

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE LOUISIANA STATE MUSEUM (LSM)
NEW ORLEANS JAZZ MUSEUM AT THE OLD U.S. MINT
400 ESPLANADE AVENUE
MONDAY, JANUARY 27, 2025
12:00 PM**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Tiffany Adler, Phillip Albert, Ruth Burke, Bunnie Cannon, Karl Connor, Mary Coulon, Benjamin Dupuy, Thelma French, Darryl Gissel, Julio Guichard, Malcolm Hodnett, Florence Jumonville, Courtney Kiel LeBlanc, Wendy Lodrig, Suzanne Perlis, Sandy Shilstone, Suzie Terrell.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jay Batt, Lloyd Bourgeois, and Ken Pickering

LSM STAFF: Rebecca Mackie, Jeff Anding, Andrew Aranda, Lisa Black, Patrick Burns, Damond Francois, Danny Kadar, Greg Lambousy, Yvonne Mack, Steven Maklansky, Julia George Moore, Cody Scallions, Tom Strider, Travis Waguespack.

A quorum was present.

1. **Call to Order** – Suzie Terrell called the meeting to order at 12:04 p.m.
2. **Adoption of the Agenda** – Suzie Terrell called for a motion to adopt the agenda. Tiffany Adler motioned to accept the agenda. Phillip Albert seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
3. **Adoption of Minutes from the November 18, 2024, Meeting** – Suzie Terrell called for a motion to accept the minutes. Ruth Burke asked to make one change to the minutes from the November 18, 2024, meeting to section 6.a Commercial Updates: Change the spelling of “C’Bon” to “C’est Bon.” Mary Coulon motioned to adopt the minutes with the correction. Darryl Gissel seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
4. **Chairman’s Report** – Suzie Terrell stated this would be her last meeting as Chairman. Becky Mackie presented her with a gift from the Museum gift shop.
5. **Strategic Plan Presentation by John Deveney** – Sandy Shilstone then introduced John Deveney who gave a presentation on a draft Strategic Plan for Louisiana State Museum. John Deveney’s group looked at several key areas to help Louisiana State Museum renew its accreditation and made recommendations on how to improve in those areas. There was discussion amongst the board about the strategic plan, marketing plan, and the next step in the planning process which is to develop the human resource needs and financial operating model.
6. **Director’s Report**
 - a. **Capital Projects** – Becky Mackie covered the work being done on the doors on the Cabildo, the Arsenal doors and gates, boilers under contract at Capitol Park, the recording studio renovations in the Jazz Museum, and work on the Pontalba. A new roof is being installed on the E.D. White Historic house. Remediation is underway after the small fire at the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame.
 - b. **Public Programs** – Becky Mackie covered the educational brochures for the Cabildo’s Rodrigue Exhibit to be given out to teachers. Beading classes with the Big Chiefs is an ongoing program. The Teachers Happy hour had to be rescheduled due to the snow last

week. Student art will be on display at the Civil Rights Museum as part of Black History Month.

- c. **Staffing Updates** – Becky Mackie introduced Cody Scallions – Museum Division Director over Capitol Park, Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame, E.D. White and Wedell-Williams, Jeffrey Anding – Executive Manager over Marketing, and Andrew Aranda – Executive Assistant to the Director.
- d. **Madame John’s Legacy and the Friends of Madame John’s Legacy CEA** – Becky Mackie stated that this current phase of renovations will be completed early in Spring 2025. The next phase is contingent on funding for the Historic Structure Study. There is a draft capital outlay request to fund the study, and possibly some restoration work, which we hope is approved during the Spring legislative session. The Friends of Madame John’s CEA was then brought forward for the board’s approval. Discussion ensued on the Friends group having volunteer and active membership programs. Julia Moore stated that there is no legal requirement for the Group to have volunteers, and this requirement in the CEA does not have to delay the vote. The agreement can be amended if it is decided the Friends group will not have either a volunteer or membership recruitment program. **Ben Dupuy called for a motion to defer the vote based on these questions then later withdrew his motion after more discussion on the matter. Darryl Gissel called for a motion to vote on the CEA. Julio Guichard seconded. The Motion to vote on the CEA passed unanimously. Suzie Terrell called for a roll call vote to record any board members with reservations. After the vote, Thelma French called for a motion to have each reservation stated in the minutes. Bunnie Cannon seconded. Suzie Terrell went on to add that the articulated concerns of the board members be added to the minutes. The motion was passed unanimously.**

Members approving the CEA: Tiffany Adler, Mary Coulon, Darryl Gissel, Malcom Hodnett, Courtney Kiel LeBlanc.

