

Gerri Hobdy, Chair  
Baton Rouge

Rex Alexander  
Lake Charles

Marguerite Anderson  
West Monroe

Linda Begue  
Mandeville

Patricia Brister  
Mandeville

Pamela Bryan  
New Orleans

Dwayne Carruth  
Baton Rouge

Stephen Carter  
Baton Rouge

Karen Courtman  
Shreveport

Michael Echols  
Monroe

Robert Fisher  
La Place

Derek Gordon  
Baton Rouge

Lagena Gore  
Dry Prong

JoAnn Katz  
Metairie

Angela King  
New Orleans

George Marks  
Amaudville

Barbara Motley  
New Orleans

Rose Marie Sand  
Slidell

Karen Dean Sharp  
Sterlington

Larry Eugene Thompson  
Winnsboro

Kim Howes Zabbia  
Ponchatoula



State of Louisiana  
Office of the Lieutenant Governor  
Department of Culture,  
Recreation, Tourism  
Office of Culture Development

# LOUISIANA STATE ARTS COUNCIL

POST OFFICE BOX 44247 BATON ROUGE, LA 70804 (225) 342-8180 PHONE (225) 342-8173 FAX

## QUARTERLY MEETING MINUTES

Old U.S. Mint  
400 Esplanade Ave.  
New Orleans, LA 70116  
Thursday, October 29, 2009  
10:00 a.m.

**LSAC members present:** Linda Begue, Dwayne Carruth, Michael Echols, Robert Fisher, Derek Gordon, Gena Gore, Gerri Hobdy, Angela King, George Marks, Barbara Motley, Karen Sharp, and Scott Hutcheson

**LSAC members absent:** Marguerite Anderson, Rex Alexander, Patricia Brister, Pamela Bryan, Stephen Carter, Karen Courtman, JoAnn Katz, Rose Marie Sand, Virginia Saussy, Gene Thompson, Kim Zabbia, and Pam Breaux

**Office of Cultural Development Staff present:** Scott Hutcheson, Assistant Secretary Office of Cultural Development, Dana La Fonta, Executive Director, Division of the Arts, Danny Belanger, Pearlle Johnson, Vanessa Ledbetter, Ann Russo, Maida Owens and Kelly Pepper

**Guests:** Tommy Usrey, Chair of LPA; Professor Jihad Muhammed, University of Illinois-Chicago; Debbie Hodges, Caldwell Parish Tourism Commissioner.

### I. Call to Order and Welcome – Dana La Fonta

Ms. La Fonta called the meeting to order and thanked everyone for coming to New Orleans. Gerri Hobdy was introduced as the Chair of the LSAC as appointed by the Governor.

### II. Chairman's Report

Ms. Gerri Hobdy noted that the staff was able to create an orientation manual in a few days for the Council. Corrections will be made and mailed to Council prior to the next meeting. Ms. Hobdy asked that the DOA work with the LSAC to ensure active engagement to advance the mission and goals of the LDOA. Members were encouraged to become familiar with the function of the LDOA as well as the role of the LSAC.

Ms. Hobdy asked the LDOA staff to introduce themselves and give a brief description of their duties

Ms. Hobdy asked that a Report from the Director, Unfinished Business and New Business be added to the agenda in future meetings and requested that information and agenda for future meetings be forwarded to Council members at least two weeks prior to the meeting date to allow for Council review and preparation.

The Executive Committee will meet one week prior to the regular scheduled meeting via conference call. Ms. Hobdy asked members to forward to her any concerns, recommendations, or items to be considered by the Executive Committee for the agenda.

### III. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Gordon motioned to approve the minutes with one correction. Correction: Ms. Karen Sharp is with the Ouachita Christian School and not West Jefferson School. Minutes were approved with the correction. Unanimous acceptance with motion carried.

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## IV. Orientation

Ms. La Fonta gave a brief overview of the contents of the Council's Orientation Manual. Updated and corrected information will be provided prior to the next meeting.

## V. LDOA Strategic Plan

Ms. Hobdy reported that it was time to update the Division's Strategic Plan. Pam Breaux, Secretary of the Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism suggested that many of the strategies remain in place as some of the goals have not been met due to funding cuts and the necessary restructuring that followed. Hobdy requested a report on the status of the Strategic Plan. Hobdy and La Fonta will meet with Secretary Breaux and Mr. Hutcheson to ensure alignment with the Lt. Governor's vision and goals for the Department. A draft will be circulated to the board for comment. Hobdy invited Tommy Usrey, Chairman of the Louisiana Partnership for the Arts Advocacy (LPA) and Executive Director of Northeast Louisiana Arts Council, to provide input on behalf of the LPA.

