**MINUTES OF THE**

**LOUISIANA FOLKLIFE COMMISSION MEETING**

**Capitol Park Welcome Center**

**Baton Rouge, LA**

**Friday, January 7, 2014**

**Folklife Commission members present:** Ray Berthelot, Winifred Byrd, Debra Credeur, Teresa Parker Farris, Rebecca Hamilton, Cathy Hernandez, Nicole Hobson-Morris, Amanda LaFleur, Keagan LeJeune, Karen Leathem, Kevin McCaffrey, Allison Peña, Shane Rasmussen, Susan Roach, Michael Robinson, Guiyuan Wang, Melissa Yarborough, Liz Williams.

**Folklife Commission members absent:**  Kevin Billiot, Charles McGimsey, Michael Sartisky, Susan Spillman.

**Louisiana Division of the Arts (LDOA) staff present:** Maida Owens.

**Guests present:** Charlene Bonnette, State Library; Dayna Lee, HDR, Inc; Sherry McInnis, Louisiana Trust for Historic Preservation; Liz Williams, National Park Service.

**I. CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS**

Teresa Parker Farris opened the meeting of the Louisiana Folklife Commission at 1:04 pm at the Capitol Park Welcome Center in Baton Rouge.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes for the last two meetings were approved. Winifred Byrd moved and Michael Robinson, seconded for the January minutes. Allison Pena moved and Kevin McCaffrey seconded for the June minutes.

**III. REPORTS**

1. **Chair Report – Teresa Parker Farris**

Farris announced that the Governor has completed appointments to the Folklife Commission. New Commissioners include Keagan Lejeune representing universities, Kevin McCaffrey representing the Louisiana Folklore Society. Guiyuan “Gwen” Wang and Melissa Yarborough are representing the Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism.

1. **Election of New Officers: Vice Chair and Secretary**

The Commission elected Amanda LaFleur as the Vice Chair (Ray Berthelot moved and Susan Roach seconded) and Allison Pena as the secretary (Winnie Byrd moved and Liz Williams seconded).

1. **LDOA Budget Report – Cathy Hernandez**

Maida Owens reported that Cathy Hernandez would be coming, but had asked Maida to report that the LDOA budget has stabilized. We don’t anticipate an increase or decrease in the coming year. She reported that LDOA staff member Kelly Pepper resigned to become the Executive Director of the Louisiana Association of Nonprofit Organizations.

 **D. Director – Maida Owens**

Owens provided a written report that is attached to the minutes. She shared the redesign of the folklife website, [www.louisianafolklife.org](http://www.louisianafolklife.org) and demonstrated the new search function.

**IV. BUSINESS**

1. **Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill MC 252 Incident and Response: Traditional Cultural Properties Inventory and Research** - Liz Williams, NPS

Williams reported that the National Park Service has submitted a report to the Coast Guard and BP Oil Company on the Section 106 response to the April 2010 BP oil spill. The document included research on traditional cultural properties as well as archaeological research. In March 2013, the ethnography team that conducted traditional cultural property research completed a draft report. It recently cleared BP and is currently under review by the U.S. Coast Guard and trustees (state, federal and tribal government entities). The report includes ethnohistories and preliminary descriptions of potentially eligible traditional cultural properties in coastal Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and northwest Florida.

1. **Loan Policy for Creole State Collection** – Maida Owens

Owens submitted the revised loan policy for the Creole State Collection for approval by the Commission. The revision included: 1) both the incoming and outgoing forms need start and end dates for the loans. 2) the visitation number needs clarification and 3) the incoming form needs to request interpretive information. The Commission voted to adopt the policy. Allison Pena moved and Liz Williams seconded.

1. **Culture Connection 2014 –Teresa Parker Farris**

Parker Farris reported that she had spoken to Pam Breaux in December about the importance of including a folklife award at the 2014 Culture Connection (to be held Tuesday, April 22) and had received her full support. The commission then discussed desired wording for the award category. Keagan LeJeune moved and Melissa Yarborough seconded, the motion passed to approve the following: Folklife Heritage Award – Recognizes an individual or organization that has helped create, maintain or promote Louisiana’s diverse cultural traditions or made significant contributions to the state’s folklife heritage as a tradition bearer, scholar or activist. The following volunteered to be on the Selection Committee: Melissa Yarborough, Liz Williams, Allison Pena, and Ray Berthelot.

Commissioners discussed other ways to participate in Culture Connection and decided to request that one of the sessions focus on folklife. Debra Credeur offered funds to support a folklife speaker. Topics suggested include documentation strategies for communities and using folklife resources in tourism efforts. Another idea offered was to provide training to other DCRT personnel on folklife resources at another time.

