

**Minutes of the  
LOUISIANA STATE ARTS COUNCIL  
QUARTERLY MEETING  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana  
Monday, June 28, 1999  
10:00 a.m.**

**WELCOME/CALL TO ORDER**

Dan Henderson, chairman, opened the quarterly meeting of the Louisiana State Arts Council, which was held at the Capitol Annex Building, at 10:05 a.m. The following members were present:

Cynthia Ardoin  
Beverly Covington  
Dan Henderson  
Mary Terrell Joseph  
Carolyn McLellan  
Sally Perry

Charlotte Walter  
Cynthia Warner  
Christine Weeks  
LeAnne Weill  
Beverly Wilson

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

Leah Chase  
Marilyn Cox  
Ken Ferdinand  
Colleen Fletcher  
Sara Herrington  
Quincy Hilliard

Jean Hurley  
Beth Kaplan  
Kay Kellogg Katz  
Raelene S. Pell  
Laura Jeter Weems

Members of the Louisiana Division of the Arts in attendance were:

James Borders  
Lisa Green  
Dee Hamilton  
Wilton Hardesty  
Charles Hunt  
Pearlie Johnson  
Maida Owens  
Ann Russo  
Mickie Willis

Also present were Ms. Gerri Hobdy, Assistant Secretary, Office of Cultural Development, and Teri Cober, Administrative Manager, Louisiana Partnership for the Arts.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

A motion to accept the minutes of the March 29, 1999 meeting was proposed by Beverly Wilson and seconded by Charlotte Walter. The motion carried unanimously.

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

*A. 1999-00 Schedule of LSAC Meetings*

Mr. Henderson presented the proposed schedule of LSAC meetings for the new fiscal year, pointing out that the dates were selected primarily to synchronize with the grants adjudication process.

The FY00 Schedule of Quarterly Meetings was presented as follows:

**Monday, September 27, 1999**

Monday, December 6, 1999

Monday, March 27, 2000

Monday, June 26, 2000

A motion to accept the proposed schedule of meetings for FY00 was proposed by Beverly Wilson and seconded by Mary Terrell Joseph. The motion carried unanimously.

There was extended discussion regarding the lack of attendance by some Council members at LSAC meetings and steps that could be taken to encourage them either to attend or to consider resigning if their schedules did not allow time for Council activities. LDOA staff agreed to draft a letter to Council members--for either the governor's signature or Mr. Henderson's--asking whether members are interested in continuing to serve on the Council and, if so, encouraging them to attend Council meetings..

#### **REMARKS BY GERRI HOBODY, ASSISTANT SECRETARY, OFFICE OF CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT (OCD)**

Mr. Borders opted to defer the director's report in order for the Assistant Secretary for the Office of Cultural Development to give a report on the recent legislative session.

Ms. Hobdy shared information regarding the legislative session which ended June 21st. She reported that there were a few developments this session that will benefit the arts in general. Key among these was the One Percent for Art legislation authored by Rep. Diane Winston that will permit one percent of the construction budget for any state building project costing at least \$2 million to be set aside for the purchase, acquisition or commissioning of art, with a preference given to Louisiana artists.

Ms. Hobdy also reported that the Division of Historic Preservation received an additional \$150,000 for a Cultural Heritage Survey Tourism Enhancement Program. This will allow money to be invested in historic sites that will open up as tourist attractions. Part of the monies can be used for promotions, technical assistance, exhibitions and curation. OCD is very excited about this initiative, Ms. Hobdy explained, and will be working with Architectural Digest magazine to get them to match \$250,000 to \$300,000 for this new program in preservation that will work in partnership with the arts and the other offices.

Hobdy concluded her remarks by saying that everything else was pretty stable and that the Office of Culture Development was well received by the Legislature this year.

#### **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Mr. Borders added that the FY00 Division of the Arts budget projections issued in March totaling \$5,615,770--\$5,041,770 in appropriations from the state and \$574,000 from the National Endowment for the Arts--are still on target. Noted that this is the second year in a row that the projected budget from March held through the legislative process.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

##### **A. Executive**

There was no formal Executive Committee report. Information was previously sent to the Executive Committee providing an update on the four appeals that were received for the FY00 Spring Grants Round. The committee decided that rather than having a special meeting the appeals could be handled as they come up in the grants review and ratification process today.

##### **B. Advocacy**

Mr. Borders reported that this committee had not met formally, but he spoke with committee chair Beth Kaplan, who stated that she had attended several of the legislative sessions and thanked those legislators who supported the arts budget and the Percent for Art Program. Ms. Kaplan said all the legislators seem to be excited about the arts activities that are taking place in their districts.

Mr. Borders added that now is the time to think about what our goals should be as we move forward into the next couple of years. We should determine how we can work with the legislature and the administration to help us achieve those goals.

