**Meeting Minutes**

                                  LOUISIANA STATE EXHIBIT MUSEUM

                                      REGIONAL GOVERNING BOARD

 Meeting of April 4, 2024

**12:15 pm – 1:15 pm Governing Board Members**

     I.   Call to Order – Thomas Carmody

 II.   Roll Call - Museum Director Thomas Carmody, Jeff Girard, Nancy Walker, Frank Bright (unconfirmed), Proxies to Thomas Carmody from Ann, Education Consultant Nita Cole.

A quorum was not present.

Strategic Planning Committee LSEM Friends Monica Mickle, Jody Dosher, David Wells.

  III.   Approval of the Gov. Board Meeting Minutes of December 7, 2023.

 (Copy Attached**) (Approval Deferred to next meeting)**

  IV.   Standing Committee Reports – No chairs present

A.  Executive Committee report: None

 B.   Accession and Deaccession Committee report: None

C.   Building and Grounds report: None

           D.   Education & Exhibits - Report by Nita Cole upcoming LSEM events and functions. This year, the museum has hosted two exhibit openings. The third exhibit, the Hoover Watercolor Society Juried Show, will open Thursday, April 11, 2024 from 4:30 – 7pm.

 E. Nominating Committee – Chair vacant. Currently Governing Board has three (3) vacancies. AAM guidelines recommend that LSEM’s Governing Board members should have an interest in Louisiana history, especially the NW Region, and the makeup of the Board should reflect the demographics of the community.

V. Old Business -

Status of Cooperative Endeavor Agreement between Secretary of State and Friends of LSEM.

Museum staff depends on Friends volunteers to provide refreshments for each of the 12 monthly exhibits. (Per the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement - CEA, when the Friends sponsor an event, they are entitled to a share of commissions of the art exhibit sales.)

Discussion centered on Friends participation include possibly hosting a fundraising event to invite the public to come in and see LSEM. In past years, “Glitz and Grits” was organized by the Friends. This museum fundraiser was held every other year. However, a successful event requires Strategic Planning, organization, promotion, recruiting and solicitation of sponsorships, auction items and pre-sold tickets. To insure the success of any fundraiser, the LSEM Friends will need to provide committed volunteers, which will enhance new Friends membership, and celebrate the museum’s heritage.

Another option for non-profit community fundraising is the NWLA Community Foundation‘s Give for Good annual campaign.

In 2023, LSEM Friends approved a marketing budget of $6,000 to promote the museum’s educational programs. The marketing plan should be coordinated through the Strategic Planning committee. (12/3/2023 approved budget attached.)

VI. New Business - LSEM has new staff assignments. The Director noted that Cindy Grogan retired March 2, 2024, Mr. Carmody acknowledged her years of service with gratitude. McKenzie Curtis has been hired as LSEM Public Information Officer. Nita Cole has accepted a promotion to Education Consultant to all the system museums.

LSEM Director’s Report February, 2024 attached.

In the 2024 Regular Session two bills have been filed on behalf of Lt. Governor Billy Nungesser.

These bills provide for the transfer of state museums operated under the Secretary of State to the Lt. Governor Nungesser’s Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism. This legislation proposes reorganization of each state museum under one of three separate Regional Boards. Passage of these bills would place the appointing authority for each Regional Board under the Lt. Governor.

House Bill 907 by Rep. Larry Bagley-R (Mansfield, LA)

Senate Bill 422 by Sen. “Big Mike” Fesi (Marrero, LA)

Secretary of State Nancy Landry met twice with the Lt. Governor Nungesser prior to the 2024 Regular Session. After considering the proposal, she related to him that she did not see any benefits of this merger to the SOS museums. Therefore, Nancy Landry and the Department of State will oppose both bills in committee.

VII. Report from the Friends of Louisiana State Exhibit Museum: Chair not present

VIII.   Chairman's Report - Nell Shehee not present

IX.   SOS Museum System Director's Report - Thomas Carmody, Jr. (Report attached)

X. Adjourn at 1:15 pm

Attachments:

Board Meeting Minutes of December 7, 2023

Director’s Report February 2024

Annual Budget 12/3/23

**Next Governing Board meeting will be scheduled after the close of the 2023-2024 Fiscal Year in June 2024**