

MINUTES OF THE
LOUISIANA STATE ARTS COUNCIL (LSAC)
QUARTERLY MEETING
State Library of Louisiana
701 North 4th Street
Baton Rouge, LA 70802
Seminar Center – Room 124
Monday, September 19, 2005
10:00 a.m.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Christine Weeks called the meeting to order at 10:20 a.m.

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

Christine Weeks – LSAC Member	Neil Early – LSAC Member
Angela Hammèrli – LSAC Member	Susan Turner – LSAC Member
Marion Drennen – LSAC Member	LeAnne Weill – LSAC Member
Juana Woodard – LSAC Member	Veronique Le Melle – Executive Director, LDOA
Dabne Liebke – Deputy Director, LDOA	Pearlie Johnson – Grants Manager, LDOA
Ann Russo – Visual Arts Program Director, LDOA	Maida Owens – Folklife Program Director, LDOA
Selena Simon – Grants Assistant, LDOA	Sparkle Hurst – Administrative Assistant, LDOA

JL Nave, Director of Louisiana Partnership for the Arts
Charlie Smith – Lobbyist, LDOA

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

Brandi L Bollinger	Anna B. Ferguson	Cynthia W. Weirick
Susan R. Brunner	Mary T. Joseph	Frederick L. Zeagler
Jose S. Canseco	Susan H. Reed	
Freddie DeCourt	Molly Sooter	

Ms. Weeks introduced JL Nave, the new Director of Louisiana Partnership for the Arts (LPA). Ms. Weeks asked Mr. Nave to give a brief statement on LPA current activities. Ms. Weeks also encouraged the council members to consider becoming members of the LPA, if they currently aren't. Mr. Nave stated that he has been involved with the LPA since arriving in Louisiana, about 5½ years ago. The LPA has responded well to Hurricane Katrina. LPA wants to ensure that we are serving the needs of evacuees, not only in the affected areas, but also across the state. There have been several conference calls where Ms. Le Melle joined in to ensure the coordinated efforts between the LPA, the State Arts Council, and the Division of the Arts.

The LPA is working on locating arts organizations, and the Division of the Arts is working on locating individual artists. LPA has a database on their website where organizations can register. The website address is www.lparts.org. Mr. Nave stressed the importance of knowing where arts organizations are located and operating from. There are still a number of New Orleans organizations and other area organizations the LPA has not heard from. He encouraged the council and the DOA staff to go to the website, and if we have information on displaced organizations that aren't listed on the website, put the information there. There are funders who want to contact organizations. There are also employees that want to know how to contact organizations. The website is one resource that is not duplicated. LPA is also posting additional links. The State Library has a very good online resource of additional resources for people who are displaced from the hurricane. American for the Arts Hurricane Relief Fund link is also on website. LPA is trying to compile a list that is arts specific. There are lots of resources out there, but there are certainly special needs for individual artists and arts organizations.

Mr. Nave stated they are going to seek funding to support a technical assistance person to help artists and organizations traverse the FEMA maze as well as other organizational support needs that organizations have. They will be working with national foundations to make that happen. This is a new role for the LPA. They are also going to seek funding to give grants to the smaller arts organizations around the state. The large organizations are going after NEA and foundation money and other such things. If possible, the LPA would like to seek funding to support either restarting or increasing arts education programs around the state. In Baton Rouge alone, the number of school children that are being served in public and private schools has probably almost doubled. 1 out of every 4 school children in the state are displaced right now. They are in other communities, most likely in Louisiana, but certainly across the country. This is an opportunity for arts organizations and artists to increase the offerings of what they have.

PAN on the Road is a program of LPA. PAN stands for Peer Assistance Network. Arts administrators in Louisiana go around to other regions and give technical assistance workshops. LPA is hoping to develop a program such as PAN to help organizations and artists immediately negotiate the resources that are available to them, not only in Baton Rouge, but around the state.

