

Minutes of the State Arts Council
LOUISIANA STATE ARTS COUNCIL
QUARTERLY MEETING
Baton Rouge, Louisiana
Tuesday, June 18, 2002
10:00 a.m.

WELCOME/CALL TO ORDER

Christine Weeks, chair, opened the quarterly meeting of the Louisiana State Arts Council (LSAC) which was held at the Old State Capitol in Baton Rouge, at 10:15. The following members were **present**:

Brandi Bollinger	Susan Reed
Anna Brakenridge	Molly Sooter
Susan Brunner	Suzanne Turner
Jose Canseco	Christine Weeks
Freddie DeCourt	LeAnne Weill
Angela Hammerli	Juana Woodard
Mary Terrell Joseph	Frederick Zeagler

Council members **absent** from the meeting included:

Ron Bechet	Don McKnight
Marion Drennen	Marjorie Morrison
Neil Early	Rosemary Patterson
Sara Herrington (proxy to Cynthia Warner)	Cynthia Warner (proxy to Cynthia Warner)

Staff members of the Louisiana Division of the Arts (LDOA) in attendance were:

Pam Breaux	Maida Owens
Lisa Green	Ann Russo
Tamika Edwards	Selena Simon
Dee Hamilton	Mickie Willis

Also in attendance were Laurel Wyckoff, Assistant Secretary, and Jack Warner, Business Manager, both representing the Office of Cultural Development, Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism.

INTRODUCTIONS

Ms. Weeks introduced Ms. Wyckoff who thanked board members for being volunteers and welcomed them to their first meeting. Each council member introduced themselves and made brief remarks about their background and experience.

LDOA is grateful for the wealth of talent and experience represented by the board and hopes to continue to spread the value and economic impact of the arts in Louisiana. One main goal is to promote the arts as good business and economic development, as well as the impact the arts have on our quality of life.

ORIENTATION

Ms. Weeks turned the meeting over to Ms. Breaux for orientation. Each council member received an LSAC Handbook. Ms. Breaux stated that each section would be briefly discussed and that the council should feel free to ask questions at any time.

LSAC Handbook

1) *LDOA Overview* - this section includes the Division's *Philosophy of Assistance, Mission Statement, Goals, Priorities, a Staff and Program Directory*, and information about the various programs and services LDOA provides.

Ms. Breaux stated that the Division's role is really critical to arts organizations and individual artists throughout the state and then read the *Mission Statement*: "The arts are an essential and unique part of life in Louisiana to which each citizen has a right. The Louisiana Division of the Arts in cooperation with the Louisiana State Arts Council is the catalyst for participation, education, development and promotion of excellence in the arts. It is the responsibility of the Division to support established arts institutions, nurture emerging arts organizations, assist individual artists, encourage the expansion of audiences and stimulate public participation in the arts in Louisiana."

It was also noted that LDOA contributions to the arts each year exceed that of private and public corporations and foundations. The Division's funding is categorized into two sections: the *Statewide Grants Program*; and the *Decentralized Arts Funding (DAF) Program*. DAF basically takes half of the Division's grant funds. LDOA contracts with eight regional arts agencies to administer the program. Every parish in the state is guaranteed an amount of money based upon the population in area. This program ensures that citizens have access to arts activities at the local level.

Other LDOA programs and services include:

Special Initiatives – currently the areas of support include: Service Organization Support, Leadership Development and Research and Communications.

Governor's Arts Awards – an annual program recognizing individuals and organizations making outstanding contributions to the arts.

State Arts Conference – a biennial conference located in Baton Rouge. The next one will be held in 2003.

Education Reform – presently in a transition phase. This program helps to facilitate the state's arts content standards and provide teacher training/workshops. An assessment will be further down the line. This program will parallel with the Regional Arts Councils throughout the state, thereby reaching schools in each parish of each region.

