

**LOUISIANA STATE ARTS COUNCIL
QUARTERLY MEETING
Acadiana Center for the Arts
101 West Vermilion Street
Lafayette, LA 70501
January 12, 2007
10:30 a.m.**

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Christine Weeks called the meeting to order at 10:45.

Louisiana State Arts Council (LSAC) members present:

Christine Weeks	Neil Early
Mary Joseph	Juana Woodard
Marion Drennen	Susan Brunner
Susan Reed	

Louisiana State Arts Council (LSAC) members absent:

Jose Canseco	Susan Turner
Anna B. Ferguson	Cynthia W. Weirick
Angela Hammerli	LeAnne Weill
Molly Sooter	Frederick L. Zeagler

Louisiana Division of the Arts (LDOA) staff present:

Veronique Le Melle	Thomas Ray
Pearlie Johnson	Vanessa Ledbetter
Maida Owens	Kitty Pheney
Kelly Pepper	Judyth Demarest
Sparkle Hurst	

Buddy Palmer, Acadiana Center for the Arts

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Susan Reed motioned to approve, and Neil Early seconded. Minutes approved as presented.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Ms. Weeks welcomed Buddy Palmer and thanked him for being host. Mr. Palmer gave a brief history of the facilities and future plans for the facility. The Council continued to receive compliments regarding the Governor's Arts Awards Ceremony.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ms. Le Melle introduced the new and old Division staff. Pearlie Johnson, Grants Office Manager; Vanessa Ledbetter, Grants Office Assistant; Kelly Pepper, Director of Organizational Services; Thomas Ray, oversees the website and is the Grants Panel Coordinator; Maida Owens, Director of Folklife; Sparkle Hurst, Administrative Assistant; Kitty Pheney, Director of State and Local Partnerships; Judyth Demarest, Director of the Percent for Art Program; and Ann Russo, Director of Artist Services, was absent due to illness. The deputy director and Arts-in-Education (AIE) positions are still vacant. The grants workshops are progressing well and the last organizational workshop is in Lafayette. The deadline to submit Letters of Intent is January 19th. Ann Russo will conduct the

individual artist workshops, and Thomas Ray will demonstrate how to submit samples of the artist's work. The grant structure is similar to last year. This year the new category under AIE is General Program Support for arts organizations. There is also a new category for artists. This year we are offering Artistic Development grants to offer opportunities for emerging artists. Also, the Apprenticeships were not offered last year, but will be reinstated this year.

There is a new process starting with the 10 Regional Distributing Agencies (RDAs) across the state. The State now requires more leadership initiatives from the RDAs to become the voice for their region. The Local Arts Agencies (LAA) grant program is being replaced with a non-competitive grant agreement system. The RDAs will be working with Ms. Phenev and Ms. Le Melle. The guidelines for the Decentralization program are being restructured to serve the needs of their region. The second component about service to their region requires the RDAs to identify issues within their parishes and regions, and to identify the solution for both artists and arts organizations. The third section of the performance plan focuses on internal agency needs. Year 2 of the 3-year Performance Plan will address funding allocations, and the 3rd year will address per capita allocations.

Ms. Le Melle gave a brief update on Louisiana State Arts Council (LSAC) appointments. The list has been completed and was submitted this week. The Tourism Conference had several sessions focusing on Cultural Tourism with arts implemented. Ms. Owens gave a brief update on Folklife issues. Ms. Le Melle made clarification on the guidelines. Ms. Drennen asked about application requirements for artists, and submitting samples online. There was concern about the wording in the guidelines regarding submission of samples online (Image of work versus Sample of work). Samples were referred to as actual pieces. Mr. Ray agreed to change the wording from samples to images. Ms. Weeks suggested "digital examples". Ms. Weeks welcomed the new Division staff.

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Weeks proposed August 2, 2007 as the date to approve grants. Ms. Woodard motioned, and Ms. Joseph seconded. The Council's proposed meeting dates for fiscal year 07-08 will be presented at the March meeting.

STANDING COMMITTEES

Advocacy

Ms. Brunner attended the LPA general meeting the previous day. A copy of the Advocacy Report was distributed. In the Year-end Report, \$250,000 was added to the Arts budget last year. A total of \$6 million dollars was allocated to arts for areas affected by Katrina and to Line Items that pass through. The Inventory tax bill was passed. Some galleries continue to receive tax bill. This year they will be working on tax credits for play producers. They will continue to remind the Governor of the importance of receiving additional arts funding support. It's important to revitalize the grass roots campaign for advocacy with a more stable grass roots effort. Efforts are being made to form partnerships with corporate industries.

The LPA created a list of talking points note cards for stakeholders that will fit in their wallets. The talking points were not in any particular order. The website to the LPA www.lparts.org. The LPA is committed to training all of our members. Ms. Brunner encouraged inviting legislators to events. If you want to become a member of the LPA Interactive Group, Ms. Patty Young, with LPA, will put your name on Listserv. Ms. Brunner encouraged Council members who are not members to join the LPA. Promoting arts education is paramount. Richard Baker, the Fine Arts Program Coordinator for the Department of Education, spoke about the superintendent supporting arts as a whole. There is going to be a seat change in the Department of Education. The Council should have someone to

redefine the movement in education and the schools are important. The LPA is offering a lot of things.

The Cultural Economy Summit is scheduled for Friday, February 2, 2007 at the Marriott Hotel in New Orleans. Mt. Auburn Associates will submit their results on the views of the Cultural Economy Summit. Ms. Weeks will be pleased to have the Council represented at the Cultural Economy Summit.

The LPA can offer nominations to the Governor on Council reappointments. The Board of Commissions will work with the Governor on the appointments. Ms. Joseph proposed those Council members who were not at the meetings should not be reappointed. Current Council members with bad attendance ratings were called to see if they were interested in being reappointed. Many of the calls were not returned.

Policy

None

Special Events

Kelly Pepper will be the staff liaison for this year's Governor's Arts Awards (GAA). Ms. Drennen proposed to award contract to graphic designer. The LPA will assist the Council to facilitate the Governor's Arts Awards. Ms. Reed spoke about the beginning of the Governor's Arts Awards. Ms. Weeks stressed the need for the Council to offer to take a more active role in the production of the GAA.

OLD BUSINESS

None

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next Arts Council meeting will be March 26th at the Louisiana Municipal Association Building in Baton Rouge.

ADJOURN

There being not further business, Ms. Weeks adjourned the meeting at 12:00.