

Gerri Hobdy, Chair  
Baton Rouge

Rex Alexander  
Lake Charles

Marguerite Anderson  
West Monroe

Linda Bogue  
Mandeville

Patricia Brister  
Mandeville

Pamela Bryan  
New Orleans

Dwayne Carruth  
Baton Rouge

Stephen Carter  
Baton Rouge

Karen Courtman  
Shreveport

Michael Echols  
Monroe

Robert Fisher  
La Place

Derek Gordon  
Baton Rouge

Lagena Gore  
Dry Prong

JoAnn Katz  
Metairie

Angela King  
New Orleans

George Marks  
Arnaudville

Barbara Motley  
New Orleans

Karen Dean Sharp  
Sterlington

Larry Eugene  
Thompson  
Winnsboro

Kim Howes Zabbia  
Ponchatoula

# LOUISIANA STATE ARTS COUNCIL

POST OFFICE BOX 44247 BATON ROUGE, LA 70804 (225) 342-8180 PHONE (225) 342-8173 FAX

## QUARTERLY MEETING MINUTES Louisiana Municipal Association Building 700 North 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Room 2 Baton Rouge, LA 70802 Friday, January 29, 2010 10:00 am

**LSAC members present:** Rex Alexander, Marguerite Anderson, Dwayne Carruth, Michael Echols, Robert Fisher, Derek Gordon, Gena Gore, Gerri Hobdy, George Marks, Karen Sharp, Gene Thompson and Kim Zabbia

**LSAC members absent:** Linda Bogue, Patricia Brister, Pamela Bryan, Steve Carter, Karen Courtman, JoAnn Katz, Angela King, Barbara Motley, Rose Marie Sand and Virginia Saussy

**Office of Cultural Development/Division of the Arts staff present:** Dána La Fonta, Danny Belanger, Pearlle Johnson, Kelly Pepper, Ann Russo, Maida Owens, Vanessa Ledbetter, and Sparkle Hurst

**Guests:** Tommy Usrey, Chairman of Louisiana Partnership for the Arts

### I. Call to Order and Welcome – Ms. Hobdy, Chairman LSAC

### II. Approval of Minutes

*Mr. Gordon motioned to accept minutes as presented; Ms. Zabbia seconded. Vote: Unanimous. Minutes approved.*

### III. Report from the Director – Ms. La Fonta, Director LDOA

**Budget Cuts** - A copy of the letter that was sent to Arts constituents on January 15, 2010 describing cuts to the Office of Cultural Development (OCD) budget was distributed to the council. OCD sustained a mid-year budget cut in the amount of \$460,000 representing 7.56 % of the agency's total state general fund budget. Reductions were made to the grant awards for Arts, Historic Preservation, and Main Street and general operating expenses.

**Grants Program** - Revised guidelines for the FY2011 Grants Program are out, and all statewide grant workshops have been completed. Eligibility for the State Arts Grants Program was broadened to include constituents working in Louisiana's cultural economies as identified in the Mt. Auburn Report in 2005.

**FY11 Budget** - The governor is expected to submit next year's budget (fiscal year 2011) to the legislature the first week in February.

### IV. Unfinished Business – Ms. Hobdy

#### a. Orientation Handbook

The Orientation Handbook was distributed at the last Council meeting. Updates to the handbook were sent out by hardcopy mail to all members of the Council in January.



State of Louisiana  
Office of the Lieutenant  
Governor  
Department of Culture,  
Recreation, Tourism  
Office of Culture  
Development

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**b. Committee Assignments**

Committee assignments were presented to the Council. ***The Council agreed by consensus to the assignments as presented.*** Ms. Hobdy announced that Rose Marie Sand, Chair of the Policy Committee, resigned from the council and asked Mr. Echols to Chair. Mr. Echols agreed to chair the Policy Committee.

**c. Calendar**

An annual calendar of council activities and meetings was sent out in the council packet. The calendar was reviewed.

Ms. Hobdy addressed the Council function as Division ambassadors in the absence of the LDOA Executive Director. If members of the council attend a Division meeting, please inform a Division staff member so you can be introduced. If asked to speak, council members should give a general welcome and thank you. Members requested "fact sheets" to increase their comfort in representing the Council.

**Conferences**

Ms. Hobdy encouraged Council members to attend American's for the Arts and the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies (NASAA) annual conferences. The State does not have the resources to send the Council to these conferences. Council members should contact Ms. La Fonta if interested in information on the conferences.

Ms. Hobdy also encouraged Council members to join the Louisiana Partnership for the Arts (LPA). The LPA has regular meetings around the state.

**Grants Panels**

As a result of financial and travel constraints, the Division will not be convening panels this year. Panelists will review applications and supplemental materials electronically and score independently. Ms. Hobdy would like to have the panel convening process reconsidered in the future to allow for panelist to share valuable information to inform recommendations. Mr. Gordon informed the Council and Division that conference calls with panels are prohibited due to open meetings laws. Ms. Hobdy asked for a report on this new process. It will be piloted this year, and evaluated. If it is not successful, changes will be made next year.

**Travel Reimbursements**

The Executive Committee discussed budget shortfalls and Council travel. Executive committee made the recommendation to forego travel reimbursements for the State Arts Council members this year as a show of support for the staff and the arts in Louisiana.

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*Ms. Zabbia motioned for the Council to forego travel reimbursements this year, until such time as the Council votes to reinstate reimbursements for travel; Mr. Gordon seconded. Vote: unanimous.*

**d. LDOA Strategic Plan – Ms. La Fonta**

The Strategic Plan for the Division was implemented for 2006-2009. After careful evaluation, it has been determined that the Strategic Plan is only 70-75% complete. Ms. La Fonta discussed the plan with the Council, and talked about areas that need to be addressed. The Policy Committee chair will work with his committee to determine the best plan of action. The Policy Committee will review the Strategic Plan for the Division and report to the Assistant Secretary, Secretary, and Lt. Governor with recommendations.

A recommendation was made that we work with LPA for possible focus groups and convening opportunities.

- e.** Ms. Zabbia gave a brief update on the **NASAA Webinar**, The Artist and the Recession. Ms. Zabbia will forward the information to Ms. La Fonta to distribute to the Council. In response Ms. Russo gave a brief overview of **Creative Capital**, a non-profit organization for artists' professional development. The Tremaine Foundation is contributing \$17,000 to subsidize the Creative Capital workshop in Louisiana. Mr. Gordon and Mr. Usrey volunteered to assist the Division in bringing this workshop to Louisiana.

**V. Committee Reports**

No committee reports.

**VI. LPA/LPAA Report – Tommy Usrey**

Mr. Usrey discussed some changes to the organization structure. The Executive Committee is now the Board of Directors. He also explained the role of both the LPA and the LPAA, and gave a brief recap of the February LPA meeting. The LPA is applying to the Kennedy Center to become the affiliate organization for Arts-In-Education (AIE) in Louisiana. Mr. Marks will be the Council's liaison to the LPA. Arts Advocacy Day at the Capitol is set for May 4, 2010.

**VII. New Business**

No new business

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## VIII. **Public Comment**

Ms. Zabbia announced the LPB is having their art auction this year and the deadline is February 15 for the emerging artist juried auction, and March 15 is the deadline for invitational.

## IX **Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn by Mr. Gordon; second by Ms. Zabbia. Vote: unanimous.

Meeting adjourned at 11:35am