

**Minutes of the
LOUISIANA STATE ARTS COUNCIL
QUARTERLY MEETING
Alexandria, Louisiana
Monday, December 7, 1998
10:00 a.m.**

WELCOME/CALL TO ORDER

James Borders, Executive Director, opened the quarterly meeting of the Louisiana State Arts Council, which was held at the Alexandria Museum of Art, at 10:15 a.m. The following members were present:

Sara Herrington
Quincy Hilliard
Jean Hurley
Beth Kaplan
Kay Kellogg Katz
Raelene S. Pell

Sally Perry
Charlotte Walter
Cynthia Warner
Christine Weeks
Laura Jeter Weems
Beverly Wilson

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

Cynthia Ardoin
Leah Chase
Beverly Covington
Marilyn Cox
Ken Ferdinand

Colleen C. Fletcher
Dan Henderson
Mary Terrell Joseph
Carolyn McLellan
LeAnne Weill

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

James Borders
Lisa Green
Charles Hunt

Also present were: Teri Cober, Executive Director, Louisiana Partnership for the Arts; Lois Grant, Rapides Parish Library; and Gloria Hearn, Task Force for Children's Art. At the outset of the meeting, these guests made brief introductions of themselves and the organizations they represent.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

A. *Southern Arts Exchange*

Chairman Henderson was unable to attend the meeting. In his absence, Mr. Borders announced that Mr. Henderson had been elected to the prestigious position of Chair of the 1999 Southern Arts Exchange (SAE), sponsored by the Southern Arts Federation (SAF). The Southern Arts Exchange is the major booking and training institute for the performing arts in the Southeastern region, Mr. Borders said. The 1999 SAE will be held in Tampa, Florida in late September.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A. *FY99 Budget and Grant Adjustments*

Mr. Borders announced that the Division of the Arts had experienced a mid-year adjustment to its current year budget (FY99), with a resultant \$175,000 increase in income that would be invested in agency programs. The additional income came from unused federal grant dollars from previous years, a minor adjustment to the calculation of the agency's state appropriation and royalties from the sales of the *Swapping Stories: Folktales from Louisiana* book.

He explained that LDOA had disbursed \$150,000 of the windfall through the Statewide Grants Program--mainly for augmenting General Operating Support grants, Artist Fellowships and the Director's Grant-in-Aid program. He also noted that \$10,000 would go back into the Regional Folklife Program, and that \$15,000 was targeted to Special Initiatives.

Mr. Borders' presentation was accompanied by a lengthy discussion about grants-related issues, especially the LA Mayor's Institute on City Design and the Cultural Tourism special initiatives.

In the end, it was acknowledged that the Division needs to solidify a plan for the Cultural Tourism initiative and a planned economic impact study. Launching a feasibility study in fiscal year 2000 for creating an arts endowment was also discussed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. *Executive*

There was no executive committee report but it was announced that a committee meeting would be held prior to the March council meeting.

B. *Advocacy*

1. *1999 Legislative Goals*

There was a brief discussion about the budget increase the Division of the Arts is tentatively seeking from the legislature for next year, \$1.25 million.

2. Government Leadership Award

Mr. Borders provided an update on an item that was scheduled to be taken up at the September meeting, which was cancelled due to threat of a hurricane. LDOA was supposed to come back with a recommendation about an award to honor government leaders. Mr. Borders reported that he was hopeful the Louisiana Partnership for the Arts (LPA) will present that award as a "Government Leadership Award." Current planning calls for the LPA to sponsor the award each year in conjunction with the Governor's Arts Awards. The plan is to honor Governor Foster at this year's Governor's Arts Awards as part of the ceremony. In subsequent years we'll have to find other leaders to acknowledge, Mr. Borders added. It is important to acknowledge the good work that public officials do on behalf of the arts.

