

**Minutes of the  
LOUISIANA STATE ARTS COUNCIL  
QUARTERLY MEETING  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana  
Monday, September 27, 1999  
10:00 a.m.**

**WELCOME/CALL TO ORDER**

Dan Henderson, chairman, opened the quarterly meeting of the Louisiana State Arts Council, which was held at the State Library of Louisiana, at 10:15 a.m. The following members were present:

Cynthia Ardoin	Carolyn McLellan
Beverly Covington	Raelene Pell
Dan Henderson	Sally Perry
Sara Herrington	Cynthia Warner
Quincy Hilliard	Christine Weeks
Mary Terrell Joseph	LeAnne Weill
Beth Kaplan	Beverly Wilson

Council members absent from the meeting included:

Leah Chase	Jean Hurley
Marilyn Cox	Kay Kellogg Katz
Ken Ferdinand	Charlotte Walter
Colleen Fletcher	Laura Jeter Weems

Staff members of the Louisiana Division of the Arts in attendance were:

James Borders  
Lisa Green  
Dee Hamilton  
Wilton Hardesty  
Charles Hunt  
Maida Owens  
Mickie Willis

Also present were Mark Smith, Executive Counsel, Office of the Secretary; Ms. Gerri Hobdy, Assistant Secretary, Office of Cultural Development; Pam Atchison, President, Louisiana Partnership for the Arts; Teri Cober, Administrative Manager, Louisiana Partnership for the Arts; and Anne Price, Arts Editor, The Advocate.

**REMARKS BY MARK SMITH, EXECUTIVE COUNSEL, OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY**

Mark Smith, Executive Counsel for the Office of the Secretary, Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism, was present to welcome the LSAC and give brief remarks on behalf of Lt. Governor Kathleen Blanco and Secretary Phillip Jones. He stated that Secretary Jones wanted to be at the meeting, but due to the election next month, Secretary Jones and Lt. Governor Blanco were on the campaign trail, hoping for a successful election day Oct. 23rd.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

A motion to accept the minutes of the March 29, 1999, meeting was proposed by Sara Herrington and seconded by Beverly Wilson. The motion carried unanimously.

## **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

### *1999 Southern Arts Exchange*

Mr. Henderson stated that he had attended the 1999 Southern Arts Exchange in Tampa, Florida and it was wonderful. Louisiana was well represented. He commended Dee Hamilton and Thérèse Wegmann for a great job on setting up the display booth. Managers and presenters from around the country attended. It proved to be a very successful action-packed week. He also reported on a special half-day session that involved large funders, managers and very large presenters. Comments were made about who we should provide funds to, what the presenters should be doing in the community, the broader issues of the community, our role in the community, etc. There was dialogue about how the presenting community can succeed in the eyes of the funders and managers. Bill Ivey, Chair of the NEA, made a point about how the presenting organizations need to be a part of public policy in the local community. The overall idea is to get the arts as part of the infrastructure in the community.

Ms. Hobdy briefly responded to a question as to whether or not Mr. Ivey mentioned any specifics. Ms. Hobdy stated that he spoke about our local participation in policy matters with other offices, but in particular, he is meeting with the Secretary of the Interior to work with the National Park Service. They are working on labor concerns and the use of artists. Also, the Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD), which includes our TEA 21 program (Transportation Equity Act for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century), now makes it mandatory for funding of cultural enhancements. TEA 21 was formerly ISTEA (the Intermodal Surface Transportation Enhancement Act), which addressed funding of cultural enhancements as being optional. Secretary Jones will be meeting with DOTD to see what kinds of funds would be available for arts projects, in particular public arts projects and those that are in and around our public.

Ms. Hobdy and Mr. Henderson provided more information about the offerings at the 1999 Southern Arts Exchange. Mr. Borders acknowledged and commended Dan Henderson as Chairman of the Southern Arts Exchange Planning Committee, and Gerri Hobdy, who actually led an advocacy training workshop. The preliminary reports from the evaluations were that it was one of the most outstanding workshops presented. Also, the state was well represented with a number of other people on the planning committee and participating presenters. This was one of the best Southern Arts Exchanges ever held.

Dan Henderson stated that the message he got from the funders and from large presenters is that we may not be ahead of the curve, but we would at least be on the curve if we can work hard to get the business community and those people who are making public policy in this state to have the arts at the table as they make policies and decisions. Not just responding afterwards, but really being seen as part of the infrastructure. We need to know our audience, who we are serving and they want to know the outcome/results. As a council, what are some of the things we can focus on and how can we get out into the community to play a bigger role and craft the attitude that arts belong at the table when decisions are being made? Noted that the standing committees will meet after this meeting, and perhaps these questions can be addressed at that time.

