

Gerri Hobdy, Chair
Baton Rouge

Rex Alexander
Lake Charles

Marguerite Anderson
West Monroe

Linda Begue
Mandeville

Patricia Brister
Mandeville

Pamela Bryan
New Orleans

Dwayne Carruth
Baton Rouge

Stephen Carter
Baton Rouge

Karen Courtman
Shreveport

Michael Echols
Monroe

Robert Fisher
La Place

Derek Gordon
Baton Rouge

Lagena Gore
Dry Prong

Angela King
New Orleans

George Marks
Arnaudville

Barbara Motley
New Orleans

Michael D. Robinson
Baton Rouge

Karen Dean Sharp
Sterlington

Larry Eugene
Thompson
Winnsboro

Kim Howes Zabbia
Ponchatoula



State of Louisiana
Office of the Lieutenant
Governor
Department of Culture,
Recreation, Tourism
Office of Culture
Development

LOUISIANA STATE ARTS COUNCIL

POST OFFICE BOX 44247 BATON ROUGE, LA 70804 (225) 342-8180 PHONE (225) 342-8173 FAX

QUARTERLY MEETING MINUTES

LeChat Noir – 715 St. Charles Avenue – New Orleans, LA 70125

Friday, April 29, 2011

10:00 a.m.

LSAC members present: Gerri Hobdy, Robert Fisher, Karen Sharp, Dwayne Carruth, Gena Gore, Linda Begue, Barbara Motley, Angela King, Michael Robinson. (No quorum.)

LSAC members attending remotely: (non-voting) Michael Echols

LSAC members absent: Rex Alexander, Marguerite Anderson, Patricia Brister, Pamela Bryan, Rep. Stephen Carter, Karen Courtman, Derek Gordon, George Marks, Gene Thompson

Office of Cultural Development & Division of the Arts staff present: Dána La Fonta, Pearlie J. Johnson, Kelly Pepper, Danny Belanger, Maida Owens.

I. Call to Order and Welcome – Ms. Gerri Hobdy, Chairman LSAC

Ms. Hobdy informed the Council that quorum has not been met. Proxies cannot be submitted but absent members can conference in; however, conferencing in is discouraged. There are (four) quarterly meetings required annually to remain in compliance.

Ms. Hobdy thanked Barbara Motley for hosting the LSAC meeting at LeChat Noir.

II. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Robinson motioned to accept the minutes as presented; Ms. Gore seconded. Vote: Unanimous. Minutes accepted.

Director of Folklife Services Report – Maida Owens

Folklife Program Director, Maida Owens, gave an overview of the New Populations projects and presented a power point of her work with groups across Louisiana.

III. Director's Report – Dána La Fonta

a. State Arts Council Members Terms of Office & Council Rules – Dána La Fonta

Ms. La Fonta discussed discrepancies with the terms and expiration dates and conflicts with the rules and legislation governing the LSAC. Ms. Hobdy suggested cleaning up the legislation and then looking at cleaning up the rules. Ms. La Fonta will discuss this with OCD legal counsel and update the council. Any revisions or recommendations will go to the Policy Committee for review.

b. Budget Update – Dána La Fonta

The Governor submitted his budget to the legislature. The State Arts Grants program is recommended for funding of \$959,000 and the Decentralized Arts Funding program (DAF) at \$1,000,000. The Governor's budget requests the reduction of 2 positions in the Arts Division.

LOUISIANA STATE ARTS COUNCIL

POST OFFICE BOX 44247 BATON ROUGE, LA 70804 (225) 342-8180 PHONE (225) 342-8173 FAX

The National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) will be funded by congress, but they sustained an estimated 10% cut. The Arts Division will receive the final award information in a few weeks.

IV. Committee Reports

a. **Advocacy** - Dwayne Carruth presented a report prepared by George Marks, Advocacy Chair. The LPA/LPAA drafted a statement of position, which will be presented to the council. A request was made that LSAC Members attend Arts Advocacy Day. If anyone is interested in volunteering for Arts Advocacy Day, please let Mr. Marks know. LSAC members were encouraged to join the LPAA. Ms. Hobdy stated that Representative Steve Carter spoke about return on investments at one of the Council meetings and encouraged the members to contact him if more information is needed.

b. **Special Events** - PAE 2011 – Kelly Pepper

PAE -Ms. Pepper is the staff liaison for the Performing Arts Exchange (PAE) gave the council an update on the local host committee's progress. A 4-member team from South Arts will be in Baton Rouge for a contractors visit on May 24-26, 2011. The Division and the Local Host Committee will be presenting a Louisiana Performing Artists Showcase. Ms. Pepper gave information on how interested artists could apply to become part of the showcase. The local host committee is responsible for raising funds for this showcase, estimated at \$15,000. Ms. Pepper also asked for council members to refer volunteers to assist with the event. Ms. La Fonta is looking for ways to incorporate visual artists in the event.

