artists in the state. According to a survey of participants, the conference was a success, Mr. Borders reported. He said 56% of the respondents rated the conference excellent; 41% rated the conference good.

DOA FY98 Budget Overview

Mr. Borders provided an overview of the Division's income and expense projections for fiscal year 1998, along with a comparison to the agency's 1997 budget. The major change for the agency budget for the new year was that an additional \$250,000 had been added by the legislature to the Division's budget, making the state's contribution to the Division's income \$4,385,742 in 1998. Grants from the National Endowment for the Arts added another \$443,500—\$16,500 more than in FY97—bringing total FY98 income to \$4,829,242.

Mr. Borders reported that the agency planned to spend \$2,435,634 on the Decentralized Arts Funding Program; \$1,605,000 on the Statewide Grants Program; \$141,000 on Special Initiatives and Professional Services; and \$647,158 on Salary/Operating Expenses.

Other Issues & Discussion

There then followed an extended period of questions and discussion from the Council about the Division's budget and the budgeting process; grants allocation and redistribution policies; the role of the advisory panels in the grants process; the relationship of scores and rankings to the panelists' grants recommendations; the role and latitude of the Council in approving grants; and other related issues. It was agreed that the process of providing information and orientation to the Council would continue at a later date in the fall.

NEW BUSINESS

The Council proceeded to approve FY98 Statewide Grants by program and discipline categories.

Approval of Statewide Grants for FY98

Arts in Education (AIE) BASIC Dan Henderson moved to accept the recommendations for funding as presented. Gregory Marcantel seconded the motion, and the motion carried. Cynthia Warner abstained.

AIE PROJECTS Gregory Marcantel moved to accept the recommendations for funding as presented. Beth Kaplan seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

AIE RESIDENCIES Sara Herrington moved to accept the recommendations for funding as presented. Dan Henderson seconded the motion, and the motion carried. Beverly Wilson abstained.

PROJECT ASSISTANCE: DANCE Beth Kaplan moved to accept the recommendations for funding as presented. Beverly Wilson seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

PROJECT ASSISTANCE: DESIGN ARTS Kenneth Ferdinand moved to accept the recommendations for funding as presented. Gregory Marcantel seconded the motion, and the motion carried 11-4, with Ms. Warner abstaining.

Before the vote, there was considerable discussion about the funding allocations and recommendations in this category, particularly the rationale for funding the top-ranked application. A motion was made and later withdrawn to fund the top-ranked applicant with special initiative monies instead of those funds allocated for Design Arts projects. There was also some discussion here about Council policy regarding conflict of interest situations.

PROJECT ASSISTANCE: FOLKLIFE Kenneth Ferdinand moved to accept the recommendations as presented. Dan Henderson seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

PROJECT ASSISTANCE: LITERATURE Kenneth Ferdinand moved to accept the recommendations for funding as presented. Quincy Hilliard seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

PROJECT ASSISTANCE: MEDIA Dan Henderson moved to accept the recommendations for funding as presented. Beverly Wilson seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

PROJECT ASSISTANCE: MULTI-DISCIPLINARY Gregory Marcantel moved to accept the recommendations for funding as presented. Beverly Wilson seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

In discussion prior to adoption of this motion, Mr. Borders reported that there was an appeal registered by Junebug Productions, which was not recommended for funding in this category. They objected to a comment about their proposal by one of the panelists who said, in effect, "that people keep applying for anti-racism type projects is getting old; it's time everyone rises above that. These projects keep perpetuating separateness or negativity." The applicant felt that those statements displayed a callousness toward the problem of racism in this country which might have impaired the panel's ability to evaluate the Junebug Productions application fairly. Staff reviewed the audiotape of the discussion, reviewed this application and its samples of work and scrutinized the panelist score sheets. The evidence supported a finding that the substantive evaluation of this application by the panel confined itself to the evaluation criteria and that there were major elements in this proposal that simply did not tie in together. The recommendation of the executive director, therefore, was that the appeal be denied.

Council members noted that the incident was unfortunate and that the Louisiana State Arts Council in no way condones or endorses racist statements or behavior.

There was a recommendation from Jean Hurley that the Council take no action on the appeal submitted by Junebug Productions. Seconded by Christine Weeks.

PROJECT ASSISTANCE: MUSIC Kenneth Ferdinand moved to accept the recommendations for funding as presented. Mayor Marcantel seconded the motion, and the motion carried. Sally Perry abstained from voting.

PROJECT ASSISTANCE: THEATER Sara Herrington moved to accept the recommendation.

Beth Kaplan seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

There was discussion here about the Alliance for Community Theater's application for a desktop publishing workshop being highly ranked by the panel and yet not being recommended for funding. While staff acknowledged that it was a most unusual move for a panel to make, the panel's action was actually intended to strengthen the applicant's chances to make a success of the project. Since the request amount was so low, \$2,000, and since the applicant was likely to receive only a fraction of its request and because it already had another top-ranked application in the category pegged to receive in excess of \$7800, the panel suggested the applicant take advantage of its comments for improvement and apply to the Decentralized Program in region 1, where it might stand a better chance of winning a larger grant.

PROJECT ASSISTANCE: VISUAL ARTS Jean Hurley made a motion to amend the panel's funding recommendation and award application #FY98003 from the Meadows Museum of Art and application #FY98012 from the Contemporary Arts Center \$9,000 each, instead of \$8,000 and \$10,000, respectively. Sally Perry seconded the motion. 10 members voted in favor of the motion; 6 opposed. The motion carried.

Mayor Marcantel then moved to accept the recommendations for funding as amended. Christine Weeks seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

LOCAL ARTS AGENCIES LEVEL 1: Approved last year as 2-year grants are renewed at the same level as they were last year.

LOCAL ARTS AGENCIES LEVEL 2: Approved last year as 2-year grants are renewed at the same level as they were last year.

GENERAL OPERATING SUPPORT (GOS): LEVELS 1&2 Mr. Borders presented a recommendation for an increase of funding to the 2-year grants approved last year in this category. He proposed that \$81,000 in additional funds be added in the following manner: \$68,000 in GOS Level 1 and \$13,000 GOS Level 2, with the increase applied proportionally to the grant amount recipients were awarded in FY97.

Dan Henderson moved to accept the recommendations for funding as presented. Beth Kaplan seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Sally Perry abstained from voting.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no time to conduct further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.