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LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

State of Louisiana
OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE, RECREATION & TOURISM
OFFICE OF CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT
DIVISION OF THE ARTS

CARRIE BROUSSARD
INTERIM ASSISTANT SECRETARY

Louisiana State Arts Council Meeting
Tuesday, February 25, 2025 – 1:30 pm

Teche Theatre for the Performing Arts
501 Main Street
Franklin, Louisiana 70538

Members Present: Margie Camardelle, Silas Cooper, Jonathan Foret, Dirk Guidry, Joyce Linde, Kelsea McCrary, Claire Schultz, Tiger Verdin

Members Absent: Sean Ardoin, Carrie Broussard, Nydia Freedman, Brook Hanemann, Brandon Lewis, Gene Meneray, Emily Mott, Olivia Regard, Ron Rona, Judith Vitanza-Kittan, Richard Williams

OCD/LDOA Staff Present: April Baham, Erica Bergeron, Scott Finch, Maida Owens, Leea Russell, Justin Lemoine, Alora Thompson

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Kelsey McCrary at 1:34 pm. Ms. McCrary presided over the meeting in Mr. Meneray's absence.

II. Roll Call

III. Welcome

Ed "Tiger" Verdin – LSAC Member and Executive Director, LA Partnership for the Arts welcomed LSAC members to the Teche Theatre. He introduced the Mayor of Franklin who gave remarks and the Program Director for Louisiana Scoring, David Boudreaux

IV. Approval of October 2024 Minutes

Minutes were not approved because we did not have a quorum.

VI. Reports

A. Assistant Secretary Report

Mr. Lemoine indicated that budgets for the arts were stable and that a decision about the interim office roles would be determined before the end of the 2025 Legislative Session, seeing as the Assistant Secretary of the Office must be confirmed by the Senate.

B. Executive Director Report – See attachment

C. National Assembly of State Arts Agencies

Staff who attended the NASAA convening in Puerto Rico shared their insights, highlighting the excellent job the host organizations did in curating sessions and offering participants an authentic experience of Puerto Rican culture. Ms. Owens appreciated that all peer groups were represented and had access to targeted professional development—something that, in the past, had typically been available only to the Arts Education Manager and Folklife Director peer groups.

D. Louisiana Partnership for the Arts

Mr. Verdin reported delays from the Office of Motor Vehicles in moving forward with the Arts License Plate initiative and stated that he plans to follow up with the office every two weeks for updates. He also outlined the current Partnership priorities: the Arts Caucus, Arts Day at the Capitol on April 29th from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and the Arts Jam on April 16th from 7:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Additionally, Mr. Verdin will participate in Americans for the Arts' Fly-In Day, which includes advocacy workshops and a Creative Community Panel discussion.

E. Staff Updates – see attached

VII. Call for Public Comment

Several members of arts and culture community from the city of Franklin spoke about their work and the need for grant funds. Grants director Ms. Bergeron clarified some issues about grant guidelines and passed along her contact information. Ms. McCrary spoke about an upcoming call for artists to commemorate the 1927 Flood in Louisiana.

VIII. Call for Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:50 pm.

NEXT MEETINGS:

April 15, 2025 (TBD)

July 25, 2025 (TBD)