Christine and Veronique attended the planning retreat. The Louisiana Partnership for the Arts is working to be more responsive to individual artists, and not just arts organizations. This is one thing LPA realizes is a strong need in the community. LPA is also rethinking the way they go about advocacy. The annual event would be to make the best use of available resources to reach out to our Legislators. Meetings happen about 5 times a year (The September meeting was canceled). LPA will start meeting in November, however they are communicating with members on Listserv. They will involve individual members more. One of the things heard from the membership is that the Executive Body gets together and makes a lot of decisions and a lot of planning and then report to the membership what the decisions are. That certainly is effective to some degree, but really alienates the majority of the members that come to these meetings. The new leadership would like to make the meetings more effective and efficient. One of the ways LPA plans to achieve this is by setting up very active committees. These committees will have different areas of responsibility and they are going to meet in the first hour or so of every meeting. We want to encourage committees to communicate outside of meetings. LPA will continue to do more professional development advocacy training. There will be a lot less reporting of "here's what's going on", and a lot more planning and doing. Mr. Nave wants people to walk away from meeting thinking they have accomplished something. Mr. Nave stated that he's open to advice and suggestions on how the Louisiana Partnership for the Arts (LPA) can support the work of the Louisiana State Arts Council. His e-mail address is: jnave@baso.org.

Ms. Drennen asked since Hurricane Katrina hit on a regional level (Mississippi, Louisiana, and Alabama), is there a sister-brother organization in Mississippi and Alabama, and has there been any networking to try and make this happen as a group thing? Mr. Nave responded that Mississippi has brand new organization that is like Louisiana, but not aware of an organization like ours in Alabama. We have not reached out to the Mississippi organization. Mr. Nave stated that he doesn't know who the contact is for that state. Ms. Drennen stated that she could acquire the information if LPA is interested in working with them. Her next question was concerning the difference in arts organizations, individual artists, and art businesses. Individual artists can paint all day, but if there is no place to sale their work, so is there any kind of networking between LPA and art businesses? Ms. Le Melle responded that Susan Brunner is on the LPA Executive Committee. Ms. Drennen stated that she was aware of what Ms. Brunner is doing, but is this part of what LPA is going to do? Is gathering an artist register and a register for arts businesses going to be included in LPA's attempt to get funding and assistance? Mr. Nave responded that it isn't something that has come up, except for what Ms. Brunner is doing at www.buylouisiana.com. Art galleries adopting artists and galleries adopting galleries. What about art businesses? Is there networking between LPA and art businesses? Mr. Nave answered that Ms. Susan Brunner is working on that.

Ann Russo said the Arts Council of New Orleans has an Entergy Arts Business Center. Veronique stated as far as funding is concerned, the LPA would not be able to provide funding for helping for-profit galleries. They would be able to get money for technical assistance work that is done for non-profits. There are other things the Division of the Arts and the Lt. Governor intend to do for the for-profit galleries. Ms. Weeks stated that Mr. Nave does a very good job in answering e-mails. He has already worked with the Arts Council on the Executive Search Committee. She welcomed Mr. Nave to Louisiana one more time, and she is looking forward to having him at future arts council meetings. Mr. Nave stated they are doing a benefit concert on September 29th where they are hoping to raise between \$20,000 and \$30,000 for the Baton Rouge Area Foundation Hurricane Katrina Fund for displaced residents.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Time was given to review the minutes from the June 25th meeting. Neil Early motioned to accept minutes, seconded by LeAnne Weill. Ms. Weeks stated that proxies from Susan Brunner, Mary Joseph, Anna B. Ferguson, Susan Reed, and Fred Zeagler.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Ms. Weeks stated that Mr. Nave mentioned that she had worked with the LPA at their planning retreat. Ms. Weeks did it not as a member of the State Arts Council, but as someone who works with non-profit organizations. She went on to say that Ms. Susan Brunner, a member of the Executive Committee, represented the Louisiana State Arts Council. The members of the Executive Committee who were present, as well as the partners, Ms. Pam Breaux, Ms. Veronique Le Melle, and Ms. Susan Brunner moved at a fast pace and worked for a day and a half. Ms. Weeks stated that she had a lot of admiration for what came out of the meeting concerning creative thinking and the dealing with reality. They now have the draft of their vision statement, and the goals will be working on objectives in light of the events of the last three weeks. Ms. Weeks asked how many members were able to attend the Cultural Economy Summit. It was held in New Orleans the Thursday before Hurricane Katrina hit. Some exciting things came out of it. The arts are still a vital part of the Cultural Economy Initiative, and is being promoted as critical even more so now to our Louisiana economy. As Mr. Nave mentioned, currently the New Orleans Arts Council is being housed in Shreveport at the Shreveport Regional Arts Council. Ms. Pam Atchison and the staff at the Shreveport Regional Arts Council welcomed them and have been providing as much assistance as they can. A networking event being held tonight for displaced artists, Shreveport folks, and New Orleans folks that are in the region. The event is for people to meet, greet, share talents, and begin talking about resources and what can be done. We need a statewide effort to keep our artists here as much as possible, or get them back home as quickly as we can. Neil said that Central Louisiana has also been working on that effort. They brought in professional trainers to work with artists before they went out to work with people who have been in crisis situations.

