

**MINUTES OF THE
LOUISIANA FOLKLIFE COMMISSION MEETING
Louisiana State Library
Baton Rouge, LA
Tuesday, June 7, 2022
1 PM**

Folklife Commission members present: Ray Berthelot, Connie Castille, Krystal Cox, Brian Davis, Teresa Parker, Herman Fuselier, Tommy Ike Hailey, Rebecca Hamilton, Jim Hogg, Shane Rasmussen, Miranda Restovic, Susan Roach, Mona Lisa Saloy, John Sharp, Maegen Smith, Kim Walden.

Folklife Commission members absent: Sharon Calcote, Susannah Johannsen, Karen Leathem, John Silver

Guests and Louisiana Office of Cultural Development (OCD) staff present: Maida Owens, Louisiana Division of the Arts; Carrie Broussard, Office of Cultural Development.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Teresa Parker opened the meeting of the Louisiana Folklife Commission at 1:00 pm.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of the minutes for the meetings of January 14, 2022 was accepted. Jim Hogg moved, and John Sharp seconded.

III. REPORTS

A. Chair Report – Teresa Parker

Parker announced that Maria Rodriguez-Casillas resigned because she is returning to Mexico. Commissioners congratulated Parker for graduating from Tulane University with a PhD in history.

B. LDOA Budget Report – Carrie Broussard

Broussard reported for Susannah Johannsen that for FY23 LDOA will receive \$882,400 from the NEA. This represents an increase of \$59,900. We do not anticipate any changes to our inter-agency transfer from Tourism nor the State budget amount. Last year we got \$1.85M from Tourism and \$150,000 from the State. The NEA dictates that we spend \$24,000 on Folklife, which is the same as last year.

We are in the process of hiring a new Arts and Education and Arts Accessibility staff person. We are continuing to work on rebuilding our arts advocacy organization – Louisiana Partnership for the Arts. This legislative session we successfully got a bill passed in the Senate and the House to create an “Art” license tag. The proceeds (\$25 for each tag) will go to the Louisiana Partnership for the Arts to fund staffing and other efforts.

C. Director’s Report – Maida Owens

Owens directed commissioners to her written report attached to the agenda and noted that the Bayou Culture Collaborative’s Passing It On workshops will focus on cultural groups and coastal areas that have not previously been funded and on traditions that are more highly endangered. The Sense of Place—and Loss workshops will continue to focus on helping local efforts and addition to addressing climate migration issues at national meetings. She will present at the American Folklore Society and the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies.

Owens said that changes to the Folklife Commission legislation to help make the commission’s membership more diverse could not be addressed this year because CRT had no other legislative work it could be added to.

IV. BUSINESS

A. Folklife Month 2022 – Teresa Parker

Parker referred to the Folklife Month report in the Director's report for the 2022 events. She thanked Miranda Restovic for LEH's support, including honoraria for tradition bearers and coverage in *64 Parishes*.

B. Louisiana Folklore Society / Bayou Culture Collaborative

Owens reported that the Bayou Culture Gatherings have been more successful than anticipated. 150 registered for the first gathering in January and 90 attended. Seven working groups have been formed and are working towards policy recommendations. Owens encouraged commissioners to participate and to see her report for details.

C. Special Meetings Committee - Teresa Parker

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

D. Set date for next Commission meeting – Teresa Parker

The next full meeting is scheduled for Friday, January 6, 2022 at 1 pm in person at the State Library unless there is a governor-mandated return to zoom meetings and unless the Special Meetings Committee makes other arrangements.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Shane Rasmussen invited commissioners to attend the NSU/Natchitoches Folk Festival to see the Winnsboro Easter Rock Ensemble and the State Fiddling Contest. He asked commissioners to let fiddlers of all ages know about the contest.

John Pudd Sharp asked commissioners to share about the Legends and Lore Program through the University of Louisiana Lafayette Center for Louisiana Studies.

Susan Roach reported that the Northeast Louisiana Music Trail recently put up a marker for Po'Henry and Tookie blues duo.

Brian David reported that the Louisiana Trust for Historic Preservation's Fall Ramble will be October 22, 2022. And the spring conference will be April 17, 2023. He also shared that the deadline to apply to be a Cultural District is July 15, 2022. Historic properties in Cultural Districts can apply to tax credits. Davis also reported that an article in LEH's *64 Parishes* about the Rosenwald schools prompted more interest in the Trust's Rosenwald project to document schools no longer onsite and to rehabilitate those still standing.

Ray Berthelot reported that the Office of State Parks open Winter Quarters for a special event and 400 people attended, showing community support for the site. They are considering additional special events. Commissioners congratulated him for publication of his poetry chapbook, *The Middle Ages*.

Conni Castille reported that The Teche Project will wrap up after the final two docks are set up and kiosks are in place, completing the National Water Trail process. It will then be turned over to the Office of Tourism and the next phase is wayfinding signage.

Miranda Restoric thanked the Division of Archaeology for working with Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities on adding new entries to *64 Parishes*. LEH welcomes ideas for additional entries. The

documentary *Iron Sharpens Iron* about the Ironton community will premiere on June 8, 2022. LEH is looking for other screening opportunities across the state. The Helis Foundation John Scott Center opens on June 23. LEH also received a major Taylor Foundation grant to support teaching Louisiana history and culture and is working with the LA Dept of Education. Louisiana history will now be taught 3-12 grants and not only once in upper elementary and once in middle school.

Rebecca Hamilton reported that the Louisiana Book Festival will be Saturday, October 29, 2022.

Tommy Ike Hailey reported that the Louisiana Music Trail development continues. He is involved with planning and encouraged commissioners to participate in their regional group.

Jim Hogg reported that his radio program *Hogg Heaven*, continues weekly live and is available online.

