**Michael Echols, Chair**

Monroe

**Rex Alexander**

Lake Charles

**Marguerite Anderson**

West Monroe

**Pamela Breaux**

Lake Charles

**Dwayne Carruth**

Baton Rouge

**Stephen Carter**

Baton Rouge

**Karen Courtman**

Shreveport

**Missy Crews**

Baton Rouge

**Robert Fisher**

La Place

**Gena Gore**

Dry Prong

**Gerri Hobdy**

Baton Rouge

**Angela King**

New Orleans

**Dr. Ralph Lupin**

New Orleans

**George Marks**

Arnaudville

**Barbara Motley**

New Orleans

**Michael D. Robinson**

Baton Rouge

**Jacques Rodrigue**

New Orleans

**Karen Dean Sharp**

Sterlington

**Larry Eugene Thompson**

Winnsboro



**State of Louisiana**

Office of the   
Lieutenant Governor

Department of Culture, Recreation, Tourism

Office of   
Cultural Development

**Louisiana State Arts Council**

**Quarterly Meeting Minutes**

**State Library Seminar Center**

**Thursday, February 6, 2014**

**Council Members present:** Chairman Michael Echols, Gerri Hobdy, Robert Fisher, Karen Sharp, Jacques Rodrigue, Marguerite Anderson, Missy Crews, Barbara Motley, and George Marks

**Council Members not present:** Rex Alexander, Pam Breaux, Dwayne Caruth, Rep. Stephen Carter, Karen Courtman, Gena Gore, Dr. Ralph Lupin, and Michael Robinson

**LDOA Staff present:** Cathy Hernandez, Dana La Fonta, Gaye Hamilton, and Pearlie Johnson

**I. Call to Order and Welcome**

The meeting was called to order at 2 p.m. by Chairman Echols. He welcomed everyone and thanked all Arts Council members that were present for braving the weather to join the meeting.

**II. Approval of Minutes**

The minutes were approved upon motion by Barbara Motley, which was seconded by Marguerite Anderson, and unanimously passed by the Council.

**III. Chairman’s Reports**

Michael Echols reported that he’d requested from the staff a listing of opportunities in which LSAC could play a role. Opportunities were mentioned such as the request to attend regional DAF workshops, being present at Regional DAF check presentations (those that have this event), attending Regional Arts Council Board Meetings to introduce themselves, and attending LPA & LCA Meetings.

Michael encouraged everyone to think about how they would like to serve, and to be in touch with Cathy to determine next steps.

He also reported that today’s meeting was held in conjunction with the LPA meeting so that LSAC members could correspond with artists and arts organizations from around the state. LSAC will continue to try and coordinate future meetings together with LPA as well.

**IV. LDOA Director’s Report**

Cathy Hernandez reported that Kelly Pepper had resigned to take the Executive Director position with LANO. She is working to fill the position as soon as possible. Cathy also updated everyone about the status of Culture Connection and Arts Connection on April 22nd and 23rd at various locations on the State Capitol grounds. We are anticipating David Horn as the Keynote Speaker on the 23rd. David is the Executive Producer of the PBS television show *Great Performances*. Other workshops are being planned around other aspects of arts administration, and the speakers were all chosen for their ability to bring work / economic impact to Louisiana. A 100 piece flashmob is being planned during the lunch hour by Of Moving Colors. A very modest budget has been made available for April 23rd by the LPA, who is a partner in the endeavor.

Cathy also reported that the arts budget is expected to stay the same for the upcoming fiscal year ($1 million in state funds and $1 million from the NEA). With any luck during this next legislative session, state funds might even go up slightly. However, no decrease in arts funding is anticipated. Legislative session begins March 10th, and the LCA has plans to increase advocacy in the days during / leading up to session.