Ms. Weeks stated that Mr. Nave mentioned that America for the Arts and the Southern Arts Federation have set up relief funds to assist artists. You can go to their website to get information about making donations and those funds would be used strictly for artists and arts organizations in the Gulf Coast Region. The website address is www.southarts.org. She felt they would be working with the National Endowment for the Arts on some of those things. Ms. Le Melle stated those making donations can designate Louisiana on the Southern Arts Federation Fund. You can also designate Louisiana, the discipline and where your donation should go. Ms. Weeks stated the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies sends out a periodic e-mail to chairs about NEA (National Endowment for the Arts) plans for a disaster relief program. At every level, people are saying, "remember the artists, remember our arts organizations". The NEA believes they are in a good position to work with artists and arts organizations. Christine presented a printout giving a background and a rationale for providing the assistance. "Why NEA should be involved, and why some of the monies allocated by Congress should be sure to be directed towards arts and cultural organizations, and those who work with them." The website address is www.nasaa.org.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ms. Veronique Le Melle stated that Assistant Secretary, Ms. Pam Breaux is currently in France working with the National Preservation Association. Ms. Breaux was selected as one of the state leaders in preservation to actually go to France before the hurricane. Given Hurricane Katrina, they changed the actual agenda and focus of the entire tour to focus on what has happened to New Orleans and Louisiana. The French still feel a very strong connection to our state. Ms. Le Melle commented that Ms. Breaux has done an incredible job. She has been negotiating on behalf of our state for cultural relief and assistance. International assistance is on its way. Ms. Weeks stated that Ms. Breaux was one of twelve people in the United States who were invited to this international event. It was a big deal before Katrina, but now it's even more critical. Ms. Le Melle stated that in Ms. Breaux's absence, she is working on the Lt. Governor's planning team. The following day the Lt. Governor is scheduled to have a press conference at 9:00 a.m. at the Manship Theatre where he will unveil his 4-Point Plan for Relief, Recovery and Rebuilding Louisiana better than before.

