

February 11, 2009

Previous applicants and potential grantees,

The arts are an integral part of our lives and livelihoods in the state of Louisiana. The Office of Cultural Development is committed to continue our support and cultivation of arts and culture in our state.

There has been much talk in the media and political circles regarding fiscal deficits in State government. The reality is that Louisiana is facing a \$341 million budget deficit this year. Because you have received grant funding from the Office Cultural Development, through the Division of the Arts, I wanted to make you aware of Louisiana's budget shortfall.

As you plan for next year's applications for State Grants, we want to make you aware that there will also be overall reductions to available funding in the upcoming fiscal year (FY2010). That, we cannot avoid. A \$2 billion shortfall is anticipated next fiscal year. We have reduced our maximum requests for the FY2010 grant cycle in several categories, Stabilization, Capacity Building, Arts-In-Education, and the Folklife Initiative Fund. The funding table is included as an attachment. If you need technical assistance with the application, the form, questions about the program or the new request limits, please contact the Division of the Arts at (225) 342-8180.

The Office of Cultural Development is working diligently to find creative ways to continue to provide our partners with a high level of service and support, and to minimize the affect to the field. It is crucial that we employ new ideas and new strategies. I welcome your input and creative solutions for our arts and cultural sector, as many will face economic challenges in the coming year.

We know these cuts will seriously impact our grantees. We will do all that we can to provide assistance to you, and keep you aware of alternative opportunities available to you through the Office of Cultural Development or other state agencies.

Thank you for your understanding in these difficult economic times.

Sincerely,

Scott Hutcheson
Assistant Secretary
Office of Cultural Development

Individual Artists and Folklife:

Artists Fellowships	5000
Artists Career Advancement	3000
Folklife Apprenticeships	5000
Folklife Initiative Fund Planning	20,000
Folklife Initiative Fund Implementation	20,000

Stabilization:

Community Impact:	7,500
Entry:	15,000
Advancement:	20,000
Institutional:	45,000

Capacity Building:

Planning:	15,000
Implementation:	15,000
Service Provider/Incubator Support:	15,000

Arts-In-Education

General Operating Support	15,000
Artists in Residence	15,000
Planning	8000
Implementation	15,000