October, 2025 (Baton Rouge) – LAS



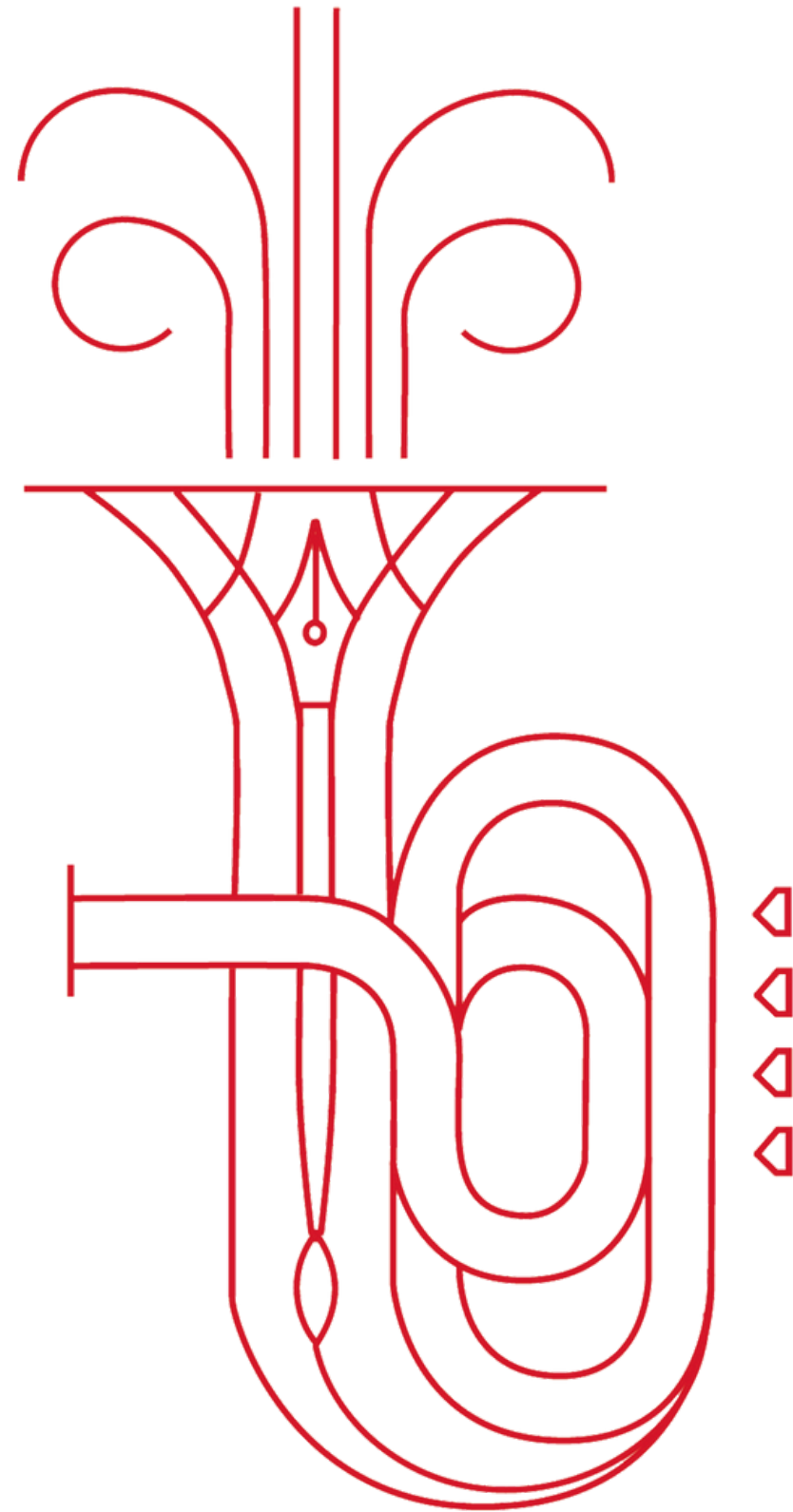
LOUISIANA STATE ARTS COUNCIL MEETING 2/25/2025

