

**LOUISIANA STATE ARTS COUNCIL
QUARTERLY MEETING
Claiborne Building
1st Floor – Room 141
Friday, June 25, 2004
10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.**

WELCOME/CALL TO ORDER

Christine Weeks, chair, opened the quarterly 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:

Anna Brakenridge	Susan Reed
Susan Brunner	Susan Turner
Marion Drennen	Christine Weeks
Neil Early	LeAnne Weill
Angela Hammerli	Juana Woodard
Mary Joseph	Fred Zeagler

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

Brandi Bollinger	Sara Herrington
Jose Canseco	Molly Sooter
Freddie DeCourt	Cynthia Warner

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

Tom Breaux	Selena Simon
Lisa Green	Tamika Raby
Dabne Liebke	

Also in attendance were Robert Collins, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Office of Cultural Development, Chuck Boudreaux, Acadiana Symphony Orchestra (ASO) Board President, Tim Bergman, ASO Conservatory Director, Jean Hurley, ASO Board Member, Don Hill, Former ASO Executive Director, Dana La Fonta and Suzanne Parsons, Community Development Coordinator and Executive Director respectively, St. Tammany Arts Commission.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Hammerli moved to accept the minutes of the March 29, 2004 meeting. Ms. Joseph seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously and the minutes were approved.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

2004-2005 Schedule of LSAC Meetings

Ms. Weeks presented the proposed schedule of LSAC meetings for the new fiscal year. The FY05 Schedule of Quarterly Meetings were approved as follows:

Friday, August 27, 2004 (Houma)
Friday, December 3, 2004
Monday, March 28 2005
Friday, June 24 2005

All meetings, with the exception of August, will be held in Baton Rouge from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. It was announced that the August meeting would be held in Houma/Terrebonne at a location to be determined.

Ms. Weeks and Ms. Breaux attended the Southern Arts Federation meeting last month in Atlanta, Georgia. Ms. Weeks mentioned that Kelly Barsdate, Director of Policy, Research and Evaluation for the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies, provided a presentation of a national view of the *State of the Arts* at the SAF meeting. Ms. Weeks presented a similar PowerPoint presentation, inclusive of past experiences, current view, future prospects and trends, and resources.

Update on the Division of the Arts Executive Director Position

Ms. Weeks will be appointing a Committee in the coming weeks to work with Angèle Davis, Secretary of the Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism (DCRT). The position will be advertised for two months – July and August. The selection process, inclusive of screening and interviewing, will begin in September and possibly extend into October. Recommendations will be forwarded to Secretary Davis in late fall of this year.

Update on LSAC Member Status

Regarding the status of terms for present LSAC members, terms are status quo. The new administration has not addressed appointments to the State Arts Council. Appreciation was extended to LSAC members initially appointed for a two-year term for their continued service until new appointments are made.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

FY 2005 Budget Update

A budget for FY 2005 was disseminated for review, a copy of which is attached to the record.

There are no major changes from the FY 2004 budget. Due to the work of the LPA and Arts Lobbyist Charlie Smith, \$132,000 was reinstated within the Division's budget during FY 2005 budget deliberations in the state Legislature. Ms. Turner moved to endorse the budget. Mr. Early seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Because LPA has been instrumental to keeping LDOA at a consistent funding level, Ms. Weeks encouraged LSAC members to attend LPA meetings and become members.

NEW BUSINESS

Review and Approval of FY05 Appeals from Spring Grants Panels

Ms. Weeks commented that there were several appeals within the General Operating Support and Local Arts Agency categories that addressed current grants program processes, panelist representation, and the grant allocation process (how funds are designated for Level 1 and Level 2 organizations). It was explained that there would be two separate task forces created to address the concerns within the General Operating Support and Local Arts Agency programs. The Division will be assessing these programs from the ground up, evaluating programs and services, and all stakeholders would be involved in this process.

Ms. Brunner questioned the formation of the two task forces and Ms. Breaux explained that the overall makeup of each task force has not been identified. There will be more than one level of involvement from various constituencies – local arts agency representation, Division staff members, Council members, etc. There have already been some conversations with many of the local arts agency directors to convene roundtable to discuss creating a new model that serves Louisiana in a new, different, and perhaps better way for the local arts agency partnership program. The Division anticipates having this meeting in August while these issues are fresh.

Ms. Brunner recommended that the Policy Committee select a Sub-Committee to be involved in the discussion. Ms. Brunner stated that she would be interested in serving on this Committee for the Local Arts Agencies.

The Executive Committee recommended that LDOA be given the authority to determine when a Conflict of Interest exists, rather than placing responsibility with the panel. The Division should also request that the Staff CRT attorney and attorney general's office be consulted concerning eligibility issues with regard to Swine Palace in partnership with a state city.

Of the 14 General Operating Support (GOS) applications, there were 6 appeals. There were 11 applicants within the Local Arts Agency (LAA) category with a total of 7 complaints and one appeal. After extreme, thoughtful conversation and consideration, the Executive Committee recommended that all appeals be granted and funded at some level because of a pattern of discrepancies within this year's process. The funding recommendations for GOS and LAA were distributed.

Ms. Brunner commented with regard to the appeals. Although the St. Tammany Arts Commission did not submit an appeal, Ms. Brunner strongly feels that the process in place has to be reviewed. Ms. Brunner made an official statement referencing a letter that was sent to Ms. Breaux and LSAC members from Willie Paretti, Chair of the St. Tammany Arts Commission. The statement is herein attached to the record. It was felt that the remarks have done harm to the reputation of the Arts Commission and misrepresented the many accomplishments they have achieved.