A comment was made regarding the efficacy of the LSAC committees and the council itself. There was extended discussion at the last LSAC meeting regarding the lack of attendance of some council members. What action has been taken to address this? It was mentioned that a letter has been drafted and approved. Noted that it was decided that the letter should come from the Chair of the LSAC to encourage council members to attend, and if they have found that something has happened in their schedule and they can't be an active participant on the council, then they might consider resigning and submit their resignation to the Governor. Dan stated that he will personalize certain letters (those to individuals who have not attended any meetings). Noted that the letters would be mailed within the next week or so.

## **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Mr. Borders introduced Pam Atchison, executive director of the Shreveport Regional Arts Council (SRAC), attending the LSAC meeting for the first time as the new president of the Louisiana Partnership for the Arts (LPA), funded by the Louisiana Division of the Arts (LDOA) at \$50,000 per year for the past five years.

*Remarks by Pam Atchison*

On behalf of the LPA, Ms. Atchison thanked the council for the work that they do to promote the arts in our state, to represent their regions and to advocate for all of the arts and arts funding. The table for the LPA, she added, needs to be comprised of the LDOA, members of the state arts council, and broad and inclusive representation from all of the arts administrators, artists and board members of arts organizations across the state. LPA will continue to lend support to the LDOA because they are the primary vehicle for acquiring more money for the arts. One of the primary activities of LPA is to raise money to employ a lobbyist for the arts, so that at the legislature there is a voice carrying on the message of the LDOA to increase funding for the arts.

LPA's primary goal is to strengthen the partnership and this will be done in the following ways:

- 1) Make sure that LPA involves those who believe in the role of the arts, community development and the development of our state--individual artists, representatives of arts organizations and arts councils, board members, LSAC and LDOA.
- 2) Technical Assistance/Support - to develop the technical assistance to the field for a strong and confident arts field to present to the legislature and also when making policy decisions about grants.
- 3) Be positioned to react and enact advocacy decisions.

LPA would like to ask the LSAC to do three things:

- 1) Encourage LSAC members to attend LPA meetings. The next meeting will be held Tuesday, Oct. 19th in Alexandria at River Oaks Visual Arts Center, beginning at 10:00 a.m.
- 2) Talk to people in your region (artists, arts organization representatives, etc.) about attending. This will help towards having that broad-based table for the arts.
- 3) Please consider making a personal donation to the LPA for the sole purpose of going towards advocacy. This year the goal is \$37,000 for advocacy efforts.

Thanks to LDOA for the Special Initiative support for LPA. Noted that the LSAC is officially represented on the LPA Executive Committee by Sara Herrington.

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT CONTINUED**

**A. FY00 Fall Grant Applications**

Mr. Borders reviewed with the Council the LDOA report on grant applications received for the September deadline. The FY00 Grants Synopsis provides a breakdown of the applications received for artist mini-grants, fellowships, artist roster and craft marketing programs. LDOA received a total of 121 mini-grant applications. LDOA awarded 35 grants of \$500 for a total of \$17,500: 1-dance, 1-design arts, 1-folklife, 3-literature, 1-media, 9-music, 2-theater, and 17-visual arts and crafts.

LDOA also received 160 artist fellowship applications. These awards are for \$5,000 and LDOA anticipates awarding 25 fellowships this year, for a total of \$125,000. There were a total of 302 applications received for this grants round, including 15 for the Artist Roster and 6 for the Crafts Marketing program. The mini-grant total is another record for LDOA. These individual artist programs continue to increase and grow in popularity with the artists around the state. Although there are a number of repeat applicants in the pool, there are also many new applications as well. Some of this due to the LDOA making a concentrated effort last summer to appear in areas that were under represented and present workshops.

In response to a question about whether the entire fall panel process is staff-driven, Mr. Borders explained that the mini-grants are reviewed by LDOA staff and the decision is made by LDOA staff. One of the key features of the program is to get an answer out to field as soon as possible, especially since the grant amount, \$500, is so small. This staff-driven process includes three staff members being assigned to review each discipline. Within two weeks, a consensus is arrived at for the purpose of making recommendations for funding in each category. Two weeks after the deadline, the staff convenes a panel meeting to discuss the recommendations. On the other hand, the fellowship grants are adjudicated by outside panelists, who will review them on behalf of the LSAC. Panels are scheduled to be held Nov. 2nd -16th in the Seminar Center of the State Library.

