

**Minutes of the
LOUISIANA STATE ARTS COUNCIL
QUARTERLY MEETING
State Library of Louisiana
701 N. Fourth Street
Baton Rouge, LA 70802
June 24, 2005**

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Christine Weeks called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m.

Louisiana State Arts Council (LSAC) members and Louisiana Division of the Arts (LDOA) staff in attendance:

Christine Weeks – LSAC Member
Susan Brunner – LSAC Member
Neil Early – LSAC Member
Angela Hammerli – LSAC Member
Mary Joseph – LSAC Member

Susan Turner – LSAC Member
LeAnn Weill – LSAC Member
Juana Woodard – LSAC Member
Fred Zeagler – LSAC Member

Pam Breaux – Assistant Secretary Office of Cultural Development

Robert Collins – Deputy Assistant Secretary Office of Cultural Development

Veronique Le Melle – Executive Director, LDOA
Dabne Liebke – Deputy Director, LDOA
Judyth Demarest – Percent for Art Manager, LDOA
Dee Hamilton – Performing Arts Programs Director, LDOA
Sparkle Hurst – Administrative Assistant, LDOA

Maida Owens, Folklife Program Director, LDOA
Kitty Phenev – Percent for Art Director, LDOA
Tamika Raby – Folklife Assistant, LDOA
Selena Simon – Grants Assistant, LDOA
Ann Russo – Visual Arts Program Director, LDOA

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

Brandi L. Bollinger
Jose S. Canseco
Freddie DeCourt
Marion M. Drennen

Anna B. Ferguson
Susan H. Reed
Molly Sooter
Cynthia C. Warner

Ms. Weeks welcomed everyone and extended a special welcome to Ms. Veronique Le Melle.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Neil Early moved to accept the minutes of the March 2005 meeting, and seconded by Susan Brunner. The motion passed unanimously and the minutes were approved as presented.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

A brief overview of what was discussed at the Southern Arts Federation's spring meeting held in Atlanta last June. In that meeting the chairs of the nine states comprising the Southern Arts Federation were invited to attend. This year they are more of a working retreat model. The primary point of discussion of the internal business was the discussion of cultural tourism and how the states are handling it. Christine stated that Mitch Landrieu, the Lieutenant Governor, was the keynote speaker. Everyone was pleased and expressed their desire to have an administration that understood the arts and the part they play in tourism. His goal is to set global standards. Each state reported on what they are trying to do or what they needed to do. Brochures and pamphlets from other states were available to view.

Today's cultural travelers usually spend about 5% more a day. 56% (well over half of cultural travelers) use the Internet exclusively to plan their travel. Our Arts and Cultural Organizations that want to tap into cultural tourism are going to have to find out ways to have Internet presence. Over half of the cultural travelers planned some of their activities after they arrive at

their destination. They only want to spend 3 ½ hours per day traveling. The remainder of the day is spent in a museum. They look for experiences to make them feel special or for guaranteed satisfaction.

The most popular cultural activity for domestic and international travelers is historical sites. They were the #1 destination for activity. 31% were domestic travelers and 35% international. 24% of domestic travelers visited museums, 15% art galleries, 14% theatres, which are considered significant numbers. International travelers are also interested in cultural heritage in our parks. 20% go to art galleries, 15% to concerts, and 11% in ethnic heritage sorts of activities. Cultural travel is the fastest gross segment of the US Tourism Industry. Different states are partnering with Parks and other partners to market and sale artist's work. Some of the larger welcome centers have exhibits and sometimes artist work for sale. Included with the exhibit is something about the artist, usually brochures. Mitch reported to the group that tourism is the #2 industry in Louisiana. Louisiana will set the pace for the region and the region is going to set the global standards, and we need to make sure that art is included in the education of every child in the south.

The Southern Arts Federation is well respected in other parts of the country for organizing and taking the lead on some projects such as the NEA has given the Operations Homecoming responsibility. Regional partnerships bring arts to the table. These are partnerships Southern Growth Policy Boards from the Governor's Association and others, bring others to the arts table and sometimes we have to create the table. Jonathan Katz, CEO of National Assembly of State Arts Agencies, affirmed some of the comments that had been made about Cultural Tourism. Another big report that has come out in the last few months is the Educational Testing Services where they are continuing to study the impact of arts in on high school graduation rates. One project in Massachusetts was especially sited that kids who were involved in arts programs were much more likely to say they liked school. When kids like school, they stay in school. These are some of the things that came out of the Southern Arts Federation. Ms. Weeks had placed brochures and other information on the table. The National Assembly of State Arts Agencies will have their national meeting in the fall.

