

**Minutes of the  
LOUISIANA STATE ARTS COUNCIL  
QUARTERLY MEETING  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana  
Friday, June 28, 1996  
10:30 a.m.**

**WELCOME/CALL TO ORDER**

Penne Mobley, chairperson, opened the quarterly meeting of the Louisiana State Arts Council, which was held at the Capitol Annex building at 10:50 a.m. The following members were present:

Marilyn Cox	Penne Mobley
Sara Herrington	Mary Ann Netterville
Jean S. Hurley	Virginia Riley
Beth Kaplan	Beverly Wilson
Elizabeth Chubbuck-Meche	

Council members **absent**, but naming a proxy for the meeting were:

Suzanne Arceneaux, proxy to Sara Herrington  
Gloria Callais, proxy to Sara Herrington

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

Cynthia Ardoin  
Johnnie Kocurek  
Freda Lupin  
Raelene Pell  
Deborah Reese  
Anthony Rollo (Mr. Rollo submitted a letter of resignation from the Council on July 1, citing increased professional obligations as the reason for leaving the Council.)

Staff members of the Louisiana Division of the Arts in attendance were:

James Borders	Ann Russo
Judith Demarest	Dee Waller
Velma Gray	Mickie Willis
Pearlie Johnson	

Also present were Gerri Hobdy, Assistant Secretary, Office of Cultural Development.

## **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

A motion was made to adopt the minutes of March 25, 1996. The motion was seconded by Sara Herrington and carried unanimously.

## **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Penne Mobley reported that she is serving as the interim director at the Strand Theater in Shreveport and she will therefore abstain from all voting and discussion.

## **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

### **FY97 Budget Update**

Mr. Borders reported that the DOA's appropriation in the state budget was approved at \$4,176,000 as expected. He also reported that the DOA's FY97 funding from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) is \$427,000, down \$172,000 from FY96's \$599,000. Mr. Borders also stated that the National Endowment for the Arts FY97 budget has passed in the U.S. House at \$99.5 million dollars. The Clinton administration had recommended a budget of \$136 million. The matter is now being taken up by the U.S. Senate. Senator Johnston and Senator Breaux are involved in this process. Senator Johnston is on the appropriations committee. Senator Breaux has endorsed continued funding for the NEA. A national advocacy campaign is now underway to urge all key senators to support funding measures for the NEA. Mr. Borders said he has drafted sample letters that he will send out to all Council members.

### **Decentralized Arts Funding Program Update**

Mr. Borders distributed a revised contact sheet for the Decentralized Arts Funding Program and announced that the new Community Development Coordinator (CDC) in Region 5 is Beverly Smith, and the new Community Development Coordinator in Region 7 is Lisa Wakefield. Mr. Borders pointed out that on the backside of the revised sheet are the deadlines for the 1997 Decentralized Program. Most of these deadlines are in September. New Orleans and St. Tammany moved their deadlines to June. New Orleans is coordinating their application deadline with their ongoing municipal grants program (community grants program). The grants activity period for them will be the same, but they wanted to try to make it more convenient for their applicants. We will see how this experiment works. Sara Herrington inquired about the problem that arose in Caddo Parish regarding having to pay unemployment benefits for a former CDC. Mr. Borders explained that there was an independent contractor in Caddo Parish as a Community Development Coordinator who had a contract that was not renewed after the first year. He filed an unemployment claim which was upheld by the State Unemployment Office, and the Shreveport Regional Arts Council (SRAC) now has to pay almost \$1,000 dollars in unemployment benefits. SRAC was liable because it paid FICA on behalf of the contractor. It appears that the simpler solution for the Regional Distributing Agencies is not to pay any of the income taxes or FICA for the independent contractor. It was discussed that measures should be taken to try to incorporate the CDC's into permanent staff so that this will not be a problem. A six-month program was suggested to insure that the CDC is satisfactory before he or she is made permanent.

### **Southern Arts Federation Update**

Mr. Borders distributed a copy of the Southern Arts Federation (SAF) year-end report and

provided a summary of their multi-category programs such as Arts Education, Folk Art, Jazz, etc. He also called the Council's attention to the Presenter Fee Support program and pointed out in the report where Louisiana organizations received \$8,900 in funding support in 1996. In 1997 we are projected to get \$30,500. In the SAF's Dance on Tour subsidy program, Louisiana organizations received total funding of \$16,765 in 1996 and will receive \$22,000 in 1997. Mr. Borders stated that our organizations are beginning to understand the programs of the Southern Arts Federation and to take advantage of the opportunities at SAF.

On the subject of Dance on Tour, Mr. Borders reminded the Council of the Elisa Monte Dance Company's tour of Louisiana and the commissioning of a new Cajun-themed work, *Feu Follet*, which had its world premiere last fall in Lafayette thanks in part to funding by the SAF and the DOA. This show had its New York premiere in mid-June, and it apparently went quite well; there is now also a CD of the original score featuring the band Mamou.

