

# LOUISIANA STATE ARTS COUNCIL

POST OFFICE BOX 44247 BATON ROUGE, LA 70804 225.342.8174 PHONE 225.342.8173 FAX

**Mary Lee, Chair**  
Mandeville

**Rex Alexander**  
Lake Charles

**Marguerite Anderson**  
West Monroe

**Waynette Ballengee**  
Shreveport

**Dwayne Carruth**  
Baton Rouge

**Missy Crews**  
Baton Rouge

**Michael Echols**  
Monroe

**Gena Gore**  
Dry Prong

**Gerri Hobdy**  
Baton Rouge

**George Marks**  
Arnaudville

**Barbara Motley**  
New Orleans

**Patti Nelson**  
Monroe

**Sheela Plater**  
Thibodaux

**Michael D. Robinson**  
Baton Rouge

**Jacques Rodrigue**  
New Orleans

**Karen Dean Sharp**  
Sterlington

**Kirk Talbot**  
New Orleans

**Patrick Widhalm**  
Natchitoches



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

## Quarterly Meeting Minutes Capitol Park Welcome Center Tuesday, Feb. 16, 2016, at 11 a.m.

**Council Members present:** Chairman Mary Lee, Dwayne Carruth, Gerri Hobdy, George Marks, Barbara Motley, Sheela Plater, Jacques Rodrigue, Karen Sharp and Patrick Widhalm. Rex Alexander joined by conference call, but he is not considered part of quorum.

**Council Members not present:** Marguerite Anderson, Waynette Ballengee, Missy Crews, Michael Echols, Gena Gore, Patti Nelson, Michael Robinson and Kirk Talbot.

**LDOA Staff present:** Phil Boggan, Danny Belanger, Gaye Hamilton, Dana LaFonta, Maida Owens and Paula White.

**Guests:** Lt. Governor Billy Nungesser, Rennie Buras, Kristin Sanders and Caroline Downer.

### I. Call to Order and Welcome

The meeting was called to order at 11:14 a.m. by Mary Lee, Chair.

### II. Approval of Minutes

The minutes for the Oct. 13, 2015, meeting were approved upon a motion by Pat Widhalm, which was seconded by Barbara Motley and unanimously passed by the Council.

### III. Chairman's Reports

Mary asked each person in attendance to introduce himself or herself. Along with introductions, Lt. Governor Nungesser made a few remarks. He said that he is passionate about arts and music and would like to be involved in private/public partnerships. He is looking for additional funding for the arts and said that he believes the budget problems will be resolved during special session. Lt. Governor Nungesser said that he would like to incorporate the arts and film industry into the Grammys celebration that Louisiana hosts. He also said that he would like to partner with the movie industry and receive a portion of the return on investment for the arts. He told the council members that he has an open door policy and is open to any suggestions, and he thanked the council for their love and passion for the arts.

Rennie Buras, deputy secretary of the Office of Lt. Governor, added that he looks forward to traveling around the state and would like to look for ways to partner with other agencies so that efforts are not duplicated.

Mary reported that focus groups met around the state to gather feedback for the Strategic Plan. The focus group sessions took place in Lake Charles, Baton Rouge, Lafayette and Shreveport during October and November. The documentation is now being filtered and collated, and it will be disseminated at a later date.

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Mary mentioned that the search for the executive director has been launched nationwide, and Phil will share more during his report.

Mary recognized Maida Owens for receiving the Benjamin A. Botkin Prize from the American Folklore Society.

## **IV. LDOA Director's Report**

Phil Boggan, recently appointed as the Office of Cultural Development (OCD) assistant secretary, is also serving as the interim executive director for LDOA. Phil announced that Kristin Sanders has been named deputy assistant secretary for OCD.

Phil stated that the executive director search is underway, and the job posting has been circulated by NASAA and South Arts. He said that he has received correspondence and a few applicants to date. The position will close on Feb. 29, 2016. Phil said that among the qualifications for the position, he is looking for someone with leadership ability and the skills to unify arts communities. The executive director will be working throughout the state. Lt. Governor Nungesser added that this person should have the passion and drive to do all they can do for the arts and go the extra mile.

Phil updated LSAC members on Culture Connection, to be held April 26 – 27 at the Capitol Park Museum in Baton Rouge. The theme is *Culture 2020*, and planning for the next four years will be discussed. The Louisiana Culture Awards ceremony will take place during Culture Connection, and the deadline for award nominees is Friday, Feb. 19, 2016.

