

**Minutes of the
LOUISIANA STATE ARTS COUNCIL
QUARTERLY MEETING
Baton Rouge, Louisiana
Monday, December 16, 1996
10:30 a.m.**

WELCOME/CALL TO ORDER

Elizabeth Chubbuck-Meche, acting chairperson, opened the quarterly meeting of the Louisiana State Arts Council, which was held at the Capitol Annex building at 10:35 a.m. The following members were **present**:

Suzanne Arceneaux
Gloria Callais
Jean Hurley
Beth Kaplan
Elizabeth Chubbuck-Meche
Raelene Pell
Deborah Reese

Council members **absent**, but naming a proxy for the meeting were:

Cynthia Ardoin
Marilyn Cox
Virginia Riley
Beverly Wilson

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

Katie Planche Friedrichs
Sara Herrington
Johnnie Kocurek
Penne Mobley
Mary Ann Netterville

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

James Borders
Velma Gray
Maida Owens
Ann Russo
Dee Waller

Also present was Gerri Hobdy, Assistant Secretary, Office of Cultural Development.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

A motion to accept the minutes of the September 30, 1996 meeting was proposed by Suzanne Arceneaux and seconded by Beth Kaplan. The motion carried unanimously.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

There was no chairman's report. However, Elizabeth Chubbuck-Meche encouraged the council to continue to fulfill their obligation as members of the state arts council until they are told otherwise. She stated that she would like the council membership to realize the importance of continuing to attend meetings if at all possible so that the Council can continue to conduct business. Mr. Borders stated that the new board appointments are still on the Governor's office agenda. Mr. Borders asked the council members for their patience and continued commitment.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Artist Fellowships and Artist Roster Recommendations

Mr. Borders reported that the Division received 140 Fellowship applications this year and that the panelists recommended 15 of them for fellowships. He distributed copies of a press release and mini-biographies of the Fellowship Winners who were recommended by various panels. The press release was set to be sent after ratification by the Council of the recommendations. Mr. Borders pointed out that five of the fellowship designees were selected in Visual Arts, one in Dance, two in Folklife, two in Literature, two in Music, one in Theater, and two in Media. Since there were no fellowships recommended for Design Arts, the Division will make a special outreach to the design community to let them know that there are opportunities for Graphic Designers and Landscape Architects and the like to apply to the Division for Fellowships.

Mr. Borders also distributed the results of the fall Artist Roster panel review for the Louisiana Artist Roster. There were 27 artists who applied, and the panels recommended 17 for addition to the Roster. This is the first year that the Division had grant deadlines in March and September. He explained that selection to the Roster certifies that an artist has significant enough professional skill to go into a school setting and be used by the teachers and administrators to bring arts into the classroom.

Elizabeth Chubbuck-Meche asked why out-of-state artists are applying to the Division. Mr. Borders explained that some of them have hopes of being able to travel and to be in residence in various states throughout the year. There are a lot of artists specializing in arts in education. When they have worked for a long time in their home state, they often look to work in neighboring states and from there, to branch out to other parts of the country. He stated that the Roster is open for artists to apply from any state.

Elizabeth Chubbuck-Meche inquired as to whether or not the implementation of two deadlines has resulted in an increase in applicants. Mr. Borders stated that having the two deadlines this year allowed the Division to receive an additional 27 applications for the Roster. He stated that in March of this year, there were 52 people who applied and 38 were approved for the Roster.

Normally there are about 40 to 50 people applying at the March deadline. Overall, there are approximately 110 artists on the Roster.

State Arts Conference Update

Mr. Borders distributed a tentative schedule and program blocks to the council and gave an update on the 1997 State Arts Conference planning that was being spearheaded by the Special Events Committee. The conference is scheduled for May 14-16 at the Baton Rouge Hilton with a \$50 registration fee for people in the community. The working theme is "ArtWorks on Common Ground" and the event is being billed as "An opportunity to acquire vital skills and make valuable contracts with others working to build a brighter future for the arts in Louisiana."

Discussing the planned highlights of the conference, Mr. Borders reported Jane Alexander, chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts, has been invited to be the keynote speaker for the luncheon on Thursday, May 15. On Wednesday, May 14th there will be an artist showcase, which will feature six Louisiana performing arts groups who are capable and interested in touring around the state to do 15 minute mini-performances at the LSU Colonnade Theater. On Thursday, May 15th from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. the Governor's Arts Awards reception and ceremony will be held at the Hilton Hotel as a reception. In addition, there will be acknowledgments at the conference that July 1, 1997 will mark the 20th anniversary of the State Arts Council and the Division of the Arts.