Dee Waller, who attended one of the New York performances, expounded on what occurred at the premiere and reported that the show will leave New York and go to all countries in Europe, with the exception of Spain.

Mr. Borders also reported that Dawn Dedeaux, an artist from New Orleans, was one of the four artists from the southeast region of the United States selected for the special American Academy in Rome program operated in collaboration with the Southern Arts Federation. Mr. Borders stated that we need to make more of an effort to get more of our visual artists to apply to this program.

Mr. Borders also reported on his involvement with a Southern Arts Federation AD Hoc Committee which recently proposed bylaw revisions that were accepted by the board of directors at the June 22-23 meeting. Prior to this point, there had really been no provisions for withdrawal or reinstatement of member organizations. Basically, the new bylaws state that an organization has eighteen months to announce that it intends to withdraw. The new rules also state that if organizations are unable to pay their dues, then they have one year to sit at the table even though their state will not receive any services except those mandated by the National Endowment for the Arts. Mr. Borders commented that there appears to be a marked improvement in the communication with and services to Louisiana by the SAF. He reiterated his opinion that it is a bit premature to think about withdrawing from the organization until we really try to maximize our ability to get benefits for our constituent organizations and artists. But should there ever be a need to withdraw our membership, we now have a clearly defined process in place.

## **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT**

There was no Executive Committee Report since the entire business of the Executive Committee was devoted to the recommendations for the FY97 Statewide Arts Grants program. Those recommendations were scheduled to be put forth later in the meeting.

## **ADVOCACY COMMITTEE REPORT**

Beth Kaplan encouraged everyone to continue talking to their legislators and Charlie Smith because it is time to start thinking about next year. She stated that there is a possibility that one

percent will be cut from the supplemental budget next year. Mr. Borders stated that we want to position ourselves next year for a million dollar increase, so we need to start getting organized. Beth Kaplan also requested that each member contact his or her legislator and thank him or her, regardless of whether or not he or she voted for the four cent tax, because that is where we got the bulk of our money.

## **POLICY COMMITTEE REPORT**

There was no Policy Committee report. However, Sara Herrington stated that there are people who are really anxious to help improve the services and ways in which we spend their money. There will be a meeting to talk about ways to improve the way we get the funding out to our constituents. Mr. Borders stated that in July he will start crafting the preliminary guidelines changes with staff review and they will be submitted to the policy committee for review. Mr. Borders stated that by July, 1997 we will need to have all guidelines changes finalized and approved for the 1998-99 *Guide to Arts Programs*. The policy committee will bring forth those recommendations to the full council for approval.

## **SPECIAL EVENTS COMMITTEE REPORT**

Marilyn Cox distributed a report to the council about the Governor's Arts Awards. Elizabeth Chubbuck-Meche added that, in looking to the future, the nomination process should be consolidated and simplified. She felt that more information on nominations should be sent out earlier. Jean Hurley made a recommendation to offer the previous year's recipient of the professional artist award the opportunity to provide the awards for new honorees. Sara Herrington commended the Special Events Committee on getting the Governor to present the awards. She suggested that, based on his performance at the ceremony, he is capable of taking on a larger role in the ceremony. The Council would like to commend Terri Cober for doing a fantastic job in helping the special events committee with the Governor's Arts Awards. Mr. Borders stated that he would send her a letter on behalf of the Council.

Beth Kaplan recommended that a blanket letter of thanks and support go to the Governor, Lt. Governor, Susan Afeman at the Governor's Mansion and the Legislators. She also suggested that a letter of thanks be sent to Senators Hainkel, Bagneris and Cox and to Secretary of State Fox McKeithen for the Legislative Breakfast.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Statewide Arts Grants Program Funding Approvals**

**LOCAL ARTS AGENCIES LEVEL 1:** Penne Mobley reported that there were two appeals in this category. One appeal was from a coalition from Alexandria, Lafayette, Slidell and Lake Charles, and the other was a single appeal from the Northeast Louisiana Arts Council (NLAC). With respect to the latter appeal, the recommendation from the executive committee is to take \$300 from each of the three highest funded LAA's and give an additional \$900 to the Northeast Louisiana Arts Council, since the committee found that the scoring of their application was likely adversely affected by the erroneous interpretation—on the part of one very vocal panelist—of the NLAC board's racial diversity.

The executive committee recommended that there be no changes to the awards of the coalition of appellants because there was no justification to change the recommended awards. After some discussion about the matter, Jean Hurley made a motion that \$20,000 be redistributed with \$5,000 each added to the grant awards for the City of Alexandria, Acadiana Arts Council, Slidell Cultural Affairs and Arts & Humanities Council of Southwest Louisiana. The motion died for lack of a second.

