

**Minutes of the
LOUISIANA STATE ARTS COUNCIL
QUARTERLY MEETING**

Claiborne Building – Room 136C
1201 North 3rd Street
Baton Rouge, LA
August 22, 2003
10:00 a.m.

WELCOME/CALL TO ORDER

Susan Reed, secretary, opened the meeting of the Louisiana State Arts Council (LSAC), which was held at the Claiborne Building in Baton Rouge, at 10:10 a.m. The following members were present:

Marion Drennen
Neil Early
Angela Hammerli

Mary Joseph
Susan Reed
Juana Woodard

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

Brandi Bollinger
Anna Brakenridge (proxy)
Susan Brunner (proxy)
Jose Canseco (proxy)
Freddie DeCourt (proxy)
Sara Herrington (proxy)
Rosemary Patterson

Molly Sooter (proxy)
Susan Turner (proxy)
Cynthia Warner
Christine Weeks (proxy)
LeAnne Weill
Frederick Zeagler (proxy)

Staff members of the Louisiana Division of the Arts (LDOA) in attendance were:

Pam Breaux
Lisa Green
Dabne Liebke
Maida Owens

Tamika Raby
Ann Russo
Selena Simon
Mickie Willis

Also in attendance were Laurel Wyckoff, Assistant Secretary, Office of Cultural Development (OCD), Robert Collins, Deputy Assistant Secretary, OCD, and Norman Ferachi, representing the Louisiana Partnership for the Arts (LPA).

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Joseph moved to accept the minutes of the June 20th meeting. Ms. Drennen seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously and the minutes were approved.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ms. Breaux reported briefly on the progress of LDOA's planning for the Spring Grants Round. LDOA reserved approximately \$100,000 from the grants round LSAC approved in June. These funds will be used for a special Fast Track category to enable the LDOA to fund some initiatives and projects that we are not normally able to fund.

LDOA will begin advertising no later than October. Applications will be due in mid-January. Overall, there will be a four-month time span that organizations and individuals will have to complete Fast Track projects.

Areas of focus for these grants include:

- Arts Business and Entrepreneurial Projects – To provide some funding for the organizations who are investing in business plans, earned income strategies, etc. This category will help support the development of sound business practices.
- Individual Artist Development – For projects that positively impact artists' careers as well as their work. Mini-grants are specifically for developing artists' careers. Fellowships are awards of merit and are highly competitive. This category should open the door for high quality artist projects.
- Creation, Dissemination and Performance of New Works – This category will help to encourage new works and encourage organizations to work with individual artists who have new works to be presented.
- Developing marketing plans – Focusing on audience development; another critical area for Louisiana organizations.
- Implementation of Plans – Very often through the Louisiana Partnership for the Arts and its Peer Assistance Network, we see organizations take the first few steps – acquiring a consultant to help develop a new membership or annual giving campaign, a design, etc. This area allows for the actual implementation of those plans.

Grants will range from \$3,000 to \$5,000. For a four-month project activity period, this should be an appropriate amount of money. In the coming weeks, LDOA will be working on the application, guidelines and instructions.

Ms. Breaux took a moment to introduce Mr. Mark Drennen, Commissioner of the Division of Administration, who was responsible for moving the Division's Percent for Art program forward.

ARTS-IN-EDUCATION and MUSIC PROGRAMS OVERVIEW – Mickie Willis

The Arts-In-Education Program includes *Arts Basic*, *Artists in the Classroom* and *Arts Education Projects*. Within the Music Program, LDOA offers *Project Assistance*, as well as *Fellowships* and *Mini-Grants* for individual artists. There is also an ancillary program, the *State Artist Roster*, and some *Special Initiatives*.

Arts-In-Education

- **Arts Basic:** supports planning or programming grants that supplement the Louisiana Department of Education Arts Content Standards and assist in making the arts a basic part of the K-12 curriculum in Louisiana schools.
- **Artists in the Classroom:** places professional artists in public and private elementary and secondary schools to demonstrate their art forms and to share their ideas, talents and creativity. The program enriches the educational experience of those it brings together: artists, students, teachers, parents, administrators and other community members.
- **Arts Education Projects:** support specific arts-related activities that enhance the artistic educational development of elementary and secondary school students. Projects should focus on the arts in an educational way and allow for broad community participation in planning and implementation. These take place out of school, weekends, after school, summer music camps, field trips, museums, etc. Providing students with unique arts experiences in and out of schools.

Music

- **Project Assistance** – Assisting with special programming, aiding the creation of new works and funding the highest quality performances for communities throughout Louisiana. This category funds and helps supports programming such as production of CD for a special concert, paying fees for conductors and artists presenting performances, etc.
- **Artist Fellowships** – Recognizing and rewarding Louisiana's finest performers and composers. Grants of \$5,000 are awarded to individual artists each year.

- **Artist Mini-Grants** – Helping advance Louisiana's most promising emerging and established music artists. These are \$500 awards. Grants are tied to a proposal – a plan for something that positively impacts the artist's career (producing a CD, developing a Web site or press kit, purchasing equipment, etc.)

State Artist Roster

The *State Artist Roster* is compiled to ensure quality arts experiences and to assist artists, schools and school systems. Developed in an effort to establish a community resource of accomplished artists in all major disciplines. Artists are recommended for various projects throughout the state. The *Roster* is available on LDOA's Web site at <http://www.crt.state.la.us/arts/rosterbase/rosterhome.htm>.

Special Initiatives

Providing assistance to organizations working to advance the arts and arts education. Occasionally, there are projects that LDOA cannot do directly as a state agency, but consider very important to arts education. LDOA will provide funds to an outside agency to develop these.