State Artists Roster - a list of artists and folklorists whose qualifications have been reviewed by appropriate discipline panels, and are recommended as outstanding representatives of their artistic disciplines. The directory is also available on the Division's Web site, inclusive of images, audio samples, etc.

Louisiana Folklife Program – identifies, documents, conserves and presents Louisiana's folk cultural resources. Two major components of this program include:

- *Louisiana Voices Project* – providing a sound basis for the study of culture and an academically sound basis for both multicultural and technology education
- *Regional Folklife Program* – placing folklorists in specific regions of the state to help communities develop strategies for developing resources and provide in-depth documentation of Louisiana's folk traditions.

Presenting – LDOA collaborates with the Louisiana Presenters Network to provide services to presenting and touring artists. LDOA also works with the Southern Arts Federation (SAF) in the development of presenters and touring artists through teacher-training and professional development. The Louisiana Touring Directory (LTD) is a biennial, promotional publication for professional performing artists in Louisiana who presently tour. The most recent copy will be available to the Council at the next meeting. Over 100 artists are presently included in the Directory. Distribution extends regionally, statewide and internationally (also available online). This publication has proven to be a very good resource utilized by presenters.

Visual Arts – In 1994, when DAF was created, there were several byproducts. One such product was an increased interest in public art (placing artwork out of the normal realm and into the community). The Public Art Coalition was formed to provide education of and infrastructure for public art. It was mentioned that LSAC members will receive the *Public Art Handbook for Louisiana Communities* at the next meeting. The publication is a great tool and resource for the state.

- *Percent for Art Program* – A funding mechanism for public art. It places public art in public buildings and is attached to the capital outlay budget. There is a % for art for each state building construction budget that goes to support public art. This is a very exciting new project, not only for LDOA, but for the artists, architects, and all that are involved.

- State Art Collection – There are approximately 90 pieces of artwork in the State Art Collection, which is maintained by LDOA. Most of the pieces are currently on loan.
- 2) CRT Organizational Structure – The LT. Governor is the Commissioner for the Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism (DCRT), which includes the following: the Office of State Library, Office of State Museums, the Office of State Parks, the Office of Tourism, and the Office of Cultural Development (OCD) – headed by Ms. Wyckoff and inclusive of Archaeology, Arts and Historic Preservation. OCD answers to DCRT, headed by Secretary Phillip Jones.
 - 3) Council Member List – Ms. Breaux noted that two appointed members, Mr. Bechet and Mr. McKnight, will not be able to serve on the Council. LSAC will be a council of 20 until next year when we can see about filling these two posts.
 - 4) Enabling Legislation – The most critical issue is approval of the grants. Most of LDOA's funding goes towards grants, resulting in approximately \$5 million being distributed throughout the state for arts activities. LSAC advisory work is just as important to the Division (policy, budget, etc.). This section includes information on how many members are appointed to the Council, how they are selected and nominated, and information on the Louisiana administrative code that pertains to LSAC and LDOA. This section is up to date through the creation of the Percent for Art program.
 - 5) Affiliates – To name a few of the LDOA affiliate organizations:
 - National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) – LDOA receives over \$600,000 per year from NEA. NEA is the largest single funder of the nonprofit arts sector in the country. The agreement that LDOA has with the NEA is a partnership. Part of the funding is based on formulas (student population, competitive programs, etc.). LDOA has to apply to the NEA every three years. Our grants process is based on how the NEA has structured their programs. Most of our programs have stemmed from models of the NEA. It was noted that NEA funds all 50 states and 6 territories. The following can be attributed to the NEA/LDOA partnership: 1) Partnership funds - distributed largely through LDOA's grants program; 2) Southern Arts Federation - particularly presenters who receive NEA funds through SAF's 9 state region; and 3) Individual organizations applying for NEA funds. Orleans parish submits applications consistently to the NEA, and others such as Lafayette, East Baton Rouge, Monroe, etc. have also applied and received funding. The DAF program has been helpful in giving organizations the confidence they need to feel competitive at this level.
 - National Assembly of State Arts Agencies (NASAA) - National service that provides a great deal of technical assistance, educational opportunities, advocacy and resources to state arts agencies across the country. NASAA's mission is to advance and promote a meaningful role for the arts in the lives of individuals, families, and communities throughout the United States. NASAA empowers state arts agencies through strategic assistance that fosters leadership, enhances planning and decision making, and increases resources.
 - Southern Arts Federation (SAF) – SAF is a not-for-profit regional arts organization making a positive difference in the arts in the South. In partnership with nine state arts agencies (Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee). SAF promotes and supports arts regionally, nationally, and internationally and enhances the artistic excellence and professionalism of Southern arts organizations and artists so that they can successfully connect with citizens and their communities. It was noted that the director of the LDOA is required to serve on the SAF board. Also, the LSAC chair, or designee, has an opportunity to serve on this board. LSAC members interested should indicate this on the Interest Indicator Sheet enclosed in your packet. SAF funding is largely performing arts, although they are beginning to do some facilitating in Visual Arts. Most funding comes under traditional and performing arts; made easily available to Louisiana organizations. Ms. Breaux commented that it's not an inexpensive endeavor. The SAF membership fee exceeds \$30,000 per year, but organizations in the state, through direct grants, receive \$60,000. SAF also provides technical assistance.
 - Louisiana Partnership for the Arts (LPA) – Primarily our statewide arts advocacy arm. LDOA, as a state government agency, can not advocate for itself and the LPA is an outlet – a way to empower the arts and advocate for LDOA. LPA is the umbrella organization which represents the broad and diverse spectrum of artists, arts professionals, arts educators, arts organizations and agencies, and all those who produce, present and serve the arts in Louisiana. LPA upholds a triune leadership structure, equally governed by a partnership among the LSAC, the LDOA and LPA. LPA does advocacy, professional development for individuals or board