A motion was then put forward to take \$300 from the Arts Council of New Orleans, Shreveport Regional Arts Council and the Arts Council of Greater Baton Rouge to make a \$900 additional award for the Northeast Louisiana Arts Council. All were in favor except Jean Hurley.

Sara Herrington then moved to accept the revised recommendations for funding. Beverly Wilson seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

LOCAL ARTS AGENCIES LEVEL 2: Sara Herrington moved to accept the recommendations for funding as presented. Beverly Wilson seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

#### GENERAL OPERATING SUPPORT/

MAJOR ARTS INSTITUTION LEVEL 1: Two appeals were filed in this category regarding the discrepancy between applicant rankings and panel funding recommendations. The staff concurred that there were mathematical discrepancies and proposed adjustments to the executive committee. The executive committee accepted those recommendations and proposed to the full Council that General Operating Support/Majors Arts Institution be funded at the adjusted levels. Virginia Riley moved to accept the recommendation for funding. Elizabeth Chubbuck-Meche seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

#### GENERAL OPERATING SUPPORT/

MAJOR ARTS INSTITUTION LEVEL 2: The executive committee recommended that General Operating Support/Majors Arts Institution be funded as presented. Beth Kaplan moved to accept the recommendations for funding. Mary Ann Netterville seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

PROJECT ASSISTANCE/ LITERATURE: Beth Kaplan moved to accept the recommendations for funding as presented. Mary Ann Netterville seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

PROJECT ASSISTANCE/MEDIA: Marilyn Cox moved to accept the recommendations for funding as presented. Mary Ann Netterville seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

PROJECT ASSISTANCE/ VISUAL ARTS: Beverly Wilson moved to accept the recommendations for funding as presented. Marilyn Cox seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

PROJECT ASSISTANCE/ MUSIC: Jean Hurley moved to accept the recommendations for funding as presented. Sara Herrington seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

PROJECT ASSISTANCE/ FOLKLIFE: The Folklife Apprenticeship panel under spent by \$1331

The folklife panel requested that the staff redistribute the surplus to the Folklife Project category. The staff's recommendation to the Council was that \$331 be added to the St. Leo's Catholic Church/Robert Cove Germanfest project, \$500 be added to the Louisiana State Museum/ Louisiana Music at the Mint project and \$500 be added to the West Baton Rouge Historical Association/Sugar Stories project. Mary Ann Netterville moved to accept the recommendations as presented. Virginia Riley seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

PROJECT ASSISTANCE/THEATER: There was one appeal from Junebug Productions and two appeals from Playmakers of Baton Rouge. The staff's recommendation to the Council was that the appeals were not grounded and the executive committee agreed. Beth Kaplan moved to accept the funding recommendations as presented. Mary Ann Netterville seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

PROJECT ASSISTANCE/DANCE: There was one appeal filed in this category by Ballet Alexandria. The executive committee found the appeal to be groundless. Sara Herrington moved to accept the recommendations for funding as presented. Beverly Wilson seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

PROJECT ASSISTANCE/MULTIDISCIPLINARY: Jean Hurley moved to accept the recommendations for funding as presented. Virginia Riley seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

PROJECT ASSISTANCE/ DESIGN ARTS: Beth Kaplan moved to accept the recommendations for funding as presented. Mary Ann Netterville seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

AIE/ RESIDENCIES: Beth Kaplan moved to accept the recommendations for funding as presented. Mary Ann Netterville seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

AIE/ PROJECTS: Beth Kaplan moved to accept the recommendations for funding as presented. Virginia Riley seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

AIE/BASIC: Elizabeth Chubbuck-Meche moved to accept the recommendations for funding as presented. Marilyn Cox seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

APPRENTICESHIPS/ FOLKLIFE: Mary Ann Netterville moved to accept the recommendations for funding as presented. Jean Hurley seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

ARTIST ROSTER: One appeal was filed by an Artist Roster candidate, who was actually applying for readmission to the Roster. The executive committee found the appeal to be groundless. Virginia Riley moved to accept the recommendations for admission to the Artist Roster as presented. Beverly Wilson seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

LOUISIANA ALLIANCE FOR ARTS EDUCATION/  
SPECIAL INITIATIVE GRANT: Sara Herrington moved to accept the recommendations for

funding as presented. Marilyn Cox seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

**LOUISIANA PARTNERSHIP FOR THE ARTS/**

**SPECIAL INITIATIVE GRANT:** Mary Ann Netterville moved to accept the recommendations for funding as presented. Beth Kaplan seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the chair called for a motion to adjourn. Such a motion was made, seconded and adopted. The meeting ended at 12:30 p.m.