##### **C. Policy**

###### **1. Guide to Arts Programs 2000-2002**

Mr. Borders reported that this committee had not met formally but that a draft of the 2000-2002 grants guidelines would be mailed out next month for final public comment and review. This is the culmination of the process that began roughly one year ago, getting feedback from individuals and organizations about possible changes and improvements to the guidelines. The original schedule called for the final draft to be ratified at today's meeting, but that has been pushed back to the September meeting in order to allow time for

final public comment on the draft guidelines itself, even though a document summarizing the recommended actions to be taken in response to issues identified by the public and the LDOA staff were circulated out to the public some months ago.

Tom Cober suggested that a discussion of guidelines revisions be placed on the agenda for the August Louisiana Partnership for the Arts meeting, which is scheduled for August 25th in Lafayette, 10:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

#### **D. Special Events**

##### **1. State Arts Conference**

Mr. Borders reported that the preliminary tally for attendance at the State Arts Conference was around 270 attendees. He also reported that approximately 30 written evaluations have been received and they are overwhelming positive. People felt that they learned a lot, and that the speakers and presentations were useful to them. The big complaint was, "Why can't we do this more frequently?" This is one of the reasons behind the LDOA's plan, in this upcoming year, to sponsor several discipline-focused meetings, more one-day mini-conferences around the state as opposed to one large gathering. We'll be working on planning those meetings and continuing to provide extended technical assistance to artists and organizations around the state.

##### **2. Governor's Arts Awards**

This proved to be a good, fun evening. The council applauded the staff for the event. Mr. Borders applauded the council for their participation, warm hospitality, and for making the selections of the Governor's Arts Awards (GAA) recipients. It was noted that the Old State Capitol provided a wonderful setting for the event and staff will try to secure the facility as a regular site for the GAA program.

It was also noted that even though there were excellent award recipients in every category, in some categories there were not a great deal of nominations put forward. A brief discussion ensued about ways to increase the number of nominations for the GAA. Mary Terrell Joseph added that at the awards committee meeting council members expressed that they wanted to emphasize to the rest of the council that it is so important that each goes back to her/his own community and not only encourage but almost require local arts agencies to make nominations in every category. Other suggestions included publishing the deadline for nominations in the guidelines, starting the call for nominations even earlier than 60-75 days before the deadline, placing the GAA call for nominations on the LPA meeting agenda, looking for ways to coordinate and collaborate the nomination process with local arts agencies and other arts organizations that also sponsor annual awards programs and reviewing the nomination requirements to ensure that they provide sufficient information for the selection committee without creating too onerous a burden on those compiling the material for nominations.

#### **E. Signing up for Committees**

Mr. Henderson led a discussion about the council's committee structure, noting that the end of the council's second fiscal year of service marked an appropriate time to reinvigorate the committees. He encouraged all council members to sign up for a committee or to switch to new committees, if they desired.

This launched a discussion about the best times and ways to conduct committee meetings. It was suggested that e-mail be used for communication among committee members and that committee meetings take place on the same day as the quarterly council meetings. LDOA staff agreed to canvass council members about whether they would prefer to have the committee meetings before or after the regular quarterly meeting.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **A. Approval of FY00 Grants and Artist Roster Additions**

Mr. Borders opened the discussion by referring council members to the reports on the FY00 spring grants panels for Project Assistance and Arts-in-Education that had been mailed prior to the meeting. Overall, the LDOA received over 206 applications and 107 were recommended for funding (compared to 131 grants made from 208 applications in those categories in FY99). There was \$630,000 available in grant funds, but requests totaled \$2,261,000. The major difference in the funding process for FY00, he noted, was that in all panels, panelists were mandated to accept the computer funding recommendations which ensured a mathematically proportionate funding recommendation based on the score, the amount of funds available, and the amount of the request.

A lengthy discussion on LDOA grants review and funding policies and procedures then ensued.

Sally Perry raised a question and offered a suggestion regarding procedures for applicants submitting material at the last minute, pointing out one instance where information was presented to the panelists on the day of the panel. She requested that if it was something that was expected (if LDOA knew it was coming and had previously approved it to be submitted late), please announce to everyone what it is that the organization was allowed to submit, instead of making it look like this organization is receiving favoritism. Please explain to the public observing the meeting what it is and why it is being accepted late.

Ms. Perry also initiated a discussion about whether the LDOA should provide all the grants panels with instructions that no applications scoring below a pre-determined cutoff (60-70 points, for example) will be recommended for funding in any category. This would provide a seemingly consistent funding policy across the discipline panels. Staff replied that this matter could be taken into consideration but that it had not been deemed necessary because each of the grants panels is charged to recommend a funding cutoff based on the specific applications it has evaluated.

LeAnne Weill also wondered whether it made sense for the LDOA to consider prorating the allocation of funds in the project assistance disciplines based on the number of applications received in each category. The big four categories--Dance, Music, Theater and Visual Arts--traditionally generate two-three times more applications than the little four--Design, Folklife, Literature and Media--yet LDOA allocates \$50,000 in Project Assistance funding for each of them (except Literature, which receives \$25,000) and for a Multidisciplinary category as well. Staff responded that this policy was put in place to ensure support for all the arts and to provide a measure of stability for the underserved arts disciplines, especially, as well as a degree of predictability for applicants who want to know how much money is available in grants categories before they go through the effort to prepare applications.

