

LOUISIANA STATE ARTS COUNCIL (LSAC) QUARTERLY MEETING

Claiborne Building
1201 North 3rd Street
Baton Rouge, LA 70802
1st Floor , Room 1-145
Monday, March 29, 2004
10:00 a.m.

WELCOME/CALL TO ORDER

Christine Weeks, Chair, opened the meeting of the Louisiana State Arts Council (LSAC), which was held at the Claiborne Building in Baton Rouge, at 10:15 a.m. The following members were present:

Susan Brunner
Jose Canseco
Freddie DeCourt
Neil Early
Angela Hammerli
Sara Herrington

Mary Joseph
Susan Turner
Christine Weeks
LeAnne Weill
Juana Woodard
Fred Zeagler

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

Brandi Bollinger
Anna Brakenridge
Marion Drennen
Rosemary Patterson (resigned)

Susan Reed (proxy to chair)
Molly Sooter
Cynthia Warner (proxy to chair)

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

Pam Breaux
Lisa Green
Dee Hamilton
Pearlie Johnson
Dabne Liebke

Maida Owens
Tamika Raby
Ann Russo
Selena Simon
Mickie Willis

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Early moved to accept the minutes of the December 2003 meeting. Ms. Woodard seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously and the minutes were approved.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Ms. Weeks provided information from the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies (NASAA). At present, there is a proposed increase for the NEA budget.

It was mentioned that Wednesday, March 31st is National Arts Advocacy Day. Ms. Weeks asked LSAC members to send an e-mail to legislators encouraging them to continue funding of the arts and express the importance of the economic development and quality of life the arts have contributed to for the state of Louisiana. In addition, LSAC members were encouraged to inform constituents in their area of this opportunity to forward their comments to legislators.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Transition

The Department of Culture, Recreation & Tourism (DCRT) has new leadership in place and new leaders are being added to the team. The new administration is taking a serious look at all five offices within the Department of Culture Recreation and Tourism (Cultural Development, Tourism, State Parks, State Library and State Museum)

The Lt. Governor is reaching out to constituencies of the Department to try and set his course for what will be new within DCRT over the next four years. At the next meeting, LDOA would like to be able to provide LSAC members with a copy of the *Roadmap for Change*, initiatives for the new administration.

Specific to the LDOA, the Lt. Governor is interested in a creative economy initiative for Louisiana, an economic development initiative centered around the arts and culture.

There are national models including the New England Foundation for the Arts (NEFA), the Southern Arts Federation counterpart. NEFA pulled in stakeholders to assess what their creative economy is in New England, how it's functioning economically, how it should function economically, and how it should be nurtured and developed economically. This analysis was translated into a blueprint (action plan) for New England's creative economy.

The Division has been granted permission by the NEA to use next fiscal year's (July 2004 – June 2005) Challenge America funds to move our initiative forward. LDOA will begin to pull together constituents, consultants, stakeholders and the new administration to forge ahead. In an effort to connect this concept, Michael Cain will present a keynote address on the creative economy initiative and begin to engage our constituents in what this conversation is, why it's important, why we should be moving forward on this at the Louisiana State Arts Conference.

Ms. Breaux mentioned that she was asked to be Executive Director for the Division of the Arts and the Assistant Secretary position for the Office of Cultural Development. At this point one person can not do both of these jobs. Presently the Lt. Gov. Chief of Staff and the CRT Secretary will make the recommendation on providing a new Executive Director for the Division of the Arts.

LSAC congratulated Ms. Breaux on her appointment as Assistant Secretary of the Office of Cultural Development.

FY 2004 Budget Update/FY05 Budget Projection

FY04 Budget Update

The State is looking at a small surplus for the current fiscal year. No further cuts to programs and grants this fiscal year are anticipated. Budget figures and summaries are the same as they have been at the past couple of meetings.

