

**Minutes**  
**Louisiana Civil Rights Museum Advisory Board**  
**August 15, 2023**  
**New Orleans Jazz Museum, 400 Esplanade Avenue, New Orleans, LA**

The August 15, 2023 meeting of the Louisiana Civil Rights Museum Advisory Board was held pursuant to public notice. Meeting was scheduled for 1:00 p.m. and called to order by Brenda B. Williams, Chairman, at 1:11 p.m. to allow board members time to arrive. Present were:

**VERIFICATION OF QUORUM – Quorum not established**

**Board Members Present:**

Brenda Williams, Ernest Jones, Karl Connor, Thelma French, Sidney Barthelemy, Rev. Emmanuel Smith, Jr. (for Alonzo Knox), Paula Peer, Pricilla Edwards, Loyce Wright, Reginald Owens, and Wanda Anderson Davis

Also Present: Michael McKnight, Sr., Ph.D. - Deputy Assistant Secretary - Office of Lieutenant Governor - Department of Culture, Recreation & Tourism; April Amerson, Administrative Coordinator 4 - Office of State Museum and Mr. Francois, Staff

**Board Members Absent:** Madlyn Bagneris, Judge Roland Belsome, Tyler Bruno, Terrence Vinson, Edward Ward, Blake Jones, and Harry Rosenthal

**Agenda Approval:** Motion requested for approval of Agenda by Chairman Williams: Motion by Karl Connor and seconded by Ernest Jones to approve the agenda. Approved unanimously

**No Public Comments** – No members of public present

Meeting notes from the past two meetings without a quorum and no Motion for approval of Minutes needed.

**Louisiana State Museums Update**

Michael McKnight, Sr., Ph.D. - Deputy Assistant Secretary - Office of Lieutenant Governor - Department of Culture, Recreation & Tourism:

Susan MacClay not present. Finishing fiscal year today. The Dream Cube for the Introductory Exhibit that will become part of the permanent exhibit cost will about \$150,000.00. Ms. Loyce Wright thanked Dr. McKnight for his efforts.

**OLD BUSINESS**

• **INTRODUCTORY MUSEUM EXHIBITION UPDATES**

Julio Guichard met with Loyce Wright to begin planning exhibition events.

- **MUSEUM OPENING ACTIVITIES**

10-6-23 Advisory Board Walk through of the Introductory LCRM and press conference.

10-7-23 Private invitation opening of the LCRM.

10-8- 23 Public opening of the LCRM

Formal invitation will be sent to those that RSVP to the Save the Date event. If the name submitted is one who played a pivotal role, please state their role. Each person will have to have their own invitation. Civil Rights related book signing being considered and should be considered by the Advisory Board.

Advisory Board members asked to emphasize that this is an introductory opening and permanent planning still in the works.

Modern exhibits for younger people

Loyce emphasized that the first week will be free to the public.

The interactive wall at the Convention Center will be available.

Karl Connor emphasized that inclusiveness is important, and the active stories are being told now; so, if you know anyone, Glenda McKinley is depending on us to provide information.

Karen B. Bell emphasized that there are not all inclusive, but a map could be given out for persons to explore the places on their own.

There will be special designation for board members in attendance and Board asked to be present for as many days as possible, especially Saturday.

- **CONTENT COMMITTEE REPORT**

Loyce Wright: Content Committee – working with Glenda McKinley on content.

Some interviews are completed and future interviews, audio and video are scheduled.

Quorum of 4 members present and met with Brenda Williams, Karl Connor, Don Hubert, Jacques Morial, Dr. McKnight, and staff representative of the Governor’s office. Ms. Loyce stressed inclusiveness.

Mr. Owens asked whether every Parish is represented. Chairman Williams said this can be accomplished by getting state Legislators to make submissions. If we know anyone, now is the time to give her the information. We are also encouraged to contact family members and get newspaper articles and links to articles to the content committee. We are the investigators for the museum.

- **CONTENT COUNCIL REPORT**

Ernest Jones: At the last meeting, we discussed the proposed content Council of persons knowledgeable of Louisiana history. The content Council are resource people.

- **STATUS OF CEA WITH FRIENDS ORGANIZATION**

Convention Center Board Meeting – Loyce Wright and Brenda Williams attended and were there to observe and answered questioned posed at the meeting.

Dr. McKnight advised that no changes have been made to the CEA and not signed yet.

Chairman Williams stressed the importance of getting the CEA to operate and begin fund raising.

**New Business - None**

**NEXT STEPS** – Host Book signing so that persons can move around through the exhibition.

No fund raising form the book signing because not authorized to raise funds.

Mr. Jones recommended that we contact Community Book Center and Baldwin and Company be invited to host. It is also suggested to contact the Civil Rights Librarian for the City of New Orleans.

150 to 200 people are expected for private opening on Saturday.

October 6<sup>th</sup> – 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. – Press and Board Walk

October 7<sup>th</sup> 10:00 to a 2:00 pm start will be finalized in the next week or so

October 8<sup>th</sup> Public Opening - 2:00 to 5pm

Donation Boxes – Dr. McKnight has advised that donation boxes can be set up whether the CEA is completed or not. Checks are to be written to the Louisiana State Museums.

Suggestions: TV to display Civil Rights Contents and URL code for donations

Meeting adjourned 2:42 pm without quorum

**Next Meeting: September Board meeting is requested for the Convention Center**

Meeting Notices will be sent by April Amerson (Administrative Coordinator 4 - Office of State Museum).

The Exhibit will be Topic Specific and there are possibly 3 tunnels

Respectfully Submitted,

*/s/ Wanda Anderson Davis*

Wanda Anderson Davis, Secretary