

**Minutes of the
LOUISIANA STATE ARTS COUNCIL
QUARTERLY MEETING
New Orleans, Louisiana
Monday, December 4, 2000
10:00 a.m.**

WELCOME/CALL TO ORDER

Sally Perry, secretary, opened the quarterly meeting of the Louisiana State Arts Council (LSAC), which was held at the New Orleans Center for Creative Arts (NOCCA) Riverfront, at 10:10 a.m. The following members were **present**:

Quincy Hilliard	Sally Perry
Jean Hurley	Christine Weeks
Mary Terrell Joseph	Laura Jeter Weems
Carolyn McLellan	LeAnne Weill
Raelene Pell	Beverly Wilson

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

Cynthia Ardoin (proxy to Dan Henderson, Sara Herrington or Sally Perry)
Leah Chase
Beverly Covington (proxy to Dan Henderson or majority)
Dan Henderson (proxy to Mary Terrell Joseph)
Sara Herrington (proxy to Sally Perry)
Beth Kaplan
Kay Kellogg Katz
Charlotte Walter (proxy to Dan Henderson or majority)
Cynthia Warner (proxy to majority)

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

James Borders
Lisa Green
Dee Hamilton

Also present were Joycelyn Reynolds, Director of Grants, Arts Council of New Orleans, representing the Louisiana Partnership for the Arts; and JoAnn Eiswirth, Executive Director, Louisiana Alliance for Arts Education.

INTRODUCTIONS

John Otis, Executive Director, and Richard Theodore, Dean of Operations, for the New Orleans Center for Creative Arts (NOCCA) were introduced to the LSAC. Ms. Perry stated that several faculty members of NOCCA would each make brief remarks about the programs at NOCCA immediately following the LSAC meeting. It was mentioned that three faculty members are also LDOA Fellowship recipients, and they will comment on how LDOA funding has helped them as an artist.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

A motion to accept the minutes of the June 26, 2000, meeting was proposed by Ms. Joseph and seconded by Ms. Wilson. The motion carried unanimously.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Mr. Borders reported that Mr. Henderson sent his apology for not being able to attend the meeting. Mr. Henderson sent his appreciation to the LSAC for all the work that they do, and he wished everyone a happy holiday season.

REMARKS BY SALLY PERRY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, THE NOCCA INSTITUTE

An Overview of NOCCA

The New Orleans Center for Creative Arts (NOCCA) is a regional, pre-professional arts training center that offers secondary school-age children intensive instruction in creative writing, dance, music, theatre, and visual arts while demanding simultaneous excellence. NOCCA was founded in 1973 by a diverse coalition of artists, educators, business leaders, patrons, and community activists who saw the need for an institution devoted to the region's young talent. The Institute lobbied the State of Louisiana for \$18 million in construction funds and raised over \$5 million itself in private donations to equip the school.

NOCCA currently serves students in an 11-parish area and tuition is free to every Louisiana student, though small supply fees may be charged in individual arts disciplines. Admission to NOCCA is by audition only. Because admission criteria are based solely on ability, NOCCA's student body is markedly diverse. Approximately 20% of the students come from private/parochial schools, and the other 80% from public schools.

At present, NOCCA is preparing for its Summer Program during the month of June. Also, NOCCA is partnering with the University of New Orleans to provide housing for students from throughout the state and beyond.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Staff Changes at the Division

Mr. Borders announced that Ms. Green, who previously served as the executive assistant to the director, now serves as office manager. It was also mentioned that the job search for the community development coordinator, federal program evaluator and a new executive assistant is underway and interviews will be conducted throughout the rest of this month. LDOA looks to have all three positions filled by mid-January.

Mr. Borders turned the meeting over to JoAnn Eiswirth to present the *State Plan for Arts Education*.

REMARKS BY JOANN EISWIRTH, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, LOUISIANA ALLIANCE FOR ARTS EDUCATION

State Plan for Arts Education 2000-2001

The Superintendent's Task Force for Arts Education is a joint venture of the Louisiana Alliance of Arts Education, the State Department of Education, the Governor's Office, and the Louisiana Division of the Arts, with the Alliance serving as the lead coordinating agency. On behalf of the Superintendent's Task Force for Arts Education, Ms. Eiswirth presented the LSAC with a copy of the *State Plan for Arts Education 2000-2001*. Discussion took place regarding the challenges and opportunities surrounding arts education in the state of Louisiana.

Ms. Eiswirth went on to explain that the Task Force envisions the arts -- music, dance, theater, and visual arts-- an integral part of the Louisiana curriculum by: ensuring all arts for all students; including the arts in a prominent place in the curriculum; providing quality instruction in the arts for all students; putting into place systemic processes to guarantee quality education in the arts; and consistently giving priority to funding and resources for arts education. From this shared vision, five priority areas were formed: educating multiple audiences through advocacy; identifying and securing fiscal resources; identifying and assembling supportive resources; creating model training programs; and designing an assessment framework.