The Southern Governor's Association is meeting the 12th -14th. We had a representative from the Southern Governor's Officers Board. Governor Sonny Purdue is the Chair of the Southern Governor's Association. Governor Blanco will Chair it next year. Governor Purdue is proposing the creating of cultural tourism trails throughout the south. There's even a bigger proposal that there is some sort of global positioning system which would ultimately be in place where we could interact with this part of Mississippi what music thing are in this are.

This week about 30 members of the Louisiana Partnership for the Arts (LPA) or related arts organizations attended a 2-day workshop on building cultural participation. One of the most basic things that came out of this 2-day workshop was broaden, deepen, and diversity our audiences, our boards and our organizations. Diversify to reach audiences that were not currently reached. To broaden is to bring in more of the same kinds of people that we're reaching. The deepening is to create more in-depth experiences, and tighten the relationship that constituents have with arts organizations. Approximately 16 people stayed an additional day to become trained to present the workshop throughout the state to arts organizations and the regions and DOA and LPA for conversation with how we're going to do that to ensure that most of the organizations have the opportunity and to discuss what's the expectation. It was a nice workshop with lots of representation throughout the state.

Ms. Weeks stated that Sara Herrington has resigned from the State Arts Council. Ms. Herrington has been a member for 19 years. She has been an invaluable liaison with Louisiana Partnership for the Arts and has benefited the council. The Council is very grateful for Sara's service to the State Arts Council and the arts community in Louisiana. A letter is being prepared by the Lt. Governor's Office that will be sent to Sara expressing the gratitude of the Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism. Sara sends her expressions of gratitude for the opportunity to work with the LSAC.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ms. Breaux gave an update on how we did in the Legislative Session. Ms. Breaux also gave an up-to-date on the Cultural Economy Initiative. She began with an announcement that was approved the previous day. We are working on finalizing the report Mt. Auburn Associates was hired to do regarding the Cultural Economy Initiative.

Cultural Economy 2 is Louisiana's next step. There will be a one-day event that helps to announce and share the results of the report that's been in the making for the past year. The event will be in New Orleans on August 25th at the Sheraton Hotel. The information will be in writing to say "Lt. Gov. Mitch Landrieu's Cultural Economy Initiative began 2004 with the

presentation of a vision for Louisiana's artistic and cultural initiatives and the announcement of the studies done by the National Endowment for the Arts to define the potential of art and culture as a viable sector of the state's overall economy. The Cultural Economy Initiative is the most public expression, was a conference held last December in New Orleans where more than 1100 leaders in arts, arts administration, culture, business and economic development, and government workforce development presentation to learn, share, dialogue, and network. After two extraordinary conference days, and volumes of important feedback, it was realized that Louisiana is unique among the places and cultures of the world. On August 25th we will be meeting and hear the results of the study of Louisiana's cultural and economic potential. The report is incomplete, but the information is astounding, especially with regards to culture. The numbers are proving larger than was expected.

The Legislative Session has reinstated the 2 vacant positions, and a significant amount of funds have been reinstated for those positions so the programs can operate efficiently. In terms of cash, we were placed in a better position than most other agencies in the department. No other agency received in-cash back. Ms. Leanne Weill asked if we would get close to the \$57,000 projection that we were going to get and Ms. Breaux answered yes. Senator Jackson from Shreveport successfully helped us recover those positions.

Ms. Dee Hamilton asked what types were on the steering committee. Ms. Pam Breaux responded that folks representative of all the industries were involved or should be involved in cultural economy development. There were arts community and culture representatives. There were folks from the government workforce development, economic development, education, finance, the film industry, and urban and rural perspectives.

Ms. Breaux personally welcomed Ms. Veronique Le Melle. A look at what's happening in the Division of the Arts and the department with respect to our assessment and our plan, the Cultural Economy Initiative and how all that ties into the Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism, Ms. Breaux felt with new found confidence that Ms. Le Melle is the right person and the right time for the Division of the Arts

Ms. Veronique Le Melle thanked everyone. She in turn wanted to thank Ms. Breaux, who she referred to as her new best friend. Ms. Le Melle also commented that the staff of the Division of the Arts is one of the most professional and impressive staff she had the pleasure to work with.