louisianaarts.org



LEE A REESE RUSSELL

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT



THE FIRST 100 DAYS

Strengthening Team Dynamics & Workflows

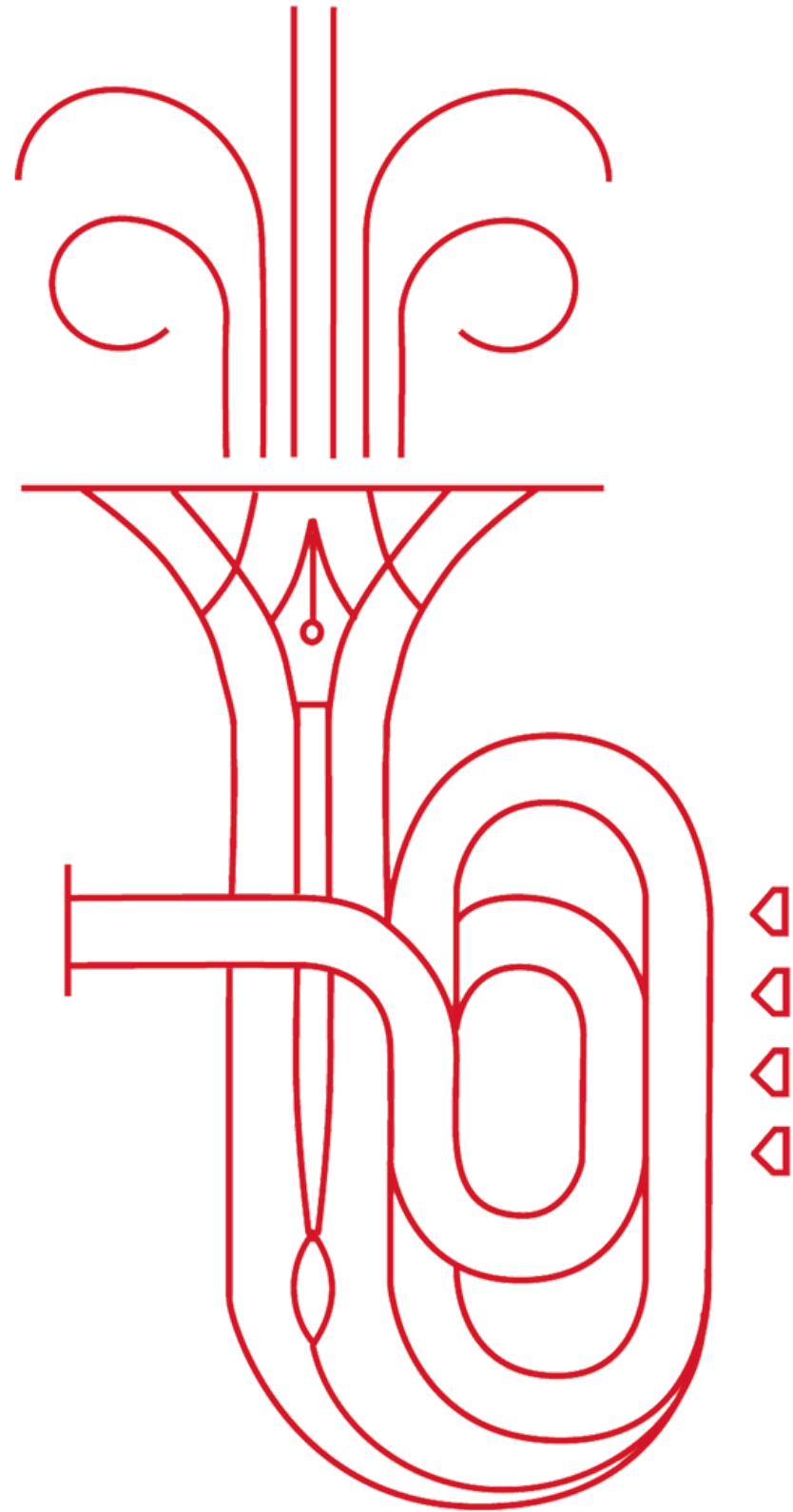
- One-on-one meetings with staff to understand roles and communication styles
- Resetting communication norms for collaboration and trust

Enhancing Efficiency & Capacity

- Leveraging part-time staff (Admin, Alora's expanded role, hiring a grants intern)
- Project Management tools (Read AI , AirTable)

Advancing Communication & Engagement

- Establishing a manageable strategy for engaging legislators and the arts community
- Looking forward, hopeful for a Public Information Officer (PIO) to focus on arts data and community engagement