## VI. OCD Reorganization – Scott Hutcheson

When Mr. Hutcheson was appointed, Lt. Governor Landrieu and Secretary Breaux charged him with the opportunity to reorganize the agency. Mr. Hutcheson reviewed the history and reorganization of the Office of Cultural Development (OCD). OCD includes the Division of Archaeology, Division of the Arts, Division of Historic Preservation, Cultural Economy Initiative (CEI), and The Council for the Development of French in Louisiana (CODOFIL).

As part of the reorganization Mr. Belanger is working on creating a new Data Project for OCD to centralize OCD program impact data.

Mr. Gordon asked if the new organizational plan will affected how the budget is put together for the divisions. Mr. Hutcheson stated that it has not changed the budgeting process yet.

The Governor's office and the Division of Administration are going through Outcome Based Budgeting (OBB) which is similar to our Budgeting for Outcomes (BFO) process. It's a competitive process, and there are programs the state does not invest in. In addition, the Legislature has expressed a desire to have the former way of budgeting also.

Ms. Motley asked that the new organization chart is shared with members.

## VII. Committee Assignments

**Executive Committee** – 2 positions remain to be filled. Nominations were taken from the floor. Mr. Gordon nominated Mr. George Marks, and Ms. Motley nominated Ms. Rose Marie Sand to the Executive Committee as At-Large Members. Mr. Gordon motioned to accept the nominations and Mr. Echols seconded. Unanimous acceptance with motion carried.

**Advocacy Committee** – needs volunteers

**Policy Committee** – Ms. Hobdy asked that the Council review the Strategic Plan before updating policy and procedures. It was noted that the Policy Committee needs volunteers.

**Special Events Committee** – It was noted that volunteers were needed and that the events were primarily those associated with Lt. Governor, Office of Cultural Developme

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and the Division of the Arts. A list of events will be forwarded to the Council members. Ms. Hobdy commented that a member of the Council would be beneficial to the Lt. Governor's Planning Committee for the LA Cultural Economy Conferences and any other conference in which the Arts are represented.

## VIII. Meeting Schedule

A calendar of events will be distributed to members and conflicts will be accommodated if possible.

## IX. Public Comments

Professor Jihad Muhammed of the University of Illinois-Chicago, Director, Cultural Heritage Touring Company came for the Culture Awards and plans to move to Louisiana. He works with the African Scientific Research Institute in 20 communities founded by former slaves.

Ms. Hobdy mentioned that Ann Silverman Williamson is the new Director at the Louisiana Association of Non-Profit Organizations (LANO). The website address is [www.lano.org](http://www.lano.org). Ms. Hobdy encouraged membership with LANO.

Tommy Usrey, LPA board chair invited LSAC members to join the LPA. Mr. Usrey explained that the Louisiana Partnership for the Arts (LPA) is 501(c)(3), and the Louisiana Partnership for the Arts Advocacy (LPAA) is a 501(c)(4) that advocates for LDOA funding. Mr. Usrey invited the Council to attend LPA and LPAA meetings in the areas they represent, to speak and share information. The next LPA meeting is in Alexandria on December 9, 2009.

Council members are also members of American's for the Arts and the National Association of State Arts Agency (NASAA) in their capacity on the State Arts Council. Passwords to access the NASAA web portal will be circulated.

Mr. Belanger reported the Arts Council of Baton Rouge, the Arts Council of New Orleans, and the Arts Council of Shreveport received \$250,000 each in stimulus grants directly from the NEA. The State of Louisiana received \$310,800 to distribute to organizations statewide. The state also administered \$50,000 which is the regional portion of stimulus dollars from Southern Arts Federation (SAF) for a total of \$360,000. Louisiana ranked 5<sup>th</sup> in the nation for the stimulus funding awarded by and through the NEA.

## X. Adjournment (Closing Comments)

Ms. Hobdy recommended visiting Angela King's Gallery as a Council Activity following the meeting. Ms. King described the current project on display at the gallery.

Ms. Gore encouraged LSAC members to participate in NASAA webinars. Ms. Gore gave a brief overview of what happened during the previous webinar.

Ms. Hobdy asked if the Council could have arts infused in all meetings. Ms. Hobdy gave an overview of the Lt. Governor's Office of Social Entrepreneurship. Ms. Hobdy would like for Brooke Smith of the Lt. Governor's Office and Janet Pact with the Louisiana Serve Commission to present to the Council. Ms. Hobdy requested the Louisiana Cultural Economy Foundation (LCEF) also make a presentation at some point as they are important partners to the LDOA efforts. Ms. Hobdy requested the LPA be added to future agendas to present to the Council.

Meeting adjourned at 11:29 am