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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
Wednesday, April 16, 2025

East Baton Rouge Parish Library
2210 Glasgow Avenue
Baton Rouge, LA 70808

Members Present: Sean Ardoin, Margie Camardelle, Silas Cooper, Nydia Freedman, Dirk Guidry, Brook Hanemann, Brandon Lewis, Joyce Linde, Gene Meneray, Claire Amy, Tiger Verdin, Ron Rona, Richard Williams

Members Absent: Jonathan Foret, Kelsea McCrary, Emily Mott, Olivia Regard, Judith Vitanza-Kattan

OCD/LDOA Staff Present: April Baham, Erica Bergeron, Scott Finch, Maida Owens, Leea Russell, Justin Lemoine, Alora Thompson, Carrie Broussard, Francesca Vega, Quaja Bell

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Gene Meneray at 12:07 pm.

II. Roll Call

Role was called by Leea Russell. 13 council members, 10 OCD/LDOA staff, and 15 members of the public attended.

III. Approval of October 2024 and February 2025 Minutes

Minutes were approved unanimously.

VI. Reports

A. Assistant Secretary Report

Mr. Lemoine announced his appointment as Deputy Assistant Secretary and shared that Carrie Broussard has been named Assistant Secretary. He also reported that no legislation currently under consideration in the Legislative Session directly affects LDOA.

B. Executive Director Report – See attachment

C. National Assembly of State Arts Agencies

Mr. Meneray shared an update on the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) funding outlook, noting that 40% of the NEA's budget is designated for state arts agencies. He expressed concern about the reliability of this funding due to significant staff reductions at the NEA. Similar funding challenges have also been reported by the Institute of Museum and Library

Services and the National Endowment for the Humanities. Mr. Meneray stated there is a 50/50 chance that partnership agreements will be maintained at typical levels, with more clarity expected following the National Council on the Arts meeting on May 1, where grant and partnership decisions will be finalized.

D. Louisiana Partnership for the Arts

Mr. Verdin provided updates on upcoming events, including Arts Day at the Capitol on April 29 and the Arts Jam on April 16, an outdoor breakfast event for Arts Caucus members featuring live music. He also mentioned a May event with Arts Caucus members at Longview. Mr. Lemoine requested talking points for council members and the public regarding arts funding priorities. Mr. Verdin confirmed he would share those materials at a later time.

E. Staff Programming Updates – see attached

VII. Call for Public Comment

Shawna Nile Batchelor, Chair of the Louisiana Partnership for the Arts (LPA), attended the meeting and introduced LPA board members Lee Anne Stenvick (Arts and Humanities Council of Southwest Louisiana) and Joshua Hebert (Assumption Foundation for the Arts). Representatives from the Baton Rouge Gallery shared information about their programs and events, and the liaison for the Old South Baton Rouge Cultural District provided updates on staff capacity and reporting requirements.

VIII. Call for Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:16 pm.

NEXT MEETINGS:

July 25, 2025 (Monroe)