While Ms. Breaux is working internationally, Ms. Le Melle has been given permission to work nationally. She will be traveling to New York City next week where she has arranged for a briefing with quite a few foundations. She invited Carma Fauntleroy, Assistant Secretary of the State Museum to accompany her. Veronique stated that she and Carma had previously worked together in New York City during 9/11. Ms. Fauntleroy was invited to join Ms. Le Melle in order that they could brief the foundations on the full spectrum of the affects to our cultural assets in the state. They hope to include the Lt. Governor's 4-Point Plan that will be released tomorrow. The Lt. Governor was able to meet with two of the major foundations that were instrumental in recovery and relief for 9/11. He was able to meet with the foundation presidents and boards. The Lt. Governor will be working on that level and Ms. Le Melle and Ms. Fauntleroy will be briefing the staff level, the people who actually make the grant recommendations. They will be given a full briefing of what needs to happen, and what the state sees as how it needs to happen, and the quickest and most effective way to make that happen. Ms. Le Melle and Ms. Fauntleroy would be encouraging them and helping to facilitate their coming to Louisiana to actually do site visits. While we cannot receive funds, we can facilitate funds coming into the state. The Division of the Arts has started doing for direct relief. Ms. Le Melle stated that the Division of the Arts would be converting project specific grant funds that have already been awarded to both artists and arts organizations in the state. Those project specific grant funds would be converted to relief funding. If an organization is located in one of the directly affected areas, they will be given the choice of what they want to do. Either way, they would be receiving the funds. If they are unable to conduct their project, the funds would go specifically for them to be able to try to rebuild back to their pre-Katrina capacity. Most of the grants are small, but it's one way of way of saying, "we want to help." For organizations that are not in the directly affected area, we are giving them the option and the chance to rewrite their program and to be able to use the funds for other things, possibly for the work they are doing in the shelters with the displaced residents. We are trying to be as flexible as possible with field and the offer of assistance.

Ms. Le Melle traveled from Natchitoches to northern Louisiana to meet Ms. Shirley Trusty Corey at Shreveport. They conducted a director's conference call from there that included all of the RDAs (Regional Distributing Agencies) from across the state. They were unable to include Houma in the call because they couldn't call out and they couldn't get in, but they were able to communicate by e-mail. Almost immediately our RDAs began to mount relief efforts. They were all very distinct to their regions and how they interpreted their needs. We are very proud of what they have done, and we are collecting and documenting the information. Being able to document that this is what we as a community of artists and arts organizations did in response, and that we are part of the community and we have been affected and we have been impacted and we hurt just as much as other sectors is important. Ms. Le Melle stated that Ms. Liebke and Thomas Ray have worked wonderfully on the disaster relief website updates. Ms. Liebke has reacted to Ms. Le Melle's ideas with almost a moments notice. In speaking with Ms. Breaux, Ms. Le Melle stated the division's e-mail forum should go out every 48 hours. Ms. Liebke and Mr. Ray are making that happen.

The Cultural Economy Initiative Report was discussed and copies were distributed to the council. Ms. Le Melle stated that right before the Cultural Economy Report was released, the Strategic Plan for the Division of the Arts was released. It's using the recommendations in this plan. Out of a lot of negative things that have happened, some positive things have also happened because we had this plan and this report. The language of the new guidelines will take into account Hurricane Katrina. We will still be redoing our GOS (General Operating Support) to be more stabilization focused. We will be doing capacity grants now more than ever. We are focusing on rebuilding the capacity of small, medium and large groups. We are also talking to each decentralization program to see how they would like to convert their funding to smaller agencies. We are giving them that option. A copy of the published Strategic Plan was shown to the council. Ms. Le Melle stated the two documents really form the foundation for our relief and recovery efforts.

Ms Le Melle asked the council to endorse the recommendation to convert FY05-06 grant funds from project specific funds to relief funding. Motioned by Juana Woodard, and seconded by Neal Early to endorse the conversion of project specific funds to relief funds of the grantees for fiscal year 2005-2006. Question was asked if the motioned to accept the recommendation to convert FY05-06 project specific funds to disaster relief funds was for all regions? Ms. Le Melle responded the council is endorsing the whole plan. Everyone is in favor of the conversion plan. Ms. Weeks stated the conversion plan stands approved.

Ms. Weeks commented that the Strategic Plan and the Cultural Economy Initiative Report stand up well to the huge changes in the reality in the state of Louisiana. She felt this was a sign of a very good plan. When your broad goals can still be applied to the changes that may take place. The people in strategic planning call it being tight on the ends, loose on the means. What we have to do to get to that end is dictated by the realities of these given times. Kudos to Ms. Liebke and the division staff for their hard work.