FY05 Budget Projection

LDOA is looking at a potential cut of \$132,176. Cumulatively, over the past two years, we're down \$500,000 and this just adds to it. With this added, we're lacking a total of \$632,176 from our budget. LPA is advocating to have these funds restored. This cut is in alignment with the Governor's commitment to make cuts across the board and not have any one agency or department suffer more cuts than any others. In early April, the Lt. Gov. will present the budget and attend a hearing with the House Appropriations Committee to work on DCRT's budget.

Schedule of Spring Grants Review Panels

LSAC was provided with an FY05 Grants Panel Meeting Schedule. LSAC members were encouraged to attend any and all meetings.

Program Highlights – Crafts Marketing and Regional Folklife Program (Maida Owens)

Crafts Marketing

Ms. Owens presented a PowerPoint presentation of the Crafts Marketing Program, which has been in existence since 1986. At present, there are approximately 250 people in the Crafts Marketing Program.

Regional Folklife Program

The Regional Folklife Program is a creative economies program. The intention is to provide technical assistance to individuals and communities about how they can use their traditional cultural resources for economic growth. It is labeled as an economic development program, although it's not limited to this.

The Louisiana Regional Folklife Program divides the state into five regions based on cultural and geographic factors. Currently, three of the five areas within the state are being funded:

Region 1: The Upper Louisiana Delta and the North Central Hill Country – Louisiana Tech University

Region 2: Louisiana Red River Valley and the Neutral Strip – Northwestern State University

Region 5: Greater New Orleans – University of New Orleans

The two regions that are presently not being funded are:

Region 3: Western Acadiana – University of Louisiana at Lafayette

Region 4: Louisiana's Florida Parishes, Mississippi River Road, and Eastern Acadiana. – Louisiana State University

The *Louisiana Voices: Folklife in Education Project* offers an overview and ideas for exploring our communities and traditions in the classroom. With funds from the National Endowment for the Arts, there is an initiative to provide professional development for teachers. In looking for new partnerships, the Deep South Regional Humanities Center at Tulane University approached the Division about the *No Child Left Behind* program. Through this partnership, there was \$160,000 awarded to train 36 teachers within 20 days of professional development throughout the year (10 in the summer/fall, 10 in the winter/spring). A New Orleans based program, it's called Louisiana Systemic Initiatives Program (LASIP). In applying for funds this year, an additional \$100,000 was awarded this year in order to double their capacity.

Other

Ms. Hamilton announced that the Louisiana Alliance for Dance (LAD) is applying to the Division this year for a statewide festival of new works. This will be an opportunity for choreographers and companies to showcase new works/works in progress. It will be a three-day festival inclusive of professional and non-professional showcases.

Mr. Willis commented that there is a relatively new organization emerging – Louisiana Association of Symphony Orchestras. All of the state symphony organizations have developed a consortium to network, share resources and work together on projects. One of their upcoming projects includes launching a statewide project commissioning various new works for *You Are My Sunshine* to be performed by each of the symphonies. They will also develop some curriculum materials for teachers and students, establishing a Web site, a CD, along with other resources. The organization has submitted two competitive grant proposals – one to cover the curriculum materials and Web site, and the other for the commission.

Ms. Breau mentioned that the Percent for Art Program is progressing. Sam Corso has recently completed the installation of the stained glass commission. Ms. Phoney, Percent for Art Program Director, is working on a date for the press conference and unveiling. The design reflects the Mississippi River. It's the program's first massive commission that we are seeing to fruition. It was a \$100,000 stained glass commission.

Mr. Early noted that for the Operation Homefront Celebration as the soldiers return from Iraq, there is a special task force involved in overseeing music participation with choirs and other musicians. There will be historical reenactments of great moments in American history. Performing artists will be brought in from all over the country. It is hoped that there will be 40,000 – 60,000 in attendance. The celebration is scheduled for Saturday, June 16th in Leesville. Mr. Early also stated that Vernon parish is looking to open a new art gallery.

NEW BUSINESS

Approval of Panelists for Spring 2004 Grants Panels

It was explained that last year LDOA had to cut the grant funding amounts for each program due to budget cuts. Also due to budget cuts, LDOA is also utilizing fewer panelists for review of grants in lieu of having to reduce funding for grants programs.