October, 2025 (Baton Rouge) – Louisiana Arts Summit



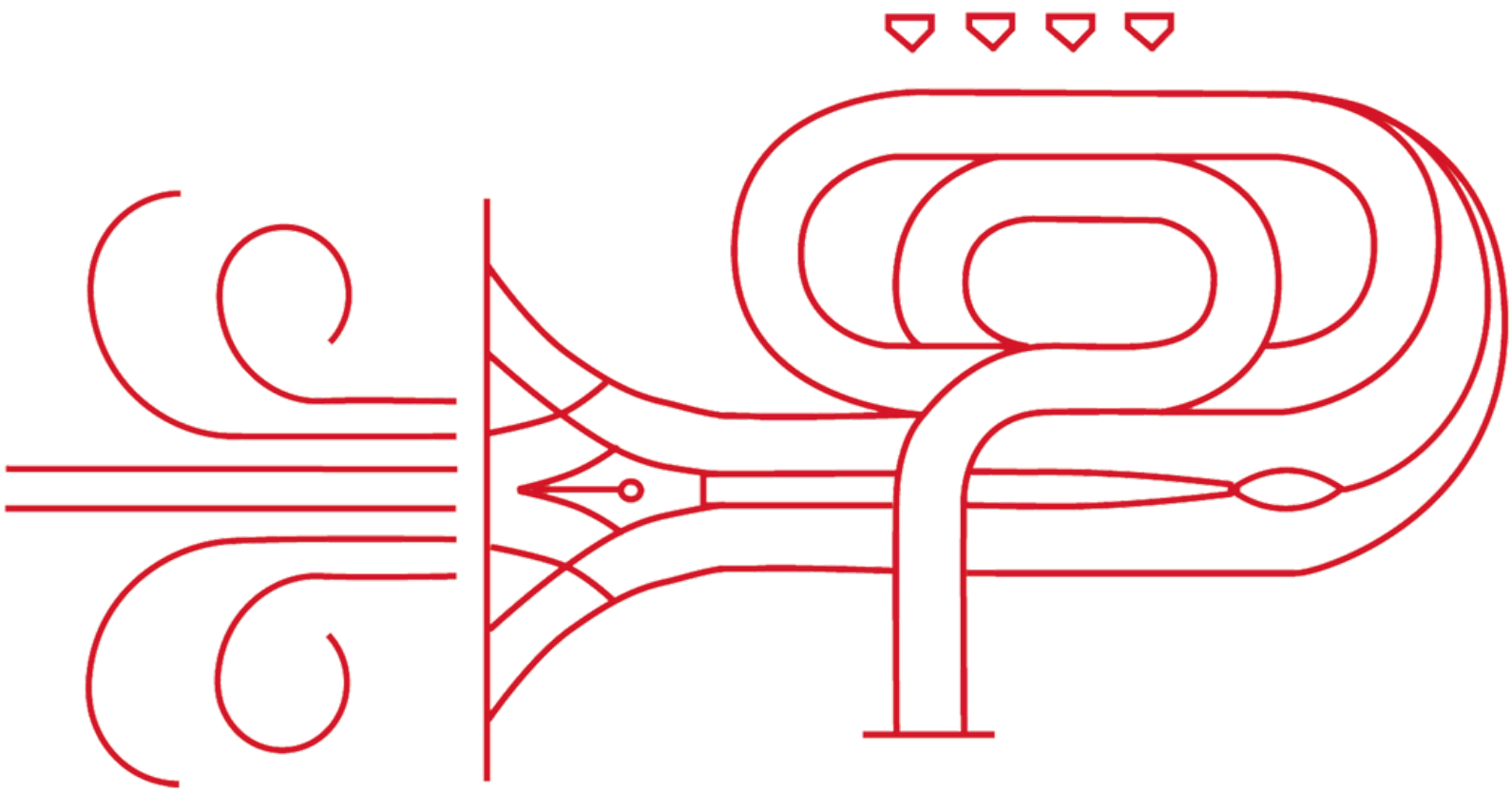
LOUISIANA STATE ARTS COUNCIL MEETING 4/16/2025

louisianaarts.org



LEEAA REESE RUSSELL

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT



NEA State/Federal Partnership

- Cuts anticipated
- Request from NASAA to support America 250 efforts
- Possible impacts to LDOA programs and services

Folklife Director

- Position filled - start date June 16, 2025
- Reception honoring Maida Owens - Date and time TBD

Louisiana Arts Summit

- October 8-10, 2025 in Baton Rouge
- Multiple locations
- Look for session RFP in late spring



QUAJA BELL

ARTS EDUCATION & ACCESSIBILITY

Welcome!



Alana Bailey, Winner 2025
Louisiana State Poetry Out Loud

CURRENT HAPPENINGS

Poetry Out Loud

- National Finalist Competition on May 6-7, 2025; in Washington, D.C. at the Lisner Auditorium at the George Washington University
- The semifinals and finals will be available through a one-time only webcast at Arts.gov/Poetry-Out-Loud.

LearningLab

- Self-paced workshops centering on arts integration; backed by research-based teaching practices.

The State of Art Education in Louisiana

- A series of conversations delving into the realities of arts education across the state; exploring accessibility, community experiences, and the proven benefits of arts engagement for students and communities.



