

**Minutes of the  
LOUISIANA STATE ARTS COUNCIL  
QUARTERLY MEETING  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana  
Monday, March 26, 2001  
10:00 a.m.**

**WELCOME/CALL TO ORDER**

Dan Henderson, chair opened the quarterly meeting of the Louisiana State Arts Council (LSAC), which was held at the State Library of Louisiana, at 10:20 a.m. The following members were **present**:

Dan Henderson	Christine Weeks
Sara Herrington	Laura Jeter Weems
Quincy Hilliard	Leanne Weill
Mary Terrell Joseph	Beverly Wilson
Carolyn McLellan	

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

Cynthia Ardoin (proxy to Cynthia Warner, Sara Herrington)  
Leah Chase  
Beverly Covington  
Jean Hurley  
Beth Kaplan (proxy to majority)  
Kay Katz  
Raelene Pell (proxy to Beth Kaplan or majority)  
Sally Perry  
Cynthia Warner (proxy to Dan Henderson)

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

Lisa Green	Maida Owens
Dee Hamilton	Ann Russo
Rena Hunter	Mickie Willis
Pearlie Johnson	

Also present were several members of the Louisiana Partnership for the Arts (LPA): Pam Atchison (chair), Amy Baskin, Ray Brassieur, Pam Breaux, Teri Cober, Naomi Cordill, Jennifer Phillips, Joycelyn Reynolds, Debbie Speer, Tommy Usrey and Martha Yancey.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

A motion to accept the minutes of the December 4, 2000, meeting was proposed by Ms. Joseph and seconded by Ms. Herrington, Mr. Hilliard, and Ms. Wilson. The motion carried unanimously.

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Mr. Henderson expressed thanks to Maida Owens for stepping in and accepting the role of Interim Director while the search for a permanent director is underway.

Mr. Henderson reported on the Executive Director search. The Executive Director Search Committee met on March 16<sup>th</sup>. Each of the members of the committee selected a few candidates' resumes and proceeded to conduct telephone interviews. The next step would be to convene a meeting to discuss the applicants' qualifications and narrow down the list of potential candidates. Three finalists will be chosen and their names submitted to the Lt. Governor's office for consideration. This

process should be finalized by mid April. It was stated that the Lt. Governor will personally interview the three candidates and make a final selection.

## **INTERIM DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

### ***Budget Projection***

Ms. Owens reviewed with the LSAC the LDOA FY02 Preliminary Budget Summary. The budget for FY02 is based on the preliminary budget that's going over to the Legislature. Looking at the current figures for FY02, the total income for LDOA is \$5,606,343. Our total income from the NEA for FY02 is \$616,700: Basic State Grant, \$379,800; Arts-in-Education grant, \$55,000; Outreach to Underserved Communities, \$96,900; Folklife grant, \$45,000. Last, but not least, our state appropriation for FY02 is targeted at \$4,989,643. It was also noted that an additional NEA grant was received this year and phase IV of the *Louisiana Voices* was funded.

Referencing the projected expenses for FY02, please note that the grant allocations are exactly the same as last year. It was noted that approximately 88% of LDOA's budget is used for regranting and the remainder goes toward publications and other services that help to strengthen all of LDOA's programs.

LDOA and the Louisiana Partnership for the Arts (LPA) must continue to work together to increase funding for the arts, or at the very least sustain the current level of funding. LDOA appreciates all of those who have made support for the arts possible.

### ***Remarks by Gerri Hobdy, Assistant Secretary, Office of Cultural Development***

According to Ms. Hobdy, who has been working in conjunction with the offices of the Governor and Lt. Governor, the Commissioner of Administration, the Secretary of the Department, and the Louisiana Partnership for the Arts regarding the budget for next year, the main concern is educators' pay. It was also mentioned that the Governor is intent on downsizing and the Office of Cultural Development will possibly face having to cut two (2) positions. These positions have not yet been selected; however, one may come from the Division of the Arts. There will be a request to recover the positions that may be eliminated.

In addition, the Division of Administration was asked for help with funding for the *Percent for Art* program director position. They did agree to help and identified \$50,000 from the Arts' operating budget to administer the program. The Arts Council of Greater Baton Rouge has agreed to be a fiscal agent so that the process can be moved along quickly. In the event that the contract for this year cannot be fulfilled, which would be for less than \$10,000, a new RFP would go out to the field for the \$50,000 at the beginning of the next fiscal year.

Also, there are some budget deficits in the department, particularly the Office of Management and Finance. This is the department where the checks are cut and distributed. We have been asked to find approximately \$100,000 (shared throughout the Department) out of the budget to support a shared cost for the operations of the Office of Management and Finance. This is a request from the Secretary of the Department and the Lt. Governor. They are, however, pursuing to recover monies that have been cut.

