**MINUTES OF THE**

**LOUISIANA FOLKLIFE COMMISSION MEETING**

**Capitol Park Welcome Center**

**Baton Rouge, LA**

**Friday, June 7, 2013**

**Folklife Commission members present:** Kevin Billiot, Winifred Byrd, Teresa Parker Farris, Cathy Hernandez, Nicole Hobson-Morris, Karen Leathem, Allison Peña, Shane Rasmussen, Susan Roach, Michael Robinson, Dean Sinclair, Susan Spillman, Liz Williams.

**Folklife Commission members absent:** Ray Berthelot, Doug Bourgeois, Chris Broussard, Marcia Gaudet, Rebecca Hamilton, Jonn Ethan Hankins, Charles McGimsey, Michael Sartisky, Amanda LaFleur,

**Louisiana Division of the Arts (LDOA) staff present:** Maida Owens.

**Guests present:** Charlene Bonette, State Library; Liz Williams, National Park Service; Brian Boyles, Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities; Debra Credeur, Atchafalaya National Heritage Area

**I. CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS**

Teresa Parker Farris opened the meeting of the Louisiana Folklife Commission at 1:10 pm at the Capitol Park Welcome Center in Baton Rouge.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Approval of the minutes for the last meeting was tabled due to lack of quorum.

**III. REPORTS**

1. **Chair Report – Teresa Parker Farris**

Farris announced that Shane Rasmussen has been appointed as the representative of the Louisiana Folklife Society. Karen Leathem, Ray Berthelot, Chip McGimsey and Allison Pena have been reappointed. Debra Credeur will be representing the Office of Tourism rather than Doug Bourgeois. Cathy Hernandez will be representing the Division of the Arts. She is now the director of the LDOA.

**B. LDOA Budget Report – Cathy Hernandez**

Hernandez reported that the Legislature adjourned on June 6 and the department has not received the budget and the impact on the Office of Cultural Development is unknown.

 **C. Director – Maida Owens**

Owens provided a written report that is attached to the minutes. She highlighted the ongoing redesign of the folklife website, www.louisianafolklife.org. She encouraged Commissioners to see the Creole State Exhibit in the State Capitol.

**IV. BUSINESS**

1. **Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill MC 252 Incident and Response: Traditional Cultural Properties Inventory and Research** - Liz Williams, NPS

Williams reported that the Section 106 response to the April 2010 BP oil spill included research on traditional cultural properties as well as archaeological research. In March 2013, the ethnography team that conducted traditional cultural property research completed a draft report. The draft report recently cleared BP review and is currently under review by the U.S. Coast Guard and the trustees (state, federal and tribal government entities). The report includes ethnohistories and preliminary descriptions of potentially eligible traditional cultural properties in coastal Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and northwest Florida.

1. **Loan Policy for Creole State Collection** – Maida Owens

Owens submitted a draft for a loan policy for the Creole State Collection for review and approval by the Commission. Approval was tabled, but Commissioners provided the following comments. 1) Both the incoming and outgoing forms need start and end dates for the loans. 2) The visitation number needs clarification. And 3) The incoming form needs to request interpretive information.

1. **Culture Connection 2013 –Teresa Parker Farris**

Owens reported that Culture Connection on Tuesday, April 23 was successful. Commissioners explored ways to participate in the future and decided to propose folklife awards. Liz Williams, Allison Pena, and Teresa Parker Farris volunteered to determine what awards to propose.

1. **Strategies for Service Learning Using Folklife Resources – Teresa Parker-Farris**

Parker-Farris led a discussion about ways that university students could be more involved in documenting traditions through service learning classes. The consensus was that student interviews and transcripts were generally more valuable to larger research initiatives than student papers.

1. **Proposal to Lt Governor – Teresa Parker-Farris**

Parker-Farris led a discussion of ways to raise the profile of folklife in the state. Suggestions included getting a Governor’s proclamation for a Folklife Day, highlighting the Creole State Exhibit in the State Capitol, and/or activities at CRT Welcome Centers. Committee members include Teresa Parker Farris, Susan Spillman, Susan Roach, Williams, Debra Credeur, and Karen Leathem.

1. **Long term strategies for Folklife Program/Revisit the Folklife Visioning** - **Teresa Parker-Farris**

Parker-Farris tabled this item since many issues were already discussed.

1. **Set date for next Commission meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, January 3 or 10, 2014 at 1:00 p.m.

