

**Minutes of the
LOUISIANA STATE ARTS COUNCIL
QUARTERLY MEETING
Baton Rouge, Louisiana
Monday, September 25, 2000
10:00 a.m.**

WELCOME/CALL TO ORDER

Dan Henderson, chairman, opened the quarterly meeting of the Louisiana State Arts Council (LSAC), which was held at the State Library of Louisiana, at 10:20 a.m. The following members were **present**:

Cynthia Ardoin	Carolyn McLellan
Beverly Covington	Raelene Pell
Dan Henderson	Sally Perry
Sara Herrington	Charlotte Walter
Quincy Hilliard	Laura Jeter Weems
Jean Hurley	LeAnne Weill
Mary Terrell Joseph	Beverly Wilson

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

Leah Chase (proxy to Dan Henderson)
Beth Kaplan (proxy to majority)
Kay Kellogg Katz
Cynthia Warner (proxy to Sara Herrington)
Christine Weeks (proxy to Sara Herrington)

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

James Borders
Lisa Green
Dee Hamilton
Maida Owens
Pearlie Johnson
Nalini Raghavan
Ann Russo
Mickie Willis

Also present was Teri Cober, Administrative Manager, Louisiana Partnership for the Arts; and Kevin Mulcahy, Professor of Political Science and Humanities, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

A motion to accept the minutes of the June 26, 2000, meeting was proposed by Ms. Wilson and seconded by Ms. Covington. The motion carried unanimously.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Mr. Henderson commented on correspondence that was sent from Boards and Commissions, within the Office of the Governor, requesting a list of nominees for appointments to the Louisiana State Arts Council. All current LSAC members who wish to continue to serve should express an interest in being re-appointed. This issue will be discussed further during the Standing Committee Roundtable discussion.

Staff Changes at the Division of the Arts

Nalini Raghavan was introduced as the new folklife program assistant. It was also mentioned that several LDOA staff members have moved on: Brenda Charles Evans, grants assistant, recently left for another position in state government at the Division of Administration; Wilton Hardesty, office manager, is moving to New York to be the arts administrator for Working Playground, an arts-in-education initiative; and Charles Hunt, who administered the Decentralized Arts Funding (DAF) Program, has left to direct a private foundation.

Announcements of the positions available should be on the Department of State Civil Service Web site at <http://www.dscs.state.la.us>. If you know someone who would be interested in any of these positions, please have them to contact LDOA.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

FY01 Fall Grant Applications

Mr. Borders reviewed with the Council the LDOA report on grant applications received for the September deadline. The FY01 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 108 mini-grant applications. LDOA awarded 40 grants of \$500 for a total of \$20,000: 1-dance, 3-folklife, 7-literature, 3-media, 4-music, 2-theater, and 20-visual arts and crafts.

LDOA also received 136 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 273 applications received for the grants round, including 20 for the Artist Roster and 9 for the Crafts Marketing program. Panels are scheduled to be held Nov. 1st– 15th at the Louisiana Municipal Association building, with the exception of the literature panel which will be held in the Capitol Annex.

The number of applications received is slightly down this round. With regard to fellowships, this may be partially due to the fact that once awarded a fellowship, recipients are ineligible to apply for the next ten years.

There was some general discussion about the fellowship program and the areas in which LDOA and LA Endowment for the Humanities funding sometimes overlap in their support for literature projects, though not in terms of direct awards to writers.

Mr. Borders also reported that LDOA also received 12 applications for the *Louisiana Touring Directory*, published to promote quality professional Louisiana touring artists. These applications will be adjudicated by the Louisiana Presenters Network and/or discipline-specific panels on the basis of artistic merit and touring history as evidenced by samples of work and the quality of their press materials. Artists listed in the *Directory* are chosen for representation at the Southern Arts Exchange (SAE). SAE is an annual performing arts booking conference and training institute produced by the Southern Arts Federation. SAE 2000 will be held Oct. 3rd – 8th in Atlanta, Georgia.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Endorsement of September Individual Artist Mini-Grant Selections

The Council had been previously mailed the report on the 40 individuals selected to receive mini-grants. Normally LDOA awards 35 mini-grants twice a year for a total of 70 awards. The pattern for receiving mini-grant applications reveals that more are received in the fall round than in the spring; therefore, LDOA has decided to award 40 for the fall round and 30 for the spring round.

Ms. Joseph moved to endorse the selections for the Individual Artist Mini-Grants.
Ms. Pell and Ms. Herrington 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.

Ms. Hurley moved to accept the preliminary advisory panelists for the November panels.

Ms. Wilson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

C. *Plans for Artists in the Capitol Day May 1, 2001*

Dr. Kevin Mulcahy, Professor of Political Science and the Humanities at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge, was introduced to make a few remarks regarding plans for *Artists in the Capitol Day*. Dr. Mulcahy stated that the idea first emerged during a session at the Americans for the Arts conference. Discussion during the session focused on how every community throughout the U.S. should have an "*Artist in the Community Day*."