### ***Interim Director's Report Continued***

Ms. Owens continued with the mid-year cuts that were experienced, and it was noted that \$91,500 was cut from the existing budget.

The *2000 Annual Report* will not be published as a regular publication this year. Instead, it will be posted on LDOA's Web site and personalized reports will be sent out to all legislators and regional arts agencies. This will save on printing and design costs. A postcard will be distributed to LDOA's entire mailing list (approximately 25,000) announcing that the publication will be available online. The postcard also includes an announcement regarding the Louisiana State Arts Conference, *ArtWorks '01: New Horizons for a New Era*.

Also, LDOA did not think it would be appropriate to proceed with JCOG (Joint Committee on Grants) in revising the *Guide to Arts Programs* for 2002-2004 until a new director is appointed. The information will be collected and the committee will be identified and all information will be held for the new director. The new director can make an analysis

and decide exactly how to proceed in making the recommendations of grant revisions. Responses from the field have been compiled but have not yet been sent to the committee.

With regard to the economic impact study, ArtsMarket, an organization in Montana, has been identified to conduct this study. Contract negotiations are currently taking place. They will be handling all of the analysis and give us a report/media plan. The findings will not be printed until next fiscal year; however, we will have access to the data and there will be a presentation. Members of the organization will meet with our budget analysts to determine the overall process. Issues that will be discussed include data analysis, telephone surveys, household surveys and business surveys.

It was mentioned that the *Public Art Handbook* is in process. A copy editor has been hired but printing will be on hold until next fiscal year.

Regarding the State Arts Collection, the Meadows Museum will receive a grant from LDOA for conservation and exhibition of selected works within the collection. Approximately 25-30 pieces from the collection will be housed at Meadows Museum. Implementation of this project will begin next fiscal year.

#### ***Schedule of Spring Grants Review Panels***

Ms. Owens reported that spring grants review panels will be held April 24<sup>th</sup> through May 15<sup>th</sup> and LDOA encourages LSAC members and applicants to attend. A detailed schedule has been provided within council packets.

It was mentioned that the panels are generally comprised of nine members--individuals representing each of the eight economic development regions of the state and one from outside of the state--but sometimes it's not always possible to recruit panelists from all regions all the time.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### ***A. Approval of Panelists for Spring Grants Review***

LDOA previously sent the LSAC a listing of individuals recommended to serve as panelists for the spring grants review process. Please note that as the panels draw near, some of these individuals may change due to cancellation and replacements will have to be made. Ms. Owens stated that the confidentiality of the panelist list should be maintained until after the preliminary funding report is available. Only LDOA and LSAC should have access to the list. A motion to accept the list of panelists as recommended was proposed by Ms. Weeks and seconded by Ms. Wilson. The motion carried unanimously.

#### ***B. Endorsement of Mini-Grant Selections***

LDOA received a total of 94 applications for the spring round of artist mini-grants. LDOA staff adjudicated the applications and 37 grants were awarded. A total of \$47,000 was requested and \$18,500 awarded. A motion to endorse the mini-grant selections as recommended was proposed by Ms. Wilson and seconded by Ms. Herrington and Ms. McLellan. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Owens reviewed with the LSAC the grants synopsis comparison sheet for last year and this year. For the spring grants round, overall LDOA received a total of 174 applications for its arts education, folklife apprenticeship, and project assistance grant categories. The total amount requested is \$2,207,536. LDOA anticipates awarding \$645,000.

Other items in the LSAC packets include:

- 1) *State Arts Funding Rises About 12 Percent in 2001*, a press release from the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies
- 2) *How Will the Arts Fare Under Bush*
- 3) *NEA Chairman Ivey Hopes He'll Grow on Bush Administration*

#### ***C. Louisiana Partnership for the Arts Meeting and Legislative Luncheon***

Pat Atchison, chair of the Louisiana Partnership for the Arts (LPA), expressed her gratitude and thanks to the LSAC and LDOA for attending any of the Regional LPA meetings.

The next LPA meeting is scheduled for, March 27<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. at the Arts Council of Greater Baton Rouge. LPA also extended an invitation for LSAC and LDOA to attend the Legislative Luncheon, which will be held March 27<sup>th</sup> at the Camelot Club at 11:30 a.m. It was noted that 56 legislators were confirmed to attend.

On behalf of the LPA, Ms. Atchison thanked Ms. Owens and LDOA staff for their efforts during this transition period. Also, thanks to Ms. Hobby for everything that she has done and for having an open door and being available to the LPA.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

There was no old business to discuss.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn. It was seconded and adopted. The meeting was adjourned at 11:10 a.m.