Mr. Willis highlighted some of the projects that have been funded this year through these programs:

- **Arts Basic**

Professional Development Plan for Artists and Teachers

With the aid of an Arts Basic grant, the Arts Council of Greater Baton Rouge will implement the first year of a five-year program of professional development in arts education for artists and teachers. The program will utilize the LA State Department of Education Arts Content Standards, and over the course of five years, include teachers from all 100 schools in EBR Parish.

The Arts-Integrated Model School Initiative

An Arts Basic grant will allow the Louisiana Alliance for Arts Education to introduce the first phase of a model, arts-infused curriculum into two schools - one urban, one rural - in the Alexandria region. Assessment will be conducted to chart student academic improvement in all subject areas to demonstrate the program's effectiveness. The program will be expanded to all eight regions of the state, beginning with two schools in each region.

- **Artists in the Classroom**

Exploring Louisiana Through Sculpture

The DeSoto Parish School Board will conduct a seven-week sculpture residency at five elementary schools in that parish. Through an Artists in the Classroom grant, sculptor Gerald Ortego will work with all students in those schools, using the visual arts to illustrate lessons in Social Studies and Louisiana history and culture.

- ***Arts Education Projects***

Creative Communities Program

Through an Arts Education Project grant, the New Orleans Ballet Association (NOBA) will offer after-school dance lessons for at-risk students and their families. NOBA is one of 20 national pilot sites and organizations selected to take part in a program, sponsored also by NEA, HUD, and the National Guild of Community Schools for the Arts, to offer art classes through community centers in low-income neighborhoods.

Sound Safari 2004

The Monroe Symphony League will provide educational concerts for students in Ouachita parish. Through an Arts in Education Project grant, all 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students in Ouachita parish will have the opportunity to attend educational concerts by the Monroe Symphony.

- ***Music Project Assistance***

Cantus

The McNeese Banners Series will present the all-male choral group, Cantus, in concert. A Music Project Assistance grant will support a public concert and educational community workshops by the a cappella chamber chorus, Cantus, as part of the McNeese Banners Series.

Requiem for the Millennium: Historical Basis for Contemporary Music

The Nicholls State University School of Fine Arts will present a performance of *Requiem for the Millennium*. A Music Project Assistance grant will help recreate the premiere of this work, which features orchestra, choir, soloists, and jazz ensemble, and incorporates jazz, gospel, and other contemporary idioms within the tradition of the requiem.

■ ***Music Fellowship Recipients***

Julian Garcia – New Music Composition (New Orleans)

Corey Henry – Instrumental Performance, Trombone (New Orleans)

David Pulphus – Instrumental Performance, Bass (New Orleans)

■ ***Music Mini-Grant Recipients (FY03)***

Patrice Fisher – Harp (New Orleans)

Betty Shirley – Voice (New Orleans)

Jeffrey George – Guitar (Lafayette)

Rebecca Dodson-Webster – Horn (Monroe)

■ ***State Artist Roster***

As previously indicated, the *State Artist Roster* is on the LDOA Web site. The *Roster* no longer exists as a print copy. It is an online searchable database – search by parish or discipline. At this point, there are 155 individuals on the *Roster* and most have audio samples connected to their individual pages.

■ ***Special Initiatives***

The Louisiana Institute for Education in the Arts Summer Institute at NOCCA

One of LDOA's big projects this year through the *Special Initiatives* program. This project was implemented by the Louisiana Alliance for Arts Education (LAAE). They provide classroom training and arts education training for individuals. LDOA sent 12 artists from the *Roster* to the Summer Roster Training at the NOCCA Institute. Many school systems send principals and teachers. LDOA also underwrites the cost of sending *Roster Artists* to the Institute. This training is offered to regular classroom music teachers as well. They are given some instruction and a training guide to assist them better in their teaching efforts. About 65 – 75 people were at the Institute this year.

The Music Fellowship CD Project

LDOA will produce a CD to highlight the work of Music Fellowship winners for the last ten years. The *Music Fellowship CD Project* will include works by Keith Gates, Tony Dagradi, Katherine Kemler, Rene Singleton, Carlos Sanchez and more. There will be approximately 10 artists featured on the CD. The cover for the CD will be a stained glass image by visual artist Sam Corso.

NEW BUSINESS

Approval of FY 2004 Mini-Grant and Artist Roster Recommendations

Ms. Breaux referenced the synopsis within the LSAC packets and stated that LDOA had received a total of 116 mini-grant applications and 21 roster applications. This synopsis shows a breakdown by artistic discipline.

Demographic and regional information was also available. For LDOA's purposes, the eight regions are: 1- New Orleans, 2-Baton Rouge, 3-Houma, 4-Acadiana, 5-Lake Charles, 6-Alexandria/Central, 7-Shreveport/Northwest, and 8-Monroe/Northeast.

Of the applications received, 41 are recommended for funding, and 12 artists are recommended for acceptance to the *Roster*. Ms. Joseph moved to accept these recommendations. Ms. Woodard seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

STANDING COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

Special Events

2004 Governor's Arts Awards (Partnership with LPA)

Ms. Breaux stated that due to budget cuts the *Governor's Arts Awards (GAA)* program and the *State Arts Conference* had been cut from the budget this year and last year. LDOA recently received an offer from LPA to provide a one-day conference, culminating with the *Governor's Arts Awards* reception. LPA is offering time, expertise and funding to assist with these initiatives. With regard to LSAC, the Special Events Committee will review the GAA nominations and select the recipients.

The conference is scheduled for May 19th. Although funds are limited, together LDOA and LPA can make this happen. LDOA would like an endorsement from LSAC.

Mr. Early moved to endorse the partnership with LPA for this initiative. Ms. Drennen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

None

ADJOURN

Ms. Angela Hammerli moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Early seconded the motion. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m.