CONVENINGS ATTENDED

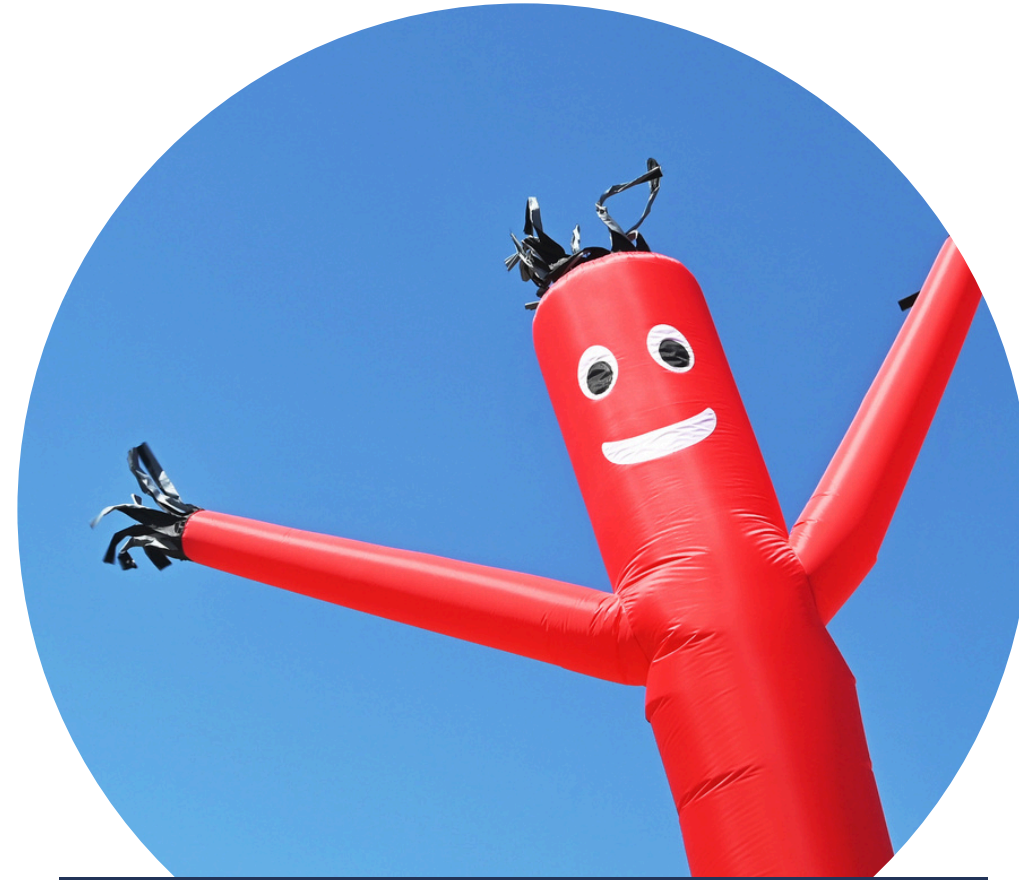
Delta Arts & Culture Ecosystem Initiative - West Memphis, Arkansas

- Collaboration between Mid America Arts Alliance and South Arts
- “What conditions need to exist to protect the artistic and cultural heritage of the Mississippi Delta region and inspire continued creativity and innovation?”

Louisiana Folklife Commission

LSU Museum of Art Board Meeting

South Arts Board Meeting - Memphis, Tennessee



HIRING IN PROGRESS

ARTS EDUCATION & ACCESSIBILITY



CURRENT HAPPENINGS

Poetry Out Loud

- State Finals Competition on March 13, 2025; 6:30 pm at the Delta Grand Theatre in Opelousas - free and open to the public

Accessibility Self Assessment

- All grantees and sub-grantees are required to complete
- Using the data to inform technical support and professional development provided by LDOA

Songs of Survivors

- Funding multiple sessions in Jackson, LA that will take place between February and May of 2025
- Sustained interaction will allow us to track skill building and social/emotional impacts of music engagement



FRANCESCA VEGA

CULTURAL DISTRICTS

Program Updates



TAX INCENTIVE CHANGES

Art Sales Tax Exemption

- Repealed, effective January 1, 2025.
 - What was this? A local sales tax exemption on art sold in a Cultural District.

