

LOUISIANA STATE ARTS COUNCIL

February 6, 1995 Meeting Report

Penny Mobley, chairman, opened the quarterly meeting of the Louisiana State Arts Council which was held at the Capitol Annex building at 9:30 a.m. The following members were present and constituted a quorum:

Penne Mobley	Gloria Callais
Elizabeth Chubbuck-Meche	Marilyn Cox
Sara Herrington	Beth Kaplan
Mary Ann Netterville	Raelene Pell
Beverly Wilson	Marie Wright

Council members absent from the meeting were:

Suzanne Arceneaux	Cynthia Ardoin
Katie Planche Friedrichs	Molly Parish Mariner
Deborah Reese	Virginia Riley

Staff from the Office of Cultural Development, Division of the Arts present were:

Ann Russo	Dee Waller
Maida Owens	Velma Gray
Celeste Uzee	Erin Jones
Brad Harris	Pearlie Johnson

Also present were Mark Hilzim, Secretary of the Department of Culture, Recreation, and Tourism; Gerri Hobdy, Assistant Secretary, Office of Cultural Development; and Suzanne Parsons, chair of the Louisiana Partnership.

WELCOME

Penny Mobley, chair, introduced and welcomed James Borders, the new executive director for the Division of the Arts. New staff members Pearlie Johnson and Erin Jones were introduced at this time, as well as student interns Brad Harris, Celeste Uzee, and Ladrica Menson.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Sara Herrington moved to approve the minutes of the last meeting and Marilyn Cox seconded the motion.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

At this time, Gerri Hobdy welcomed James Borders and thanked the executive committee for their hard work. James addressed those assembled and talked of the need to build the links of communication between the field and his office and expressed his concern for both the short-term and long-term issues facing the Division of the Arts. After his comments, Mark Hilzim reminded everyone that the missions of the Department and the Division can only be accomplished as a team effort.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Penne Mobley reported the recent resignation of Pam John from the executive committee and presented the executive committee's slate of nominees for vacant executive committee seats-- Beth Kaplan, Mary Ann Netterville and Beverly Wilson. Gloria Callais made a motion to accept the new members, and Beverly Wilson seconded the motion, which the council approved unanimously.

The chair then reported that the Louisiana Alliance for Arts Education had requested an amendment to \$17,500 of the budget for their \$35,000 special initiative grant previously approved in October 1994. The executive committee recommended approval of the proposed spending changes with the stipulation that \$3,500 which LAEE had earmarked for summer workshops be instead used to augment the \$5,000 they had targeted for Public Broadcasting Service arts teaching programs.

ARTS CONFERENCE REPORT

In reference to the upcoming Arts Conference, Penne reported that Billie Tripp has been retained as conference planner. A draft agenda that features Andre Codrescu as one of the keynote speakers was also distributed. The conference is scheduled for May 17-19, 1995 in Baton Rouge. The planning committee will meet again on February 17 in Shreveport, so any suggestions to the committee should be submitted before that date. There will be an individual artist's track and a track for intermediate-level arts administrators, with Wednesday evening as a preconference for arts administrators. Thursday marks the beginning of the conference, and Thursday night is scheduled for the Governor's Art Awards. Marie Wright announced that the Governor will be in attendance for the awards at her invitation. Penne thanked Ms. Wright and suggested that the council ask their respective legislators to attend also.

Nomination forms for the awards will be mailed to arts councils, etc. by February 17. Nomination categories include professional/individual artist, arts organizations, arts in education, business/corporation, philanthropic, and lifetime achievement.

LONG-RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE

The meeting of the long-range planning committee was scheduled to take place immediately after this meeting adjourned. All council members were invited to attend by Sara Herrington, the committee chair.

CALCASIEU ARTS COUNCIL UPDATE

Marilyn Cox reported on the status of the Calcasieu Arts Council. The Calcasieu area organized a central board and will meet tomorrow to determine an executive board. Also, a director will be hired at a later date. They are considering dropping the word Calcasieu from their name, as they serve more than the geographical area described by that term. Marilyn detailed a fundraising auction that the council is participating in with Temple Sinai of Lake Charles. They are to receive a certain percent of the proceeds from an art auction. She stated that their constituency is supporting joint community endeavors, especially urban to rural.

In addition to the renewed life in the Calcasieu Arts Council, Penne told the council that Rep. Bo Ackel is interested in the possible formation of an arts council in New Iberia.

DECENTRALIZED ARTS FUNDING (DAF)

Reporting on DAF, Maida Owens informed the council that the eight Community Development Coordinators (CDCs) were hired and trained in the fall. She instructed them in technical assistance, Dee guided them through the panel process, and Ann taught them how to review applications, as well as taking them through a mock panel. Many of the CDCs stay in contact regularly with the DOA staff for further assistance, but others are in well-developed arts agencies and require little additional help.

Preliminary figures show that each parish submitted enough applications to get all of the funds, and most parishes had far more applications than funds available. For example, Orleans requested \$2 million and has \$200 thousand available for distribution. St. Tammany Parish also had an abundance of applicants, as well as the Lafayette area.

The next meeting with CDCs is scheduled for April and will concentrate on final report writing.

During the DAF application process, the Cultural Resources Directory served a significant need especially in areas with little or no infrastructure.

Sara Herrington commented on the need for final figures once all monies are awarded; she suggested that parish-by-parish statistics might be useful in dealing with legislators.