This being Ms. Le Melle's first Council meeting, she asked for the Council's patience. She wanted to give an update of some of the things the staff has been working on. The Strategic Plan is the main tasks she and Ms. Liebke have been working on. The Lt. Governor has reviewed the plan and approved it. Ms. Le Melle gave an overview of where we are and that sometime in August the Council would be mailed the published copy of the plan.

The Division of the Arts staff will be doing a one-day retreat sometime during the first week in July to implement the strategies. In August Veronique and Pam will go on the road. Pam will present the Cultural Economy Initiative Report and Veronique will present the Division's Strategic Plan. We won't be able to see any major changes until 2007. Everyone is constantly trying to improve what he or she does. Louisiana is unique and vibrant with arts and culture.

Budget Update

The budget was prepared before the session ended, which was the previous night. It does take into account the \$50,000 reduction in funding. Restoring funds to budget. Ms. Breaux was able to help save the 2 staff positions. Arts-in-Education would be the first position to be filled.

Ms. Le Melle will be returning with a more realistic budget in September. Ms. Susan Turner asked what the other position was and Ms. Veronique Le Melle responded Community Development Coordinator.

Mr. Fred Zeagler asked about the Governor's Arts Awards and Ms. Veronique Le Melle answered that it was being considered to move the Governor's Arts Awards event to correspond with the Cultural Economy Conference for August 2006. Ms. Le Melle supported the move because it would allow the Governor's Arts Awards to go into the next phase.

Ms. Maida Owens asked if the 50% cut from Decentralized and 50% from the State side was a shift in policy? Veronique answered that it was not a shift in policy. Arts to rise to the occasion to help the field to move forward to raise funds, earn funds, and how we can best spend the funds. 2006 is an invaluable year. Our main focus is to keep the local

funding intact and statewide direct aid to organizations intact, and then to look at how to best use the initiatives of the Division to be most helpful. Our first priority is to restore all of the grants and then look at what we will need to do with the administrative.

Mr. Neil Early asked if the parishes and regions having funds as it is right now, and the Decentralized Program as it is now to make that shift. Ms. Veronique Le Melle answered yes and no. What we've coming up with is a complex position. The Division is working on funds being distributed on the parish and local basis very similar to how it is now. Also, reviewing procedure and policy issues and having the Division to work more closely with the regional agencies on how the funds are handed out. Mr. Neil Early has been encouraging a lot of the performing artists that are presenting through Decentralized Arts funding to say thank you to the Legislators for the Decentralized Arts Funding Program. Ms. Veronique Le Melle agreed that they should continue to support the program.

Ms. Pam Breaux stated that what was being heard represents a good productive philosophical shift in how the funds were received within the Decentralized Program. In 1994 the funds were divided per capita and instructions were given for each region with very specific terminology to share with panels, and that terminology charged the panels in taking in all the applications, it's their obligation to grant it out 100%. The terminology was based upon ensuring that all the funds went for the grant purposes responding to the applications. The shift according to the Decentralized program in parish-by-parish and creating an interesting process and opportunities for guidance in how to best support the parish. It's still about the parish, but it's more about providing the best services to the parish and not simply responding to an applicant. Ms. Breaux felt that we are moving in right direction.

Ms. Christine Weeks said that the time is right. It's just past 10 years and everything has to improve especially in increasing the evaluation process for organizations. This is all part of accountability. We would like to assist arts organizations in whatever way we can to continue to raise the level. Mr. Neil Early stated that a great part in raising the level is helping some of parishes do the grant writing. One of the things Ms. Breaux and Ms. Le Melle have talked about is the problem of grant writing and completing applications existing in a lot of rural parishes. Although DOA staff conducts workshops to explain application preparation, a lot of those workshops are under attended. The people who really need the help, for one reason or another, cannot make the session. Ms. Le Melle's suggested that we must come up with new and different ways that may not have been tried before, and they may not work, but we must keep on trying until something works. Ms. Le Melle appreciated having a staff with as much first-hand experience as the Division of the Arts' staff who can give her the information. It's not recreating the wheel, but taking the old wheel and retuning it. Some of what might be seen might be things that the Division has tried in the past, but not in 2005. Mr. Neil Early remarked that he is discovering in a lot of places the people are doing these kinds of things in helping folks to apply.

