

**Minutes of the
LOUISIANA STATE ARTS COUNCIL
QUARTERLY MEETING
Baton Rouge, Louisiana
Monday, December 8, 1997
11:30 a.m.**

Dan Henderson, chairperson, opened the quarterly meeting of the Louisiana State Arts Council, which was held at the State Capitol Annex building at 11:30 a.m. The following members were present:

Beverly Covington	Carolyn McLellan
Ken Ferdinand	Cynthia Warner
Dan Henderson	Christine Weeks
Sara Herrington	Laura Weems
Quincy Hilliard	LeAnn Weill
Mary Joseph	Beverly Wilson
Beth Kaplan	

Council members absent from the meeting included:

Cynthia Ardoin	Kay Katz
Leah Chase	Raelene Pell
Marilyn Cox	Sally Perry
Colleen Fletcher	Charlotte Walter
Jean Hurley	

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

James Borders
Velma Gray
Brad Harris
Charles Hunt
Maida Owens
Ann Russo
Dee Waller
Mickie Willis

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion to accept the minutes of the September 22, 1997 meeting was made by Mary Joseph and seconded by Sara Herrington. The motion passed unanimously.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Mr. Henderson welcomed everyone to the meeting and provided a brief update on the Executive Committee meetings which took place the previous day.

The committee met from approximately 11 am to 2 pm to discuss the Council's purpose and its relationship to the Division of the Arts grants programs. There will be more to report on this issue at the March meeting.

Then from 2 pm - 6 pm the committee met to brainstorm about the new strategic planning process with consultant Christel Slaughter, MK Wegmann — representing the LA Partnership for the Arts — and Charles Hunt and Mickie Willis of the Division of the Arts staff.

The strategic planning process, Mr. Henderson explained, will feature a series of town meetings across the state in January. These meetings are designed so that the public can provide input on what the arts should be doing for their community. It was recommended at the brainstorming session that Council members be called upon to help make the town meetings successful by urging people to attend and by offering initial words of welcome at the gatherings. The Division's staff will be following up with details in the weeks to come.

Mr. Henderson also announced that Gregory Marcantel of Jennings had resigned from the Council and that his slot on the Executive Committee was being provisionally filled by Christine Weeks, the next highest vote-getter for an at-large position during the last election. Later in the meeting the Council would be called upon to formally seat Ms. Weeks on the committee.

Mr. Henderson also welcomed LeAnn Weill and Laura Weems to their first meetings and announced that Raelene Pell had been reappointed to the Council.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

James Borders shared several bits of news with Council members. He reported that Beverly Wilson had received the Excellence in Teaching Award for the LSU College of Education and that Jean Hurley was editor of a new regional arts-focused magazine called *Classical* that had just debuted.

Mr. Borders also shared a legislative memo from the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies providing an update on the National Endowment for the Arts' \$98 million budget for FY98. That same memo also announced that William Ferris of Oxford, Mississippi, has been confirmed as the new director of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

In addition, Mr. Borders distributed copies of the Southern Arts Federation's *Update* and pointed out that the 1999 Southern Arts Exchange, a major regional performing arts booking conference, was going to be held in Tampa Bay. New Orleans had been one of the cities under consideration.

Mr. Borders passed out a memo containing a schedule of the town meetings taking place throughout the state in January 1998. These meetings are a means of garnering public input for the Division of the Arts' new strategic plan. He asked Council members to volunteer to be the initial convener or spokesperson of at least one meeting in an area close to them. The assignments were recorded and Mr. Borders provided additional information on the manner in which the meetings will be conducted.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

(Committee organizing meetings were held immediately preceding the Council meeting.)

Advocacy Report

Beth Kaplan was selected chair of the Advocacy Committee. She stated that the committee adopted two goals: (1) to strengthen existing partnerships with legislators and cultivate new relationships with other legislators and elected officials to strengthen the position of the Louisiana Division of the Arts; and (2) to enhance the relationship between the Division of the Arts and the Governor of the State of Louisiana and to educate the governor's office about the mission and accomplishments of the Division.

Policy Report

Carolyn McLellan was selected chair of the Policy Committee. The purpose of the Policy Committee is to review Division grant policies and operational long range plans, review by-laws and to put forward recommendations relative to the Division and Council policies. Since grants guidelines covering the next two years have just been released and since the long-range planning process is currently in process, the committee's role over the next few months is to be well-informed, observe and participate as much as they can, and to position themselves to influence the next cycle of planning and policy-setting.

