**Michael Echols, Chair**

Monroe

**Rex Alexander**

Lake Charles

**Marguerite Anderson**

West Monroe

**Pamela Breaux**

Lake Charles

**Pamela Bryan**

New Orleans

**Dwayne Carruth**

Baton Rouge

**Stephen Carter**

Baton Rouge

**Karen Courtman**

Shreveport

**Missy Crews**

Baton Rouge

**Robert Fisher**

La Place

**Gena Gore**

Dry Prong

**Gerri Hobdy**

Baton Rouge

**Angela King**

New Orleans

**Mary Lee**

Mandeville

**George Marks**

Arnaudville

**Barbara Motley**

New Orleans

**Patti Nelson**

Monroe

**Sheela Plater**

Thibodaux

**Michael D. Robinson**

Baton Rouge

**Jacques Rodrigue**

New Orleans

**Karen Dean Sharp**

Sterlington

**Kirk Talbot**

New Orleans

**Patrick Widhalm**

Natchitoches



**State of Louisiana**

Office of the   
Lieutenant Governor

Department of Culture, Recreation, Tourism

Office of   
Cultural Development

**Louisiana State Arts Council**

**Quarterly Meeting Minutes**

**Pennington Biomedical Center**

**Wednesday, July 16, 2014**

**Council Members present:** Chairman Michael Echols, Gerri Hobdy, Rex Alexander, Karen Sharp, Jacques Rodrigue, Marguerite Anderson, Michael Robinson, Gena Gore, Dwayne Carruth, Waynette Ballengee, Mary Lee, Patti Nelson, Kirk Talbot, Pat Widhalm, Barbara Motley, and Karen Sharp.

**Council Members not present:** Pam Breaux, Angela King, Rep. Stephen Carter, Karen Courtman, Robert Fisher, Missy Crews, Pamela Bryan, and George Marks

**LDOA Staff present:** Cathy Hernandez, Dana La Fonta, Gaye Hamilton, Danny Belanger and Maida Owens

**I. Call to Order and Welcome**

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 p.m. by Chairman Echols. He welcomed everyone and went around the room to introduce all the LSAC members since there were many new members present.

**II. Approval of Minutes**

The minutes were approved upon motion by Gina Gore, which was seconded by Barbara Motley, and unanimously passed by the Council.

**III. Chairman’s Reports**

Michael conducted a discussion about the possible changes to the bylaws. Members read the suggested changes. Barbara Motley moved to accept the proposed changes, Mary Lee seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Regarding a broader revision of the bylaws, there was a question about terms of service. Michael explained that changes to terms must be made by legislative act or executive order. Gerri said Beth Courtney is interested in changing LPB’s bylaws, and suggested coordinating bylaw revisions for both organizations. Michael read the current appointment process, and discussed the need for more voices from the local level rather than by political appointment. Cathy will send proposed changes to appointments for the LSAC members to review and consider before taking action.

**IV. LDOA Director’s Report**

Cathy Hernandez reported that we have a new Director of Grants and Community Programs – Paula White. Cathy took the opportunity to introduce her to the LSAC members. Cathy also mentioned a new three-state initiative involving Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama to create a ‘Gulf Coast Presenters Network’ which will encourage these states to book artists from outside of their state, but within this three-state consortium. She will travel to Jackson, MS to explore possibilities with presenters from all three states on August 5th. Last, Cathy reported that she led a webinar on June 25th with the RDAs from around the state to get feedback on potential changes to the RDA Performance Plan grant.

**V. LDOA Staff Reports**

**Grant-making:** Paula White presented the proposed FY15 Grant Awards for Special Initiative Grants, Decentralized Arts Funding (DAF), and Stabilization Grants.  The FY15 Grant Awards were approved upon motion by Gerri Hobdy, which was seconded by Gena Gore, and unanimously passed by the Council.  Gena Gore, LSAC Liaison for the Grants Program, spoke about the Regional Development Agencies (RDAs) Plan Review Grant.  This grant is only available to the 8 RDAs.  There have been some changes to the evaluation process and funding levels this year, which were rolled out to the RDAs during a webinar in June.  The grants will be evaluated by a panel of five people who will review the applications submitted.  The RDAs agreed that the evaluation should be of the application only, and should not include a presentation to the panel by the applicants.  Organizations will be awarded a minimum grant amount based on their budget sizes.  Organizations with budgets under $1 million will receive a minimum of $12,000, while organizations with budgets over $1 million will receive a minimum award of $40,000.  There will be an additional $60,000 to divide among the organizations for excellence based on panel scores.  Gena stated that the new process fosters healthy competition and that the changes are positive.  The Panel Review will take place during the week of August 11th.  There will be an LSAC meeting during the week of August 25th to ratify the grants.  Gena asked that everyone try to attend so that a quorum will be present.  Gerri Hobdy made a motion to ratify the presented DAF, Stabilization and Special Initiative grants, which was seconded by Gena Gore, and unanimously passed by the Council.