Ms. Dee Hamilton asked if we are going to try and start our implementation plan in July, but the results of the Cultural Economy Plan won't be available until August. It would be wonderful to see those two things compared. Ms. Pam Breaux answered that she and Ms. Gaye Hamilton are working on that today. Ms. Veronique stated that the Roadmap for Change has been directly addressed in the Strategic Plan.

Ms. Pam Breaux stated that the Cultural Economy Initiative has been informed in a number of ways. One of those ways was getting routine information from the project. For example, the Cultural Economy Initiative dealt with artist in the workforce. Ms. Veronique Le Melle wanted to assure the Council that the Strategic Plan and the Implementation Plan is actually a living-breathing document, and we won't just see it in September and not see it again. At least once or twice a year Ms. Le Melle will be coming back to the Council to report on what was supposed to be implemented the first quarter of the first year of the plan, the second quarter of the third year of the plan, and this is where we are. We were able to accomplish these 5, but had to shift this 1. If so, why? What our immediate rationale is and how we intend to fix it or change it.

Ms. Weeks asked Ms. Breaux about the last Division of the Arts Newsletter and the announcement about the National Heritage Awards. Ms. Pam Breaux stated that the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) had recently announced that Louisiana artists have claimed 2 of the 12 National Heritage Fellowship Awards. The awards to the Louisianians went to Earl Barthe of New Orleans, Michael Doucet of Lafayette. Earl Barthe is and architectural artist who does plaster and stucco work for Historic Preservation projects. Michael Doucet, the Cajun. This award in particular marks something new for the National Endowment for the Arts. For the first time and NEA apprentice actually became the Master Apprentice award. Back in the mid-seventies Michael Doucet was part of an apprenticeship. Those were 2 National Heritage Fellowship winners at the NEA

level. This is the first time in NEA history where the apprentice became the National Fellow. That was part of the press release, and Louisiana was the only state to have 2 awards presented. The awards are \$20,000. It's a great ceremony on Capitol Hill in September. Ms. Weeks commented how exciting it is to have 2 of the 12 to be recognized nationally is really phenomenal.

Ms. Mary Joseph asked Ms. Veronique Le Melle to tell the Council a little about her background. Ms. Veronique Le Melle responded that she has worked in the arts most of adult life. She has worked in the for-profit and the non-profit sector. She has overseen small neighborhood programs and large city institutions. Most recently she was the Director for Cultural Affairs and Tourism for the County of Queens, a part of New York City. Queens County has a resident population of 2.2 million people that she was responsible for cultural services and tourism. Her workforce was close to almost 4 million people. Ms. Le Melle's educational background consist of a double BA in Economics & Business Administration, a Masters in Arts Administration, and Public Arts Administration with an emphasis on finance. She was responsible for arts groups as well as historic houses and landmarks. She has worked with planning quit a bit. Her view has always been to help and assist any arts organization in becoming self-sustaining as much as possible. Her interest for the future is how to strengthen the Arts and for the Arts to become partners with other sectors instead of being the stepchild. She was born and raised in New York, but her father is from Opelousas, who now lives on the Cane River, outside of Natchitoches.

Ms. Christine Weeks pointed out that Ms. Le Melle mentioned during the interview process that Queens is the most culturally diverse county in the United States. The United States claims to be the most culturally diverse country in the world, therefore making Queens the most diverse county in the world. There are over 120 distinctly differently languages spoken in schools as first languages.

Ms. Maida Owens wanted to point out that Louisiana has a disproportionate number of NEA Fellowships throughout the history of Fellowships. Ms. Christine Weeks stated that there are some wonderful things that can be told and can continue to build upon.

NEW BUSINESS

The Schedule of Meetings for next fiscal year. In response to Council request over the last few years, we have not scheduled a Council meeting in August with people returning to work or finishing vacations. It was agreed three or four meetings ago that the Executive Committee would meet about the mini-grants so that the full council meeting would not be tied to the mini-grants. The full council meeting was moved back to September. By taking care of the mini-grants prior to the Christmas Holidays. The dates are Monday, September 12th; Monday, December 5th; Monday, March 27th for the spring meeting; and Monday, June 26th. The June meeting is always towards end of month because we have to complete the whole process with the March grants operation, and time for appeals and consideration for the appeals that might happen.