Maida added that the DAF stimulated many new types of applicants; for example, East Baton Rouge Parish Cooperative Extension Service is doing an arts project. Due to the flexibility in the program, there is much local latitude in the organization and design of the selection process this year. This will give many options to examine when designing the process next year.

In further discussion on DAF, Penne mentioned the need to change the deadlines so that they would not conflict with the regular DOA grants process. Additionally, Elizabeth Chubbuck-Meche had questions about the awarding of DAF funds and how those funds would affect recipients. A clarification of the matter revealed that people who have applied for or received Decentralized funding must indicate so on their regular grant application, thus allowing a distinction to be made. An applicant cannot receive more than 50% of their funding from both sources.

Discussion of funding brought to light a scheduling conflict between the State Arts Conference and the grant panels. Beverly Wilson expressed the desire to attend both the conference and the Arts in Education panel, and staff responded by saying that they would attempt to reschedule the panels to avoid any conflict.

LOUISIANA PARTNERSHIP REPORT

Suzanne Parsons was present to give the Louisiana Partnership report. Meetings of the Partnership take place about every 4-6 weeks. Charlie Smith is still the lobbyist, but Suzanne will be continuing as chair only until the end of the session. She asked that everyone continue to work in the partnership--their goal is actively promoting arts/culture in LA and leading the way in the Legislature.

A major focus is improving communications between councils statewide. The partnership is also reactivating its fax tree; within 45 minutes, they can begin working on their legislators. Suzanne expressed the need for help, especially in Lake Charles and Lafayette. The partnership had already begun working on the Appropriations committee, and that work needs to continue. Fundraising must also continue--\$32,000 is needed for Smith and the advocacy effort. Corrie Mason is the chair and the East Baton Rouge Arts Council is the fiscal agent, so those who wish to donate can send checks payable to the EBR Arts Council to any arts agency in the state. Last year's fundraising effort netted \$26,000.

The partnership is releasing a timetable for the calling of local legislators, and they are working with the Lieutenant Governor's schedule in order to determine the date for receptions during the legislative session. Penne asked that receptions not be taken lightly; poorly attended receptions only hurt the cause.

Suzanne was enthusiastic about the number of people becoming involved--PTA's and many other community groups. It is the intention of the partnership to make all of these people involved and informed about what's going on here in Baton Rouge--all will go on our mailing list. The partnership meets in Baton Rouge and hopes that all of you will attend, because the meetings are a fountain of ideas and networks.

As a representative of the partnership, Suzanne had some requests: they would like to be notified of Arts Council Meetings and would like to attend. Also, LDOA staffing level needs to be brought up to par--low staffing hurts us. The field is crying out for help, she said, adding that grant applications are hard to turn around so fast. Additionally, she wanted to recognize Maida for her hard work on the DAF.

James asked Suzanne to mention specific types of help needed in the field. She responded by asking for staff to conduct more grant workshops and requested that application forms be made available on computer diskette. She also stressed the need for timeliness. In St. Tammany, she stated, the educators are very anxious--they started calling in November for grant applications that were not delivered until February.

SPECIAL ARTS INITIATIVES

There were 23 special initiative proposals submitted by the February 1, 1995 deadline. The executive committee reviewed the proposals and made funding recommendations for 11 of them during a special meeting on Sunday, February 5. While the full council could not be expected to go through each application at the meeting, they did hear executive

recommendations. Penne asked that council members take the applications home and evaluate them personally--if there are any concerns, please call James by Friday, February 10. If there are no objections raised by that time, the council will proceed with the committee's recommendations. Copies will be sent to members not present via Federal Express.

In review of the initiative proposals recommended for funding, Penne stated that the Acadiana Arts Council was recommended for less money than requested, due to some issues that were not clearly spelled out in the proposal narrative and accompanying budget. James will advise them on the budget concerns.

LA Jazz Federation had budget problems too; the executive committee recommended that James speak with them also. They didn't appear to include enough money for touring expenses.

In clarification, Penne stated that the Shreveport Symphony Orchestra initiative is not for the orchestra; they are merely the fiscal agent for a subcontracted economic impact study to be delivered March 27--the beginning of the session.

Some of these proposals were excellent, but they were not statewide in impact--they should be in the regular grants pool.

Beth Kaplan spoke up on behalf of the Arna Bontemps Foundation, Inc., describing their plans to produce a video, and Elizabeth explained to her the executive committee's reasoning in recommending not to fund that initiative was that it was too project oriented and not statewide enough in scope.

Marie questioned the recommendation not to fund the Louisiana Philharmonic, but Penne stated that their audience was not statewide and that the Philharmonic does receive operational support from the regular grants process.

NEW BUSINESS

New Executive Director James Borders submitted panelist names for approval, asking council members to respond by Thursday with their approval and/or additional recommendations. If there were no objections, the Division staff would proceed with named panelists and others as received or needed.

Dee Waller wanted members to call in their recommendations for next year, and James added that there is a panelist nomination form that can be mailed out to those interested.

Elizabeth Chubbuck-Meche requested that a letter go out to all council members asking each to attend at least two panel meetings.

James called for a vote. Gloria Callais made a motion to accept the panelists, which was

seconded by Raelene Pell and passed by the council.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- ***Federal Express the initiatives to absent council members
- ***More field workshops
- ***Fill vacant staff positions as quickly and prudently as possible
- ***Send letter to council members asking them to attend at least two panel meetings
- ***Notify Partnership of dates, times of Arts Council meetings; invite them to meetings
- ***Get timetable for calling legislators from the Partnership
- ***Reschedule the Arts in Education panels so they don't conflict with the State Arts Conference