Special Events

Beverly Wilson stated that the special events committee nominated Marilyn Cox to serve as chairman. Ms. Wilson stated that this committee is basically the celebration component of the organization. She stated they want to double their work in this regard. On May 14, they want to hold a ceremony in honor of the Governor's Arts Award recipients. They are seeking wider publicity for the event. They will be asking the public for nominations for the awards. They will ask the past award recipients from the Governor's Arts Award to present something at the current event and allow recipients to say a few words at the microphone.

The committee would like to add a new awards reception in January of 1999 for the fellowship winners. They will seek a corporate sponsor to foot the bill for reception, and find a location, other than Baton Rouge, to host the event every year. The committee would like to have these two opportunities to celebrate the arts publicly, statewide, in a manner where people can recognize their own who have done exceptional things.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business to discuss.

NEW BUSINESS

A. *Approval of Replacement on Executive Committee*

Beverly Wilson made a motion to approve Christine Weeks as an Executive Committee member, and it was seconded by Quincy Hilliard. The motion passed unanimously.

B. *Endorsement of 1998 Artist Fellowship Selections*

James Borders presented the recommendations of the panelists for the 1998 artist fellowships. Of the 152 applicants, 15 were recommended for awards. They include: in Dance, Luther Cox and Teresa Romero Torkanowsky; in Folklife, Mary Verret and Paulette Wright-Davis; in Literature, Nicola Mason; in Media, Paul Deo and Maia E. Harris; in Music, Delfeayo Marsalis and Carlos Sanchez; in Theater, Karen Konnerth and John Doucet; and in Visual Arts, Jeffery Cook, Linda Trappey Dautreuil, Ronna Harris, and Cara Moczygamba.

Mr. Borders requested the Council to ratify the recommendations. Sara Herrington made a

motion to approve the recommendations. It was seconded by Quincy Hilliard. The motion passed unanimously.

Endorsement of 1998 Crafts Marketing Program Participants

Mr. Borders then presented the recommendations of the Crafts Marketing Program panel. The Crafts Marketing Program provides marketing assistance to craftsmen working in contemporary, revivalist or traditional crafts. There is no monetary award; recipients are simply awarded the privilege of affixing an official "Handmade by Louisiana Craftsmen" seal to their craft items. Selection is based on quality of skill, creativity and marketability of the craft.

The six crafts people recommended for addition to the program include Annette Aucoin of Broussard; Joan Durocher, Thibodaux; Carol Flannery, New Orleans; Priscilla Gebauer, Hammond; Perry Morgan III, New Orleans; Deborah-Helen Viator, Eunice; and Gary Waggoner, Sulphur.

Beverly Wilson made a motion to approve the Crafts Marketing Program nominees and Christine Weeks seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Endorsement of 1998 State Artist Roster Selections

Mr. Borders then presented the results of the State Artist Roster adjudication. The Roster is a list of accomplished artists who are deemed to be outstanding representatives of their discipline. They are recommended to serve in arts-in-education programs throughout the state.

The 11 individuals recommended for addition to the roster include Suson Launey, Iota; Errol Miller, West Monroe; Maia Harris, New Orleans; Anthony Cortellini, Monroe; Judy Hand, Lake Charles; Andrea Loewy, Lafayette; Dianne de Las Casas, Gretna; Eve Dupont, New Orleans; Frank Dupont, New Orleans; Ricky Eugene Pittman, Monroe; and Terence Rosemore, New Orleans.

Ken Ferdinand made a motion to accept the recommendations for the State Artist Roster. LeAnn Weill seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Council members also suggested recognizing the artists at the upcoming town meetings if they are in attendance.

Endorsement of Plan to Redistribute Design Arts Fellowship Funds

Mr. Borders presented the last item for business. It concerned the redistribution of grant funds. Last spring, staff brought recommendations for \$30,000 of project assistance support in Design Arts. Another \$5,000 was allocated for a Design Arts fellowship. There was only one submission in Design Arts this year. The reviewer felt the quality of the application was not of sufficient merit to award a fellowship. The staff was recommending, therefore, that the fellowship funds be redistributed for project support to the next three highest ranking Design Arts applicants.

Sara Herrington made a motion to approve the redistribution of funds allocated for the Design Arts fellowship and Ms. Weeks seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Council, the meeting adjourned at 1:10 p.m.