C. Policy

1. Revising Grants Programs for the Guide to Arts Programs 2000-2002

Mr. Borders provided a brief update on the process to gather public input about any needed revisions to the next guidelines for Division of the Arts grants programs.

D. Special Events

1. 1999 State Arts Conference

The State Arts Conference will be held May 13th - 15th at the Radisson Hotel in Baton Rouge. The registration fee is \$50 and the theme is *Arts and a Sense of Place*. Staff announced that more information would be forthcoming in the weeks ahead.

2. Governor's Arts Awards

The Governor's Arts Awards will kickoff the conference on Thursday, May 13th. Mr. Borders reported that negotiations were still in process regarding the selection of a site for the event. Last year it was at the Governor's Mansion, but the weather was little warm for being outside. The Old State Capitol was mentioned as an alternate site, as well as the Radisson Hotel where the conference is being held.

Nomination forms for the 1999 Governor's Arts Awards were distributed. The deadline for nominations is Monday, February 15th.

3. Artist Fellowship Reception

Mr. Borders mentioned that there were still tentative plans in the works to sponsor a reception to honor the state's artist fellowship recipients, most likely in conjunction with the visual arts exhibition of fellowship winners from 1981-1998, that will be touring the state in 1999.

E. Ad Hoc Committee for the Arts Endowment Fund

A brief update was provided on developments regarding the creation of an endowment fund for the arts. It was reported that the Council and Division have been advised that it may be overly optimistic to request \$50 million from the state for the endowment. The original idea was to consider a fund about the size of \$100 million, with half coming from government sources and the other half coming from private sector and other sources, over the course of ten years. In looking at what other states

have done, and in conversations with the administration, it was recommended that we tie into some permanent revenue scheme, a taxable source.

What we've been advised with, from the experience of other states, is that the best way to do this is by using a two part system: 1) get the legislation in place that says the endowment fund can exist, without a commitment specifically about where the money is going to come from; and 2) then set about to claim a revenue source. We still need to do a lot of work to see about getting a piece of legislation enacted in the upcoming legislative session. Since the state's fiscal sessions occur on a biennial basis, we either have to introduce to legislation during this session or wait two years to get it in place.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Approval of Artist Fellowship Recommendations

Overall, the Division of the Arts received 176 artist fellowship applications and the grants review panels recommended funding for 25 of them, divided up into eight panels: Dance, Design Arts, Folklife, Literature, Media, Music, Theater and Visual Arts & Crafts.

Jean Hurley moved to accept the recommendations for funding.
Sally Perry seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

In addition, for non-monetary considerations, out of 24 total applications received, 14 people were recommended for the Louisiana State Artist Roster. The artist roster gives people designation of being professional artists who can represent themselves in the schools system.

Christine Weeks moved to accept the recommendations.
Cynthia Warner seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

In the Crafts Marketing program there were 12 individuals who applied and four applicants were recommended by the panel for acceptance. Selection gives these artisans the right to place the "Handmade in Louisiana" seal on their work.

Sara Herrington moved to accept the recommendations.
Beverly Wilson seconded the motion and the motion carried.

OTHER COMMENTS

Teri Cober announced the upcoming meeting dates for the Louisiana Partnership for the Arts:

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| <i>Monday, January 11th,</i> | 9:00 a.m. - Noon at the Radisson Hotel in Baton Rouge, in conjunction with the Travel and Tourism Summit. |
| <i>Wednesday, March 10th</i> | In Baton Rouge |
| <i>Thursday, May 13th</i> | In Baton Rouge on the first day of the State Arts Conference |

Kay Kellogg Katz announced that she is a candidate for the State Representative seat in District 16. She will be on the March 27th ballot, or the May ballot, to complete this year. She would have to run again in October. She would appreciate all of your consideration.

A request was made to place the State Arts Collection as an item on the agenda for the next LSAC meeting. Is there an action plan for cataloging, touring, housing, conserving, etc.?

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn, seconded and adopted. The meeting ended at 12:00 p.m.