South Arts (our PAE Partner) is developing a disaster preparedness on-line system called Arts Ready. It's an on-line research database to help our arts and cultural organizations. This information would also be accessible outside the state of Louisiana. South Arts received a large grant from Carnegie Mellon for \$300,000 to keep the program going for the first few years. More information on this project will be forthcoming.

c. **Policy Committee** - Strategic Planning - Michael Echols (via conference call) & Dána La Fonta Approximately 4-5 months ago the Arts Division began the process of strategic planning. **The first step was research.** Ms. La Fonta and the Arts Division team developed an online survey which was distributed to all stakeholders statewide. 644 responses were received.

The next step is convening regional focus groups. The schedule: May 5th in Arnaudville at the Steeple Vue Gallery; May 9th in New Orleans at the New Orleans Museum of Art; May 10th in Ruston at the Dixie Center for the Arts; and on May 11th in Leesville at Gallery 111. The Division has hired an independent consultant, Ms. Lisa Mount, to facilitate the focus groups. Staff will accompany Ms. Mount to take notes, meet with constituents, and to gather information for planning.

Ms. Hobdy asked the Council to suggest constituents especially in the rural areas, who might be interested in participating in a focus group. Those names should be given to Ms. La Fonta.

After the notes from the focus groups are synthesized, the Policy Committee will meet to move to the next step of developing the plan. Ms. Motley inquired about costs of the focus

LOUISIANA STATE ARTS COUNCIL

POST OFFICE BOX 44247 BATON ROUGE, LA 70804 (225) 342-8180 PHONE (225) 342-8173 FAX

groups; Ms. La Fonta responded that agency has a contract with Ms. Mount for \$4,000 which includes all focus groups and interviews.

- V. NASAA Report – Dána La Fonta**
NASAA has been closely monitoring the NEA situation and has been our representative and partner as far as making sure that Congress understands the importance of having the National Endowment of the Arts. NASAA has also been closely watching the NEA as they develop their budget for the incoming year and making sure their partnership with the states stays intact and funded as fully as possible. They have also developed some instruments for state arts council members. Please see their website for tools and information.
- VII. LDOA Strategic Planning**
a. Planning timeline & status
b. Discussion – next steps
- VIII. Grants Update – Kelly Pepper**
The Division of the Arts has one grant general operating support program for organizations called Stabilization. The Stabilization program has 3 tiers Institution, Advancement, and Entry. 66 applications were received. The budget size for each category: Entry \$250,000 or less; Advancement \$1,000,000 or less, but above \$250,000; and Institution \$1,000,000 or more. Applicant requests total 1.4 million dollars.
- We are continuing the virtual panel process for Stabilization, May 2-26, 2011. The panel evaluates applications and scores but does not convene. Panels have been set up for each of the 3 categories with an average of 5 panelists each. We have a form matrix which provides score rankings for each applicant and it provides detailed comments as it relates to the evaluation criteria. Panel comments will be available on June 1st.
- The Executive Committee approved the panelists recommended by staff and council members. Council members are encouraged to make recommendations for future panelists.
- IX. New Business**
The Division of the Arts will be hosting a Lincoln Center - Imagination Conversation on Friday, May 20th starting at 8:00am at the Manship Theatre in Baton Rouge. Panel participants are Lt. Governor Jay Dardenne, Senator Sharon Weston Broom, Derek Gordon, Julio Melara, Superintendent Pastorek. The panel moderator is Sarah Cunningham, Director of Arts in Education for the NEA. The special guest speaker is artist George Rodrigue. Bethany France is the staff contact on this project if any of the council would like to RSVP their attendance.
- X. Public Comment - None.**
- XI. Adjournment - Ms. Begue motioned to adjourn; Mr. Carruth seconded. Vote: Unanimous. Meeting adjourned.**