State Sales Tax

- Increased from 4.45% to 5%.

Historic Preservation Tax Credit

- \$125m credit reservations decreased to \$85m for Part 2 applications submitted on January 1, 2025 or later.
- Unused credits no longer roll over into the following year.
 - What is this? The State Commercial Tax Credit Program was created by the Louisiana Legislature to encourage the redevelopment of income-producing historic buildings. In 2007, the enabling program legislation was amended to allow historic buildings located in Cultural Districts to be program eligible.

SAVE THE DATE!

PRESERVATION IN PRINT

April/May 2025 Issue

Featuring the newest Cultural District - Railroad Avenue Historic Cultural District - certified in the fall of 2024.

An interview with Laura (left) & Lady (right) Brown, a mother-daughter duo working to preserve culture & history in Jeanerette.



Passing it On Workshops

Apache Choctaw Quilting

Pam Cartinez

Zwolle

Winnsboro Easter Rock

Hattie Addison

Winnsboro

Split Oak Basketmaking

Geraldine Robertson

Houma



MAIDA OWENS

FOLKLIFE UPDATES

Folklife Month

Monthly Online Gatherings

5 Working Groups

Culture and Coastal Policy
Preparing Receiving Communities
French Language Preservation
Protecting Collections
Artists and Tradition Bearers

Climate Adaptation and Migration Workshops



Sign up at LouisianaFolklore.org

I'M RETIRING JUNE 1.

BUT I'LL CONTINUE WORKING WITH THE BCC

Join the next Gathering - March 21 on zoom

Glen Pitre

Multimedia Storyteller

The Importance of Storytelling



ERICA BERGERON

GRANTS

Program Updates

WHAT THEY SAID

KEEPING UP WITH NEA SHIFTS

- *guidelines*
- *applications*
- *presentations*
- *printed materials*
- *website*





LOUISIANA PROJECT GRANTS FY26

Applications are set to open May 5, 2025 with a deadline of June 27, 2025

Culinary Arts

The art and science of preparing, cooking, and presenting food. It involves creativity, technical skills, and knowledge of ingredients. For the purpose of the LPG program, Culinary Arts projects must reflect and engage the community where the project will take place. They may include recipes or techniques that are culturally relevant. Culinary projects are greatly enhanced with the services of professionals or trained culinary specialists. Culinary arts projects do not include providing refreshments or a meal intended to accompany another activity or gathering. Culinary arts projects are evaluated for their cultural significance and ability to engage participants and their community through the history, story, sensations and emotions represented and elicited by the project.

Bonus Points (up to 5 additional points)

Artistic Merit - Incorporation of local artists or art forms

Need and Impact - Demonstrated collaboration across the region

Planning and Design - Clearly thought-out accessibility plan for the proposed project activities





APRIL BAHAM



SCOTT FINCH

PERCENT FOR ART

Program Updates

INSTALLATIONS

COMPLETED & UPCOMING

UL Lafayette

Taft Street Parking Garage

The mural, "*Seasons of Knowledge*," was recently completed by Denver-based multidisciplinary artist AJ Davis and features an augmented reality component.

Grambling State University

Digital Library

Inspired by the region's loblolly pines and the school's rich history, the installation of "*Loblolly Grove*" is currently underway by San Diego artist, Miki Iwasaki, and when completed will adorn the western façade of the library.