Ms. Weeks acknowledged that Mr. Early had mentioned conflicts with the first two meeting dates. He had prior obligations for the first two meetings. Ms. Weeks stated that the Council has traditionally tried to do one of the four meetings outside of Baton Rouge, to give the Council members an opportunity to see other parts of the state to find out what's going on. It gives our constituents a sense that we are not trying to be Baton Rouge centric. We are looking at the spring meeting being someplace else. The Alexandria or Lake Charles area was suggested. No meetings have been conducted there. With the permission of the Council, Ms. Weeks will continue to explore locations. She would like to have a location determined so the Council can be informed at the September meeting.

The next item of business is to review and approve fiscal year '06 appeals from the spring grants panels. There was only 1 appeal this year. Ms Week commented that fact in itself says that we are continuing to communicate in a more thorough manner with the field that more people are accessing the staff and doing that in a timely manner. We always want to continue to improve. In prior years, we have had a number of appeals, and some of those appeals have come from misunderstandings or communications with panelists. In the last five or six years the Council has help ask questions that go into the minutes as staff work to improve the process communicating in different ways. We are moving in right direction, the most important thing.

The appeal was from the Zhoux Zhoux Theatre with a question that they believe they had not been correctly informed relative to some of their budget information. As the transcript was being reviewed, the communications that had been going back and forth with them, the Executive Committee recommended that the panels scoring and comments be upheld. The process seemed to have been followed well and it was the unanimous decision of the Executive Committee that the panel recommendations be upheld.

Ms. Leanne Weill asked what the problem was with? Ms Weeks responded that problem was with the material they submitted. Ms. Veronique Le Melle stated that the Zhoux Zhoux Theatre Company felt that there was miscommunication based on 2 issues, and both issues were due to miscommunication by the DOA staff. It was not clear what the staff's instructions were, but in looking at the staff's instructions, and the written instructions and requests. The information was requested of the organization in supplemental budget information and other information to be submitted to staff for the panel by a certain date. That was not done by the organization. They did not get in the supplemental information in for the panels. The problem areas were with the budget and planning. Ms. Christine Weeks called for a motion to uphold panel decisions. Ms. Mary Joseph motioned to accept the panel decisions. Motion seconded by Ms. Susan Turner.

Ms. Christine Weeks returned to the packets. The white sheets are the approved panel recommendations in all disciplines. The lavender, yellow, and pink sheets have data analysis relative to the number and types of proposals that were received. The Council was given time to review funding summary, synopsis, demographics and panel recommendations of the FY06 grants panels. Ms Christine Weeks stated that at the number of proposals submitted for 2005 and the number submitted for 2006. The numbers have continued to increase in many categories showing expertise and the improvement of programs and operations.

A Council member asked for a report on Crafts Marketing. Ms. Veronique Le Melle asked Ms. Maida Owens the Crafts Marketing Director. Ms. Maida Owens reported that there were no Crafts Marketing applications, but responded that having no applications is a good thing. Maida further stated this reflects the success of the partnership with the Crafts Guild. Ms. Owens did not have an exact number, but reported that most of the new people added to the Crafts Marketing Program actually go through the Crafts Guild Selection Process. About four years ago it was added to the guidelines that anyone in the Crafts Guild was automatically part of the Crafts Marketing Program. Ms. Owens stated that 20 to 25 are received a year with multiple deadlines through the year. They usually come in batches of 8 to 15. Ms. Owens stated that one of the things to be discussed in the future is to eliminate the direct application. Mr. Neil Early asked Ms. Maida Owens who was the new president of guild. Maida responded Doug Stannard. Mr. Neil Early stated that he is from Leesville.

A Council member asked if there were some that did not get funded.

Ms. Veronique Le Melle responded that the General Operating Support and the Local Arts Agencies categories are multi-year, so there were no panels conducted for those two categories this year because last year they were approved for two years.

