

**LOUISIANA STATE ARTS COUNCIL
QUARTERLY MEETING
Louisiana Municipal Association
700 North 10th Street
Baton Rouge, LA 70802
October 23, 2006
10:00 a.m.**

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Christine Weeks called the meeting to order at 10:15.

Louisiana State Arts Council (LSAC) members present:

Christine Weeks	Susan Brunner
Marion Drennen	Neil Early
Angela Hammerli	Mary Joseph
Susan Reed	LeAnne Weill
Juana Woodard	Frederick Zeagler

Louisiana State Arts Council (LSAC) members absent:

Jose Canseco	Anna Ferguson
Molly Sooter	Susan Turner, <i>Proxy to C. Weeks</i>
Cynthia Weirick	

Louisiana Division of the Arts (LDOA) staff present:

Veronique Le Melle	Sparkle Hurst
Ann Russo	Maida Owens
Pearlie Johnson	

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mary Joseph motioned to approve, and Susan Reed seconded. Minutes approved as presented.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Ms. Weeks reported on the 3-day RDA Retreat for Regional Executive Directors and Community Development Coordinators. The retreat explored policy issues and the relationship between their regional agencies and the LDOA. It was very productive, and it gave them a great opportunity to network. Ms. Whitmore compiled everything to have a record of the working sessions for continued work with the CDCs.

The Louisiana Partnership for the Arts (LPA), by statute, has begun the process of submitting a number of names for Council appointments. Scott Hutcheson, the Chair of LPA solicited recommendations with a little background information from every region in the state. Those names have been compiled and they are in the process of being submitted. The new appointments or reappointments are expected by the beginning of the calendar year. The next Arts Council meeting will be January 12th in Lafayette, and the Acadiana Center for the Arts will be the host. The State Arts Council meeting will coincide with the State Tourism Conference, which will also be in Lafayette. Ms. Weeks encouraged the Council to attend.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ms. Le Melle informed the Council of vacancies within the Division. Dee Hamilton retired, Selena Simon has transferred and is working with the State Retirement System as an auditor, and Dabne Whitmore is working with the Division of Historic Preservation on a special 2-year assignment for Pam Breaux. Interviews have begun and we are hopeful the new staff will be onboard and the Council will be meeting them at the January meeting.

Ms. Le Melle also discussed the 3-day retreat that was held last month for Executive Directors and Community Development Coordinators for the Regional Development Agencies, formerly Regional Distributing Agencies. The primary reason for the retreat for the executive directors was to focus on a strategic plan, and the need to redefine the role of the Regional Distributing Agencies (RDAs) and take them out of competition with their constituents. The State is asking that the RDAs not only be the distributing agency for decentralization, but also be the "voice" for their region. It's difficult to be the voice within your region and also applying for the same grants as the people you're being the voice for. We want to take them out of the competitive grant pool, and instead, negotiating separate non-competitive grant agreements. The agreements will be based on 3-year performance plans that will be ratified by each organization's board through a Board Resolution. Their annual evaluation would be based on this plan. By the end of this fiscal year, the first copies of the non-competitive grant agreements should be available and will be similar to the Special Initiative Grant Agreements.

LDOA has restructured the staff design in the Division of the Arts. There is no longer a visual arts director, a performing arts director, or a CDC manager. The Folklife director remains unchanged. New staff positions will support our new programs. Ms. Russo is now the Director of Artist Services. The Director of Organizational Services will perform a similar function for organizations. He or she will address issues for development, financial development, and they will plan and execute workshops for organizations small, medium and large. This position will oversee the Capacity Building and Stabilization programs. The Director of State and Local Partnerships will work with the RDAs on regional concerns and will oversee the RDA evaluation process every year. The agency will also work on other partnerships. We want to work with other departments on joint goals, and integrating our artistic workforce into other areas and showing the State that artists are involved and concerned about issues that cut across all parts of daily life. We are always looking for new opportunities. The State and Local Partnership director would oversee that kind of partnership, on a day-to-day-basis. Ms. Weill commented it seems to envelope the cultural economy and cultural initiatives, but it also it seems to address the rebuilding and growth of so many of the artists in South Louisiana.

Ms. Le Melle presented the Strategic Plan update from the August 25th Staff Retreat (see attached power point). It was first presented to the RDA directors and staff at the September Retreat. Ms. Weeks commended the staff.

Ms. Breaux attended the National Association of State Arts Agencies (NASAA) in Anchorage, Alaska. No formal information was shared with staff.

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Owens gave a brief presentation on the New Populations Program. With a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), the LDOA has initiated the New Populations Project to reach out to immigrant and refugee populations. Ongoing projects focus on Asian Indian Hindus, Muslims, and Chinese in Baton Rouge; Laotians in New Iberia; Cubans, Vietnamese, and Hondurans in New Orleans; and Mexicans in north Louisiana. See www.louisianafolklife.org/newpopulations
<http://www.louisianafolklife.org/newpopulations>.

STANDING COMMITTEES

Advocacy

Ms. Brunner gave an update on the activities of the LPA. They are developing a new organizational plan. The Executive Committee is working to increase the effectiveness of LPA, and ways the LPA can improve relationships in the legislature and in individual regions. LPA is implementing a program to encourage locals to invite legislators to events, and send them tickets to events. An LPA Advocacy calendar is being developed for the year. There are plans to establish floor leaders, once again within the Legislative body. Ms. Brunner encouraged the Council to visit the website and see some of the changes. The LPA has designed a new clearinghouse to work with arts organizations, and new ways to partner with the Division. Ms. Weeks asked about the status of the Artist Property Tax. Ms. Brunner responded that they are still studying it and should have results by the end of the calendar year. Ms. Brunner will give a report of the findings at the January meeting.

Policy

None

Special Events

Ms. Hammerli gave an updated report on plans for the Governor's Arts Awards (GAA). Ms. Hammerli identified who was present at meeting and Ms. Russo thanked the Special Events Committee for their participation. The Governor's Arts Awards Ceremony will be Wednesday, November 8th at the Shaw Center for the Arts. Starting time is 5:30p.m. Ms. Russo also identified the GAA awardees and distributed invitations to the LSAC members. The members commented that more time was need between posting the notice and the deadline date to send in nominations. This year less than a month was allotted for the process. Ms. Joseph wanted to congratulate the Division staff on the wonderful job done on the invitations and the great application.

OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Le Melle gave the Council an update on the new, expanded Line Item process.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next LSAC meeting will be January 12, 2007 at the Acadiana Center for the Arts in Lafayette.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, Ms. Weill moved to adjourn the meeting, and Mr. Early seconded. The meeting adjourned at 11:55.