An extended discussion then followed about the relationship between the Artist Roster and the Mini-Grant program, the role of artists in the education process, the role of artists in the community, the role of the Department of Education, and the role of the LSAC as an advocate for arts education.

Mr. Borders mentioned that the LDOA is funding an Arts Education Strategic Plan, the first one for Arts Education, through the Louisiana Alliance for Arts Education. The Department of Education and the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education are also participating. There will be a year-long planning process culminating with a summit in May. The first planning meeting will be held in November and this would be the perfect opportunity to raise some of these issues. Arts education and arts-in-education are hot topics nationally. And in Louisiana, and the new curriculum guide for the arts is in place for the first time. LSAC members expressed that they would like to be at the table and express themselves in a more effective way, be a part of it and have an influence in the planning process. It was suggested that the LSAC executive committee should send a representative so that concerns can be heard.

**B. *Guide to Arts Programs 2000-2002***

A final draft of the *Guide to Arts Programs 2000-2002* was previously sent to the Council and members offered suggestions for insuring that the LDOA contact information be prominently and conveniently displayed, that the LSAC be listed in a manner that does not suggest their terms will expire in 2002, and that greater efforts be made to distribute both the Guide to Arts Programs and the forthcoming Arts-in-Education handbook to as many K-12 schools in the state as possible.

Sally Perry moved to accept the final draft of the guidelines.

Cynthia Warner seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**C. *2000 Governor's Arts Awards Update***

A draft of the 2000 Governor's Arts Awards (GAA) nomination form was previously sent to the Special Events committee. The deadline for nominations is Feb. 11th. Winners will be selected by April 3rd and the awards ceremony and reception will be held Thursday, May 18th at the Old State Capitol. Further discussion will take place during the Special Events committee meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**A. *Endorsement of September Individual Artist Mini-Grant Selections***

The Council had been previously mailed the report on the 35 individuals selected to receive mini-grants.

Sara Herrington moved to endorse the selections for the Individual Artist Mini-Grants.

Quincy Hilliard seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**B. *Approval of Preliminary Advisory Panelists for November Panels***

A listing of the panel members had been sent previously to the Council for review.

Mary Terrell Joseph moved to accept the preliminary advisory panelists for the November panels.

Beverly Wilson and Christine Weeks seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**STATE ARTS COLLECTION UPDATE**

Due to illness, Ann Russo was unable to attend today's meeting to give the update on the State Arts Collection. It was noted that a meeting was held with Mark Tullos at the Alexandria Museum of Art about the possibility of creating a long-term loan at the museum. More extended discussions will be entered into with Jim Sefcik at the Louisiana State Museum, which is scheduled to get a new complex here in the Capitol--a new 71,000 square feet museum site here in Baton Rouge. It was mentioned that there will be a curation facility there as well. LDOA is also trying to get some storage space there.

Sara Herrington reported that the state arts collection is now being photographed and will be cataloged. A lot of progress was made at the meeting in Alexandria. There is a notebook--a collection of photographs of some of the pieces, although

not complete, that may be interesting for the LSAC members to view. Also, a letter of inquiry will be drafted in order to try and locate the missing pieces. Policy issues for the distribution of pieces have not yet been discussed, and decisions still need to be made about what part of the collection will travel. Noted that LDOA has pretty much tried to accommodate any requests that people have had for touring and exhibiting pieces in museums.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Dee Hamilton, performing arts director, LDOA, reported that nine new artists were accepted to the *Louisiana Touring Directory* over the spring and summer. There will be one more review this year, in October, by the Louisiana Presenters Network. The 2nd edition of the *Louisiana Touring Directory* will include approximately 80 or more touring artists. The publication is planned for distribution in spring 2000. The *Directory* was sent to approximately 3,000 presenters around the country.

Mr. Borders reported that LDOA has made an agreement with Offbeat Publications to buy 1,000 copies of the *Louisiana Music Directory*, which has listings of all sorts of musicians and industry services in the state, to be sent to the 1,000 members of the Association of Performing Arts Presenters. It is hoped that this will help increase opportunities for Louisiana artists in venues across the country.

## **OTHER COMMENTS**

LSAC members agreed to have the standing committee meetings as a group roundtable discussion immediately after the Council meeting.

The next LSAC meeting is scheduled for Monday, December 6<sup>th</sup> in Lafayette (at the invitation of Quincy Hilliard) at a site to be announced.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn. It was seconded and adopted. The meeting ended at 12:30 p.m.