Looking at the demographic report, there appears to be a lack of applications within various areas and that's because the Decentralized Arts Funding (DAF) program is doing what it is intended to do. Those organizations that may not be feel that they are competitive at the state level prefer to apply for assistance within their region.

Ms. Joseph moved to accept the pool of panelists. Ms. Herrington seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

STANDING COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

Advocacy

Ms. Brunner announced that there would be a Catfish Fry on April 20th for legislators, at the close of the Legislative Session, at approximately 5:00 p.m. at Randy Haney's house (The Longue House). Last year, there were approximately 140 in attendance inclusive of 30-40 legislators. The Louisiana Partnership for the Arts is distributing a mailing with all of the detailed information. Ms. Weeks noted that it's important for LSAC members to attend in order to honor and show appreciation of the legislators.

Policy

Ms. Breaux indicated that the next few months will be an interesting time because there will be three simultaneous efforts taking place that will all have policy implications for LDOA:

- Lt. Governor's Roadmap for Change
- Division of the Arts Strategic Planning Process
- Creative Economy Initiative

As each of these areas unfolds, there will be a need for Policy Committee involvement.

Special Events

2004 Governor's Arts Awards

There were five members on the Special Events Selection Committee: Ms. Joseph, Ms. Weill, Ms. Hammerli, Ms. Weeks and Mr. Zeagler. Ms. Hammerli thanked Ms. Green on behalf of the Committee for her efforts with this process.

There were a total of 44 nominees and the Committee selected nine recipients.

Ms. Joseph moved to endorse the recommendations for the Governor's Arts Awards recipients as presented. Mr. Early seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

State Arts Conference Update

On May 19th, the Louisiana Conference for the Arts will include a short LPA meeting, a keynote address by Michael Cain on the Louisiana Creative Economy Initiative, as well as some breakout sessions as recommended by the field (fundraising, board governance, etc.). The registration fee for the conference will be no more than \$15. The conference will be held from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. The Governor's Arts Awards reception and ceremony will be held from 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. The Louisiana Alliance for Arts Education will also present its awards of excellence.

OLD BUSINESS

LSAC Meetings

Ms. Weeks note that only two LSAC members were able to attend the December meeting. Ms. Breaux stated that LSAC is required by law to have at least four meetings per year, and that the August and December meetings are centered around the Division's Artist Mini-Grant and Artist Roster programs. Because of the turn around time for the grant awards, this places the August meeting near the start of school and the December meeting just before Christmas. One idea for consideration is that the LSAC give authority to the LSAC Executive Committee to deliberate on these grant awards.

Ms. Herrington moved that the Executive Committee be empowered to deliberate and approve Mini-Grants for the August and December meetings. Mr. Early and Ms. Woodard seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

The next LSAC meeting will be held Friday, June 25th in Baton Rouge. If necessary, the Executive Committee will meet to review any appeals.

LSAC Continued Service

No action is being made in regards to LSAC's continued service until late June.

LDOA Executive Director Search

Ms. Weeks recommended that she be empowered to write a letter to DCRT Secretary Angèle Davis in an effort to be a part of the process for hiring a new LDOA Executive Director. Ms. Breaux explained that the legislation does charge the Council with making recommendations and coming up with finalists for the position and those recommendations would be submitted to the DCRT Secretary.

Ms. Weill moved to endorse the recommendation that LSAC send a letter to the DCRT Secretary to express interest and willingness to be involved in the Executive Director search. Mr. Canseco seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

It was recommended that the letter include the participation of the LSAC in the past. It was suggested that perhaps there is something that could be done to streamline the process.

Other Announcements

Ms. Joseph mentioned that FestForAll, a wonderful family festival inclusive of arts, crafts and music, will be held May 1st – 2nd in downtown Baton Rouge.

Mr. Early commented that on the first Saturday of May, during MayFest in Leesville, Johnnie Mae and Edward Palmer will be honored for having been chairs of the Vernon Arts Council for the past 25-30 years.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:20 p.m.