

**Minutes of the
LOUISIANA STATE ARTS COUNCIL
QUARTERLY MEETING
Baton Rouge, Louisiana
Monday, June 26, 2000
10:00 a.m.**

WELCOME/CALL TO ORDER

Sara Herrington, vice chairperson, opened the quarterly meeting of the Louisiana State Arts Council, which was held at the State Library of Louisiana, at 10:00 a.m. The following members were **present**:

Beverly Covington
Sara Herrington
Carolyn McLellan
Sally Perry

Charlotte Walter
Christine Weeks
LeAnne Weill
Beverly Wilson

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

Cynthia Ardoin
Leah Chase
Ken Ferdinand
Colleen Fletcher
Dan Henderson
Quincy Hilliard (proxy to Sara Herrington)
Jean Hurley

Mary Terrell Joseph (proxy to Sally Perry)
Beth Kaplan
Kay Kellogg Katz
Raelene Pell (proxy to Sarah Herrington)
Cynthia Warner
Laura Jeter Weems

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

James Borders
Brenda Evans
Lisa Green
Dee Hamilton
Wilton Hardesty
Charles Hunt
Pearlie Johnson
Ann Russo
Mickie Willis

Also present was Teri Cober, Administrative Manager, Louisiana Partnership for the Arts.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

A motion to accept the minutes of the March 27, 2000, meeting was proposed by Ms. Weeks and seconded by Ms. Wilson. The motion carried unanimously.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

A. 2000-01 Schedule of LSAC Meetings

Mr. Henderson sent his apology for not being able to attend the meeting. Mr. Borders proceeded to present the proposed schedule of LSAC meetings for the new fiscal year, noting that dates were selected primarily to synchronize with the grants adjudication process.

The FY01 Schedule of Quarterly Meetings was presented as follows:

Monday, September 25, 2000

Monday, December 4, 2000

Monday, March 26, 2001

Monday, June 25, 2001

All meetings are scheduled to be held in Baton Rouge (location to be announced), except for the December meeting which will be held in New Orleans at The NOCCA Institute.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

FY01 Budget Update

Mr. Borders reported that the preliminary budget submitted in March, which had an appropriation of \$4,989,000, looks as if it will hold. LDOA needs to find out the details of the budget that was approved by the legislature yesterday, but there is no indication that they changed any of the financing. Projections for carrying LDOA programs forward, with the exception of a \$45,000 decrease overall, are on track.

Percent for Art Update

The staff circulated a draft of recommended rules for implementation of the Percent for Art program for comment and review. This update elaborates some of the issues that have been discussed in previous meetings. At this point, there are no funds designated for administering the program. LDOA was fortunate enough to have the Division of Administration include \$50,000 in our agency budget this year, which passed the House and was forwarded to the Senate. The Senate Finance Committee later removed this item. Senator Dardenne mentioned that people in the arts are creative enough to figure out how to run this program. LDOA now has to figure out how to operate this program.

Mr. Borders explained that the idea is to have a five person advisory selection committee for each percent for art project, inclusive of a representative of the agencies occupying/using the building, an expert in public art representing the LSAC, the project architect, a representative of the Office of Facility Planning and Control, and a Louisiana professional artist.

Discussion took place regarding the makeup of the selection committee and how much input each might contribute. Perhaps there should be more artist input? These five areas were chosen to ensure that all voices are heard and that there is some balance. A comment was made that three of the five would have an artistic point of view (the LSAC representative, the professional artist, and the architect). Further discussion ensued about possible controversy surrounding the different opinions that will be encountered for each public art project.

Artworks will be acquired in three ways: *commissions* (national calls for entry); *direct purchases* (when deemed most appropriate for the site); and *architecture projects* (these will tie into the Capitol Complex structure). In terms of the selection criteria, LDOA is recommending that we emphasize quality, appropriateness for the site, and durability (having the ability to last 25 years). For the architecture projects component, we envision architects working with artists. In order to ensure that there will be artists available for architects to consult with, we would like to establish a registry of artists who are interested in art and architecture projects.

There was also some discussion about security issues for the art, overall program management and program financing. The LDOA has recommended that a program manager be brought aboard to help facilitate the program and look at issues of security, installation, selecting and contracting artists, and other aesthetic items. This will be a hired individual, a contract position, separate from the selection committee.

The question was raised about whether funding for this position will come from the Percent for Art program or the DCRT budget? Mr. Borders replied that part of the \$50,000 increase we are requesting is to help support the expenses of mounting the program. There was the understanding in the Senate Finance Committee that all of the administrative expenses would come from the 1% construction budget, but this has not exactly been clarified.

