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**State of Louisiana**  
OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR  
DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE, RECREATION & TOURISM  
OFFICE OF CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT  
DIVISION OF THE ARTS

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Louisiana State Arts Council Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, February 21, 2017  
11:00am – 12:30pm  
Capitol Park Welcome Center

Council Members Present: Missy Crews Howard, , Gerri Hobdy, Rex Alexander, Dwayne Darryl Carruth, Margie Camardelle, Rep. Michael Kirk Talbot, Mary Lee, Patrick Widhalm

Council Members Absent: Jacques Rodrigue, Waynette Ballengee, Sheela Plater, Barbara Motley, George Marks, Patti Nelson, Michael Robinson, Gena Gore

LDOA and CRT Staff Present: Cheryl Castille, Paula White, Danny Belanger, Maida Owens, Gaye Hamilton, Phil Boggan

Guests: Renee Chatelain-CEO, Arts Council of Greater Baton Rouge; Patricia Prudhomme-Chair, Louisiana Partnership for the Arts

**I. Call to Order and Welcome**

The meeting was called to order at 9:00am by Chair Mary Lee.

**II. Approval of Minutes**

Minutes from the previous meeting were approved. Gerri Hobdy motioned to approve. Jacques second. Motion approved.

**III. LSAC Chair Report:** Mary Lee welcomed everyone. She indicated the recent RDA /LDOA retreat was extremely successful. She was able to gain a better sense of each of the regions throughout the state, their individual focus and their needs that LDOA can assist with. She attended Culture 2020 and was pleased with the numerous outcomes which provided the information to craft a four year plan. Mary also indicated that we would not have a special meeting in New Orleans to identify their needs and goals for our strategic plan, since they were represented at Culture 2020 and provided their input.

**IV. Assistant Secretary Report:** In response to questions regarding constituents receiving follow-up information from Culture 2020, Phil indicated he was not able to provide the information at this point since the Communications Officer for OCD left the position. He will work at putting this information together. Phil discussed the

new advocacy group that is forming within the state consisting of representatives from Archaeology, Arts and Historic Preservation coming together with a unified focus. This group will hold a retreat March 6-7 to draft by-laws and a vision for moving forward. This will end in a strategic plan for advocacy. He also indicated that LSAC cannot advocate as a body but individual members can advocate as themselves not as a member of LSAC. Phil also discussed the current budget FY17. During the special session, the Office of Cultural Development has been cut \$182,000. Currently there is a proposed 2% cut to the FY18 budget.

**V. LDOA Director's Report:**

1. RDA Retreat – Cheryl provided highlights from the retreat:
  - a. The need for a stronger focus on Louisiana nationally/internationally. We have to get better at telling our stories.
  - b. Are the RDAs reaching their entire region? The importance of forming traditional and non-traditional partnerships.
  - c. Decentralized Arts Funding Program: our funding for these grants are really a “gift” from Tourism through the inter-agency transfer. There is a need to increase the creativity level of current grant and project ideas. The grant money needs to be used in the most effective and sustainable manner. A restructuring plan was discussed.
  - d. RDAs highlighted innovative projects that they are spearheading.
  - e. Increase the presence of active military and veterans arts and cultural programs. This is a current focus of the NEA.
  - f. Develop a support network for arts education administrators throughout the state and within the RDAs. \*\*Gerri indicated that historically there was an organization designed to train arts educators

**LDOA Staff Reports**

**Grant Programs:** Paula has been working with South Central Planning Commission for a potential new grant system. She has been building the current grant applications through the GO system. WESTAFF is discontinuing this system. Our plan is to develop a new working relationship with the South Central Planning Commission software division located in Houma.

**Cultural Districts Program:** Gaye discussed the progress of the “Sound Places” creative placemaking initiative in partnership with Chamber Music America and Project for Public Spaces, funded by the National Endowment for the Arts. The initiative is taking place in the Kenner Rivertown and Downtown Opelousas Cultural Districts.,

**Folklife:** Maida Owens provided an update on the Baton Rouge Traditions project, the in-progress Instrument Makers research project and highlights from the past October Folklife Month events.

**Percent for Arts:** Dana was absent for the meeting. Dwayne Carruth has been assisting with the LSU-Union project featuring Spanish artist, Juanjo Novella. He provided an update on this project. Danny discussed the progress of the UMC-New Orleans and Nichols State projects.

**Arts and Education:** An update was provided on the Louisiana A+ arts integration program in Jacqué's absence. Danny indicated he is updating a database of the arts education programs throughout the state.

**Poetry Out Loud:** The program is in progress throughout the state. It is the first time that each region is represented. The Arts Council of Baton Rouge continues to serve as the state organizer. The Louisiana State Finals will be held in Baton Rouge on March 11<sup>th</sup>.

VI. LPA / LCA Report: LPA Chair, Patricia Prudhomme attended today's meeting. She reported on the focus of the Louisiana Partnership for the Arts organization. Currently they are regrouping as an organization. Vicki Marshall – Shreveport has been elected as the incoming Chair. LPA will begin holding quarterly meetings and are working on putting together a two-day symposium in Natchitoches in November.

VII. New Business

Guest, Renee Chatelain-CEO of the Arts Council of Greater Baton Rouge provided information on their inaugural Ebb & Flow Festival, April 1-2, 2017. Outcomes of this event will hopefully assist in the cultural branding of Baton Rouge as well as re-energizing the Baton Rouge citizens to engage with the Mississippi River and to identify the role it plays in this area.

Gerri Hobdy inquired about the arts education initiative by First Lady Donna Edwards. Renee Chatelain has been meeting with Ms. Edwards. She indicated that the focus of the planning efforts for Ms. Edwards' foundation is to support teachers in the current school systems. Money raised would go to support the hiring of teachers in the arts sector: movement, music and visual art. The Arts Council of Greater Baton Rouge is currently assisting with trying to get arts education in the schools in the region.

VIII. Public Comment

No public comment at this meeting.

IX. Meeting Adjournment

Gerri motioned to adjourn the meeting. Rex 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. Motion passed.