training/group training – Peer Assistance Network (PAN), provides significant listservs, and participate in policy in making recommendations to advance the arts field in the state. LPA just did a significant amount of advocacy during this Legislative Session and is largely responsible for our budget being in place for the upcoming fiscal year.

- 6) *Council Committees* – There are four LSAC Standing Committees – Executive, Advocacy, Policy and Special Events. Council members were asked to review the descriptions for each and indicate which committee(s) they would be interested in serving on.
- 7) *Role of the Council* – Ms. Breaux explained that she is unaware where this information stems from; possibly from a previous director. It is not from the Louisiana Administrative Code. The information is a bit outdated, but can definitely be used as a guide. In a general sense, it outlines the role of the council, the role of the executive committee, and the role of the officers. LDOA, in collaboration with LSAC, will work on getting this information current. There is a lot of good information here and we can build from it in determining how the council will function.
- 8) *Budget* – The enclosed budget is the preliminary budget that was distributed to the LSAC at the March meeting. It is not current as of the end of the Legislative Session on June 12th. LDOA will receive concrete figures from the Division of Administration in July and an updated budget will be provided at the next LSAC meeting. Details and explanation of the enclosed budget will be given during the Director's report.

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS AND REPORT

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Ms. Joseph moved to accept the minutes of the March 25th meeting. Ms. Weill and Ms. Reed seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS AND REPORT

Budget Update

Looking at the figures listed for FY03, the total income for LDOA is \$8,060,943. Income from the NEA for FY03 is \$671,300, inclusive of the following: Basic State Grant, \$382,300; Arts-in-Education grant, \$55,500; Outreach to Underserved Communities, \$98,500; Challenge America, \$90,000; and Folklife, \$45,000. Our state appropriation for FY03 is targeted at \$7,389,643, which includes: General, \$4,939,643; Regional Folklife, \$350,000; Percent for Art, \$2,000,000; and HUD-Bicentennial, \$100,000.

