

**Minutes of the  
LOUISIANA STATE ARTS COUNCIL  
QUARTERLY MEETING**

Louisiana School for Math, Science and the Arts (LSMSA)  
715 College Avenue  
Natchitoches, LA  
December 19, 2003  
10:00 a.m.

**WELCOME/CALL TO ORDER**

Christine Weeks, Chair, opened the meeting of the Louisiana State Arts Council (LSAC), which was held at the Louisiana School for Math, Science and the Arts in Natchitoches, at 10:10 a.m. The following members were present:

Neil Early  
Christine Weeks

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

Brandi Bollinger (proxy)	Rosemary Patterson
Anna Brakenridge	Susan Reed (proxy)
Susan Brunner	Molly Sooter
Jose Canseco (proxy)	Susan Turner (proxy)
Freddie DeCourt (proxy)	Cynthia Warner
Marion Drennen	LeAnne Weill (proxy)
Angela Hammerli (proxy)	Juana Woodard (proxy)
Sara Herrington (proxy)	Fred Zeagler (proxy)
Mary Joseph (proxy)	

Staff members of the Louisiana Division of the Arts (LDOA) in attendance were:

Pam Breaux  
Lisa Green  
Dabne Liebke

Also in attendance were Mayor Wayne McCullen, City of Natchitoches, Dr. Patrick Widhalm, Executive Director, Louisiana School for Math, Science and the Arts (LSMSA), and Hazel Nowlin of the Natchitoches Art Guild. Other members of LSMSA staff in attendance were Randy Allen, Linda Bynog, Clayton Delery and Myrna Schexnider.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. Early moved to accept the minutes of the August 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting. Ms. Weeks seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously and the minutes were approved.

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Ms. Weeks welcomed Mayor Wayne McCullen, Dr. Widhalm and others in attendance. Ms. Weeks also thanked Dr. Widhalm and LSMSA for hosting the LSAC meeting.

***Remarks by Dr. Widhalm, Executive Director, LSMSA***

Dr. Widhalm welcomed the LSAC members and LDOA staff. He also thanked Agnes Hall, a junior at the school, who played the harp during the continental breakfast. LSMSA packets of information were distributed and Dr.

Widhalm commented that LSMSA is the only school that has a full curriculum in the arts and academics. LSMSA is a state supported residential high school with a competitive admissions process. LSMSA serves 400 students. Students apply as sophomores for the opportunity to attend the Louisiana School as juniors and seniors. As a public school, there is no tuition to attend and only a nominal room and board fee.

A new and exciting program is the Louisiana Virtual School, which offers virtual studies to students at different locales. At present, the program is Web based and offers courses such as *Survey of the Arts* and *Spanish* – the most commonly enrolled courses. In addition, other courses offered include *Calculus*, *Science*, *Language*, etc. Approximately 2,200 students are currently participating in this program. Students receive a CD-Rom and teachers provide them with links to refer to in order to do necessary research. It was noted that some funding is received from the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE).

On March 26<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> there will be Impulse Dance Theatre Performances. LSAC and LDOA are invited to attend.

#### ***Remarks by Mayor Wayne McCullum, City of Natchitoches***

On behalf of the City of Natchitoches, Mayor Wayne McCullum welcomed LSAC members and LDOA staff. Mayor McCullum mentioned the Natchitoches Christmas Festival. He commented that 100,000 people attended during the first weekend in December and that throughout the month they had anticipated approximately 250,000 – 500,000 overall.

Mayor McCullum stated that Natchitoches is the oldest town in the original Louisiana Purchase and that the city has a rich heritage and a fervent commitment to the arts. Mayor McCullum then thanked LDOA for all programs and services provided to make the arts thrive throughout the state.

## **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

### ***FY 2004 Budget Update***

Ms. Breaux provided a brief budget update and explained that the Preamble gave the Commissioner of Administration the authority to make further cuts in the budget – allowable cuts from those funds that are not dedicated through Federal funds. LDOA lost approximately \$60,000. These funds will come from the new Fast Track Grants program that LDOA originally anticipated.