In the most recent special session of the Louisiana Legislature, Rep. Hunt Downer (D-Houma) authored House Resolution 1 (HR1) to "proclaim May first as *Artists in the Capitol Day* annually in Louisiana." The resolution emulates France's tradition of *Fête de la Musique*, first established June 21, 1982. The original celebration of the accomplishments of French school children has spread and has become a loose consortium of festivals and celebrations in many Francophone nations. The resolution calls the planned May 1st Capitol Day, "a wonderful opportunity to celebrate music, arts of every kind, friendship, and diversity in the state of Louisiana."

The Planning Committee for *Artists in the Capitol Day* is currently soliciting ideas for activities. The Louisiana Alliance for Arts Education (LAAE), the Louisiana Arts Education Association (LAEA), and the Louisiana Partnership for the Arts will assist in coordinating the event. Jennifer Grand, legislative analyst in the governor's office, has also volunteered to be a part of this program. Regarding plans for the day's events, the committee will probably start modestly with focus on arts education activities and promoting the artists.

Further discussion took place about ideas for activities, including centering around the Governor's Arts Awards or the Legislative Luncheon. Mr. Borders explained that the Governor's Arts Awards will coincide with the State Arts Conference, (May 16th – 18th) and Ms. Cober stated that the Legislative Luncheon will be held sometime in March.

Dr. Mulcahy mentioned that the Louisiana Sinfonietta will be involved and will also perform, and by utilizing the cultural resources of Louisiana State University, Southern University, LPA, LAAE and LAEA, the event will prove to be a huge success.

It was also noted that LAAE is planning an *Arts Education Day* for May 1st, and that *Law Day* is also on May 1st and there is usually some sort of celebration downtown at the Centroplex. Dr. Mulcahy pointed out that this event is not meant to preempt anything, but is to be considered a complement, a showcase of what's already being done around the state.

OLD BUSINESS

There was a request to provide the Council with an update on the *Percent for Art Program*. Mr. Borders explained that it is still in flux. A brief meeting was held recently with the commissioner of administration about getting the program in motion. The issue for the LDOA has been acquiring funds to administer the program. During this meeting there was discussion about whether or not the administration portion would be taken from the 1% allocation. LDOA is still negotiating this issue.

Ms. Herrington stated that there was also some concern about the *Percent for Art Program* expressed at the last LPA meeting. She also informed the LSAC that Representative Diane Winston asked for input from the LPA about how to administer the program, and that LPA in turn asked the Louisiana Public Art Commission (LPAC) to come up with some guidelines for the program. Where did the guidelines come from? Was input received from the LPA and Local Arts Agencies? As representatives of the arts community they want to be involved.

Mr. Borders clarified that he developed the draft based on research conducted by LDOA staff and input gathered from conversations within the past year with many people, including LPAC members. For the past year, information discussed between the LDOA and the LPAC has been forwarded to the LPA. The last version of the Recommended Rules for Implementation of the *Percent for Art Program* is Draft 1.5.

Regarding the *Percent for Art Program*, Mr. Borders explained that the idea is to have a five-person advisory selection committee for each percent for art project. The committee will include a representative of the agencies occupying/using the building, an expert in public art representing the LSAC, the project architect, a representative of the Office of Facility Planning and Control, and a Louisiana professional artist. He also said there are still some other key issues concerning the

program that need to be clarified further, including the process for determining the program's annual budget and the scope of the facilities to be included in the percent for art program, especially educational facilities.

The next LPAC meeting will be held Oct. 17th in the Capitol Annex Building in Baton Rouge. Commissioner Mark Drennen will give an update on the *Percent for Art Program*. Roger Magendie, Director, Office of Facility Planning and Control, and Tom Jaques, Director, State Library of Louisiana, will give an update on the State Library Public Art Project. Mr. Borders will discuss implementation of the *Percent for Art Program*, and Lake Douglas will discuss the *Public Art Handbook*. LPAC members collectively put information together for the book and Lake Douglas was later contracted by LDOA to complete the project.

OTHER COMMENTS

Ms. Cober explained that LPA received a letter from the Office of the Governor's Boards and Commissions office requesting that a list of nominees be submitted for consideration for appointment to the LSAC. The LPA, by legislation, is allowed to nominate 15 people to serve on the LSAC. Pam Atchison, LPA Chair, made phone calls and correspondence was sent to all of the LPA organizations soliciting a list of names. The LPA has been instructed to forward this information to Boards and Commissions during the first week in October. It was explained that a nomination does not guarantee a position on the LSAC. Members will be selected from each of the nominating entities—Lt. Governor, Senate, House of Representatives, LA Tourism Commission, LAAE and LPA.

It was mentioned that current LSAC members were appointed/reappointed in 1997 and that their terms will expire in April 2001. Also, according to new legislation, 11 members shall serve initial two-year terms and 11 members shall serve initial four-year terms. This is the first Council under this administration. LDOA expects that most will be reappointed. All LSAC members interested in continuing to serve on the LSAC should forward a copy of their resume to the LDOA.

Ms. Ardoin suggested that the Executive Committee should rotate every year to keep everyone more involved and more informed of the activities of the LSAC. It was explained that Standing Committee meetings are no longer held separately, but are now conducted as Roundtable Discussions after each regularly scheduled quarterly LSAC meeting. Everyone is updated on all activities at that time. It was also mentioned that those who are not in attendance are forwarded packets of information from that day's discussion.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn. The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m.