Ms. Turner moved that the Council accept the Executive Committee recommendations to award all appeals. Ms. Drennen and Mr. Early seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Review and Approval of FY05 Grant Awards from Spring Grants Panels

Ms. Breaux referenced the Recommended Funding Summary and the FY05/FY04 Grants Synopsis/Comparison provided within the LSAC packets.

The State Arts Council discussed other funding opportunities for operating support. It was noted that there are some other opportunities, but it is easier for organizations to receive additional project support from their local community and foundations and corporations. What is extremely important about the LAA and GOS programs of the LDOA is that they are for the overall operation of arts organizations and these funds are harder to acquire.

Ms. Breaux stated that the GOS and LAA programs are the largest pools of funding within the LDOA Statewide Arts Grants program. These funds are provided to organizations that are dedicated to nurturing, presenting and developing the arts across the state. The funds within the GOS category are larger than that of LAA because, when comparing the amount of the grants awarded to the overall budget of the applicant organization, the GOS category is funding a far smaller percent of the operating budgets of those organizations. LDOA funds a higher percentage of the LAA budgets with grants awarded in this category.

Is there any other funding available for operating support for Local Arts Agencies? Yes, but it's not easy to secure. It's more difficult for a LAA to get operating support elsewhere because of the nature of what they do – it's service-oriented. The product of the GOS organizations is more tangible than that of LAA. Ms. Brunner recommended that these issues, along with how the funds are allocated within the two programs, be addressed within the task forces being formed. The LAA's are the grassroots organizations that are really getting things done and this needs to be looked at for future planning. Ms. Breaux stated that these issues will be included within the task force discussions for both LAA and GOS.

Ms. Joseph moved to accept the panel recommendations for funding, as modified by the appeals process. Ms. Reed seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Roadmap for Change

Ms. Weill inquired about the Lt. Governor's *Roadmap for Change*. Ms. Breaux explained that copies of the working document should be available within the next few weeks. When the document becomes available, LDOA will distribute copies to the LSAC.

STANDING COMMITTEES

Advocacy Committee

Ms. Brunner commented that it's great news that the LDOA regained the previous reduction of \$132K through this year's legislative session.

The Fish Fry went well, but the attendance was not what was anticipated. The number of legislators did not decrease from last year, but the constituent attendance did. Overall, it was a good event, but in the future we should look at factors that may have contributed to decreased attendance – other parties and events, timing, location, etc.

LDOA Assessment

Ms. Liebke gave an overview of what the Division's upcoming assessment and strategic planning process will include. Currently, the consultants have the past four years of grants data so they can assess what is happening Statewide, through the Decentralized Arts Funding program, what are we funding, who are the artists and organizations, etc. All databases of information were forwarded to them as well so that numerical and statistical analysis can be conducted and information provided.

Recently, representatives from EMC Arts visited for three days and interviewed all LDOA staff, Representative Kay Kellogg Katz, Jose Canseco (LSAC Policy Chair), key stakeholders from throughout the state, various organizations – large and small, etc.

We will soon be embarking upon the next phase, which is to conduct approximately 30 focus groups over a period of three days (July 7th – 9th) in the areas of St. Tammany, New Orleans, Lafayette, Lake Charles, Shreveport and Monroe. Participants are being invited and have been specifically selected because of who they are or the community that they represent.

Other phases of the assessment include gathering survey data from arts organizations and artists, and a comparative analysis with other state arts agencies.

Ms. Reed will be serving on the 15-member Steering Committee. Meetings will be held in July and in September once the assessment report is provided.

During September and October, LDOA will begin writing a new Strategic Plan that will cover all programs and operations – criteria, grants programs, etc. Community Forums will be held November 3rd – 5th around the state to inform everyone of the changes that are occurring and how these changes came about, as well as provide information about the various phases of the assessment prior to the Forums. This is a very important and much needed step for the Division.

Special Events Committee

Ms. Hammerli commented on the success of the Governor's Arts Awards (GAA) reception and ceremony. Ms. Breaux explained that because of the work of the Louisiana Partnership for the Arts (LPA), and no further cuts this year to LDOA's budget, this program is included within the FY 2005 budget. The LPA retreat occurred over the past two days and the partnership with LDOA was unanimously approved. LDOA and LPA will work collaboratively once more to produce the one-day conference and GAA for next year.

Ms. Weeks expressed that there were multiple benefits to having the GAA and Conference programs this year – networking and sharing of ideas, growing collaborations, etc. A sincere thanks to those who were able to attend the Conference and the GAA. As you may recall, there was no one from The Cox Family available to accept the award, but on July 10th, the GAA will be presented to The Cox Family in Arcadia at the Depot Museum. All are invited to attend.

Ms. Joseph requested that the LDOA thank LPA on behalf of LSAC for the collaboration with the conference and GAA programs. Ms. Weeks stated that this has been done verbally, but it's also important to do so in writing.

OTHER

Ms. Breaux mentioned that Mickie Willis has retired. The search for a new Arts-In-Education Program Director will happen fairly soon. Ms. Weeks recommended that LDOA send a letter to Mr. Willis on behalf of the LSAC and thank him for his service over the years.

ADJOURN

Mr. Zeagler moved to adjourn. Ms. Hammerli seconded the motion. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:00 noon.