

**MINUTES OF THE
LOUISIANA FOLKLIFE COMMISSION MEETING
Capitol Park Welcome Center
Baton Rouge, LA
Friday, January 9, 2015**

Folklife Commission members present: Ray Berthelot, Winifred Byrd, Debra Credeur, Teresa Parker Farris, Cathy Hernandez, Nicole Hobson-Morris, Keagan LeJeune, Karen Leathem, Kevin McCaffrey, Shane Rasmussen, Susan Roach, Melissa Yarborough, Liz Williams.

Folklife Commission members absent: Kevin Billiot, Rebecca Hamilton, Amanda LaFleur, Charles McGimsey, Allison Peña, Miranda Restovic, Michael Robinson, Susan Spillman, Guiyuan Wang.

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

Guests present: none

I. CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS

Teresa Parker Farris opened the meeting of the Louisiana Folklife Commission at 1:08 pm at the Capitol Park Welcome Center in Baton Rouge.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes for the last meeting were approved. Winifred Byrd moved and Keagan LeJeune seconded.

III. REPORTS

A. Chair Report – Teresa Parker Farris

Farris deferred her report to the Business section of the agenda. She announced that Michael Robinson has resigned as the liaison to the Louisiana State Arts Council and thanked him for his years of service.

B. LDOA Budget Report – Cathy Hernandez

Hernandez reported that LDOA does anticipate some mid-year cuts, but it has not been determined how they will impact the Louisiana Division of the Arts. She does not anticipate any reduction in staff.

D. Director – Maida Owens

Owens directed commissioners to her written report that is attached to the minutes. She reminded commissioners that while they do need to do the ethics training annually, they do not have to do financial disclosures annually. She also explained that commissioners may not be contracted for any Folklife Program work.

IV. BUSINESS

A. Culture Connection 2015 – Teresa Parker Farris

Parker Farris reported that the 2015 Culture Connection will be Tuesday April 14 and Wednesday, April 15. Details are still being worked out, but the general format will be similar. Groups will have meetings on Tuesday afternoon, then, everyone will gather at 5 pm for networking before the awards ceremony. On Wednesday, there will be exhibits and professional development opportunities. Commissioners discussed possible speakers from entities such as the International Folk Art Museum in Santa Fe, the Brustman Corrino Public Relations firm, and folklife-funding organizations. Owens stated she would look into these suggestions and, in turn, relay proposed topics and speakers to the planners.

B. Folklife Heritage Award 2015 – Teresa Parker Farris

Parker Farris encouraged commissioners to submit nominations and noted that nominations will not be held over from the previous year. There was an extended discussion regarding how winners were selected, with Commissioners seeking clarification. Hobson-Morris stated that she would raise the issue with appropriate Office of Cultural Development staff. The following volunteered to serve on the selection committee: Ray Berthelot, Melissa Yarborough, Liz Williams, Karen Leathem, and Shane Rasmussen. Melissa Yarborough will coordinate communication within the committee.

C. Folklife Day and Proclamation – Teresa Parker Farris

After brainstorming on possibilities, Commissioners moved to have another Folklife Day and Proclamation and decided to expand it into a Folklife Week featuring presentations by folklife ambassadors on folk artists and tradition bearers that occur around the state. Owens noted that the Folklife Program could likely make available \$1,000 to compensate five tradition bearers, one for each folklife region, for their participation. The first full week in October was selected as the targeted date. Liz Williams made the motion and Ray Berthelot seconded. They requested CRT to provide an endorsement by the Lt Governor that individuals could also use locally. Commissioners noted that in subsequent years, they would explore seeking a legislative proclamation for Folklife Week to be recognized in perpetuity.

D. Proposal to Lt Governor – Teresa Parker-Farris

Parker Farris reviewed past discussions of the proposal and explained that the proclamation fulfilled the request to execute a small project, but the Commission has not proposed to the Lt Governor a larger project. Due to the limited resources of the Commission, they decided not to propose a larger scale project at this time and, instead, focus energies on the aforementioned Folklife Week.

E. Delta Pieces reception/exhibit – Susan Roach

Roach reported that she is working with organizations in Monroe to have a reception and possible exhibit featuring the virtual book, *Delta Pieces: Northeast Louisiana Folklife*, as part of Art Crawl on Thursday, April 2, 2015. Commissioners will receive an invitation once plans are finalized.

F. Set date for next Commission meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, June 5, 2015 at 1 pm.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Teresa Parker Farris announced that the Commission has two new folklife babies. Melissa Yarborough has a five-month-old baby girl Angela and Guiyuan Wang has a two-week-old baby.

Parker Farris also announced that the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival is hiring an intern to focus on Latino cultures and asked that commissioners have interested applicants contact her directly.