### ***Program Highlights – Local Arts Agency, General Operating Support and Decentralized Arts Funding Programs Overview (Dabne Liebke)***

Ms. Liebke distributed packets of information and presented a PowerPoint presentation overview of the Local Arts Agency, General Operating Support and Decentralized Arts Funding Programs.

### ***Transition Update***

Ms. Breaux stated that Lt. Governor-elect Mitch Landrieu does have a background in Theatre. Ms. Breaux recently met with Scott Shalett, Chief of Staff, and a Sub-Committee of the Transition Team and over the next couple of weeks, drawing closer to the Inauguration, more decisions will be made. At present, the new administration is talking to constituents, gathering information and seeking input from the community.

Ms. Breaux stated that it is not time for LSAC members to resign. LDOA does not know when the Office of Boards and Commissions will address the next gubernatorial appointments to the Council. LDOA's Board process includes nominations from the Lt. Governor, the House, the Senate and the Louisiana Partnership for the Arts (LPA). Letters of interest should be sent directly to the Governor. For those who would like to forward information to the Lt. Governor, feel free to send an e-mail to [Info@MitchLandrieu.com](mailto:Info@MitchLandrieu.com).

Ms. Breaux commented that leadership changes take place during changes in Administration. Phillip Jones, former Secretary for the Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism, Barbara Roy, Assistant Secretary for the Office of Tourism, Henry Bernstein and Laurel Wyckoff, Assistant Secretary of the Office of Cultural Development, will not be returning after the Inauguration, which will be held January 12<sup>th</sup>.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### ***Approval of FY 2004 Mini-Grant and Artist Roster Recommendations***

Ms. Breaux referenced the synopsis within the LSAC packets and stated that LDOA had received a total of 107 Artist Mini-Grant applications and 11 Artist Roster applications. Of the applications received, 29 are recommended for funding and 6 artists are recommended for acceptance to the *Roster*.

Mr. Early moved to accept the Artist Mini-Grant recommendations and the Artist Roster recommendations. Ms. Weeks seconded the motion. The motion carried and the recommendations passed as presented.

## **STANDING COMMITTEE DISCUSSION**

### ***Special Events***

#### **2004 Governor's Arts Awards Update**

Nomination forms for the 2004 Governor's Arts Awards are due Feb. 16<sup>th</sup>. The Special Events Selection Committee will meet in March to select the recipients of the awards. Recipients will be announced in April and will be presented with their awards on May 19<sup>th</sup> at the Governor's Arts Awards Ceremony/Reception. LDOA will contact the Governor's Office as soon as possible about attending this special event.

Mr. Early commented that the Louisiana Alliance for Arts Education (LAAE) is interested in participating in this year's awards ceremony in order to present their awards. Perhaps something similar to that of the last Governor's Arts Awards program.

Ms. Weeks mentioned that several people she has spoken with have mentioned that it is truly wonderful to have this program once again. Thanks to LPA for their collaboration and partnership towards making this happen. Ms. Weeks also commented that the PowerPoint presentation makes the program very professional and very high quality. Ms. Breaux stated that perhaps it is something that LDOA should consider placing on its Web site.

Mr. Early remarked that LDOA should consider creating a relationship with Louisiana Public Broadcasting, which can lead to various promotional opportunities. Perhaps LDOA should develop a written Public Service Announcement (PSA). Ms. Weeks indicated that she and others would be more than happy to promote these programs in their surrounding communities.

#### **State Arts Conference Update**

This one-day conference, culminating with the Governor's Arts Awards, will be held May 19<sup>th</sup> in Baton Rouge at a location to be announced. Details of the event will be forwarded at a later date.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

None

## **ADJOURN**

Mr. Early moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Weeks seconded the motion. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:18 p.m.