A total budget of \$63,000 has been projected for the coming year to administer this program, including contracting additional project coordinators and administrative assistants. There is still some lack of clarity about the scope of the program. The language in the bill defines a state building as one that is used for the administrative, legislative or judicial branch of government. We are not quite sure if educational facilities will be included. For now, we will figure out how to move forward without financing.

It was noted that LDOA has also commissioned the production of a Public Art Handbook. We have the first draft and hope to have the final copy published during the next fiscal year. LDOA contracted with Lake Douglas, former public art director of the Arts Council of New Orleans, to work on this project.

NEW BUSINESS

A. *Approval of FY01 Grants and Artist Roster Additions*

Approval of FY01 Grants

ARTS IN EDUCATION: BASIC

Ms. Walter moved to accept the recommendations for funding.
Ms. Wilson seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

ARTS IN EDUCATION: PROJECTS

Ms. Weeks moved to accept the recommendations for funding.
Ms. Covington seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

ARTS IN EDUCATION: RESIDENCY

Ms. Herrington moved to accept the recommendations for funding.
Ms. Weill seconded the motion, and the motion carried.
Ms. Perry abstained.

FOLKLIFE APPRENTICESHIPS

Ms. Weill moved to accept the recommendations for funding.
Ms. Wilson seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

GENERAL OPERATING SUPPORT
LEVELS 1 AND 2

Ms. Weeks moved to accept the funding recommendations.
Ms. Wilson seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Mr. Borders pointed out 14 applications were received and recommended for funding. Last round there were 19 applications and this number has decreased in part because LDOA has raised the minimum budget size for organizations from \$100,000 to \$250,000 per year. The rationale for this move was that the Decentralized Arts Funding program also has an organizational support program and can support the smaller organizations.

There was a discussion about the New Orleans Opera Association (NOOA) having received such a low score and yet being recommended to receive funding by a margin of one vote. Ms. Perry requested that NOOA receive a copy of the panel comments as well as a letter indicating that they did receive such a low score and that they should be grateful that the panel agreed to go ahead and grant them an award. LDOA should strongly request that they improve all future grants. Whether or not the organization has had to restructure staff, or perhaps they didn't have the best grant writer, there still has to be accountability. It's not fair to other organizations that are also of limited resources and means that work very hard to make sure that their grants meet the criteria and are rewarded with higher scores. A score of 61 is equivalent to a failing grade.

Mr. Borders explained that in this case, NOOA's outreach program was deemed to be problematic. The particular instance was that the Metropolitan Opera made an agreement to develop the new Keith Gates *Evangeline* opera into a scaled down version that would be suitable for young people. They had announced it and sold it before they had actually developed it. For a number of reasons, the Metropolitan production of *Evangeline* was not available for touring presentations, especially in the Northeast. They were not able to find an appropriate substitute for the program and get it back to the presenters in time. On the other hand, this is the organization that provided the second American performance of *A Streetcar Named Desire*.

It was noted that for just about all of the other panels, the cutoff score was a minimum of 70 or 80, and nothing below a 65 was awarded a grant. If an applicant expects to receive funding from the state year after year, then they should be aware how lucky they are to receive funding because next time they may not make the cutoff. There should be consistency in the panels' scoring that nothing below a 65 will be awarded. It was noted that panelists did receive instructions that 70 would be considered a successful application for receipt of funding. There were only three applications that scored below a 70 that were recommended to receive funding. Mr. Borders commented that the panel looked at the scenario of funding and not funding NOAA and they felt that the increase in the awards to the other applicants was minimal compared to the negative impact that it would have on the NOAA.

LOCAL ARTS AGENCIES

LEVELS 1 AND 2

Ms. Wilson moved to accept the recommendations for funding.

Ms. Herrington seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Mr. Borders pointed out that the same amount of funding was available (\$530,000) but there were two fewer applications this round. There were 14 applications received during the last round and 12 applied this round. The Arts and Humanities Council of Avoyelles and the St. Mary Arts and Humanities Council (in Morgan City area) are applying directly to the Decentralized Arts Funding program.

A comment was made that there was some concern in the Shreveport area with regard to having received a higher score this year, but receiving less funding than previously awarded. Mr. Borders stated that the Shreveport, New Orleans and Baton Rouge arts councils have benefited tremendously by being much larger than the other agencies, but they have reached the maximum request ceiling of \$250,000. As the budgets of the other arts councils continue to grow, then their grants will increase and the larger arts councils will experience reductions in their grant awards, if the LDOA budget stays the same.