Projected victories have been made for each of the strategic priority areas, inclusive of expanding the State Arts Education Day to include a greater number of participants and increased media coverage and having a draft of the Cultural Resources Directory online by the end of this school year. Over the next 10 years, two assessments will be conducted -- a *Basic Arts Literary Assessment* (for grades five through seven) in 2005, and an *Arts Efficiency Assessment* in 2010.

Another area to address is Expansion of Teacher Education Programs by partnering with the Louisiana Institute for Education in the Arts and the Regional Service Centers. Workshops will be scheduled between January - July to provide more quality training for teachers on a local, regional and state level. It is anticipated that credit hours will be awarded for the summer sessions.

This plan was presented to and approved by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education back in October, as well as the Louisiana Partnership for the Arts in November.

Ms. Eiswirth thanked the LSAC for their contributions to this process and asked for an endorsement of the plan. Also, thanks was given to Mr. Borders for serving in an advisory capacity.

Sally Perry moved to accept the *State Plan for Arts Education 2000-2001*.
The motion was seconded by acclamation and carried unanimously.

Will this plan be presented to other groups? An effort was made to be on the agendas of several organizations and groups for their upcoming conferences and meetings, including a meeting with all of the Superintendents. A copy is also being distributed to each school system. As you may know, *ArtsBridge* started out as a Special Initiative for Arts Education through the Louisiana Division of the Arts, and financial support is still very important for continued success.

The LDOA and LSAC expressed their appreciation for the efforts of the Superintendent's Task Force, the Louisiana Alliance for Arts Education, and the Louisiana Institute for Education in the Arts towards increasing arts education in the state of Louisiana and for developing the *State Plan for Arts Education*.

Louisiana Alliance for Arts Education's Acquisition of the Louisiana Institute for Education in the Arts

Ms. Eiswirth also announced that the Louisiana Alliance for Arts Education (LAAE) finalized acquisition of the Louisiana Institute for Education in the Arts (LAIEA). LAIEA is a major provider in the state of comprehensive professional development programs in the arts and operates year-round through its summer institutes, *LAIEA-on-Wheels*, and *ArtsBridge* programs. LAAE and LAIEA shared a similar vision. Approximately six months ago the boards of directors went through transitions and found a way to work together instead of competing with one another. With this acquisition, LAAE will combine its leadership and broad scope in advocacy and policy issues with LAIEA's expertise in teacher training and curriculum development. By integrating the two organizations, the Alliance anticipates accelerating its growth strategies with a goal of improving education by increasing quality instruction in and through the arts.

In addition, two national supporters of arts education, the Kennedy Center Alliance for Arts Education Network and The Getty Institute, will merge together.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Approval of Artist Fellowship Recommendations

Mr. Borders reported that overall, the Division of the Arts received 136 artist fellowship applications and the grants review panels recommended funding for 25 of them, divided up into seven panels: Dance-1, Folklife-2, Literature-4, Media-3, Music-6, Theater-2 and Visual Arts & Crafts-7. Each recipient receives \$5,000 yielding a total of \$125,000 being awarded out of a requested \$680,000. It was expressed by the LSAC that more funding is needed for this program as well as others.

Mr. Borders noted that the quality of the applications has considerably increased, even with the 10-year restriction, making selections by the panels even more difficult. Artists submit applications from throughout the state, but Region 1 (New Orleans area) submits the most, which is pretty consistent with the state's population. LDOA will amplify its efforts towards acquiring applications from other regions.

Ms. Joseph moved to accept the recommendations.

Ms. Wilson and Ms. Weeks seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

B. Approval of Artist Roster and Crafts Marketing Recommendations

In addition, for non-monetary considerations, out of 20 total applications received, 15 people were recommended for acceptance to the Louisiana State Artist Roster. The artist roster gives people designation of being professional artists who can represent themselves in the school system. It was noted that this program is not just open to Louisiana artists, but to all artists willing to work in Louisiana.

Can any one issue be attributed to the lack of applications in regions six and eight? It was mentioned that perhaps there aren't enough arts education program opportunities in those particular areas. Through the Decentralized Arts Funding program, there are multidiscipline summer arts program workshops conducted, but they are not school affiliated. As arts education becomes more integrated into the curriculum, more intent to present programs within the schools will be present.

Ms. Weeks and Ms. Wilson moved to accept the recommendations.

Mr. Hilliard seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

In the Crafts Marketing program there were nine individuals who applied and four applicants were recommended by the panel for acceptance. Selection gives these artisans the right to place the "Handmade in Louisiana" seal on their work.

Ms. Weill moved to accept the recommendations.

Mr. Hilliard seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

Louisiana Touring Directory

Ms. Hamilton reported that four new artists were selected for inclusion in the next issue of the *Louisiana Touring Directory*, published to promote quality professional Louisiana touring artists. All artists listed in the directory currently tour and have been adjudicated by the Louisiana Presenters Network and/or discipline-specific panels on the basis of artistic merit and touring history as evidenced by samples of work and the quality of their press materials.

OTHER COMMENTS

The next regularly scheduled LSAC meeting will be held March 26th at 10:00 a.m. in Baton Rouge (location to be announced).

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn. The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 11:15 .m.