1. **Proposal to Lt Governor – Teresa Parker-Farris**

Parker Farris reviewed the points discussed with the Lt Governor in 2011: 1) incorporate folklife into his conversations and presentations, 2) support the folklife websites, and 3) consider a short and/or long term project proposed by the Commission that give Louisiana folklife increased visibility. Parker Farris reviewed the idea of getting a Governor’s proclamation for a Folklife Day as a way to raise the profile of folklife in the state. As a short-term project, the Commission decided to move forward with the proclamation and decided to highlight the Creole State Exhibit in the State Capitol. If possible, they would announce the proclamation at the next Commission meeting so that Commissioners could attend. Parker Farris will contact the Lt Governor to see if he is available. Committee members include Teresa Parker Farris, Susan Spillman, Susan Roach, Williams, Debra Credeur, and Karen Leathem.

1. **Set date for next Commission meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, June 6, 2014 at 1:00 pm unless the Lt Governor is not available.

**V. PUBLIC COMMENT AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

 Allison Pena announced the 199th anniversary of the Battle of New Orleans. Kevin McCaffrey announced that the 2014 Louisiana Folklore Society will meet March 21-22 at Dillard University in New Orleans. The Call for Papers and Presentations will be posted on the Society’s website within the week.

**VI. ADJOURN**

There being no further business to discuss the meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m. Liz Williams moved and Melissa Yarborough seconded.

**Folklife Program Director’s Report – January 7, 2014, Maida Owens**

**New Populations:** The Shreveport Regional Arts Council will receive funds provided by NEA for an **Art of Community workshop** by Laura Marcus Green and Amy Skillman on April 4, 2014. On April 3, the **traveling exhibit, *A Better Life for All: Traditional Arts of Louisiana’s Immigrant Communities*,** will premiere at SRAC for a one month exhibit. Curated by Laura Marcus Green with assistance from the State Museum, it will become part of the State Museum’s traveling exhibit program which primarily target parish libraries. The exhibit features four QRs (Quick Readers) so that visitors with smart phones can access 2 audio clips, 1 video clip, and the website. We are producing an education guide for hosts of the exhibit and schools. An expanded version of the exhibit is also online.

**Baton Rouge Folklife Survey:** NEA will provide funds to hire professional fieldworkers Douglas Manger and Laura Marcus Green to start the survey. They will be coming in February and possibly March. The program is providing the fieldworkers research leads for a wide range of traditions to be documented that focus on occupational traditions and traditional crafts. Possible topics include brick masons, welders, and making/wearing church hats.

**Folklife in Louisiana Website Redesign:** The website redesign is almost complete. The site is posted and authors have been asked to review their articles and update bios. A new search page was added, but the other databases still need some reformatting. The Lt Governor’s Office’s approval is pending some changes. Once approved, they will issue a press release and we will announce it through the DCRT email program. The Office of Tourism is interested in promoting it to travel professionals as a resource and announcing it at the Tourism Summit in June. The 2014 tourism campaign is *Only in Louisiana* and the website is seen as a resource. Web resources that have been added or revised include:

* *Delta Pieces: Northeast Louisiana Folklife* **-** five Delta Folks (profiles of tradition bearers) have been added. The only remaining article is on Sacred Music
* Louisiana Voices Educator’s Guide has been updated to include digital recording and photography. State Museum educators and former La. Dept of Education staff have recommended not updating content standards since the transition to Common Core Curriculum Standards is not complete.

To promote the website, the program is producing a **brochure** to be used as a technical assistance tool when meeting with organizations or individuals. A **bookmark** will be used at events with larger audiences, such as the Louisiana Book Festival and conferences.

**Archiving the Websites**: After the folklife website redesign is complete, Owens will work with the State Library’s Recorder of Documents to submit the folklife webpages as pdfs. The priority is work commissioned for publication on the websites and not published elsewhere.

**Folk Arts in Education:** The 2013 ICI (Imagination, Creativity and Innovation) Summer Institute for educators and teaching artists June 13-5 at LSU includes the session, *Creative Classroom: Louisiana Voices*, which is based on the lessons written by Kidsmart staff: developing *Creative Classroom: Being A Louisiana Neighbor* using theatre, visual arts, and Louisiana Voices.

The Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism is exploring the possibility of applying for a BESE 8g grant (February 3) to support CRT education initiative and including Louisiana Voices along with arts in education, Atchafalaya National Heritage Area, and other CRT agencies.

**Intern:** Maria Zeringue, a University of Louisiana-Lafayette francophone studies graduate, will be interning with the Folklife Program starting in May for a few months.