PROJECTS: DANCE

Ms. Herrington moved to accept the recommendations for funding.

Ms. Covington seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

PROJECTS: DESIGN

Ms. Weeks moved to accept the recommendations for funding.

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

PROJECTS: FOLKLIFE

Ms. Herrington moved to accept the recommendations for funding.

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

PROJECTS: LITERATURE

Ms. Walter moved to accept the recommendations for funding.

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

Mr. Borders pointed out that the total amount available for literature projects is \$25,000. This is the only category that is not at the \$50,000 level. We are just now starting to put together the infrastructure to support literature organizations and projects. One project is that the Louisiana Center for the Book and LDOA have been collaborating on creating a Louisiana Writer's Month, developing and instituting this program for the month of October each year, as well as a Louisiana Book Fair and Festival in future years.

PROJECTS: MEDIA

Ms. Wilson moved to accept the recommendations for funding.

Ms. Walter seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

PROJECTS: MULTIDISCIPLINARY

Ms. Herrington moved to accept the recommendations for funding.

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

PROJECTS: MUSIC

Mr. Borders noted that there was one appeal in this category from the Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra (LPO). LPO requested funding for a CD recording project of a single composer, Stephen Dankner. The panel did not recommend it for funding and among the comments was that the project would have been stronger if more composers were involved. LPO challenged the panel's decision on the grounds that a single composer project would be more marketable. Mr. Borders recommended that the decision of the panel be upheld. The grounds for appeal are that an application has been misjudged based on insufficient or incorrect information resulting from something other than the fault of the applicant. In this case, the applicant simply disagreed with the assessment of the merits of its project by the panel. That alone is not grounds

enough to reverse a recommendation. Basically, Mr. Borders concluded, the application itself did not convince the panel of its worthiness and competitiveness.

Ms. Weill moved to deny the appeal.

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

Ms. Weeks moved to accept the recommendations for funding.

Ms. Walter seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

PROJECTS: THEATER

Ms. Walter moved to accept the recommendations for funding.

Ms. Covington seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

PROJECTS: VISUAL ARTS & CRAFTS

Ms. Weeks moved to accept the recommendations for funding.

Ms. Herrington seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Approval of the Artist Roster Additions

There were 39 applications received and 33 were accepted to the State Artist Roster.

Ms. Weill moved to accept the recommendations for inclusion.

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

OLD BUSINESS

LSAC Meeting Attendance

What's the status regarding those LSAC members who are not attending on a regular basis? Mr. Henderson mailed letters and made follow up phone calls to Leah Chase, Ken Ferdinand and Colleen Fletcher. Mr. Ferdinand and Ms. Fletcher indicated that they would be sending their resignation letters. Ms. Chase strongly stated that she would like to continue as a council member and that she would try to start attending meetings on a more regular basis. Would it be inappropriate to send an attendance record to the Governor? As Secretary of the LSAC, Ms. Perry requested that an attendance report for the past couple of years be forwarded to her. She will then forward this report along with a letter to the Governor addressing this issue.

Governor's Arts Awards

It was stated that first and foremost, it was a beautiful affair with wonderful music, an exquisite setting, and incredible attendance. But, there were two aspects that were unsatisfactory: 1) the chairman read the entire program; and 2) the honorees were not allowed to say a few words of thanks. Ms. Weill recommended that the microphone be extended to the recipients for brief comments in future award programs. Mr. Borders noted that these comments and observations are pretty much in line with all of the other feedback that we have received concerning this year's awards program and these issues can be addressed for next year's program.

OTHER COMMENTS

Ms. Herrington urged LSAC members to contribute to the Louisiana Partnership for the Arts to show support for the great work that they do for the arts. The next LPA meeting will be held August 9th at the Louisiana Rural Life Museum, Burden Research Center in Baton Rouge.

Ms. Wilson commented that LDOA needs to correct information in the Creole State Exhibit at the State Capitol that refers to the mural in Allen Hall on LSU campus. The information regarding the LSU mural is incorrect. It is definitely the work of graduate and undergraduate thesis projects and not the WPA. This needs to be corrected for historic records.

Copies of the *2000-2002 Louisiana Touring Directory* were distributed. The directory now features 89 touring artists. LDOA has also distributed this publication to presenters around the country so that they will have access to these artists, and we hope that this will help to increase opportunities for our artists.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Weeks and seconded by Ms. Walter. The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.