Ms. Breaux noted that a couple of things have since been changed. Under Percent for Art, back in February, LDOA made an estimate (based on the past 5-7 years of what's been happening with capital outlay) that the program would generate about \$2 million per year. In estimating the \$2 million, LDOA took the high point. It has been realized that the overall budget for capital outlay is smaller. After having an in depth conversation with the budget people and looking at past and current administrations, it was determined that we needed to estimate a lowest common denominator -- at least \$660,000 per year. The administration of the program would take up about 20% of this amount. This is also why LDOA is seeking two staff members to administer the program and not four. In years where there is an increase in funding, we will contract with individuals to assist with administering the program. That being said, the Total Income for FY03 would be more along the lines of \$7 million.

Although funding for the arts was in jeopardy for quite a long time, it was noted that LDOA came out of the legislative session in real good shape. Overall, the FY03 budget is pretty much in tact with the exception of approximately \$340,000 that has been deleted. Initially, it was a \$407,000 cut, but we have gained some of this back since legislative session. Ms. Breaux stated that the proposed cuts can be broken down as follows: \$100,000 from the Regional Folklife Program; \$100,000 from the Decentralized Arts Funding Program (DAF); and \$100,000 from the Statewide Grants Program. The reason for this is because each of the \$100,000 amounts was actually added to the LDOA budget during the last legislative session. It was noted that items added through the previous year's legislation were the first targets for elimination. The remaining \$40,000 will come from LDOA administration.

Regarding DAF, a \$100,000 deduction would not kill the program, but it will be an inconvenience. There will be an impact

in every parish of the state ranging from one hundred dollars on up to a couple of thousand dollars for the larger parishes.

For the Regional Folklife Program, a \$100,000 deduction means that two of the five regions (Lafayette and Baton Rouge) will remain unfunded for next fiscal year. The addition of the \$100,000 last year enabled LDOA to fund the remaining two regions. LDOA came close to hiring folklorists in these regions -- offices were set up, plans were made, but now, no funding available for the folklorists. LDOA will explore other options for temporary funding, but in the mean time, 2/5 of the state has been put on hold for this program.

With regard to the \$100,000 deduction from the Statewide Grant Program, the good news is that it does not impact the grants submitted for approval today. Last year, the \$100,000 received was absorbed by a \$96,000 cut. This year, it was strategically placed in Special Initiatives so that LDOA would have flexibility with regranting, and therefore it did not affect the current grants review process.

Conversations have been held in general about having an Arts Endowment so that LDOA is not so dependent upon legislature from year to year. This year is a good indicator that it's time to get serious about this. Although Governor Foster is very supportive of the arts, there are no guarantees with the next Governor. Ms. Bollinger recommended that LDOA seriously explore this opportunity, because the budget situation in the state is not going to get any better.

Ms. Breaux also mentioned that the \$100,000 under Income for the Bicentennial, procured from Housing Authority and Development, is temporary. These funds came to DCRT in preparation for the Bicentennial of the Louisiana Purchase (the State's 200th birthday). This \$100,000 was earmarked for LDOA to award the production a new theater work to be performed in Louisiana during 2003.

The Expenses section of the budget, as currently listed, outline the DAF program (\$2,102,071), Statewide Grants (\$2,135,000), Regional Folklife Program (\$350,000), Special Initiatives (\$265,000), Professional Services (\$44,000), Percent for Art (\$2,000,000), and Salary/Operating (\$731,309). The second page of the budget summary gives you a breakdown of the LDOA grant categories, special initiatives, etc. An updated budget will be provided at the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Grants Panel Process

Ms. Breaux stated that the LDOA grants panel process is constantly being improved upon. The spring 2002 grants panel process and the production of the *Guide to Arts Program 2002-2004* began January 2001. From January through June 2001, LDOA solicited information for improvements and modifications to its programs. Input was received through various means -- public meetings, written correspondence, e-mails and via Internet. Summer 2001, the Joint Committee on Grants (JCOG) was convened for a meeting to discuss the various recommendations. JCOG includes members of the Louisiana State Arts Council Policy Committee, the Louisiana Partnership for the Arts (LPA), Department of Culture, Recreation & Tourism (DCRT)/Office of Cultural Development (OCD)/LDOA staff and invited artists and representatives of other constituencies. One recommendation was to consolidate the two grant deadlines (March 1st and September 1st) into one. It was noted that this would allow more time for LDOA staff members to conduct site visits and be readily available to offer technical assistance, thus strengthening our connection to the community.