**V. PUBLIC COMMENT AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Susan Roach thanked Commissioners for supporting adding a memorial to Kerry Davis in the Louisiana Quilt Documentation Project webpages.

**VI. ADJOURN**

There being no further business to discuss the meeting adjourned at 3:26 p.m.

**Folklife Program Director’s Report – June 7, 2013, Maida Owens**

Following the last Folklife Commission meeting, the Lt Governor’s office asked Doug Bourgeois to provide **talking points** about Louisiana music and the Mississippi River. He shared the Folklife Commission’s interest and as a result, I provided talking points on these topics.

**NEA Funding:** The Folklife Program received $29,100 from the National Endowment for the Arts’ Folk Arts Partnerships. This will provide funds to the Shreveport Regional Arts Council for an **Art of Community workshop** by Laura Marcus Green and Amy Skillman in early 2014. It will also provide funds to hire professional fieldworkers to start the **Baton Rouge Folklife Survey**, I am also working with faculty at LSU and Baton Rouge Community College about service learning projects for students. The Arts Council of Greater Baton Rouge and the East Baton Rouge Parish Library are collaborating on a related project, Baton Rouge Traditions.

**New Populations Exhibit:** I have been working with Karen Leathem and other State Museum staff to complete the draft for *A Better Life for All: Traditional Arts of Louisiana's Immigrant Communities*, the **traveling exhibit** that will become part of the State Museum’s traveling exhibit program which primarily targets parish libraries.

**Website Development:** The Lt Governor’s Office would like to include the *Folklife in Louisiana* website in the Office of Tourism’s 2014 campaign on Louisiana Culture. Web redesign is in progress and includes redesigning [www.louisianafolklife.org](http://www.louisianafolklife.org), writing abstracts for 366 webpages for an **online searchable database**, writing metatag descriptions, recapturing video clips, adding photographs, and audio and video to articles that are only text.

The following web resources have been added or revised.

* *Planning Folklife Projects* has been reworked by Laura Marcus Green with support from the American Folklore Society. We will move some content to the AFS’ interactive wiki.
* Dayna Lee’s *Louisiana Indians in the 21st Century*
* Teresa Parker-Farris with Rachel Ornelas’ “*One Option Out of Many”: Strategies for Preserving Louisiana Folk Culture in the Twenty-first Century*
* Rebecca Cureau’s *Contributions of African-Americans to Louisiana Folklore Research*
* Joyce Jackson’s *Songs of Spirit and Continuity of Consciousness: African American Gospel Music in Louisiana*
* Ben Sandmel’s *From Rural to Urban, From Acoustic to Amplified: the Blues in Louisiana*
* 8 articles from the 2012 *Louisiana Folklore Miscellany*

The following web resource is in development.

* The final 8 essays for *Delta Pieces: Northeast Louisiana Folklife*

**Archiving the Websites**: The State Library Recorder of Documents adopted new policies and procedures for archiving state websites. After the folklife website is redesigned, Owens will work with the Recorder of Documents to submit the folklife webpages. The priority is work commissioned for publication on the websites and not published elsewhere.

**Folk Arts in Education:** The 2013 ICI (Imagination, Creativity and Innovation) Summer Institute for educators and teaching artists June 13-5 at LSU will include the session, *Creative Classroom: Louisiana Voices*. It is based on the lessons written by Kidsmart staff: developing *Creative Classroom: Being A Louisiana Neighbor* using theatre, visual arts, and Louisiana Voices that address Social Studies and English Language Arts content standards. Once completed, these lessons will be added to the Louisiana Voices Educators Guide.

**Louisiana Voices and Common Core Curriculum:** Memory Seymour, the State Museum education director, reviewed the Louisiana Voices Educator’s Guide and recommended not updating content standards and to consider it a historic document. The Louisiana Department of Education has adopted Common Core Curriculum standards, a national system, but it is only partially implemented.

**Museums on Main Street:** I presented on occupational traditions for the Louisiana Endowment’s orientation/training session in February for the six communities that received grants to host this year’s Museum on Main Street exhibit, “The Way We Worked.” Brian Boyles coordinates that program. Sites include: Abita Springs Trailhead Museum, Jackson Parish Library, Minden City Hall, Haas Auditorium in Bunkie, DeRidder Main Library, and Louisiana State Penitentiary Museum at Angola.