Kim Walden reported that the Chicago Field Museum worked with the Chitimacha Tribe when they reworked their Native American exhibits. *Native Truths: Our Voices, Our Stories* includes the Chitimacha Tribe.

Herman Fuselier reported that Clifton Chenier Day will be at the St Landry Parish Visitors Center on June 25, 2023.

Maegan Smith reported that she would like to cross promote Folklife Month and Atchafalaya Month with her Archaeology Month efforts.

VI. ADJOURN

There being no further business to discuss, the Commission adjourned at 2:22 pm. Miranda Restorvic moved, and Mona Lisa Saloy seconded.

Folklife Program Director's Report – June 7, 2022. Maida Owens

Folklife Commission Changes

Maria Rodriguez-Casillas has resigned from the Commission.

Folklife Month 2022: Six Folklife Ambassadors will participate in 2022.

- Tommy Ike Hailey will honor Mary Alice Vanderwaters, Pineville, Rapides Parish
- Shane Rasmussen will honor Rhonda Gauthier, Natchitoches
- John Pudd Sharp and Herman Fuselier will honor Alton Armstrong, Lafayette
- Jim Hogg will honor Butch Cooksey, music promoter
- Mona Lisa Saloy will honor Chef Andrew Miller, New Orleans
- Jonathan Foret will honor Nelson Harris, Houma

Details will be posted online at http://www.louisianafolklife.org/LT/Articles_Essays/FM2022.html

The Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities will again support Folklife Month by funding the artist honoraria and include it in *64 Parishes* in Fall 2022.

Bayou Culture Collaborative / Folklife Program

LDOA provided \$64,000 for Bayou Culture Collaborative workshops. The following Passing It On workshops happened in 2022 and others are in development.

- January 7 – French Songs and Dances, Earlene Broussard for the Acadian Museum
- March 12 – French healing traditions, Mary Perrin for the Acadian Museum
- March 18 - May 14 – Vermilion Parish Cajun Folk Songs and Folk Dances, Encore
- April 2 – Acadian Brown Cotton, Austin Clark and Elaine Bourque for the Acadian Museum
- March 20, April 10 – French Storytelling, Richard Landry for the Acadian Museum
- Feb 12, 19, 26, March 5 – Vietnamese Curved Roof Construction, Quang Huynh
- March 20, April 9, June 4 – Houma storytelling, Grayhawk Perkins
- March 19, June 12 – Shaving Horse, Grayhawk Perkins
- March 26, April 23 – Bousillage, Dale Pierrottie
- April 2, 3 – Palmetto Weaving, Janie Luster, Ann Luster Robichaux, Zoeanna Billiot Verret
- April 9 - June 25 – Allons Chanter! French Home Music, Kevin Rees

Several Sense of Place and Loss workshops are being planned that will focus on local arts networks rather than a statewide focus. We are talking with the Regional Arts Councils in Houma, Lake Charles, and Lafayette, that are also planning a collaborative art/environment project with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Another meeting is being considered in Monroe.

Owens spoke to these organizations about cultural issues and climate change.

- National Main Street in May 18, Richmond, VA
- Louisiana Arts Summit, March 10-11, Baton Rouge
- Louisiana Main Street Managers meeting, March 8
- American Folklore Society workshop February 22, zoom
- National Trust for Historic Preservation workshop, May 11, zoom
- Unitarian Universalist Office at the UN's Spring Seminar, April 23

LSU School of Landscape Architecture (Traci Burch) received LSU Sea Grant funds for food insecurity research. Owens will assist the South Louisiana Wetlands Discovery Center train youth to interview families about foodways.

The New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival featured the following master tradition bearers who offered Passing It On workshops in the Folklife Village Sustainability tent on the first weekend, April 29-June 1, 2022.

- Boat Building and Cypress Paddles: Ernie Savoie, Center for Traditional Louisiana Boat Building, Raceland, Lafourche Parish
- Eco-Friendly Throws: Krewe of Tradition, Houma, Terrebonne Parish
- Cultural Preservation Through Basket Weaving: Master Janie Luster and Apprentice Rhett Williams, Theriot, Terrebonne Parish
- Yankni Achukma - Native Plant Uses: Tammy Greer, United Houma Nation

Bayou Culture Collaborative / Louisiana Folklore Society

The Louisiana Folklore Society started offering monthly Bayou Culture Gatherings via zoom in January. Participation has exceeded expectations with 150 registering and 90 attending the first gathering. Participants formed four working groups in January and an additional three in February. Commissioners interested in participating are encouraged to join LFS and participate in the Bayou Culture Collaborative.

The BCC Management Team is chaired by Shana Walton and other members include Jonathan Foret, Gary LaFleur, and Maida Owens.

The following BCC working groups have been formed. See details, how to join, and upcoming meetings at www.louisianafolklife.org.

- Ecology and Culture: Christie Landry
- Louisiana French Curriculum and/or Preservation: David Cheramie
- Culture and Coastal Planning: Theo Hilton
- Artists, Tradition Bearers, and Coastal Issues: Kezia Setyawan
- Preparing Receiving Communities: Traci Birch
- Louisiana Languages: Nathan Wendte
- Coastal Cultures Writers Group: John Doucet

Easter Rock at JazzFest

The Winnsboro Easter Rock Ensemble lead by Hattie Addison was presented at the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival on May 8 in the Cultural Exchange Pavilion. Susan Roach and Annie Staten provided introductions and commentary.

Annual Ethics Training

Commissioners are reminded that they must take the one-hour Louisiana ethics training each year by Dec 31.

If you have not registered, start at this page: <https://eap.ethics.la.gov/SeminarRegistration/>

If you have registered previously, go to this page. <https://laethics.net/EthicsTraining/login.aspx>. Folklife Commissioners are not required to submit the financial disclosure form.