Ms. Veronique Le Melle pointed out missed information. The other white sheet lists the 12 touring directory artists that were accepted in 2006. They were in Folklife, music and theatre. Ms. Dee Hamilton pointed out that doesn't go with the report is the funding is Southern Arts Federation and National Endowment for the Arts funding. The grants are decided on, recommended and administered by the Division of the Arts. This year there was about \$48,400. Ms. Hamilton pointed out that it was an increase of \$15,400. In 2005 we were granted \$33,000 and this year it was \$48,400.

A 5-person panel of both regional and national respective was put together. There were 25 applications and 16 were funded. 90% of the funds go to artists and companies that serve underserved communities.

In Arts-in-Education, in both basic and project categories, there were 50 requests and 21 were funded. In residences, 8 requests were received and 6 were funded. Folklife Apprenticeship, 12 applications were received and 6 were funded. There were 191 Fellowship applications and 21 were funded.

In Project Assistance categories, in Dance there were 23 requests and 9 were funded. Design Arts had 8 requests and 6 were funded. Folklife had 7 funded. Literature had 7 requests and 6 were funded. Multi-Disciplinary had 15 request and 9 were funded. Media had 11 requests and 4 were funded. Music received 23 requests and 9 were funded. Theatre received 22 requests and 9 were funded. Visual Arts funded 8. 424 specific requests for funding were received overall. We were able to grant 148, 20% of the total requests.

The Project Assistance grants is one area where the Strategic Plan really needs to be looked at. Ms. Le Melle was impressed with the process during her first two weeks of observing the process. She reported that she observed the staff's struggle with budget issues. There were strong programs and great projects, and fantastic ideas and not have the funds to meet needs of the community.

Ms. Christine Weeks stated that the data gives good information. Proposals from Design Arts tripled and Literature doubled. The second question asked by Ms. Weeks concerned the approximately \$2 million dollars requested in Project Assistance and funding only about 3 to 4 hundred thousand dollars.

Mr. Neil Early asked if things such as the information on the pink sheet could be shared with other people. Ms Pam Breaux answered it's a public document and the information contained in it can be requested by anyone.

Ms. Christine Weeks commented that when we communicate with constituents and especially the local arts agencies that we come in contact, is that gentle reminder that they can't get money from the state if they don't apply. In speaking with the regions, encourage the people to apply. Ms. Christine Weeks called for a motion to accept the panel recommendations. Ms. Mary Joseph motioned to accept the panel recommendations and Mr. Neil Early seconded. The panel recommendations were accepted.

Ms. Dee Hamilton had an addition to the Touring Directory.

STANDING COMMITTEE UPDATES

Advocacy Committee

Ms. Weeks wanted to point out the Ms. Sara Herrington was the liaison for the Louisiana Partnership for the Arts and as chair of the Advocacy Committee. Ms. Susan Brunner has agreed to become the liaison. This keeps the information flowing and gives the council another finger on the pulse in the field in their efforts. They have been great partners for us. Kip Holloway will complete his two-year term at the end of June, and Randy Bernhard will be coming in as president of the Louisiana Partnership for the Arts. They are in the initial stages of their strategic planning process. They are going to have a retreat in August to continue their plan.

Ms. Susan Brunner stated that there are a lot of exciting things going on now. Opportunities for advocacy are amazing right now. Would like to connect the Louisiana Partnership for the Arts more closely with what is being done at the arts councils. Hoping to layout a new plan that may restructure advocacy. Ms. Brunner asked the question on how advocacy is connected, or what opportunities the Cultural Economy Initiative of the Lt. Governor offers for us in the advocacy area. Advocacy is getting information out there, and that's the foundation of advocacy. Another question Ms. Brunner asked was how our panel winners can go out and advocate. What can we expect from award winners. These are questions that will be asked at the LPA retreat in August. Hope to come back to council with a new structure.

Ms. Susan Brunner spoke with Charlie Smith, and Mr. Smith stated that he had the best legislative session he has ever had. He was very excited about having the 3 positions restored, and also having a lot of the funds restored. Ms. Smith also asked Ms. Brunner to pass on the information that 7 capital outlay projects were funded. This tells a lot about what's going on with our legislators. Our legislators are hearing from their constituents, and that's important. Advocacy is happening all the time and not just during the legislative session. The numbers are unbelievable. We don't hear about it unless we're in the midst of it. The Red River Revel is receiving \$590,000. The Red River Film Festival is receiving \$600,000. The Contemporary Arts Center in New Orleans is receiving approximately \$6,965,000. This is major money for the arts. Shreveport Little Theatre is receiving \$750,000. The Arts Council of New Orleans is receiving \$7,175,000. The Westwego Performing Arts Center to receive \$250,000. The Shreveport Regional Arts Center to receive \$2,275,000. This information was received earlier that morning. The legislators are hearing from us.