Phil spoke about the need to support individual artists. He is interested in beginning a new program that would name a Louisiana fellow each year, with an award of \$5,000. The program would focus on a different artistic discipline each year. The state fellow would then be part of a regional competition hosted by South Arts, for the opportunity to receive an additional award of \$25,000. This initiative would be new for South Arts also. Phil spoke with Debra Credeur about the possibility of a partnership with the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area in promoting this initiative. Pat Widhalm suggested that each Regional Development Agency select finalists from each region for the state fellow competition to push the program to local levels. This program will begin next fiscal year.

Phil mentioned that the RDAs met during their retreat and had a good discussion. He also mentioned the streamlined online grant application system that is being implemented.

Phil reminded council members that financial disclosures must be submitted to the Board of Ethics. Gerri Hobdy added that the financial disclosures must be submitted during service and also two years after service. Yolanda Dixon is the contact with the Legislative Ethics office. Phil also reminded council members to take the online ethics training course by March 31.

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## V. LDOA Staff Reports

- a. **Grant-making:** Paula White reported that the RDA Retreat was held at the Louisiana School for Math, Science and the Arts in Natchitoches in November. The retreat was held in conjunction with a Louisiana Partnership for the Arts meeting. The focus of the retreat discussion was how to stretch grant dollars to have a greater impact. A second meeting was held in January in Lafayette at the Acadiana Center for the Arts to continue the discussion. The RDAs discussed that Stabilization was a confusing name for the grant that provides general operating support to arts organizations and decided to change the name of the grant to General Operating Support. That change was implemented for the grant cycle that is underway. The application deadline for this grant program is March 15, 2016. This grant program will be a two-year period and the LDOA will manage the program, instead of decentralizing the administration of agreements and payments as in past years. The GO online grant application system was launched for the General Operating Support Grant, and will be used in the Houma region for the Decentralized Arts Funding Program this year. It will be used statewide for the DAF program next year.
- b. **Cultural Districts:** Gaye Hamilton gave an overview and background of the Cultural Districts program. There are 78 Cultural Districts throughout the state. Annual reports are due now, and the tax collected report is due at the end of February. This program partnered with Louisiana Economic Development in 2013 to track the number of jobs in the cultural industry and the growth of cultural jobs. Applications for new Cultural Districts will be accepted until March 1, 2016. Gaye held regional meetings throughout the state, and the Acadiana region has begun their own regional meetings. Lt. Governor Nungesser encouraged a partnership with Louisiana Seafood for promotion at events.
- c. **Folklife:** Maida Owens is working on Baton Rouge Traditions. Baton Rouge is a microcosm of the entire state of Louisiana and southern Mississippi. She is also working on the Neutral Strip project that includes five parishes along the Texas border. She has four contracts this year focusing on music.
- d. **Percent for Art:** Dana LaFonta gave an overview of all projects completed during 2015. She is working on four new works of art to be installed at the University Medical Center in New Orleans. There is a project at LSU to be completed in 2017, and the process is in the final selection of the artists. March 15, 2016, is the deadline for a call to artists for a \$70,000 project at the Chef John Folse Culinary Institute at Nicholls State University. There are a total of 15 projects underway in various stages. Dana thanked Dwayne Carruth for his hard work on all of the projects.
- e. **Arts-in-Education:** Jacques Rodrigue reported on A+ Schools. There are now 16 schools in Louisiana and 160 schools across the country. Six schools are interested in applying to be part of the A+ Schools program, and they plan to add two or three additional schools next year. The cost is \$75,000 to \$100,000 per school over three years. The Rodrigue Foundation is hosting Aioli Dinners to raise funds for A+ Schools. The next two dinners are planned for New Orleans (April 23) and Shreveport (May 7). Danny Belanger reported that Poetry Out Loud will host regional competitions in six regions, and the final competition will be held on March 5 at 1 p.m. at the Capitol Park Museum. One finalist

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will go to Washington, D.C. to compete nationally. Uniquely Louisiana is an online portal to Louisiana educational resources. The site is brand new and the web address is [UniquelyLouisiana.org](http://UniquelyLouisiana.org).

## **VI. LPA/LCA Report**

Barbara Motley reported that she has spoken with Gene Meneray regarding LCA. All work is being done on a volunteer basis. Barbara said that at this point, they are working to build a list of names who are art supporters instead of just focusing on raising funds. Lt. Governor Nungesser said that he can share a list of contacts.

## **VII. New Business**

There was no new business.

## **VIII. Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

## **IX. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:40 p.m. by Mary Lee.