

**LOUISIANA STATE ARTS COUNCIL
QUARTERLY MEETING
State Library of Louisiana
701 N. 4th Street
Baton Rouge, LA 70802
March 28, 2005
10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Christine Weeks called the meeting to order at 10:15 a.m.

Louisiana State Arts Council (LSAC) and Louisiana Division of the Arts (LDOA) staff in attendance:

Christine Weeks – LSAC Member
Susan Brunner – LSAC Member
Neil Early – LSAC Member
Susan Reed – LSAC Member
LeAnne Weill – LSAC Member
Juana Woodard – LSAC Member
Fred Zeagler – LSAC Member
Pam Breaux – Assistant Secretary Office of Cultural Development/Executive Director, LDOA
Robert Collins – Deputy Assistant Secretary Office of Cultural Development
Dabne Liebke – Deputy Director, LDOA
Dee Hamilton – Performing Arts Programs Director, LDOA
Sparkle Hurst – Administrative Assistant, LDOA
Maida Owens – Folklife Program Director, LDOA
Tamika Raby – Folklife Assistant, LDOA
Selena Simon – Grants Assistant, LDOA
Ann Russo – Visual Arts Program Director, LDOA

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Neil Early moved to accept the minutes of the December 2004 meeting. The motion passed unanimously and the minutes were approved as presented.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Cultural Economy Conference

Ms. Breaux stated there were 1100 registrants in attendance. There were 10 separate workgroups divided among the arts and cultural groups, as well as governmental officials, Economic Development officials, Finance, Education and Workforce Development. There was a 25% response rate on the evaluation. Overall, evaluations were positive. Gaye Hamilton with the Office of Cultural Development has been compiling the workgroup findings of the Cultural Economy Initiative which will be posted on the website soon. Mr. Early responded to the Cultural Economy Initiative meeting on Dec. 9-10, 2004. The LSAC is perceived by the people as a non-existing entity. The LSAC must do some evaluating of itself. They need to make their presence known. Ms. Breaux stated that business is up in the grants workshops and technical assistance and level of involvement by constituents for LDOA. There's a lot of added visibility to LDOA. Lt. Governor Landrieu's vision is coming together. Lt. Governor Landrieu is now bringing added visibility and will be speaking before the Southern Arts Federation. LDOA must continue to build on this visibility.

New Executive Director

A letter and resume was distributed on the incoming Executive Director, Veronique Le Melle. The interview committee met and sent recommendation to the Secretary. The council process was very thorough and diligent. The committee was not satisfied with first round of advertising and a second round was done. The committee held ten or eleven telephone interviews. Four face-to-face interviews were held by the selection committee,

Robert Collins, Pam Breaux, LDOA staff, and Secretary Davis. Ms. Le Melle was top choice among all the interview groups. Ms. Le Melle will start on May 9th. She will be here for the Governor's Arts Awards and the Legislative Event.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Budget Update

Ms. Breaux stated that to date, the LDOA budget is not final. Next FY06 projected budget cut is \$57,412.00. LDOA is projected to lose 2 positions. The council was asked for assistance in trying to reclaim the 2 Arts positions. They are working with the Partnership and Executive Committee. They are scheduled to meet with the Governor in April. The Executive Director and the Office Manager positions have been filled. One other position slated for elimination in the Office of Cultural Development was the Public Information Officer, a position that was lost in Arts in the late 80s. The Partnership is working on trying to reclaim this position also. There was a letter writing campaign. Positioning the Governor with letters of support of the arts across the state.

2005 Grants Panel Meeting Dates

A packet including the meeting dates and location was distributed. All panels are held in the Claiborne Building. Also included in the packet was a calendar of the panels that are open as well as those that are not. The LSAC was invited to attend any panel meeting. The fellowships panels are closed to the public and are blind reviews, based largely on quality.

NEW BUSINESS

FY06 Grants Synopsis

Applications received increased in project assistance from 92-139 and artist fellowships from 149-191. Applications received totals increased from 363 to 436. Demographic breakdowns show an increase in Project Assistance applications from Region 3. Had a great response from workshops in Region 3, more than 20 in attendance. Good fellowship response from Region 3. There was an increase in Dance, Design and Literature applications. A question was asked if the increase in Dance applications could be directly related to the Louisiana Alliance for Dance. A Council member noted that there were no applications received for the Crafts Marketing Program. Ms. Owens stated that applicants get into the program through the Louisiana Crafts Guild. All members that meet the Craft Program criteria receive a web page.

Panelists

A list of panelists was distributed and time was given to review the list. Ms. Liebke stated that there are 5 panelists on each panel. To date, not all panelists have been confirmed. Ms. Owens stated that it's becoming more difficult to get panelists if they don't have direct interest in panels. There's either a Conflict of Interest or they have to teach on that day. Mr. Early motioned to accept panelists and Ms. Weill seconded. Panelists were accepted as presented. The Cultural Economy initiative has helped increased awareness of LDOA grants programs and accomplishments, which likely contributed to increases in grant applications.

