

**LOUISIANA STATE ARTS COUNCIL
QUARTERLY MEETING
Louisiana Municipal Association
700 North 10th Street, Room 1
Baton Rouge, LA 70802
March 26, 2007
10:00 a.m.**

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Christine Weeks called the meeting to order at 10:12.

Louisiana State Arts Council (LSAC) members present:

Christine Weeks	Susan Turner
Mary Joseph	Angela Hammerli
Neil Early	LeAnne Weill
Marion Drennen	

Louisiana State Arts Council (LSAC) members absent:

Susan Brunner	Jose S. Canseco
Anna B. Ferguson	Susan H. Reed
Molly Sooter	Cynthia Warner Weirick
Juana Woodard	Frederick L. Zeagler

Louisiana Division of the Arts (LDOA) staff present:

Veronique Le Melle	Thomas Ray
Vanessa Ledbetter	Maida Owens
Kitty Pheny	Kelly Pepper
Judyth Demarest	Ann Russo
Sparkle Hurst	Bethany France

Tommy Usrey, Chairman of the Louisiana Partnership for the Arts Advocacy Committee

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Weeks amended the agenda to have the CapWiz presentation moved from item 5C to 2A. Marion Drennen motioned to approve amending the agenda and Neil Early seconded. The minutes passed as approved.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Ms. Weeks informed the Council that she will attend the Southern Arts Federation (SAF) Annual Meeting on April 25th. Ms. Weeks will give the Council a recap of the information provided at the August meeting. Ms. Weeks welcomed Tommy Usrey, Chairman of the Louisiana Partnership for the Arts Advocacy (LPAA) Committee.

Mr. Usrey gave a brief update on his visit to Washington, DC for Arts Advocacy Day with Scott Hutcheson, President of Louisiana Partnership for the Arts (LPA). He then gave a briefing on the role that LPA sees itself playing in the upcoming Louisiana legislative session. Mr. Usrey, Advocacy Vice Chairman, gave an online demonstration of CapWiz, the vehicle that the LPA will use for contacting legislators during the upcoming session. CapWiz gives constituents directed access to their legislators with ease, and can be accessed by going to the LPA website, www.lparts.org and

entering a home zip code. They will be directed automatically to the LPA's CapWiz screen where they can email their individual legislators with messages concerning key issues that LPA leadership has determined to be of importance to the arts. Mr. Usrey explained that he would have the State Arts Council member's email addresses entered into the LPA's listserv to notify them of upcoming issues to be addressed which would then give them access to CapWiz in order to contact legislators to ask them to support pro arts issues on both state and national levels. Mr. Usrey asked if all Council members were signed up for CapWiz. Those interested should email Jill at the Tatman Group. The email address is: jill@tatmangroup.com with the subject line CapWiz. Ms. Le Melle asked if Council members needed to be members of the LPA. Mr. Usrey answered, yes. Mr. Usrey will mail a membership application to the Council members who are not members of the LPA.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ms. Le Melle distributed an abridged roster of the panelist's pool for FY2008. She welcomed Bethany France to the Division staff as Director of Arts-in-Education. The Division's deputy director position remains vacant. An update on Council appointments has been submitted. Nominations from the Division of the Arts and the Louisiana Partnership for the Arts have been submitted. FY2008 Budget projections have not been received, but are being processed. Individual Divisions will receive the Executive Budget sometime this month. No major changes are expected. LPA will focus on decentralization from a per capita fee to a more realistic level.

The panel process will be similar to last year's process. This year's panels are scheduled for June and July. Ms. Ledbetter distributed a Status of Grant Applications and Grant Application Processing Reports. March 2nd was the deadline for applications to be received. The **LDOA Status of Applications** is a listing of applications that were submitted complete with no additional information needed. 194 applications were received complete and ready for entering into the computer. Notices were sent to applicants on incomplete applications. Applicants were given 10 business days to forward missing information, and information not received by the given deadline will be ineligible. Approximately 33 applications remain incomplete. 232 applications have been entered in the computer and are being reviewed by Division staff. The **Grant Application Processing Report** lists the different areas of the state from where applications were received. The amount and percentage of applications submitted by Regions are:

Region 1 submitted 40% or 92 applications

Region 2 submitted 11% or 25 applications

Region 3 submitted 3% or 8 applications

Region 4 submitted 13% or 30 applications

Region 5 submitted 6% or 13 applications

Region 6 submitted 5% or 12 applications

Region 7 submitted 15% or 35 applications

Region 8 submitted 7% or 17 applications

The category of applications received and the combined amounts of the requests are:

Arts-in-Education

7 applications for General Program Support

3 applications for Implementation

5 applications for Artist-in-Residence

Combined request of \$280,000

Capacity Building

20 applications for Planning

21 applications for Implementation

3 applications for Service Providers and Incubator Support

Combined request of \$780,000

Stabilization

14 applications for Entry
12 applications for Community Impact
19 applications for Advancement
5 applications for Institution
Combined request of \$1,035,000

Special Initiatives

3 applications with a combined request of \$198,000

Artist Services

35 applications for Artist Entrepreneur
7 applications for Artistic Development
Combined request of \$121,055
64 applications for Non-Folklife Fellowships
9 applications for Folklife Fellowships
9 applications for Apprenticeships
Combined request of \$369,500

Folklife Initiative Fund

1 application for Fieldwork
2 applications for Implementation
Combined request of \$66,816

The amount of funds available to be awarded is currently undetermined.

The Lt. Governor, along with the Department of Education and the Superintendent will be submitting joint-proposed legislation for arts education during this session. This joint-proposed legislation, *Senate Bill No. 299*, would require the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to develop, adopt, and provide for the implementation of a visual arts curriculum and a performing arts curriculum in public schools beginning with the 2010-2011 school year. The Division is planning to conduct a 2-day statewide Arts-in-Education Conference in the fall to create a leadership role in Arts Education. Ms. France will be going to each region in the State to speak on Arts-in-Education issues. Louisiana falls in the lower rankings in education in the United States, but ranks in the top 20 for public investment in the arts.

Other legislation being proposed include:

House Bill No. 359 a program to create cultural product districts and rehabilitate historic structures.

House Bill No. 495 would create income tax exclusions for artists work in varying amounts.

House Bill No. 568 addresses state income tax credits for culinary arts and food-science infrastructure projects.

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Le Melle asked the Council to review the Panelist Pool List, and if they know of any field practitioners who are not a part of the university system, to email their names to her. The Panelist Pool List will be updated over the next year. The final plan to submit panelists is June 10th. There will be 2 out-of-state panelists. The RDA panel will be July 12th and 13th. Ms. Weeks asked for a vote from the Council for the panelist list. Ms. Hammerli motioned to endorse the Panelist Pool List and Ms. Turner seconded. The list was approved.

Ms. Le Melle restated the invitation to the Council to observe the Division for panels. Mr. Ray will send a list of the panel meeting dates to the Council once the dates have been approved. The Council

will be allowed to sit in the panel room with the panelists, or they can sit in the listening room with the constituents. The Council can observe the panel's process on a first-hand basis.

The 2007-08 Schedule of Quarterly Meetings are:

Thursday, August 2, 2007 in Baton Rouge

Monday, October 15, 2007 in Baton Rouge

Friday, January 18, 2008, location to be determined

Friday, April 11, 2008, location to be determined

Ms. Weeks asked the Council to consider changing the quarterly meetings' starting time from 10:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Mr. Early moved to approve 10:30 a.m. as the starting time and Ms. Joseph seconded. The Council will meet at 10:30 a.m. on scheduled meeting dates.

STANDING COMMITTEES

Advocacy

Tommy Usrey's demonstration on CapWiz is in the Chairman's Report above.

Policy

None

Special Events

Ms. Kelly Pepper is the Division's liaison for this year's Governor's Arts Awards (GAA). The proposal is pending Administrative approval. Ms. Pepper will keep the Council informed through Ms. Hammerli, the Chairperson for the Special Events Committee. Current plans are to host the awards ceremony at the Manship Theatre in November, depending on the Governor's calendar. Ms. Pepper gave a brief update of guests to participate in the GAA as Master of Ceremony. The Division would like to move toward a more designated award, one that will remain the same each year. The Division would also like to develop an image to represent the GAA. A proposal is pending Administrative approval.

OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Weeks acknowledged Division of the Arts (LDOA) staff and Council members that attended the Cultural Economy Summit. The Lt. Governor is working with the Department of Education to have arts education in the schools.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Weeks extended sympathy to Ms. Le Melle for the death of her mother.

The Council was reminded of Advocacy Day and the grants review panels in June and July.

ADJOURN

Mr. Early motioned to adjourn and Ms. Weill seconded. Meeting adjourned at 12:00.