FRANCESCA VEGA

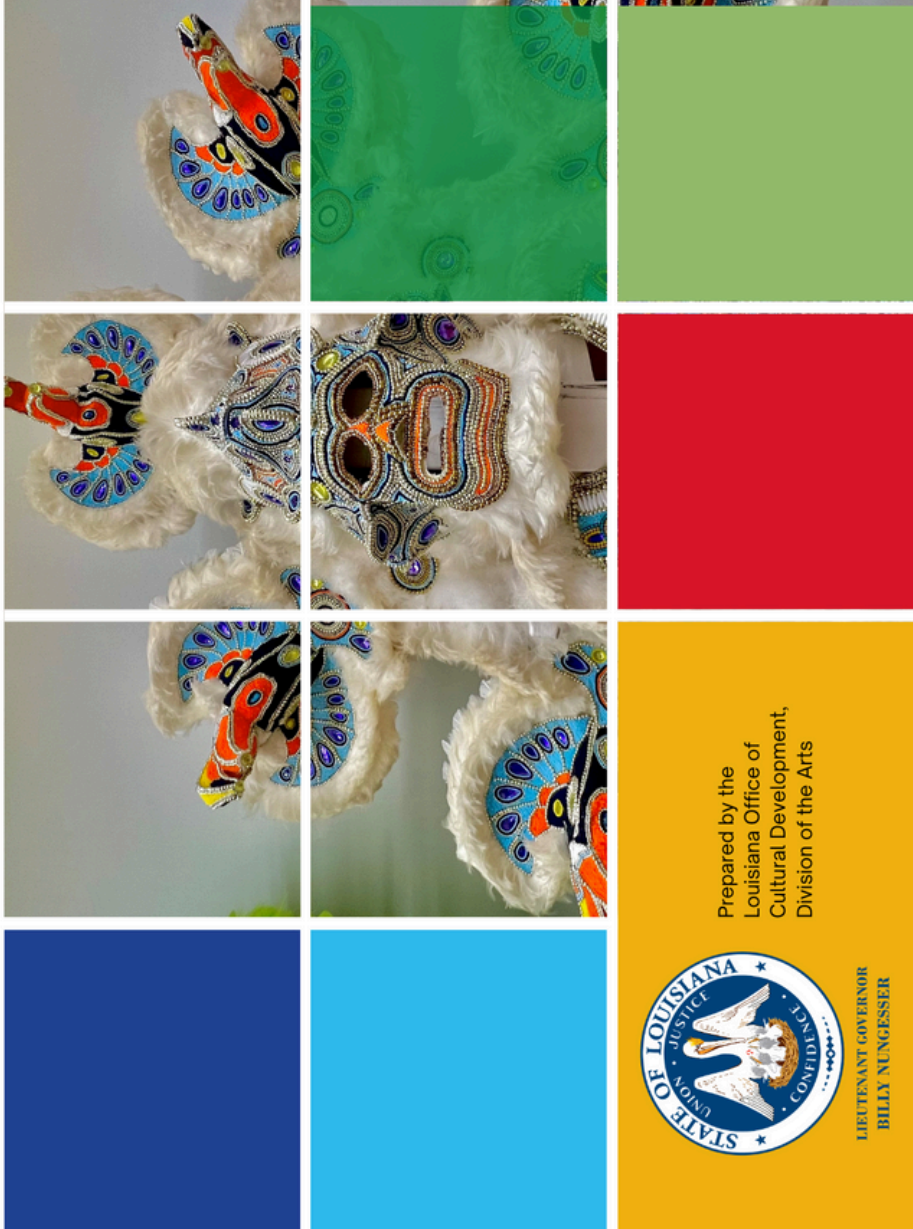
CULTURAL DISTRICTS

Program Updates

2024



Annual Report



ANNUAL REPORT

Highlights

Event attendance is up by 261% since 2020.

452 new businesses opened in Cultural Districts in 2024.

State Tax Credit Pt 1 applications are up by 46% from 2023.

Value of Art Sales Tax Exemptions

The estimated value of sales tax exemptions on art sold from all Cultural Districts outside of Orleans Parish was \$2,762,452 The exemptions were generated from sales revenue totaling \$228,650,164.

ARTIST CALL

SUNSET CULTURAL DISTRICT

Partners

Chenier Family
Louisiana Cultural District Program
Atchafalaya National Heritage Area
Louisiana Music Trail
St. Landry Parish Tourist Commission

About

The project is intended to highlight Clifton and Cleveland Chenier's contributions to the Zydeco genre, acknowledge Sunset's iconic connection to the rub board, and celebrate the local community. To be unveiled as part of Arts & Humanities Month.





A Cultural Districts Initiative

NEW PILOT PROGRAM

Technical Assistance With Creative Community Strategies

This program that integrates arts and culture into public spaces to revitalize Louisiana's Cultural Districts that are most in need. Led by Kevin King of Creative Community Strategies, districts will leave the program with a custom ready to go framework that can strengthen community identity, foster social connections, and boost local economies.

Three Cultural Districts — urban, suburban, and rural — will be selected through an application process, with services tailored to each community's unique culture and needs. As a pilot program, it will undergo an internal evaluation to determine the next steps for ongoing technical assistance.

Merci!