Mr. Early commented that it would be good for future advocacy to have on record that artists of all disciplines have been out working with people in shelters, volunteering their time. A displaced artist from Slidell has been training other artists to go in and work with the children on expressing some of the stress and all of that. There have really been some fine things happening all over the place. Mr. Early volunteered to help work on compiling some of all the information. Ms. Le Melle stated the division would appreciate Mr. Early compiling and getting information on what's going on. Ms. Woodward stated she worked in a shelter for a week. It was a community recreation center that had a stage. The stage area had all the arts and crafts supplies up there. There were volunteers who were helping with the little children that were displaced. While the children were on stage coloring, or cutting, or doing whatever they were doing, they forgot about the fact that they had nothing left at home. Ms. Le Melle asked the council to write up as many specifics as possible (who was the artist, which shelter) and e-mail to Thomas Ray to be included in the one-stop information center for the arts. Ms. Liebke stated this is also part of the whole comprehension, being able to post those events and special interest stories that are happening. We are trying to create a one-stop information-clearing house related to arts. Ms. Le Melle told Mr. Early that LDOA is trying to work with the larger. LDOA does not have a communications person, and Thomas Ray has been really good at assisting Ms. Liebke. The Office of Cultural Development has been given the approval to hire a communications director, but that person is not on staff yet.

Ms. Weeks stated all of the documentation Ms. Le Melle mentioned earlier is critical because the arts, like many other areas of especially non-profit arts is under the eye just like others for accountability issues. If we are familiar with arts organizations that have received grant funds, the tighter we can encourage people to be on their reporting. In stressful times, there's a temptation to let that go by the wayside. Ms. Weeks felt that it's very critical when people say a lot of money has come pouring in. We are to make sure all the eyes are dotted and the ties are crossed so that we can quantify the impact as well as the quality of what it brings back to the state. Mr. Early stated that we are a standard evacuation center. We get Texas evacuees as well as Louisiana evacuees. The magnitude of this sort of thing is hard to perceive. It was reported that Ms. Susan Brunner wonderful gallery in Covington did not sustain a lot of damage, but she immediately lost her entire market, which was New Orleans. Ms. Brunner's personal home was damaged. Her husband's shop and his mother's home were destroyed. The farm used to be a wonderful wooded place, and now it's empty fields. The trees are gone.

Ms. Brunner had to move a huge amount of inventory to the Shaw Center. Ms Brunner is out working in the shelters trying to assist her artists that have been displaced. That sort of generosity spirit is to be commended. Ms Owens asked about the Brunner project. Ms. Drennen said it was the last week to come up with ideas. They did some brainstorming last week, and Ms. Drennen printed out her weekly brainstorm. Ms. Brunner is already contacting galleries all over the country to get galleries to adopt Louisiana artists, and galleries to adopt galleries. Artists helping artists and galleries helping galleries. She acquired the domain site for www.buylouisianaart.com. She wants to take advantage of the situation right now where people all over the country want to help, but don't know how. If they get it in before Christmas, they can justify to themselves that they bought a Christmas present, but also helped a Louisiana artist. Question was asked if www.buylouisiana.com is on the divisions website. Ms. Le Melle answered that it's part of the e-mail forum which will then go on the website.

Ms. Weeks asked if the press conference scheduled for tomorrow is going to be broadcasted? Ms. Le Melle responded that it would probably be recorded and then replayed. Ms. Drennen had information on restoration of artwork and asked if that could go on the website. Ms. Liebke responded absolutely. Some of the artists are trying to return to their homes in New Orleans, but was unable to get in to get her work out. It was said that residents were being allowed to go in to certain areas of New Orleans, but not the area she needed to get in to retrieve her paintings.

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Liebke stated the executive committee approved the mini-grant winners back in August. There are a couple of different reports. There's a purple and a yellow report titled similar things, but it's different information. The purple report is a listing of only the winner, and is sorted by discipline. The yellow report is all the applicants that applied for the mini-grant, sorted by region. Ms. Liebke asked the council to refer any telephone calls they might receive regarding why an applicant wasn't funded to the LDOA staff. Like any other panel review process, there's information particular to each level of the review criteria. There are three different things the division looks at and the staff can give more assistance as to the quality of the request or the quality of the application, or anything else the division can provide.

