**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

**George Marks**

Arnaudville

**Barbara Motley**

New Orleans

**Michael D. Robinson**

Baton Rouge

**Jacques Rodrigue**

New Orleans

**Karen Dean Sharp**

Sterlington



**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 Welcome Center**

**Tuesday, April 22, 2014**

**Council Members present:** Chairman Michael Echols, Gerri Hobdy, Karen Sharp, Jacques Rodrigue, Marguerite Anderson, Rex Alexander, Michael Robinson, Dwayne Caruth, Missy Crews, and Gena Gore

**Council Members not present:** Barbara Motley, Robert Fisher, Pam Breaux, Rep. Stephen Carter, Karen Courtman, Dr. Ralph Lupin, and George Marks

**Visitors:** Pat Widhalm and Pat Nelson

**LDOA Staff present:** Cathy Hernandez, Dana La Fonta, Maida Owens, Gaye Hamilton, and Danny Belanger

**I. Call to Order and Welcome**

The meeting was called to order at 2 p.m. by Chairman Echols. He welcomed everyone and went around the table with introductions for staff, LSAC members and visitors.

**II. Approval of Minutes**

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

**III. Chairman’s Reports**

Michael Echols reported that the LDOA staff was moving forward on engaging LSAC on state arts projects. As a result, a few LSAC members (as staff liaisons) would be presenting or co-presenting program reports at the LSAC quarterly meetings. Additionally, we hope to have an LSAC member serve as a liaison for the LPA, LCA and the LPN. Michael mentioned that he would be working with Cathy on updating the LSAC bylaws, and that he would be reporting on suggested amendments at the next LSAC meeting. Michael also reminded the Arts Council that Financial Disclosure forms have a due date of 5/15/14. It was asked that Cathy Hernandez send a reminder of this deadline to LSAC members via email. New lanyards for LSAC members were requested, and LDOA staff will order them as soon as possible.

**IV. LDOA Director’s Report**

Cathy Hernandez updated everyone about the status of the search for Kelly’s replacement. LDOA has 39 eligible applicants, and a review of the applicant pool is under way. Further, Culture Connection and Arts Connection are currently being held at various locations on the State Capitol grounds. David Horn is the Keynote Speaker on the 23rd. David is the Executive Producer of the PBS television show *Great Performances*. A very modest budget has been made available for April 23rd by the LPA and a few key funders like the Rodrigue Foundation.

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). A new Artist Roster is live on the LDOA website, and contains over 70 artists. There’s a rolling deadline for inclusion, so more artists will be trickling in.

**V. LDOA Program Reports**

1. **Grant-making:** Cathy Hernandez reported that she is working with the state’s legal team to revise the Performance Plan Review (PPR) grant. This grant program is for the state’s Regional Development Agencies (RDAs), and mandates that they will undergo competitive evaluation for a portion of their general operating funds.
2. **Cultural Districts:** Gaye introduced Missy Crews as the LSAC Liaison for the Cultural Districts program. Missy spoke about how much she learned through this year’s application review process, which was echoed by Gerri Hobdy who also assisted with it. March 1st was the annual application deadline for the new districts and boundary changes for existing districts. 8 new districts were approved, and 2 boundary expansions will be in effect July 1. Information is being tabulated from the Cultural District reports which were due in January to inform potential modifications to the program.
3. **Folklife:** Maria Zeringue, a University of Louisiana-Lafayette francophone studies graduate, is interning with the Folklife Program starting in May for a few months. The Louisiana Folklife Commission arranged for the addition of a Folklife Heritage Award as part of the 2014 Louisiana Culture Awards. Creole accordionist Goldman Thibodeaux of Opelousas received the award. As part of Arts Connection, the Louisiana Folklife Commission arranged for Peggy Bulger, the former director of the American Folklife Center, to speak.

The Shreveport Regional Arts Council hosted an Art of Community workshop by Laura Marcus Green and Amy Skillman on April 4, 2014. On April 3, the traveling exhibit, *A Better Life for All: Traditional Arts of Louisiana’s Immigrant Communities*, premiered at SRAC for a one month exhibit. Curated by Green with assistance from the State Museum, the exhibit features four QRs (Quick Readers) so that visitors with smart phones can access multimedia tools and an expanded version of the exhibit.  The exhibit will become part of the State Museum’s traveling exhibit program. The Baton Rouge Folklife survey is progressing with folklorists Douglas Manger and Laura Marcus Green doing fieldwork in the spring.  The Folklife Program has received $40,800 for the next phase of the program and several strategies are being considered in addition to continuing Manger and Green’s work.   CRT is creating a web portal that will feature education resources provided by all agencies in department, and this effort is being led by Maida Owens.

1. **Percent for Art:** It was suggested that our next LSAC meeting be held at Pennington so that the LSAC can tour the Percent for Art collection there. LDOA staff will work to schedule this. Dana provided an updated Percent for Art report which included listings for the Pennington Biomedical Research Center, LSU Business Education Center, LSU E Community Education Center, LSU University Medical Center, and Southeastern Louisiana University Health Sciences Building.

Dana then asked Dwayne Carruth to talk about the panel process for the artist that would be selected to install a major work for the LSU University Medical Center. Dwayne mentioned how exciting the process was, and mentioned that they reviewed three finalists: Ray King, Ball-Nogues Studio and Chihuly. Ultimately, the panel settled on Ray King who has family ties to Louisiana.

1. **Arts in Education:** Danny Belanger reported that he ran the state finals for Poetry Out Loud, and BreAnna Smith was our state winner. She got recognized at the Culture Connection event from the Lt. Governor, and recited a poem at the event’s lunch. She will now go onto the 2014 Poetry Out Loud National Finals on April 30th in Washington D.C. Danny will accompany her and her mother to the exciting event. Danny then asked the LSAC Arts Education liaison, Jacques Rodrigue, to introduce himself as the new Arts in Education Liaison. Jacques told everyone about the Rodrigue Foundation’s work in the community, including their work with a total of ten schools in Louisiana that are implementing the A+ model (having 7 last year, and 3 new schools this year). They have a 3 year implementation process that integrates the arts into schools.

**VI. LPA / LCA Report**

The LPA / LCA is gearing up for new leadership with Patricia Prudhomme as the Louisiana Partnership for the Arts Chair and Eric Holowacz as the Louisiana Citizens for the Arts Chair. Their term will begin at some point after Culture Connection. They are also gearing up for their annual retreat in June to determine their activities for the next year.

**VII. New Business**

There was no new business to report.

**VIII. Public Comment**

Cathy Hernandez wanted to thank publically everyone who made Culture Connection / Art Connection a reality. Donors like South Arts, the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area Project, the Rodrigue Foundation, and the Louisiana Partnership for the Arts came together to ensure all Culture Connection activities were either free of charge or very affordable.

**IX. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:59 p.m. upon motion of Dwayne Caruth, which was seconded by Gerri Hobdy, and unanimously passed by the Council.