Ms. Breaux continued to summarize the timeline for the grants review process. Throughout fall and winter 2001, guidelines were proofread edited, printed and distributed. During January 2002, LDOA staff conducted grants workshops in each of the eight regions of the state. January and February 2002 were primarily dedicated to technical assistance to grant applicants in preparation for the March 1st grant deadline. This was the deadline for all statewide grants programs, with the exception of Artist Mini-Grants and the State Artist Roster programs (deadlines August 1st and December 1st), as well as the Bicentennial Grant award—deadline of March 30th, but merged it into the regular grants process.

LSAC convened on March 25th and approved the panelists recommended for the Spring 2002 grants round. LDOA is very fortunate to have volunteers to review the applications and make recommendations in each of the arts disciplines.

Approximately 150 people, from within the state and outside the state, are selected to provide in-depth feedback for the review process. To ensure diversity, representatives are selected from each area of the state, and out of the state, with appropriate expertise and community expertise in each of the arts disciplines. These panelists convene for their discipline panel meeting and decide which applications should be awarded, based on the quality of the project, community impact,

etc. (criteria for each program is listed in the *Guide to Arts Programs*). March through April 2002, LDOA staff reviewed the applications for eligibility, and to ensure that all information had been provided to make the applications complete. LDOA received approximately 400 grant applications. Applicants are notified that their application has been received and are given approximately two weeks to make changes to and gather all necessary materials omitted from their application. Because there are so many applications, LDOA's goal is to provide panelists with at least three weeks to review their application packet.

The Spring 2002 Grants Panel Dates were April 26th – May 24th. LDOA convened 22 panels over the course of four weeks. On May 31st applicants were able to call LDOA and get information about their grant. It was noted that applicants have the opportunity to observe panels as well. If an applicant feels, through no fault of their own, that their application was misrepresented, they have an opportunity to appeal. The deadline for appeals was June 14th. Out of nearly 400 applications, LDOA received four appeals. Ordinarily, the Executive Committee would have an opportunity to review the appeals. At present, we have no Executive Committee; therefore, all LSAC members will review this information.

Ms. Breaux gave a general overview of a panel day. The moderator gives instructions and then discusses conflicts of interest and the statement of confidentiality. LDOA staff moderates the panel, and does not give opinions. Clarifications for applications are provided, but an independent, objective panel reviews the applications. Depending upon the panel, there may be 8-15 minutes of discussion for each application. Oral contributions made by the panel reflect the evaluation criteria. Comments are restricted to the application. It was mentioned that applicants were encouraged to attend the panel meetings to see how their application fared. It's a great educational experience for them. It helps them to understand how their application was perceived by a group of reviewers. This ultimately will make them better grant writers.

After the discussion, evaluation sheets are scored by each panelist. Scores are entered into a computer generated funding program, ArtFund, and at the end of the day various reports are provided for analysis and review. ArtFund addresses the amount requested, the score each application receives and the amount of funding available in that category. It is merely a starting point for the discussion of funding recommendations. Panelists are not confined to the recommendations of the report. After review of the reports, funding recommendations are made. Panelists are required to keep recommendations and panel comments confidential until the LSAC meets. The role of the LSAC is final approval of the panel recommendations. Another role of the LSAC is to assist in creating future policy that will make the grants process better and ensure fairness. Ms. Breaux noted that LSAC members are welcome to attend any and all panel meetings.

