

**MINUTES OF THE  
LOUISIANA FOLKLIFE COMMISSION MEETING  
Via Zoom  
Baton Rouge, LA  
Friday, January 14, 2022**

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

**Folklife Commission members absent:** Ray Berthelot, Tommy Ike Hailey, John Silver

**Guests and Louisiana Office of Cultural Development (OCD) staff present:** Maida Owens, Louisiana Division of the Arts; Guy Hughes, JLNP; Mike Saunders, Louisiana Folklore Society/Bayou Culture Collaborative.

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Teresa Parker Farris opened the meeting of the Louisiana Folklife Commission at 1:05 pm via Zoom.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Approval of the minutes for the meetings of June 11, 2021 was accepted. Sharon Calcote moved, and Mona Lisa Saloy seconded.

**III. REPORTS**

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

Parker Farris welcomed Maria Rodriguez-Casillas to her first meeting and Mike Saunders as a guest. She recognized Susan Roach on her retirement from Louisiana Tech University in June 2021 and for her work with the Easter Rock Ensemble, which received a National Heritage Fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts.

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

LDOA received approximately \$810,000 in ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funds through the National Endowment for the Arts. These funds will go directly towards operational support for 86 grantees. For FY21 and FY22 the Division of the Arts has some excess funds, which will go towards several initiatives, including a grant to the Louisiana Folklore Society for capacity building. Other initiatives include Percent for Art workshops and a Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Access initiative to identify barriers for organizations to receive arts funding. The upcoming grant cycle for General Operating Support grants will have a new tier to help smaller organizations with \$30,000 (or smaller) budgets to receive funding. Ja’el Gordon has been hired to help facilitate the deployment of the ARP funds and ARP grant management requirements. Johannsen also announced that Francesca Vega is the new Cultural Districts Program Director.

**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. The Sense of Place—and Loss workshop will focus on helping local efforts, and Owens pointed out that the Main Street Managers workshop will include strategies for welcoming newcomers, whether they are Louisiana climate migrants or immigrants. She invited commissioners to preview the workshop and thanked Susan Roach, Shana Walton, and Mike Saunders for their input.

Owens encouraged commissioners to become familiar with the new online directory, Culturalyst (<https://culturalyst.com/>), developed by Sam Bowler of New Orleans. The platform allows artists, tradition

bearers, and organizations, as well as scholars, to post their profiles. She reported that the LDOA's Creative Aging program includes several tradition bearers and trains artists to work with older adults. She added that it complements the Passing It On workshop. Several commissioners had asked to see recordings of the anti-bias training that was offered by the National Assembly for State Arts Agencies, but due to confidentiality, they will not be available. Some of their resources, however, will be shared with commissioners once released. Owens reported that Lacey Chataignier will lead the Music Trail program in the Office of Cultural Development and will be reaching out to music researchers around the state. Owens said that changes to the Folklife Commission bylaws have been requested toward increasing the membership's diversity; the state legislature must approve any such modifications.

#### **IV. BUSINESS**

##### **A. Folklife Month 2021, 2022 – Teresa Parker Farris**

Parker Farris referred to the Folklife Month report in the Director's report for the 2020 events. She thanked Brian Davis for creating this year's promotional video and Miranda Restovic for LEH's support, including honoraria for tradition bearers and coverage in *64 Parishes*. Commissioners who served as ambassadors shared their experiences holding recognition events amid COVID-19. For 2022, Mona Lisa Saloy, Shane Rasmussen, Rebecca Hamilton, Jim Hogg, John Sharp and Herman Fuselier, Conni Castille, and Teresa Parker Farris will consider serving as ambassadors and Owens will follow up with them in the coming weeks. If fewer than six commissioners decide to participate, she will reach out to previous ambassadors as well as Louisiana Folklore Society board members so that, as in past years, there are six honorees.

##### **B. Louisiana Folklore Society / Bayou Culture Collaborative**

Mike Saunders shared his experience working with community groups in Guatemala and south Louisiana which he will use to address coastal cultural issues as the Bayou Culture Collaboration Program Director for the Louisiana Folklore Society. He will coordinate and host the Bayou Culture Gatherings to address the human dimension in coastal planning. The first event is scheduled for January 28 at 1 pm. The emailed invitation had already generated a robust response.

##### **C. 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.

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

The next full meeting is scheduled for Friday, June 3, 2022 at 1 pm via Zoom unless there is a governor-mandated return to in-person meetings and unless the Special Meetings Committee makes other arrangements.

#### **V. PUBLIC COMMENT AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Sharon Calcote shared that the Louisiana Civil Rights Trail is in its third year and nine Louisiana sites will be added to the United States Civil Rights Trail.

Brian Davis shared information about the Louisiana Trust for Historic Preservation's Rosenwald School Initiative documenting the 388 Rosenwald sites in the state. LTHP is continuing several of its initiatives, including regional meetings for historic preservation groups, the Ramble, and awards such as their endangered buildings program. Details are online at [www.lthp.org](http://www.lthp.org)

Mona Lisa Saloy shared that the Jones School community historic marker in New Orleans's 7<sup>th</sup> Ward was damaged and commissioners clarified that maintenance is not provided by any state agencies and offered other resources.