OPEN CALL

LSU Alexandria Student Success Center

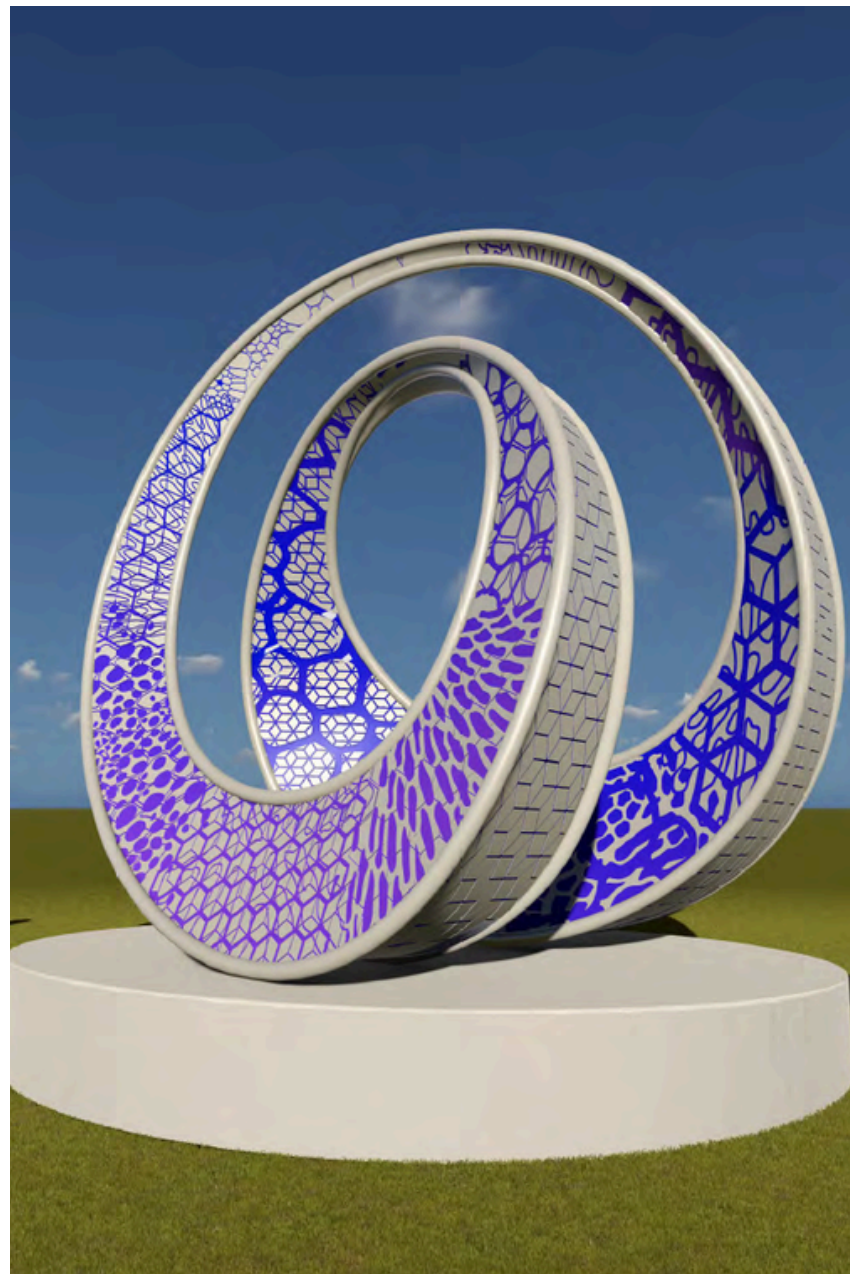
The Percent for Art Program invites professional artists and artist teams to submit their qualifications for the creation of an interior, site-specific artwork for the atrium of the new Student Success Center at LSU. Suspended or free-standing, the artworks should integrate with the building's architecture and reflect themes of student success and community.

Artists may apply via CaFE until **April 30th**.

STAY TUNED for more open calls!

APPROVED

PROPOSALS



LSU Health Shreveport
Virginia Kistler



Southeastern University Centennial Monument
X-TOPIA + CRGarchitecture

Merci!