Kevin McCaffrey reminded everyone of the Louisiana Folklore Society meeting March 20-21 in Natchitoches and that their Call for Presentations deadline is February 15, 2015.

Karen Leathem noted that The Battle of New Orleans exhibit opens at the Louisiana State Museum in New Orleans that night.

Liz Williams reported that SOFAB has several upcoming events. The Antoine's Restaurant exhibit opens January 16. The Museum of the American Cocktail opens February 15. The diorama of Absinthe House opens February 28. March will be Mississippi Month. And the grand opening gala for the new site will be April 7.

VI. ADJOURN

There being no further business to discuss the meeting adjourned at 3:17 p.m. Susan Roach moved and Ray Berthelot seconded.

Folklife Program Director's Report – January 9, 2015, Maida Owens

Baton Rouge Folklife Survey: Two fieldworkers have completed their project and three essays are now posted online. Below are the contracted projects using funds from both the National Endowment for the Arts and the American Folklife Center. Several more projects are in negotiation.

- Boudin, Teacakes, and Specialty Grocery Stores: Small Food Businesses in Baton Rouge - Maria Zeringue
- Folk and Traditional Arts in the Capitol Region: Sustaining Community Values Through Handcraft - Douglas Manger
- The Folk Artistry of Sac-a-lait Fisherman Glenn Davis - Douglas Manger
- Fiber arts for a cause (quilting, sewing, knitting, crochet) - Laura Marcus Green
- Body Adornment (hairstylists, barbers, tattoo artist, nail salon) - Kelley Fisher
- African American Preaching Styles - Joyce Jackson
- Bluesman Larry Garner - Joyce Jackson
- Skilled workers in repair shops (furniture, watch, locksmith, etc.) - Jocelyn and Jon Donlon (LOC)
- Skilled workers in small businesses – Douglas Manger (LOC)
- Mardi Gras krewes - Jocelyn and Jon Donlon
- Social clubs and societies of ethnic groups (Italian, Irish) - Jamie Digilormo
- African American traditions photo essay - James Terry
- Customs and oral traditions of veterinarians - Carolyn Ware
- Customs and oral traditions of pet rescue groups - Carolyn Ware

I have reworked the project's webpage and added a photo gallery of traditions identified with suggestions for additional research topics. These two pages serve as the sample of work for the National Endowment for the Arts Folk Arts Partnership grant application. It will be revised as documentation is submitted. <http://www.louisianafolklife.org/batonrouge/>

Fieldworkers who have focused on businesses for the Archie Green Fellowship have experienced difficulty in getting businesses to agree to be interviewed. In hopes of having more participation, we are preparing a press release about the Baton Rouge Folklife Survey.

New Populations: The **traveling exhibit, *A Better Life for All: Traditional Arts of Louisiana's Immigrant Communities***, has traveled to the Acadiana Center for the Arts in Lafayette, LSU-Eunice Library, and Jean Lafitte National Park-Eunice. It is scheduled to be at the 2015 New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival in the Grandstand, the Jeanerette Museum, East Baton Rouge Parish Library, the Union Parish Library, and the Louisiana State Cotton Museum.

Delta Pieces: Northeast Louisiana Folklife: Susan Roach and I are exploring the possibility of having a reception announcing the publication in conjunction with Monroe's Art Crawl on Thursday, March 5. Eileen Engel is preparing an educator's guide to the online publication.

Folk Arts in Education: *Creative Classroom: Being A Louisiana Neighbor* features 8 lessons using theatre and visual arts. Paddy Bowman with Local Learning, Inc. reviewed and augmented the draft and recommended that the arts in education components be expanded before publication. Strategies to accomplish this are in development.

Uniquely Louisiana: I continue to work on this Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism education initiative funded by the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area. A web portal will feature education resources provided by all agencies in department. Eileen Engel has reviewed 235 resources by 11 CRT agencies. The next step will be to create the user experience and then the graphic design. Eileen Engel also created a student activity based on the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area online resources.

Folk Arts Tour in New Orleans: The Louisiana Office of Cultural Development hosted the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies annual meeting in New Orleans November 11-15, 2014. I organized a walking tour to the State Folk Arts Coordinators that included presentations at the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Foundation and St. Augustine Catholic Church, and Golden Feather Mardi Gras Indian Gallery and Restaurant.

Archiving Folklife Website: 219 essays written for the Folklife in Louisiana website and the entire Louisiana Voices Educator's Guide have been archived in the Louisiana Digital Library through the State Library.

- More Than Just a Trade: Master Craftsmen of the Building Arts
- Delta Pieces: Northeast Louisiana Folklife
- Louisiana Folklife: A Guide to the State
- New Populations
- 21 individual essays not related to a project or series
- Louisiana Voices Educator's Guide