Visit from Asst. Secretary Hobdy

Gerri Hobdy, Assistant Secretary, Office of Cultural Development, joined the meeting during the director's report and was asked by Mr. Borders to say a few words. She thanked the council for their participation and support and for planning the State Arts Conference. She stated that there will be a sub-committee hearing on December 18th with the appropriations committee where they will be presenting their new and expanded request for Cultural Recreation and Tourism by each office. The new and expanded request for the Office of Cultural Development includes a 1 million dollar expanded request for the DOA. Mr. Borders has shared the types of things that we would like to do in the future with the increased funds, based on recommendations that have come from the State Arts Council in the State (Long-Range) Plan. She stated that this meeting is informational and when they get to the appropriations committee meetings they will need all the council's assistance. However, prior to that we need you to keep talking to your legislators. She stated that they have had some field hearing with legislators in Lafayette and in Toledo Bend and it was a love feast for the arts. Ms. Hobdy encouraged the council members to contact their legislators to let them know what's going on in their communities and get them out to events. She suggested that the council members pick the legislators up in their area and personally take them to some of these activities in their local communities, especially leading up to session. Ms. Hobdy stated that during the legislative session, it is important to know when a vote is coming up and how the legislators voted is also important. Mr. Borders stated that Beth Kaplan serves as chair of the Advocacy Committee and she will keep the council updated through the year on developments.

Other Items of Interest

Raelene Pell asked Mr. Borders to discuss the status of the Decentralized funding in region 6. Mr. Borders reported that most of the Decentralized panels have met on the parish level and most of the councils which approve them have met or will meet soon to ratify the grants for the period from January 1 through September 30, 1997. In region 6, the Mayoral Commission on

Cultural Affairs in Alexandria serves as the approving body for those grants. Mr. Reginald Jones, the Community Development Coordinator (CDC) in region 6, resigned on December 6th to take a job with the prestigious Ravinia Festival in Chicago. Jan Pine Ballard, Director of the Mayor's Arts and Humanities Commission for the City of Alexandria, is still in charge and is monitoring the program. The plan now is to bring in Echo Olander, who was the CDC in region 1 until she resigned in September, on an interim basis to coordinate the program and make sure all the payments go through until they can hire a new person. Region 6 probably will not have a new CDC until the end of March or April of 1997.

Mr. Borders distributed the DOA Grants workshops schedule to the council and asked them to encourage the people in their community to attend the workshops.

Mr. Borders distributed brochures of the Jump Start Program to the council and explained that this program was designed to provide mentorship and training to emerging museums. The program is being managed by the Southeastern Museums Conference, which is a regional organization headquartered in Baton Rouge. Elizabeth Chubbuck-Meche stated that Jump Start was one of the Council's special initiatives funded in 1995 through the Louisiana Association of Museums, and that it was a very successful program. She asked if the council members knew of people who are doing small museums or have emerging museums, to let them know about the Jump Start Program.

Elizabeth Chubbuck-Meche also reported that she noticed a very nice article in the New Orleans *Times-Picayune* about the Crafts Program. And, she said, the Individual Artist Mini-Grant winners are listed in the most recent *Cultural Vistas* Magazine. She stated that she would like to commend Maida Owens for her hard work with the Crafts Program and that it's very nice that the DOA-funded artists are being recognized.

Executive Committee Report

There was no Executive Committee Report.

Advocacy Report

There was no Advocacy Committee report beyond the update provided by the Assistant Secretary.

Policy Committee Report

There was no Policy Committee report.

Special Events Committee Report

There was no Special Events Committee report beyond the information presented by the director about the plans for the State Arts Conference.

NEW BUSINESS

Approval of 1997 Artist Fellowship Recommendations

Raelene Pell moved to except the approval of the 1997 Artist Fellowship recommendations as presented. Beth Kaplan seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

Jean Hurley moved to except the approval of the 1997 Artist Roster recommendations as presented. Suzanne Arceneaux seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the acting chairperson called for a motion to adjourn. Such a motion was made, seconded and adopted. The meeting ended at 11:55 a.m.