**Cultural Districts:** The annual cycle for the Cultural District program is in the implementation of new districts period. Effective two weeks ago on July 1 two districts, Opelousas and Museum City Park in New Orleans, expanded their boundaries and eight new districts were certified: Jackson Cultural District, Town of Many Cultural District, Historic Washington Cultural District, D'Arbonne Cultural District in Farmerville, Old Arabi Cultural Arts District, Thibodaux Cultural District, Morgan City Cultural District, and Bocage Cultural District in Baton Rouge.

During the early months of certification we conduct organizational meetings to inform the stakeholders about tax incentives and promote the designation. In some communities becoming a cultural district is a catalyst that sparks excitement and encourages efforts to create new events and opportunities for art products and sales. 2013 Annual Reports were finally collected from all districts and compiled. The results are consistent with past years, showing increased cultural activity and original art sales in districts as well as decreased vacancy and a greater number of renovations, many using state historic tax credits. In 2013 just over $14 million in art sales was reported in cultural districts and over $1.27 billion in overall revenue. Cumulative results will be provided at the next meeting. In partnership with the Louisiana Department of Economic Development, Small and Emerging Business Development Division we secured the Creative Vitality Index suite of data from Westaf. The 2013 data will serve as an update to the important findings first published in 2005 and last updated in 2009.

**Folklife:** Michael Robinson, Folklife LSAC Liaison, reported that the Lt. Governor proclaimed June 4, 2014 as Louisiana Folklife Day, a project of the Louisiana Folklife Commission. He mentioned the great attendance and the positive attention it received. Maida reported that The Shreveport Regional Arts Council (SRAC) hosted an Art of Community workshop on April 4, 2014. On April 3, the traveling exhibit, *A Better Life for All: Traditional Arts of Louisiana’s Immigrant Communities*, premiered at SRAC for one month. The exhibit will become part of the State Museum’s traveling exhibit program which primarily target parish libraries. The Library of Congress’ American Folklife Center awarded the Louisiana Folklore Society and the Folklife Program an Archie Green Fellowship of $30,400 to document the occupational folklore in small businesses in Baton Rouge. To promote the completed website entitled Folklife in Louisiana, brochures and bookmarks were passed out. The Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism is producing *Uniquely Louisiana*, a CRT education initiative. With support from the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area, CRT is creating a web portal that will feature education resources provided by all agencies in department and it is being led by Maida Owens and Danny Belanger.

**Percent for Art:** The Pennington Biomedical Research Center is nearing project completion. The total art budget is $287,953, and $31,994 is allotted for the administration of the budget / project. More information on the pieces will be given during the tour after the meeting. For the LSU E Community Education Center in Eunice, LA, three artists were selected as finalists from a pool of 182 applicants worldwide for this site specific sculpture commission. Artist Obie Simonis (MA) selected for the commission, which has an art budget of $66,226, and an administrative budget of $7,358. For the LSU University Medical Center – New Orleans, LA, three finalists were selected from a pool of 241 artists, and final proposal presentations took place on March 27, 2014. The proposal submitted by artist Ray King (PA) was selected, and it has an art budget of $2,214,398, and an administrative budget of $246,044.

**Arts in Education:** Jacques Rodrigue reported that the Rodrigue Foundation and Louisiana A+ Schools were honored as a Turnaround School by the President’s Committee on Arts and Humanities (PCAH). Danny Belanger reported that the ICI Pilot Program is now completed, and a program evaluation will be completed this fall. CRT’s Education Portal is moving forward, and resources will be added soon. We have completed the first phase of the Louisiana Artist Roster, and a second phase is underway. Danny is also serving as Louisiana host for the Arts Education Group pre conference as part of the NASAA conference in November, and he’s also working on updating Culture Grants Online.

**VI. LPA / LCA Report**

The LPA and LCA have decided to change their branding strategy. The two organizations will remain separate with their board, budget, mission, and structure, but they will change their branding strategy to eliminate confusion. They will both be branded under one name – the Louisiana Citizens for the Arts. The organizations had their annual retreat last month in Shreveport where the past Presidents stepped down, and the new leadership took their positions. The Chair of the LPA is Patricia Prudhomme, and the Chair of the LCA is Eric Holowacz.

**VII. New Business**

Cathy mentioned that she hoped everyone would stay for a lunch and tour of Pennington. Cathy will also send information and invitations to upcoming NASAA events as they become available in regard to their annual Conference being held in New Orleans from November 13 – 15th.

**VIII. Public Comment**

No public comment

**IX. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:55 a.m. upon motion of Gena Gore, which was seconded by Karen Sharp, and unanimously passed by the Council.