Ms. Pam Breaux stated that a few years ago the LPA Executive Committee charged Charlie Smith with doing some research and coming up with a strategy to get a percent for art in capital outlay. Not a percent for art program specifically, but a certain percent of capital outlay to go towards arts and culture projects. Ms. Brunner stated that \$18, 275,000 are in capital outlay for the arts. Ms. Christine Weeks stated that this really helps our artists.

Mr. Neil Early stated that one of the key elements is whether or not the children, our current and future generations have enough art happening in the schools. Now we must appreciate and support artists that grow older. One very elemental advocacy is that each of us is working in our school districts where we live to make certain that there is art education

happening in our schools. Talking to our PTAs and PTOs and other organizations that have influence in those areas. The PTA nationally has taken a position in arts as a part of the core curriculum, and they do a lot to fund our students. Part of Louisiana State law is that every child should receive a minimum of 150 minutes of arts instruction in schools every week. We know that is not happening. One of the things to do is to make sure that what's already on the level is being done. Where they say that we can't afford it or we don't have the people, we should try and find ways to help add to that. He reminded the council that one of the groups working on this is the Alliance for Arts Education.

Ms. Weeks stated that advocacy efforts have come a long way. Ms. Pam Breaux asked if there was any final information on the arts tax. Ms. Susan Brunner stated that the art tax has been passed in the Senate, and on to the to the general election to become an amendment. The LPA did host the Legislative Event in May, and had a wonderful turnout. It was a good event. The Governor's Arts Awards were really a great event, and being conducted at the Shaw Center for the Arts' Manship Center was an opportune time to enjoy. Ms. Brunner would like for the council to write thank you notes to the legislators thanking them for their support during this session. Ms. Brunner will prepare a letter and send it to Ms. Weeks and a copy to Ms. Le Melle. Ms. Weeks wanted to remind the council to remember to be in touch with local officials who will be in touch with the legislators.

Policy Committee

Ms. Weeks stated that there is no policy committee report except that Ms. Liebke will be heading out Monday morning to conduct focus groups. When Ms. Breaux and Ms. Le Melle take their tour, those dates will be sent to the council. Ms. Liebke said the presentation is on the website.

Special Events Committee

Angela Hammerli stated the Governor's Arts Awards was very good. Ms. Weeks stated we had wonderful applicants this year. Ms. Weill thought the flashing up on the screen was really wonderful. Ms. Sharon Weston Broome was the MC. Would like to thank Senator Diane Winston with special honor. Ms. Breaux stated the Office of the Lt. Governor made the decision and request. Ms. Hammerli wanted to thank the Special Events Committee. The increase in entries this year was impressive. Arts-in-Education there was an increase of 57%. Did not have very many of the Arts Organizations Large submissions, 7 submissions last year to 2 submission this year. Arts Organization Small had 7 this year and 9 last year. We did not have a large corporate presentation. Only had one in small. Folk artist had 14 submissions. Lifetime Achievement had 4 this year and 2 last year. Professional artists had 18 this year and 7 last year. Promotion of the Arts had 10 this year. A total of 79 submissions were received this year and 49 were received last year. The only change in Arts-in-Education is to allow for individuals and also groups.

Ms. Dabne Liebke stated that there are copies of the DVD to the winners and LSAC members. There was the presentation that was presented at the ceremony, as well as a film of the ceremony itself. We had more visibility this year. The quality was national and international.

OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Dee Hamilton stated that the Louisiana Alliance for Dance completed its very first project, the Louisiana Alliance for Dance Statewide Festival. There were over 150 attendees that participated in someway. There were classes in which professionals, teachers, and students participated. The faculty was excellent and the attendance was not expected. The showcases were fabulous, and a surprising cross-section of audience members. The coordinators and participants want to do again next year. Ms. LeAnne Weill asked if some of the classes for next year could be on a weekends. Ms. Hamilton replied that the cost is prohibited at Shaw on weekend.

Ms. Christine Weeks thanked everyone for their participation.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned at 12:30 pm.