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State of Louisiana
OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE, RECREATION & TOURISM
OFFICE OF CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT
DIVISION OF THE ARTS

PHILLIP J. JONES
SECRETARY

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ASSISTANT SECRETARY

MEMORANDUM

October 2, 1998

TO: Louisiana State Arts Council
FROM: James Borders
RE: Cancellation of 9/28/98 meeting

As you are aware, the threat of disruption by Hurricane Georges forced us to cancel the September 28, 1998 quarterly meeting.

Unfortunately, we will not be able to reschedule it. We will attempt to convene our December 7 meeting in Alexandria, however. Look for an update from us in the coming weeks.

We are also requesting that you vote by mail on three business items: approval of the June 1998 meeting minutes, endorsement of the Fall 1998 Mini-Grant selections and approval of panelists for the November fellowship adjudication process. We previously mailed the mini-grant and panelists lists for your review.

Please cast your votes on the enclosed Ballot Sheet and return them in the stamped envelope enclosed for your convenience. Thank you. The deadline to mail these back is October 16.

In the meantime, we have enclosed material we planned to share with you at the September meeting. Among these and other items we wanted to bring to your attention, please note:

- ◆ Southern Arts Exchange Performing Arts Booking Conference and Training Institute — held in Atlanta, September 22-27, 1998. Was extremely successful. 680 registrations. Dan Henderson has been named chairman of the event. Tampa Bay will be the site in 1999.
- ◆ FY 99 Fall Grant Applications — We received 324 total applications, including a record-breaking 112 mini-grant applications, up from previous high of 102 last fall, and 176 fellowship applications, up from a total of 156 last year.
- ◆ Advocacy — We are asking for a total increase in state appropriations of \$1,250,000 for fiscal year 1999-2000. \$500K each would be invested in the Decentralized and Statewide grants programs. \$150K would be used to expand the Regional Folklife Program to its originally-intended fourth and fifth sites, in Lafayette and New Orleans. The first three sites are being set up this year in Ruston, Natchitoches and Baton Rouge.

Note: Our current legislative appropriation is \$5,040,000. The \$1,250,000 would give us a total of roughly \$6.3 million.

- ◆ Guideline Revision Process — a timeline is enclosed. For Policy Committee members, please note the first meeting of the Joint Committee on Grants will be October 27. Site in Baton Rouge, TBA. Look for more details next week.
- ◆ 1999 State Arts Conference — Hold the dates May 13-15, 1999. Details to follow.
- ◆ Arts Endowment/Cultural Trust Fund — The ad hoc committee met via phone. Too early for any formal recommendations to be made, though conditions look generally favorable for such a fund to work in Louisiana. Research is ongoing.
- ◆ Fellowship Review Panels — November 2-17. Council members invited to come and observe. See details enclosed.

Thank you all for your continuing support of the arts in Louisiana.