Immediately after the panel deliberations, panelists are given an opportunity to discuss and give recommendations about the panel process. Applicants who receive grants have a chance to review the panel process in their final report. Ms. Breaux mentioned that LDOA staff was to review the panel process Thursday, June 20th, and form opinions and bring new perspective to the process. Reviews take different forms and this information will be compiled for the next phase of review of the grants and panel process and forwarded on to JCOG.

Conflicts of Interest

A Conflict of Interest form was distributed to LSAC members for review. After reading the statement, Ms. Breaux stated that if any member of LSAC had a specific conflict with a grant applicant, then he/she should refrain from the discussion and the vote for that particular discipline panel. In some instances, you will actually have to leave the room. It was noted that this process is shared with the DAF program as well, as their board of directors approves the grants within each region.

Mr. Canseco questioned this aspect, stating that he has faced this issue before and thought that the only people capable of removing themselves in such situations were elected officials. "Has this policy been cleared?" It was explained that LDOA, within the past three months, gathered information from Louisiana Ethics Commission and CRT attorney, Henry Bernstein, had reviewed and approved this document for the panels process for both the DAF and Statewide grants programs. Ms. Bollinger recommended that LDOA have Mary McCrory review this information as well. At this time, unless there is strong objection from the LSAC, LDOA will uphold the current Conflict of Interest statement for today's approval of grant recommendations. LDOA will get more information from the Louisiana Ethics Commission and keep LSAC informed.

It was stated that LSAC members can serve on a DAF panel, but should immediately make the Regional Distributing Agency aware of this so there can be discussion regarding perceived conflicts.

Information Available in LSAC Packet

Recommended Funding Summary
Grant Appeals Information
Grant Synopsis/Comparison Chart
Demographic Information
List of Grants Awarded by Discipline
Comparison Synopsis of Grants
Committee Interest Indicator
Member Contact Sheet

Council members were given a few minutes to look over the list of grantees to determine if there were any conflicts of interest, and to ask questions about any of the information/reports in the packet.

A. *Review and Approval of Appeals from Spring Grants Panels*

Angela Hammerli recused.

With regard to the appeals, is there money in reserve for this process? LDOA does not get many appeals. Last year we received six appeals. Only one was awarded and funds were simply redistributed within that particular discipline panel.

This year, LDOA received four appeals: Jefferson Ballet Theatre; Jubilee; Shreveport Opera; and National Spirit Project. In the packet you received, each appeal contains a cover sheet (inclusive of a synopsis giving the major argument from appellant and the director's response), the appeal letter, comments from the panel, and narrative of the project (if appropriate). LDOA opted to give LSAC members approximately 15 minutes to review the grant appeal information.

Ms. Weill finds this year's appeals process to be problematic. Why wasn't this information forwarded to LSAC before the meeting? Ms. Weill also stated that these particular appeals have a different tenor from previous years, and is personally not comfortable having to make a decision after only reviewing the information for 15 minutes.

Ms. Breaux explained that the deadline for appeals was published two years ago as Friday, June 14th. The appointment of new council members created a dilemma and made for a very interesting process this time around. Suddenly, LDOA had to deal with the fact that there was one workday between the appeal deadline and the LSAC meeting. There was no executive committee in place to review appeals beforehand, and literally no time to mail this information to Council members.

Understanding the calendar, couldn't LDOA have faxed or e-mailed this information? Perhaps the LSAC chair could have appointed an AD HOC committee, consisting of three to five people, who would have an opportunity to review this information in-depth prior to the meeting and report to the full council on the day of the meeting. This could impact the final approval of the grants. Ms. Weill stated that she would abstain from the vote on the appeals and sincerely hopes that we do not have to go through this again. Ms. Weeks noted that these are far less than ideal circumstances, but the task was at hand. Ms. Joseph suggested that given the circumstances and time being what it is, to rely on the staff and the panelists competence for this process. If approached, LSAC should refer all appellants to the LDOA office.