Governor's Arts Awards

Ms. Breaux stated that there is a list of all of the 2005 nominations in the packet. Also included was a list of the Governor's Arts Awards Nominations and Governor's Arts Awards Winners from 1988-2004. Time was given to review the lists. Ms. Weill stated that there was an enormous amount of material to go through. It took about 4 ½ hours to complete. Ms. Liebke was given acknowledgement for doing an incredible job. There was one award the committee chose not to give, Business Corporate-Small, because the nominee had been awarded in the past. Ms. Weill was gratified with the growth of the categories, but surprised with only 2 submissions for Arts Organizations-Large. There is good diversity, and it is representative of how we in Louisiana define the word Arts. Ms. Weeks commented that the quality of nominees increased every year. Literature nominees increased significantly this year. To date, the Governor and Lt. Governor are planning to attend the Governor's Arts Awards. The Governor's Arts Awards are scheduled for May 18th. The Governor and Lt. Governor requested that the Governor's Arts Awards Ceremony be held at the Shaw Center. Small two-minute clips announcing each winner, minimizing individual speeches.

The Governor's Arts Awards will culminate two intense days for Arts in Baton Rouge. May 17th LPA Committee Meetings and the Legislative Event at Longview at 5:00 that evening. May 18th LPA meeting and ending with the Governor's Arts Awards Ceremony that evening. Mr. Early asked if Alliance for Arts Education was going to be included in the Governor's Arts Awards. Ms Breaux responded, yes. Mr. Early motioned to accept endorsement of GAA recipients. Ms. Brunner seconded. Mr. Zeagler commented that it's hard to evaluate Arts Education because of individual and organizational differences. Mr. Early motioned to be allowed to divide Arts-in-Education individuals and Arts-in-Education Organizations. Mr. Zeagler seconded. Unanimous. The Lt. Governor will issue Louisiana's first Cultural Economy Award during the Governor's Arts Awards.

STANDING COMMITTEE UPDATES

Policy

Mr. Canseco was not present. The Policy Committee has been active in the assessment and planning process. Ms. Weeks attended a joint meeting of the Assessment & Strategic Planning Steering Committee, local arts agency representatives, and staff to take planning to the next level of the Roadmap for Change. April 14th the DAF RDA/LRA Executive Directors are having a meeting to discuss issues related to DAF and state and local partnership, including how we support arts education, how we support arts organizations, etc. LDOA will be coming up with a second draft of the outline. The draft is scheduled to be presented to the Lt. Governor and Secretary of the department for the next 5-10 years. The community forums were scheduled for June, trying not to conflict with panels and Governor's Arts Awards. The goal is to have a final draft after the community forum to LSAC for June 24th meeting. Community forums will be information based. A question was asked how is it going to be determined who will be invited to forums? Ms. Liebke answered that it will be opened. Ms. Liebke stated that we would have a public relations firm working with us developing formal programs and posters. Mr. Early stated that we get a good response from radio stations, and that local radio stations are helpful in getting the word out. Other media should include TV, morning show, radio, paid advertisements, cable stations and community calendars. Mr. Early asked if it is a presentation of information or forum? Ms. Liebke stated it's both, but primarily a presentation. The input to date has been broader than in the past. 500 individual artists submitted online surveys. Ms. Liebke stated that the focus group format was used in the beginning and in the future LDOA will do both (Focus groups and Community forums) where Focus Groups would be framed to ask deeper, more intimate questions. Ms. Weeks commented that she observed the development of the last policy and observed significant input and broad dissemination.

Advocacy

Ms Brunner, Chairperson for Advocacy Committee, stated that the Advocacy Committee and the Louisiana Partnership for the Arts through Charlie Smith are working on an amendment to the law in the State Constitution on assessing property inventory tax for consigned artwork in a gallery, mainly in the arts galleries in New Orleans. The law has been on the books for a long time. The new Legislation will exempt all artists inventory from inventory tax. Mr. Zeagler stated that he pays inventory tax, but he gets it back by filing state income tax. No one pays tax on the retail value of his or her inventory. Mr. Early stated that they pay for what they have there. The Advocacy will do more research and report findings to Council. Question asked is it an issue for the State Advocacy Committee to get behind? Ms. Breaux responded that the Council – as a whole - has a history of advocacy. Ms Brunner stated that small businesses don't get breaks. Artists pay inventory tax when no paintings are being sold. Ms. Breaux stated that the Council could decide to do something. The Advocacy Committee should get more research and bring back to the Council for endorsement. The council members asked individuals to discuss it and get as much information as they can and then submit it.

Ms. Breaux distributed a handout on the LPA website, Arts E-Advocacy Center. The second largest caucus in the United States is the Arts Caucus. Louisiana Congressmen Jefferson and Alexander are on the Arts Caucus. Ms. Weeks commented that we would be able to check on how representatives voted on certain arts and cultural issues. Ms. Weeks commented that you only need to sign up one time to send messages. Ms. Liebke gave the website address www.lparts.org.

Ms. Breaux stated the keynote speaker for the LPA meeting on May 18th is Ben Cameron from Theatre Communications Group. Mr. Cameron will focus on Arts participation and how the public values the arts. Tangible solid introduction on how organizations and individuals can work toward a greater, broad-based participation in the arts. Ms. Weeks commented some of the things on a national level are to build audience, participation, and create demand. Artist will benefit if we help create demand.

OLD BUSINESS

NONE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Weeks thanked everyone for being in attendance.

Ms. Weill commented that now that we have an executive director coming from New York, to thank Ms. Breaux for being a magnificent leader.

ADJOURN

Ms. Weeks adjourned the meeting at 11:58 a.m.

Next LSAC meeting is scheduled for Friday, June 24, 2005.