

**MINUTES OF THE  
LOUISIANA FOLKLIFE COMMISSION MEETING**  
Via Zoom  
Baton Rouge, LA  
**Friday, June 11, 2021**

**Folklife Commission members present:** Ray Berthelot, Sharon Calcote, Conni Castille, Krystal Cox, Brian Davis, Teresa Parker Farris, Tommy Ike Hailey, Rebecca Hamilton, Jim Hogg, Susannah Johannsen, Karen Leathem, Shane Rasmussen, Miranda Restovic, Susan Roach, Mona Lisa Saloy, Maegen Smith, Kim Walden.

**Folklife Commission members absent:** Herman Fuselier, Maria Rodriguez-Casillas, John Sharp, John Silver

**Guests and Louisiana Office of Cultural Development (OCD) staff present:** Carrie Broussard, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Office of Cultural Development; Maida Owens, Louisiana Division of the Arts; Guy Hughes, JLNP

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Teresa Parker Farris opened the meeting of the Louisiana Folklife Commission at 1:06 pm via Zoom.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Approval of the minutes for the meetings of January 15, 2021 was accepted. Susan Roach moved, and Rebecca Hamilton seconded.

**III. REPORTS**

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

Parker Farris explained that elections would take place later in the meeting and asked commissioners to consider serving. She then asked commissioners to introduce themselves.

**B. LDOA Budget Report – Susannah Johannsen**

Johannsen reported that the arts received CARES Act funding which was disseminated to artists as relief funds. LDOA is receiving \$810,000 in ARPA (American Relief Plan Act) funds through the National Endowment for the Arts. Staff is looking for innovative projects to support. Carrie Broussard reported that the Office of Cultural Development has a stand still budget for next year.

**C. Director's Report – Maida Owens**

Owens directed Commissioners to her written report attached to the agenda and noted the next Bayou Culture Collaborative workshop on June 22 and the contract with Dr. Sharbreon Plummer to research artist engagement projects focused on climate change. Owens asked if there were any questions regarding the commission orientation materials and there were none.

**IV. BUSINESS**

**A. Folklife Month 2021 – Teresa Parker Farris**

Parker Farris referred to the Folklife Month report in the Director's report for the 2021 events and gave a brief history of how the initiative has developed. She thanked Miranda Restovic for the support by the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities and Brian Davis for the videos in more recent years.

Shane Rasmussen suggested that funds be available to be able to bring the tradition bearers to events and university classrooms. Parker Farris encouraged the new commissioners to consider being an

ambassador in future years. Owens explained the schedule and process to participate in Folklife Month and told Brian Davis that all details for the 2021 video are online except for a few details for events at festivals.

**B. Special Meetings Committee - Teresa Parker Farris**

Parker Farris reported that the Special Meeting Committee (Ray Berthelot, Brian Davis, and Teresa Parker Farris) did not meet because there was no need.

**C. Elections – Maida Owens, Teresa Parker Farris**

Parker Farris reviewed the positions to be elected and that the only vacant position is secretary. She explained that while officers were willing to continue serving, new commissioners are encouraged to self-nominate. After a discussion, the following slate was moved by Sharon Calcote and seconded by Tommy Ike Hailey: Chair – Teresa Parker Farris, Vice – Susan Roach, Secretary Mona Lisa Saloy. The motion passed unanimously. The following slate for executive committee was moved by Mona Lisa Saloy and seconded by Jim Hogg: Ray Berthelot, Brian Davis, Karen Leathem, Sharon Calcote. The motion passed unanimously.

**D. Set date for next Commission meeting – Teresa Parker Farris**

The next full meeting is scheduled for Friday, January 14, 2021 at 1 pm via Zoom unless we return to in-person meetings and unless the Special Meetings Committee makes other arrangements.

**V. PUBLIC COMMENT AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Sharon Calcote reported that the Civil Rights Trail is almost complete and she is starting the Louisiana Music Trail.

Shane Rasmussen reported that the NSU/Natchitoches Folk Festival will not happen in July 2021 due to the pandemic, but they will have a concert series on Saturdays in July. Louisiana Studies Conference will be in Natchitoches in September. The deadline to submit proposals is June 30.

Brian Davis reported that the Louisiana Trust for Historic Preservation conference is September 30-October 1 in Monroe/West Monroe. The Fall Ramble will be in Bogalusa and Washington Parish.

Susan Roach announced that she will retire from Louisiana Tech as emerita. She will focus on preparing her research for archival deposit.

Kim Walden announced that the Chitimacha Powwow is cancelled due to the pandemic. She is writing a book on the Chitimacha with Dayna Lee.

Maegan Smith announced that the Mardi Gras Shipwreck exhibit will be at Capitol Park Museum with extended hours.

Tommy Ike Hailey announced that the Ozone Songwriters festival will be November 5-6.