The pink sheet is the artist roster, also sorted by regions to see who was renewed and who was accepted. The salmon colored report is the standard synopsis. We received 85 applications for the mini-grants and 33 were funded. We received 24 artist roster applications, and 20 were accepted. It breaks it down by discipline. The demographic sheet which shows the regional and ethnic breakdown of the applicants. Ms. Liebke stated that since the Executive Committee has approved the recommendation for the policy change, she asked council to endorse the Executive Committee's recommendations. Ms. Marion Drennen motioned to endorse the mini-grants recommendations and the roster artists, and Ms. Susan Turner seconded.

Ms. Le Melle reported that Ms. Liebke is revising the reports. The council will see the changes on how the grants were reported to them at the next council meeting. Ms. Le Melle also pointed out the Lt. Governor and Secretary Davis have started a transformation program to really transform the Department of Culture, Recreation, and Tourism into an efficient responsive organization within state government. They had started a program that would include budgeting for outcomes that would change how we budget, how we receive state funds, and how we do business. That was at first postponed, it will now be reflected in the 4-point plan. We will go ahead and actually meet the recovery through a new budgeting process. Also, in our attempt to look at how we do business within the Division of the Arts and how we recognize leadership potential, Ms. Simon is the team leader of the Quick Change Program, which is part of transforming the agency by looking at processes that can be changed and improved. Ms. Simon, Ms. Liebke, and Ms. Hurst took training on change and change management. Ms. Simon, the team leader will be looking at changing our application in-take process so that we can respond to applicants more efficiently and more quickly. We can then look at the panel process and how we can more efficiently run our panels' process from the time we receive the application to the time they sit down at the panel. The staff has been working really hard on that. The team has not met in the past two weeks, but they will get going again. The division is really going to work on changing and improving how we do what we do. Ms. Weeks said we are probably going to find some really neat pieces of accountability and the ability for CRT to save the world.

STANDING COMMITTEES

Advocacy

Ms. Susan Brunner had hoped to be at the meeting, but she is in the process of finalizing the move to Baton Rouge and into the gallery at the Shaw Center. Ms. Brunner is working closely, and is very committed to working with Louisiana Partnership for the Arts (LPA) in their advocacy efforts. She was very apologetic for not being at council meeting. Ms. Le Melle showed the council a copy of the Strategic Plan. Ms. Weeks encouraged the council to read the plan that will inform the council.

Special Events

Ms. Angela Hammerli spoke on the timeline and the date. Would we want a new category for Katrina? Would we want to recognize out of state foundations that are doing special things for us. Pay tribute to displaced artists. The timeline deadline moved from February to August. How we would get information out to the people. Maybe with the websites and with all the new contacts, we should be able to get the information out to the people. She asked if we were still going to do it with the Cultural Economy Conference? Ms. Le Melle responded as far as she knows that has not changed. Ms. Hammerli asked if the date for that is known? Ms. Le Melle responded there is no specific date, only August 2006. Question asked if the location has been determined, and Ms. Le Melle responded no. Ms. Le Melle said there would be a reconvening of the cultural economy almost immediately to look at how we will institute changes. That's not going to be a summit. Ms. Hammerli commended the committee for awarding Clarence "Gatemouth" Brown with Governor's Arts Award before he passed away. She noted that previous lifetime achiever also passed away shortly after receiving the award. Ms. Liebke distributed a Governor's Arts Awards Program and a DVD of the Governor's Arts Awards to the council. Ms. Weeks suggested the division have a DVD for the displaced artists.

OLD BUSINESS

Ms. LeAnne Weill found an error on page 8 under the Special Events Committee of the previous minutes. She stated we misstated Sen. Diane Winston's name. It should read Sen. Diane Winston and not Sen. Diane Winston Broome.

Mr. Charlie Smith arrived. Ms. Weeks asked Mr. Smith if he had any comments he would like to make to the council. Mr. Smith had the following suggestions for the council:

- 1) Find out what everyone else is doing. A number of people have been collecting artists and stuff like that.
 - 2) The artists don't need to feel good. They need money. Anything and everything we can get that's directed in that direction.
- Mr. Smith stated that Ms. Susan Brunner has got a classic example of how to help other people. She's going to use her gallery and put as many visual artists in there as she can locate.