Mr. Borders noted both of these grants policy issues and other concerns can be revisited in greater depth in the coming year. Ratification of the grants recommendations by category then commenced.

ARTS IN EDUCATION: BASIC

Mary Terrell Joseph moved to accept the recommendations for funding.  
Beverly Wilson seconded the motion, and the motion carried.  
Cynthia Warner abstained.

ARTS IN EDUCATION: CLASSROOM

Beverly Wilson moved to accept the recommendations for funding.  
Christine Weeks seconded the motion, and the motion carried.  
Cynthia Warner abstained.

ARTS IN EDUCATION: PROJECTS

Mary Terrell Joseph moved to accept the recommendations for funding.  
Charlotte Walter and Beverly Wilson seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

FOLKLIFE APPRENTICESHIPS

Beverly Covington moved to accept the recommendations for funding.  
Cynthia Warner seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

It was noted that \$20,000 had been budgeted for Folklife Apprenticeships but that the panel had recommended funding in the amount of \$5,000. The remaining \$15,000 will be used to help match the \$50,000 Folklife in Education grant the LDOA received from the National Endowment for the Arts.

PROJECTS: DANCE

Charlotte Walter moved to accept the recommendations for funding.  
Cynthia Warner seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

PROJECTS: DESIGN

Cynthia Ardoin moved to accept the recommendations for funding.  
Beverly Wilson seconded the motion, and the motion carried.  
Charlotte Walter abstained.

PROJECTS: FOLKLIFE

Mary Terrell Joseph moved to accept the recommendations for funding.

Christine Weeks seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

PROJECTS: LITERATURE

Beverly Wilson moved to accept the recommendations for funding.  
Cynthia Ardoin seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

PROJECTS: MEDIA

Cynthia Ardoin moved to accept the recommendations for funding.  
Carolyn McLellan seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

PROJECTS: MULTI-DISCIPLINE

Christine Weeks moved to accept the recommendations for funding.  
Beverly Wilson seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

PROJECTS: MUSIC

Mary Terrell Joseph moved to accept the recommendations for funding.  
Christine Weeks seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

PROJECTS: THEATER

Cynthia Warner moved to accept the recommendations for funding.  
Cynthia Ardoin seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Discussion took place regarding the four appeals that were received. With all four appeals, LDOA upheld the panel decisions. The Executive Committee had been mailed all the letters of appeal as well as the Executive Director's responses to them. One appeal was filed in the Folklife Projects category, two were filed in the Theater Projects category and one in Visual Arts Projects. After a brief summary discussion of the appeals, Sally Perry moved to accept the recommendations of the executive director regarding the appeal in the Theater Projects category from the Hodges Foundation. Christine Weeks seconded the motion, and the motion carried. Ms. Perry then moved that all of the submitted appeals be denied. The Executive Committee unanimously supported the recommendations.

PROJECTS: VISUAL ARTS & CRAFTS

Beverly Wilson moved to accept the recommendations for funding.  
Sally Perry seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

RECURRING GRANTS: DECENTRALIZED ARTS FUNDING  
GENERAL OPERATING SUPPORT  
LOCAL ARTS AGENCIES  
SPECIAL INITIATIVES

Sally Perry moved to accept the recommendations for funding.  
Christine Weeks seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

*Approval of the Artist Roster Additions*

Overall, there were 19 applications submitted and 14 artists recommended for the State Artist Roster.

ARTIST ROSTER

Cynthia Ardoin moved to accept the recommendations for the roster.  
Charlotte Walter seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

*A. State Arts Collection Update*

Ann Russo provided an update on the state arts collection. She reported that the new appraisal of the collection is being wrapped up by Taylor Clark and should be complete within the next couple of weeks. The LDOA is also in the process of contracting a photographer to update the archival photos of the collection.

LDOA is still doing ongoing loans of pieces from the collection. Works have recently been loaned to the new Tickfaw State Park and there has been a request from Red River Revel in Shreveport to exhibit the State Arts Collection in October. In addition, said Ms. Russo, a meeting has been set for July 10th in Alexandria with Mark Tullos and several members of the State Arts Council to discuss the long-term loan with the Alexandria Museum of Art, general policies about loaning the collection and conservation.

## **OTHER COMMENTS**

Congratulations to Maida Owens, Folklife and Crafts Program Director, on receiving the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities Award for *Swapping Stories*. Also, congratulations to Mickie Willis, Arts Education Director as well as a composer, for winning the Louisiana Music Educator's Award, a national competition. He was commissioned for an original composition. Other news is that Dee Hamilton, our Performing Arts Program Director, is working as a choreographer for *42nd Street*, a new show at the Baton Rouge Little Theater.

The next LSAC meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 27th.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn. It was seconded and adopted. The meeting ended at 12:20 p.m.