Regarding the recipients of the grant funds, what is the process for receiving knowledge of funding recommendations. All applicants have an opportunity to contact LDOA on May 31st to receive information about their grant. Pending LSAC approval, applicants receive written correspondence. When do applicants get their funds? Grantees receive contract agreements from the LDOA for signature. Once this information is returned to LDOA, it generally takes about three weeks to receive funds. It was noted that some projects begin July 1st and applicants will not have their funds in hand; however, they are able to reimburse themselves for expenses incurred for the approved project.

Shreveport Opera Discussion

Mr. Zeagler mentioned that it appears as though Shreveport Opera is being penalized for asking for what they needed as opposed to asking for the maximum amount. Ms. Breaux commented that project assistance and operating support grants are very different. In operating support categories, it is LDOA's precedent to award grants that relate to the size of the budget. Applicants are allowed to request up to 25% of their previous year's operating budget. With regard to projects, there is a finite activity and a finite cost. Panelists that review project applications look at whether or not applicants have padded their budgets. If an applicant is deemed to have done so, this is received negatively and is reflected in evaluation scores. Dollar amounts in project assistance, regarding budget and amounts requested, take on a totally different meaning, as opposed to a formula based system used for the operating support category.

Would their funding award likely have been higher if not for the lack of communication between the Opera's transitional staff. Basically, "if they had played the game the way the old director would have, would they have received more money?" LDOA commented that it could have changed the grant award by perhaps \$5,000 to \$10,000. "How will this impact Shreveport Opera's overall budget?" LDOA cannot address that, but we do know that their total budget is at least \$500,000. It was pointed out that Shreveport Opera is one of the oldest arts organizations in the state and they are aware of this information. It's also stated in the *Guide to Arts Programs* that they may request up to 25% of their budget. Any questions their staff may have had could have been answered by LDOA.

If the organization honestly made a mistake, then we should be able to help. Any organization should have soul and heart to cure this problem and make things equitable. LDOA stated that this case does not cry for equitable relief. Not wanting to be hard-hearted and cruel, but if LSAC second guesses the panel recommendations, next time they will be inundated by organizations that state "oh, I made a mistake in my application, I should appeal." The grounds for appeals state that there should be "justification indicating that actions of the advisory panel or the Division Staff were based upon insufficient or incorrect information resulting from something other than the fault of the applicant." Issues raised in the appeal must meet the burden of proof, and this case does not

Does the application state that the percentage is based on budget? No, it does not and it wouldn't. Nor does the application state that applicants should request more in order to get more. The *Guide to Art Programs* do not spell this out specifically either. LDOA will make sure this information is explained in detail in the future.

As director of LDOA, Ms. Breaux recommended not to award any of the appeals. Ms. Joseph moved to accept the appeal recommendation set forth. Ms. Reed seconded the motion. The motion passed - 10 approved; 3 opposed; 1 abstention

B. Review and Approval of Grant Awards from Spring Grants Panels

ARTS EDUCATION BASIC

Mr. Canseco moved. Ms. Joseph seconded. Mr. Zeagler abstained. Motion passed.

ARTS EDUCATION CLASSROOM

Ms. Turner moved. Ms. Reed seconded. Ms. Sooter abstained. Motion passed.

ARTS EDUCATION PROJECTS

Ms. Reed moved. Ms. Bollinger seconded. Ms. Sooter and Mr. Canseco abstained. Motion passed.

DANCE PROJECTS

Ms. Joseph moved. Mr. DeCourt seconded. Motion passed.

DESIGN PROJECTS

Ms. Joseph moved. Ms. Bollinger seconded. Motion passed. Ms. Sooter and Ms. Brakenridge abstained.

FOLKLIFE PROJECTS

Mr. Canseco moved. Ms. Reed seconded. Motion passed. Ms. Sooter and Ms. Brunner abstained.