Susan Roach shared that the Easter Rock Ensemble will be at the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival on May 8 and encouraged commissioners to see the video for their National Heritage Fellowship award online. (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Npk0hvzdcPg>)

John Pudd Sharp invited commissioners to the Louisiana Folklore Society annual meeting in Breaux Bridge on April 1-2, 2022 ([www.louisianafolklore.org](http://www.louisianafolklore.org)). The theme will be Waterlore. He also reminded commissioners about the Louisiana Legends and Lore Marker Program that he administers for the University of Louisiana Center for Louisiana Studies (<https://cls.louisiana.edu/node/29440>, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yoC3KF0Ew1I>).

Guy Hughes reported that Jean Lafitte National Park and Preserve will be hiring an archaeologist for their cultural resource management work.

Teresa Parker Farris reported that she and Dayna Lee are producing an exhibit at the Newcomb Art Museum on Louisiana Native American baskets that will open in early March. She thanked Kim Walden and Karen Leathem at the Louisiana State Museum for providing artifacts and/or assisting with interpretation.

## **VI. ADJOURN**

There being no further business to discuss, the Commission adjourned at 2:45 pm. Susan Roach moved, and John Sharp seconded.

## **Folklife Program Director's Report – January 14, 2022. Maida Owens**

**Folklife Month 2021:** Six Folklife Ambassadors participated in 2021.

- Tommy Ike Hailey honored Steve Judice, singer/songwriter
- Teresa Parker Farris honored Vance Vaucresson, 3<sup>rd</sup> generation Creole sausage maker
- Shane Rasmussen honored Elvin Shields, twisted wire sculpture in Natchitoches
- John Pudd Sharp and Herman Fuselier honored the Broussard Sisters, jure' singers
- Jim Hogg honored Stanley Masinter, pipe major in Baton Rouge
- Jonathan Foret and Dustin Reuther honored Terry Lapeyrouse, Shrimp drying

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 again supported Folklife Month by funding the artist honoraria and included it in *64 Parishes* in Fall 2021.

### **Bayou Culture Collaborative / Folklife Program**

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

- January 7 – French Songs and Dances, Earlene Broussard for the Acadian Museum
- March 19 – French healing traditions, Mary Perrin for the Acadian Museum
- April 2 – Acadian Brown Cotton, Austin Clark and Elaine Bourque for the Acadian Museum
- TBD – French Storytelling, Richard Landry for the Acadian Museum
- TBD – Vietnamese Curved Roof Construction, Quang Huynh
- TBD – Houma storytelling and carving, Grayhawk Perkins
- TBD – Attakapa-Ishak traditions, Jeffery Darenbourg, Attakapa-Ishak Tribe

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 or will speak to these organizations about cultural issues and climate change.

- National Main Street in May, Richmond, VA
- Louisiana Arts Summit, March 10-11, Baton Rouge
- Main Street Managers meeting, March 8
- American Folklore Society workshop February 22, zoom
- National Assembly of State Arts Agencies, Community Development Network, June, 2021
- National Trust for Historic Preservation workshop, TBD

CWPPRA Wetlands Warriors in 2021 included Maida Owens and 8 artists in addition to environmentalists in agencies and non-profit organizations.

LSU School of Landscape Architecture (Traci Burch) received LSU Seagrant funds for food insecurity research and asked Owens to participate.

### **Bayou Culture Collaborative / Louisiana Folklore Society**

The Louisiana Folklore Society is implementing a Coastal Outreach Initiative and will offer monthly zoom gatherings to explore cultural issues related to climate change. The first will be Friday, January 28 at 12 noon. Mike Saunders has been hired as the Program Director. Nathan Rabalais has been hired for social media

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

LFS is creating working groups to develop strategies. Commissioners interested in participating are encouraged to join LFS and participate in the Bayou Culture Collaborative.

### **Annual Meeting / Louisiana Folklore Society**

The LFS annual meeting will be in person in Breaux Bridge on April 1-2, 2022.

The Louisiana Division of the Arts provided a capacity building grant of \$50,000 to support the Coastal Outreach Initiative. The Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities funded a Rebirth grant of \$7000 to support the monthly gatherings.

**Archiving Photo Collection:** Work continued on archiving. Materials from the Louisiana Folklife Festival in Monroe are being prepared to add to the Louisiana Folklife Program Special Collection at LSU Library.

### **Other News**

**Culturalyst** is including tradition bearers and consultants in this database of artists and arts organizations. <https://culturalyst.com/>

The 2019 *Louisiana Folklore Miscellany* is posted online.

[Stories Told About the Nineteenth Century Filipino Settlement at St. Malo, Louisiana](#)

[The Place-Name Legend of Pecan Island, Land Use, and Efficiency Narratives](#)

[New Orleans and Mobile: Mardi Gras Connections in the Gulf South](#)

[A River Ran Through It: Historical Golden Meadow as Gateway to the Gulf](#)

[Ernest J. Gaines \(1933 - 2019\): A Tribute](#)

[Celebrating Heroes of Louisiana's Coastal Communities: The Tou-LouLou Salut](#)

[This Time with Waves: More Trucks Under Water](#)