

Gerri Hobdy, Chair
Baton Rouge

Rex Alexander
Lake Charles

Marguerite Anderson
West Monroe

Linda Begue
Mandeville

Patricia Brister
Mandeville

Pamela Bryan
New Orleans

Dwayne Carruth
Baton Rouge

Stephen Carter
Baton Rouge

Karen Courtman
Shreveport

Michael Echols
Monroe

Robert Fisher
La Place

Derek Gordon
Baton Rouge

Lagena Gore
Dry Prong

Angela King
New Orleans

George Marks
Arnaudville

Barbara Motley
New Orleans

Michael D. Robinson
Baton Rouge

Karen Dean Sharp
Sterlington

Larry Eugene
Thompson
Winnsboro

LOUISIANA STATE ARTS COUNCIL

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QUARTERLY MEETING MINUTES

Capitol Park Welcome Center, 702 N. River Road, Baton Rouge, LA

Friday, January 27, 2012 - 10am

Councilmembers present: Gerri Hobdy, Michael Echols, Rex Alexander, Robert Fisher, Dwayne Carruth, Marguerite Anderson, Karen Sharp, Barbara Motley, Angela King, Derek Gordon, Gena Gore, and Pam Breaux.

Division of the Arts Staff Present: Dána LaFonta, Pearlie Johnson, Bethany France, Ann Russo, and Gaye Hamilton.

Guests: Christie Weeks, Chair of the Louisiana Partnership for the Arts and Louisiana Citizens for the Arts, and Adam Arango, Director of Education and Program Ad sales for the Baton Rouge Symphony.

I. Call to Order and Welcome

The meeting was called to order at 10:10 am by Chairman Hobdy.

II. Approval of Minutes

Minutes were reviewed and considered for July 2011 and the October 2011 quarterly meetings. Motion to approve by Mr. Gordon, seconded by Ms. Sharp. Vote: unanimous for acceptance of the minutes as presented.

III. LDOA Executive Director's Report

Ms. LaFonta gave her report to the council on the recent Regional Development Agency Retreat and the Decentralized Arts Funding program coordinators statewide. The Division's application to NEA application was reviewed favorably, recommendations will be sent to the National Arts Council in March for funding. Stabilization Grants guidelines have been distributed and 6 webinars were held. The deadline for applications is March 1.

IV. Committee Reports

In the absence of the committee chair for Advocacy Mr. Marks, the advocacy report will be deferred to later in the agenda when Ms. Weeks will give the LPA/LCA report to the council.

V. Special Events

Ms. LaFonta encouraged council to volunteer to serve on the special events committee to discuss possible future opportunities for special events in line with the new strategic plan. Mr. Gordon expressed an interest, and Ms. Gore is the chair of the committee.

VI. Strategic Planning Review

Mr. Echols, chair of the Policy and Strategic Planning Committee thanked the committee for their assistance with the development and review of the plan. Mr. Echols presented a final review of the completed Strategic Plan to the full council. There was a motion by Mr. Echols to accept the Strategic Plan as presented, seconded by Ms. Motley. Ms. Motley has been charged by Chairman Hobdy to convene interested members of the council by conference call to discuss opportunities for public-private partnerships with the business



State of Louisiana
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Department of Culture,
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Office of Culture
Development

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community and to serve as the Council liaison with the LPA and other partners. Vote: unanimous acceptance of the plan as presented. The council requested the plan be presented by staff to the Lt. Governor as the council's recommendation for the plan of work for the Division of the Arts through 2015.

VII. LDOA Staff Reports

Division of the Arts staff members Gaye Hamilton (Cultural Districts) Bethany France (Arts in Education) and Ann Russo (Artist's Services) gave brief reports to the council on active projects.

Ms. Hamilton reported that February 1, is the deadline for new applications for Cultural District certification. **Ms. Russo** reported the reinstatement of Artist Career Advancement Grants for 2012. The Division has implemented a "fast-track" grants program to accommodate applicants in the current fiscal year. Deadline to apply is February 3rd. Ms. Russo provided a handout to the council to share with interested artists. **Ms. France** reported on Arts in Education initiatives including the creation of the first official Bicentennial Book created by Dufroc Elementary students with ICI teaching artist Dee Scalan. Poetry Out Loud has been implemented statewide. 1100 students are currently participating. The state finals will be held March 24, 2012 at the LA State Museum, with the winner going on to Washington, D.C. to represent Louisiana.

VIII. NASAA Report

Staff reported that Tom Birch, Legislative Counsel will be leaving the NASAA organization. Mr. Gordon worked with staff to draft a letter to Mr. Birch thanking him for his many years of service to the arts community. Mr. Gordon motioned that the letter be approved for Gerri's signature and sent to Mr. Birch on behalf of the Louisiana State Arts Council. Motion was seconded by Ms. Gore, and the vote was unanimous to accept and send the letter.

IX. LPA/LPAA Report

Ms. Weeks gave a report on the activities of the LPA (Louisiana Partnership for the Arts) and the LPAA/now LCA (Louisiana Partnership for Arts Advocacy now Louisiana Citizens for the Arts) February 13th statewide booking conference for the Louisiana Presenters Network (an LPA affiliate). It will be held in Baton Rouge at the Capitol Park Welcome Center.

The LPA statewide is moving to a new format for their meetings, beginning in February, they will offer breakout sessions geared to the particular interests of affinity groups centered on Arts in Education, Public Art, Individual Artists, and Presenting and Touring. Arts in the Capitol Day is scheduled for Wednesday, May 16. The LCA will meet at the Capitol Park Welcome Center and then move to the Rotunda. All are welcome to attend. Federal Arts Advocacy day will be April 17, 2012. Chairman Hobdy encouraged the State Arts Council to attend Arts in the Capitol Day and emphasized the importance of having representation from every part of the state and getting others engaged.

X. New Business

Chairman Hobdy congratulated Ms. Breaux on her recent appointment to the NASAA Board of Directors as Secretary of the organization.

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Ms. Breaux gave a report on the budget request to the Governor's office for arts funding. The Office of the Lt. Governor has formally requested an increase to arts funding - \$2 million for State Arts Grants, and \$2 million for the Decentralized Arts Grants program. By February 11th the Governor should release his budget request to the legislature.

XI. Percent for Art Program

In response to questions raised at the last council meeting, Ms. LaFonta gave an overview of the Percent for Art program and the current status on ongoing projects. (Handouts)

XII. Panelist Recommendations

Chairman Hobdy informed the council that the process for grants approval requires the acceptance of a panelist pool, recommended by staff due to their experience in artistic disciplines or organization management, to vet and make recommendations to the council on grant applications. Panelist recommendations were provided by staff to the council for review and approval. (Handout) Mr. Gordon moved that the Council accept the panelist pool as provided by staff, Mr. Echols seconded, and the pool was unanimously approved. Chairman Hobdy thanked the council for their attendance, and encouraged the council to read information shared by email and to submit any agenda items by the week prior to the meeting to the chair. Chairman Hobdy announced that she will be making an appointment to the executive committee, since Mr. Fisher will be stepping off due to conflicts.

XIII. Public Comment

Baton Rouge Symphony guest introduced himself to the council.

Due to her commitment with the Convention and Visitors Bureau Alexandria on their Civil War sesquicentennial events committee Ms. Gore will not be attending the April quarterly meeting. She invited the Council to the events in April 27-29, 2012. Council will be surveyed to determine their availability for possibly holding the next meeting in Alexandria.

XIV. Adjournment

Mr. Gordon motioned to adjourn, second by Ms. Gore. Meeting adjourned at 11:33 am.