FOLKLIFE APPRENTICESHIPS

Ms. Bollinger moved. Ms. Weill seconded. Motion passed. Ms. Brunner and Mr. Zeagler abstained.

LITERATURE PROJECTS

Ms. Bollinger moved. Mr. Canseco seconded. Motion passed. Ms. Hammerli, Ms. Brunner and Ms. Sooter abstained.

MEDIA PROJECTS

Ms. Turner moved. Ms. Bollinger seconded. Motion passed. Ms. Sooter and Ms. Brunner abstained.

MULTIDISCIPLINARY

Ms. Sooter moved. Mr. Decourt seconded. Motion passed. Ms. Turner abstained.

MUSIC PROJECTS

Mr. Canseco moved. Ms. Joseph seconded. Motion passed. Ms. Sooter abstained.

THEATER PROJECTS

Ms. Bollinger moved. Ms. Turner seconded. Motion passed. Ms. Sooter abstained.

VISUAL ARTS PROJECTS

Ms. Woodard moved. Ms. Turner seconded. Motion passed. Mr. Canseco and Ms. Sooter abstained.

CHALLENGE AMERICA – Again, this is new category for us. \$90,000 was allocated through an NEA award and LDOA decided to make awards to adhere to Challenge America goals. Nine \$10,000 grants are recommended. With matching funds, LDOA envisions nine \$20,000 important, community-based residencies. Ms. Reed moved. Ms. Bollinger seconded. Motion passed. Ms. Sooter abstained.

BICENTENNIAL THEATRE WORK - awarded for creation of a new work of theater. One grant of \$100,000. Mr. Decourt moved. Ms. Turner seconded. Motion passed.

GENERAL OPERATING SUPPORT

Largest LDOA grant category. Ms. Bollinger moved. Ms. Sooter seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

LOCAL ARTS AGENCY

Ms. Joseph moved. Ms. Bollinger seconded. Motion passed. Ms. Sooter, Mr. Canseco, and Ms. Brakenridge abstained.

ARTIST FELLOWSHIPS

Artist Fellowships are \$5,000 cash awards in recognition of artistic excellence. Awards given per discipline can be found on the Synopsis sheet. Demographic information was also provided. Ms. Hammerli moved. Ms. Turner and Ms. Reed seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

C. Terms of Office for LSAC Members

It was noted that 11 members will have two-year terms and 11 members will have four-year terms. LDOA asked that Council members indicate a preference when completing the Contact Sheet enclosed in the LSAC packet.

LSAC Schedule of Quarterly Meetings

Ms. Weeks presented the proposed schedule of LSAC meetings for the new fiscal year. The FY03 Schedule of Quarterly Meetings was presented as follows:

Friday, August 23, 2002

Friday, December 20, 2002

Monday, March 24, 2003

Monday, June 23, 2003

All meetings, with the exception of December, are held in Baton Rouge from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. (times may change). Traditionally, the Council has met elsewhere for the December meeting to visit arts communities throughout the state. It's been very educational. LSAC has met in Shreveport, New Orleans, Lafayette and New Orleans. Unfortunately, the December date is scheduled to coincide with the Mini-Grant process and is close to Christmas. Perhaps an alternative meeting date should be recommended. This will be discussed further at a later date. The March meeting coincides with the LPA Legislative Luncheon. Please note that the June meeting has since been moved to Friday, June 20th and that the executive committee meeting will be held the afternoon of Thursday, June 19th.

D. Discussion of Officer and Committee Selection

LDOA requested that LSAC members complete the Contact Sheet and Committee Interest Indicator forms provided.

OLD BUSINESS

There is no old business.

OTHER COMMENTS

Ms. Weeks recommended that the LSAC send a letter to LPA for their endless efforts. Ms. Weill made a motion to do so. Ms. Woodard seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Ms. Weeks also encouraged LSAC to become members of the LPA.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 2:10 p.m.