Council of Arts Formed Here for Children

Is Result of Six Months of Planning

A Council of the Arts for Children has been formed here to aid in the cultural development of children between the ages of 4 and 12.

The result of six months of planning, in which more than 50 organizations took part, the council next fall will inaugurate a series of stage and concert attractions for children.

The first organizational meeting under the group's articles of incorporation will be held April 22 at 3 p.m. at the Junior League of New Orleans office, 4319 Carondelet. Many organizations and individuals have been invited to attend the meeting. An invitation also was extended to other performing arts, educational and service groups to join the Council.

"The Council will provide a much needed vehicle for the development and broadening of a child's scope of experiences," an announcement from the group stated. "Hopefully," the statement said, "it will also provide new means of communication and self-expression and appreciation in the powers of the arts."

It was stated that "New Orleans has not kept pace with the cultural development of those children between the ages of 4 and 12, many of whom have never seen a 'live' production of any sort." The Council of the Arts for Children will be a broadly based organization whose members shall be drawn from the performing arts community, the educational community and those organizations who service children's needs with respect to their cultural advancement.

During the first year of operation, the Council will sponsor a series of productions drawing on both local arts groups and national touring companies, or persons with national reputations in the field. The series will extend during the school year from September to June, and will be presented in a central location still to be determined. At least six performances of each attraction will be given.

In addition to the subscription series which will be available to the general public, the Council will attempt to provide productions "for those children who have not only been culturally deprived but economically deprived."

After initial study sessions by interested groups, seven persons were selected to follow up details that led to incorporation as a non-profit organization on March 29. The seven are Mrs. William Conway, representing the Junior League; Donald A. Meyer, Gallery Circle Theater; Miss Shirley Trusty, supervisor of cultural resources for the New Orleans Public Schools; Dr. August W. Staub, Louisiana State University in New Orleans; Miss Helen M. Carriere, New Orleans Recreation Department; Don C. Hubbard, Free Southern Theater, and Mrs. Richard Schornstein Jr., Council of Jewish Women.