Karen Leathem announced that the Fonville Winans photographer exhibit is ending at the Capitol Park Museum. A Clementine Hunter exhibit and a Mugnier photography exhibit are opening at the Cabildo annex. And the Mystery in Motion exhibit on Mardi Gras Indians will be at the Presbytere through November.

Teresa Parker Farris announced that she is co-curating with Dayna Lee an exhibit on indigenous baskets at the Newcomb Art Museum that will open in January. She wrote an article on Janie Luster's garfish scale art for Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities' *64 Parishes* magazine.

**VI. ADJOURN**

There being no further business to discuss, the Commissioners adjourned at 2:37 pm. Ray Berthelot moved, and Brian Davis seconded.

## **Folklife Program Director's Report – June 11, 2021. Maida Owens**

### **Folklife Month 2021:** Six Folklife Ambassadors will participate in 2021.

- Tommy Ike Hailey will honor Steve Judice, singer/songwriter at Chicot State Park.
- Teresa Parker Farris will honor Vance Vaucresson, 3<sup>rd</sup> generation Creole sausage maker at JazzFest
- Shane Rasmussen will honor Elvin Shields, twisted wire sculpture in Natchitoches
- John Pudd Sharp and Herman Fuselier will honor the Broussard Sisters, jure' singers at Festivals Acadiens et Creoles
- Jim Hogg will honor Stanley Masinter, pipe major in Baton Rouge
- Jonathan Foret and Rustin Reuther will honor Terry Lapeyrouse, Shrimp drying at the Rougarou Fest

Details are online at [http://www.louisianafolklife.org/LT/Articles\\_Essays/FM2021.html](http://www.louisianafolklife.org/LT/Articles_Essays/FM2021.html)

The Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities will again support Folklife Month by funding the artist honoraria and will include it in *64 Parishes* in Fall 2021.

### **Bayou Culture Collaborative**

The following Passing It On workshops were supported July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021.

- Foodways workshop, Grand Bayou Indian Village
- Paddle making and boatbuilding workshops, Center for Traditional Boat Building
- Botanica: A Series of Conversations, Neighborhood Story Project
- Cloth doll making, Jessica Brown
- Palmetto weaving/Spanish moss, Janie Luster
- Louisiana's Medicinal Herbs and the Traiteur Tradition (in French and English), Marlene Toups
- Brown cotton weaving, Elaine Larcade Bourque and Austin Clark
- Expanding Traditions: A Storytelling Series, United Houma Nation

The next Sense of Place and Loss workshop will be Artists, Land Loss, and Climate Change on June 22, 2021 at 3 pm via zoom. Dr Sharbreon Plummer was contracted to research examples of artist engagement project

Owens participated in the following online presentations and produced the Sense of Place and Loss workshops.

*Preservation of Traditional Culture*, January 28, 2021. Focus on Louisiana – Part Deux, panel presented by LSU Seagrant on the impact of oil spills on the human dimension.

<https://gulfseagrant.org/oilspilloutreach/presentations/focus-on-louisiana-part-deux/>

*The Arts' Role in Responding to Land Loss*, February 25, 2021, for Regional Arts Council and Cultural Districts staff along with State Arts Council and Folklife Commission members. Presenters included artist Monique Verdin, artist/researcher Dr. Sharbreon Plummer, and Maida Owens.

*Sustaining Culture in the Face of Land Loss*, presented as part of the Pandemic, Hurricanes, and Heritage: Southeast Resilience Roundtable (Risk and Disaster Track) at the Society of Applied Anthropology, March 22, 2021

*Traditional Crafts of Coastal Louisiana*, March 24, 2021, presented with Janie Luster, for South Talks, Center for the Study of Southern Culture, U of Mississippi,  
<https://southernstudies.olemiss.edu/events/southtalks/>

*Climate Change, Migration, and Sustaining Louisiana's Culture*, April 18, 2021, open to the public. Available online at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OnNFCbgE1tI> Presenters included artist Monique Verdin, artist/researcher Dr. Sharbreon Plummer, CPEX executive director Camille Manning-Broome, and Maida Owens.

*Artists and Arts Organizations Addressing Land Loss and Climate Change* – planned for June

We are creating new webpages to better present these workshops,  
[www.louisianafolklife.org/bayouculture](http://www.louisianafolklife.org/bayouculture).

**Neutral Strip Folklife Project:** Rolonda Teal's article, *Playing Dominos in Sabine Parish, Louisiana* was posted online, [http://www.louisianafolklife.org/LT/Articles\\_Essays/NSdominos.html](http://www.louisianafolklife.org/LT/Articles_Essays/NSdominos.html)

**Archiving Photo Collection:** Work continued on archiving. Laura Westbrook submitted the UNO Regional Folklife Program files.