



**BILLY NUNGESSER**  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

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

**RENNIE S. BURAS, II**  
DEPUTY SECRETARY

**PHIL BOGGAN**  
ASSISTANT SECRETARY

Council Members Present: George Marks, Missy Crews Howard, Jacques Rodrigue, Gerri Hobdy, Patti Nelson, Barbara Motley, Michael Robinson, Mary Lee, Sheela Plater

Council Members Absent: Rex Alexander, Marguerite Anderson, Waynette Ballengee, Darryl Carruth, Michael Echols, Karen Sharp, Michael Talbot, Patrick Widhalm

LDOA and CRT Staff Present: Cheryl Castille, Paula White, Danny Belanger, Maida Owens, Gaye Hamilton, Kristin Sanders – OCD Deputy Assistant Secretary, Rennie Buras, CRT Deputy Secretary

Special Guests: Tommy Usery, ED – Northeast Regional Arts Council; Christie Weeks - LCA

**I. Call to Order and Welcome**

The meeting was called to order at 2:00pm by Chair Mary Lee.

**II. Approval of Minutes**

Minutes from the previous meeting have not been located due to a turnover in the LDOA Executive Director position. New LDOA ED, Cheryl Castille, will attempt to locate them.

**III. Mary Lee welcomed everyone to the 2016 Culture Connection. She discussed the upcoming afternoon meeting with Lt. Governor Nungesser for LSAC and the Regional Development Agencies. Points to address:**

1. What can we do better or different as a commission to make sure funding for LDOA gets approved.
2. In regards to funding, acknowledge that we need to be more efficient, creative and flexible.
3. Ask the Lt. Governor what he thinks we can do to coalesce the aims of LDOA to make them more efficient.

**IV. LDOA Director's Report:** Cheryl indicated that she has been in the position for four weeks. She has been familiarizing herself with LDOA staff and programs. Meetings have taken place thus far with the following RDAs: Greater Baton Rouge Regional Arts Council, Bayou Regional Arts Council – Houma and the Arts and Humanities Council of Southwest Louisiana. Meetings will continue to be set up with remaining RDAs. Joint professional development meetings are being set up with Louisiana Main Street Directors and RDA Directors and Community Development Directors.

Kristin Sanders reported on current funding and legislation related to the Percent for Arts program. Legislation: "Limits the amount required to be spent per project under the Percent for Art Program to the lesser of \$450,000 or 1% of the state money to be expended on the project. **On 5/11 Passes Senate with amendment – "However, no funds shall be expended for the acquisition of new works of art until after the agency has sought the donation of works of art from artists within the state and has been unable to obtain such works of art without charge."**

Phil, Kristin and LCA are addressing this issue.

Again this year, grant funding will be provided through an interagency transfer from the office of Tourism.

#### V. LDOA Staff Reports

Grant Programs: Paula White reported that grant panels for the General Operating Support grants, will be held in June. This year we had 84 applicants with 70 being forward to panel. We are rolling out a new online grant application program. Bayou Regional Arts Council – Houma will serve as a pilot program. The FY2016 budget allows for \$1,000,000 in the grant program this year. \$600,000 of that amount will be re-granted.

Cultural Districts Program: Gaye Hamilton reported that five new cultural districts will be approved for the program in July. She has also been compiling data with the assistance of WESTAFF on the cultural industry specifically focusing on jobs and job creation.

Folklife: Maida Owens reported that work on the Baton Rouge traditions project is coming to an end. She is going to meet with the Baton Rouge Arts Council to partner on a program debut. October is Folklife Month. Tradition Bearers around the date will be honored at a variety of festivals and cultural events.

Percent for Arts: Dana LaFonta reported that she has sixteen projects in process. This next month, artists will be vetted for the Nichols State Culinary Institute Project and art will be installed in Lake Charles at SOWELA Technical Community College. Dana will also be hosting a roundtable on the importance of public art at the AFTA conference.

Arts and Education: Jacques Rodrigue reported on the Louisiana A+ program. Two new schools are being added in Lake Charles and St. Francisville, which brings the total to eighteen. Five separate teacher-training institutes will held this summer. Six hundred teachers will receive training in arts integration. Three recent fundraising dinners raised \$250,000. Bethany France is receiving the Arts in Education award at Culture Connection tonight.

Poetry Out Loud: Danny Belanger reported that one of our Louisiana Poetry Out Loud students was one of the finalists at the National Poetry Out Loud Competition this year. Danny also reported that Louisiana's First Lady is meeting with educators to discuss arts education and recommendations to make to the BESE Board.

#### VI. LPA / LCA Report

Louisiana Partnership for the Arts (LPA): Tommy Usery, ED with the Northeast Regional Arts Council, reported that LPA presented seven artists throughout the state this past year. LPA attended the national performing artists presenters conference.

Louisiana Citizens for the Arts (LCA): Volunteer Christie Weeks reported that LCA had a successful call for response to the recent Percent for Arts legislation. Social media and Voter Voice were effective tools in getting the word out regarding the proposed legislation.

#### VII. New Business

Chair Mary Lee discussed the importance of engaging government leaders on local and regional levels and devising a clear plan on they can assist LDOA in its' mission. Barbara Motley asked that the grant system be evaluated to assess the efficiency of how funds are dispersed. Rennie Buras, Deputy Secretary, discussed the importance of "the story" when speaking to legislators. It is important to address the emotional connection to the business side of art.

#### VIII. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

#### IX. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00pm. Motion was made by Michael Robinson, seconded by Barbara Motley and unanimously passed by the Council.