Mr. Smith stated that he didn't know what the Lt. Governor has planned for his announcement the following day concerning his 4-Point Plan for Culture, Recreation, and Tourism. Mr. Smith doesn't know what the input will be from the Arts. Ms. Le Melle answered that the arts and artists are fully represented in the Lt. Governor's 4-Point Plan. Mr. Smith asked if the Lt. Governor had thought anything about a WPA type program. Ms. Le Melle stated that we are working with the NEA on a program that is similar to what they talked about. Mr. Smith asked if we could write down what we know is going on. Ms. Le Melle told Mr. Smith that she would be able to speak about it after 9:00 the following day. Mr. Smith stated that we would not know what going to happen until the Lt. Governor announces it. Ms. Le Melle responded that's right. Mr. Smith asked Ms. Le Melle if she would tell him what might be in the plan. Ms. Le Melle responded Relief, Recovery and Rebuild Louisiana Better than Before.

Ms. Le Melle will go over the points with Mr. Smith.

The artistic license plate was given to the council as a gift from the Cultural Economy Initiative Summit. The licenses didn't arrive in time for the Governor's Arts Awards, but did have them in time for Cultural Economy Summit. Ms. Weeks stated that Michael Olivier was featured on public radio earlier that morning and he mentioned several times the importance of the arts and cultural institutions as a part of the fabric in New Orleans. Mr. Smith asked did we have a survey, because he heard the D-Day Museum got looted. Ms. Le Melle responded that to her knowledge the D-Day Museum had not been looted. Ms. Weeks stated that her understanding from someone who was there is that some of the windows were broken, but none of the exhibits were damaged. Ms. Le Melle stated the CAC (Contemporary Arts Center) is fine. Question was asked regarding the status of NOCCA. NOCCA (New Orleans Center for Creative Arts/Riverfront) is working out of the Division of the Arts' office. They think their facility is okay. Question was asked if anyone knew about City Park, Gardens Parks, and others? Ms. Russo stated that Lake Douglas might know something. Asked how to contact Lake Douglas. Ms. Russo responded he's in Lafayette, and she had a phone number for him.

Mr. Smith stated that artist recovery should include the following:

- 1) Try to get serious increases in state and federal funds.
- 2) Urge WPA type programs.
- 3) Use unemployed artists as teachers.
- 4) Develop tourism funding procedures to lure hiring arts patrons back to the region.
- 5) Appeal to do your part to save the arts in Louisiana.
- 6) Develop an inventory of arts needs from organizations and individuals.
- 7) NOCCA needs restarting as soon as possible. This is important because NOCCA is an internationally known institution for arts instruction. It symbolizes the city and arts in the city.
- 8) We need to point out that we are acting on our own to keep our own, especially orchestras, ballets, operas, as well as providing references for those who had to go out of state to sustain themselves.

Mr. Smith stated that if we can convince people that we have earned the right to some of the Federal Recovery Money, we should be able to get some. We're going to have to come back with a different attitude. Ms. Weeks stated that student retention rates are also higher when an art is taught in the schools.

Ms. Weeks made the comment that there was a copy of a memo outlining what the NEA is asking for funds for arts organizations and artists. It gives some nice reference points. It's bulleted and outlined in a very nice manner. A copy of the memo was distributed to the council. Ms. Weeks mentioned that the Southern Arts Federation Relief Fund monies would be distributed through the state agencies, and Ms. Le Melle is looking into how we are going to accomplish this. Ms. Le Melle stated the Lt. Governor has created a Louisiana Cultural Economy Foundation.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

ADJOURN

Ms. Week asked if there was any more Old Business that needs to be brought before the council. There was none. She called for a motion to adjourn. Ms. Marion Drennen motioned to adjourn the meeting, and seconded by Susan Turner. Ms. Weeks thanked everyone for being in attendance. The meeting adjourned at 11:50.