**V. LDOA Staff Reports**

1. **Grant-making:** Cathy Hernandez reported that since Kelly Pepper had resigned, she is managing the constituents and our granting work with them. She mentioned that she was in the midst of working with Houma organizations on paying FY13 DAF grants to those organizations who did not receive their grant allocations from the Houma Regional Arts Council. Cathy has worked with the state’s legal team to ensure a stricter reporting process for the RDAs. Further, she is working with the RDAs to secure their commitment to processing all grants for the second year in a row. Specifically, the grant programs being negotiated are the DAF grants and Statewide grants.
2. **Cultural Districts:** The 2013 Annual Reports were due Jan 31. Once the last of the reports are completed and the results compiled we will share the findings with you. Information collected in reports will be used to direct ways the state can adapt and improve the program. March 1 is the annual application deadline for new districts and boundary changes. Currently there are 67 districts. We expect 7 or 8 new applications and a few requests to expand boundaries. Applications are reviewed in March and April. If conditionally approved the applicants provide a list of cultural businesses and begin organization. Sales tax exemption for original art and tax credits for renovations to historic buildings take effect July 1. The Creative Placemaking Initiative was a new program launched by the Louisiana Office of Cultural Development in 2013 in partnership with the Louisiana Cultural Economy Foundation to generate targeted, concentrated Creative Placemaking efforts in 10 communities throughout the state. It concluded in October.
3. **Folklife:** Cathy reported that Maida Owens was unable to make the meeting due to a conflicting meeting with other staff members within the Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism. As a result, Cathy delivered Maida’s report as follows: The Shreveport Regional Arts Council will receive funds provided by NEA for an Art of Community workshop on April 4, 2014. On April 3, the traveling exhibit, A Better Life for All: Traditional Arts of Louisiana’s Immigrant Communities, will premiere at SRAC for a one month exhibit. The exhibit will become part of the State Museum’s traveling exhibit program which primarily target parish libraries.  Two professional fieldworkers Douglas Manger and Laura Marcus Green will start working on the Baton Rouge Folklife Survey this spring with the support of NEA Folk Arts Partnership funds. The redesign of [www.louisianafolklife.org](http://www.louisianafolklife.org) is almost complete. The most recent addition is the “virtual book” Delta Pieces: Northeast Louisiana Folklife, which includes 68 articles. We are producing a brochure and bookmark to promote the website.
4. **Percent for Art:** In FY13 the program worked with representatives from 11 project sites across the state to include original works of art in state buildings. Project sites included 4 sites on the LSU Baton Rouge campus and 4 at the Pennington Biomedical Complex in Baton Rouge, the Jack Doland Fieldhouse at McNeese in Lake Charles, LSU Community Education Building in Eunice, and the University Medical Center in New Orleans. We invested $167,050 in the purchase of 27 existing works of sculpture, photography, paintings and glass art from 15 artists, 14 are Louisiana artists. Additionally, the program invested $199,000 in the commission of original, site-specific works of art for our public buildings including two large-scale murals, and a 28-pane stained glass installation. The total investment last fiscal year was $366,050. We increased our productivity and streamlined our process for receiving artists submission for Percent for Art projects by funding and implementing the use of Call for Entry, and online artist application and jury system.
5. **Arts in Education:** Cathy reported that Danny Belanger was unable to make the LSAC meeting due to participating in the same meeting with Maida. Consequently, Cathy delivered Danny’s report to say that he is working on the Louisiana Artist Roster, which will include performing and visual artists, coordinating the collection of arts grants data, facilitating the Poetry Out Loud Program with the finals scheduled for March 8th in Baton Rouge, and overseeing ICI program completion.

**VI. LPA / LCA Report**

The LCA is gearing up for its advocacy efforts on April 22nd. Kevin Hayes, the lobbyist that they use, is encouraging the boards of our RDAs to host parties / fundraisers in their district for state representatives – particularly those that sit on the Appropriations Committee. Today, it appears that all of our RDAs will host some effort in their respective community. LPA’s interim Chair has been Tommy Usrey upon the resignation of Glenda Toups in Fall, 2013. Patricia Prudomme, the Director of the Banners Series at McNeese State University in Lake Charles, has been elected as Chair-Elect of LPA as of today as part of their succession plan. Patricia brings experience in presenting, arts in education and the performing arts to the table. This selection is also in keeping with LPA’s desire to focus on leadership that does not come from the Arts Council perspective.

**VII. New Business**

Gene Thompson has resigned to LSAC, and all needed correspondence has occurred with the Office of Boards and Commissions in this regard. LPA has submitted new names to them for some potential new members of LSAC. None have been confirmed as of today.

**VIII. Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**IX. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:55 p.m. upon motion of Missy Crews, which was seconded by Gerri Hobdy, and unanimously passed by the Council.