Members approving the CEA with reservations: Benjamin Dupuy, Bunnie Cannon, Florence Jumonville, Suzanne Perlis, Sandy Shilstone, Suzie Terrell.

Members not in approval: Wendy Lodrig.

Members abstaining: Phillip Albert, Ruth Burke, Karl Connor, Thelma French.

Those providing specifics on their reservations:

Benjamin Dupuy – Yes, because the Director of the OSM has control over the use of MJC and can cancel the CEA if commitments are not honored.

Florence Jumonville – Yes, I would like to see--in writing--clear statements of the new group's mission, long- and short-term goals, projected membership, desired accomplishments, financial structure, and relationship to the already well-established Friends of the Cabildo (similarities, differences, overlap).

Benjamin Dupuy called for a motion to next cover the Nominating Committee report due to time constraints. Phillip Albert seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

- 7. **Nominating Committee** – Mary Coulon reported that the nominating committee met on Monday January 13th to review the nominations for Chairman of the Board of the Louisiana State Museum. Wendy Lodrig’s name was placed in nomination by Karl Connor. Ben Dupuy’s name was placed in nomination by Suzie Terrell. Wendy Lodrig accepted the nomination. Ben Dupuy declined the

nomination in deference to Wendy Lodrig. **Suzie Terrell called for a vote for the chairmanship of Wendy Lodrig. Ben Dupuy seconded. The vote was unanimous in favor of Wendy Lodrig.** Ruth Burke pointed out that the treasurer position was now vacant with Wendy Lodrig's new appointment and nominations for treasurer are now open. Nominations will be accepted until March 14th, 2025. The board will be sent reminders about the deadline. The Committee will meet March 17th to review nominations. The board will be given a report at the March 24th meeting.

8. Irby/Finance – Wendy Lodrig turned the meeting over to Becky Mackie to present the Irby reports.

- a. Commercial Update and Motion –** 525 St. Ann: Fives restaurant and bar was awarded this expansion lease which is in the hands of legal counsel at this time. In the meantime, they have leased the unit on an interim basis and are paying rent for February in order to have additional events during the Super Bowl. 507 St Ann: Irby Finance proposed that a Museum Ticketing Center be placed there to provide a centralized location for ticket sales to museums in the local New Orleans area. A financial model of this operation was presented. **Thelma French called for a motion to vote to use 507 St Ann for the purpose described. Phillip Albert seconded. The motion passed unanimously.** C'est Bon requested a rent reduction several months ago, which was denied by the Board. As such, they will be terminating their lease by the end of February. Creole Delicacies is interested in a Lease Extension of 5 years, with two additional options to extend of 5 years each at a new base rent of \$6964/month. They also provided documentation of \$15,000 worth of repairs they have invested in the property. **Darryl Gissel called for a motion to allow the lease extension. Wendy Lodrig seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**
- b. Residential Update and Motion –** 515 St Ann 2nd Floor: lease was previously approved, and the tenant should be moving in next month. New residential lease application: 503 3rd Floor, for Michael Sullivan at a monthly base rent of \$3,254 per month. **Wendy Lodrig called for a motion to accept Michael Sullivan's lease. Philip Albert seconded. The motion passed unanimously.** Becky Mackie briefed the board on a request for balcony work (painting and wrought iron repair) due to a safety concern caused by loose bracing. Bids are underway. **Wendy Lodrig called for a motion to vote for the use of funds to repair the balcony. Darryl Gissel seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**
- c. Financial Updates –** Becky Mackie reported that revenue is currently \$1.176 million which compared to last year's total revenue at year-end of \$1.965 million shows we're ahead of the curve. Expenses currently are at \$853,000.
- d. Bank Account and Resolutions –** Becky Mackie reported that at the prior board meetings, the board considered other banks that provided better services. The Lt Governor recommended that the board go with Gulf Coast Bank, which will require a motion and vote by the board. **Thelma French called for a motion to rescind the approval of Red River Bank. Carl Connor seconded. The motion passed unanimously.** Suzie Terrell asked that the motion be amended to include that the board always find the most competitive rates for its CD investments. **Wendy Lodrig seconded. The motion to amend passed unanimously.** Becky Mackie requested for a motion that Ronald Marinello be issued a credit card to help facilitate his duties and maintenance manager now that the prior card holder has retired. **Darryl Gissel called for the motion. Malcom Hodnett seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

9. **Collections Committee** – Florence Jumonville provided the Collections Committee report on accessions, deaccessions, loans and conservation. **Phillip Albert motioned to approve the proposed accession and deaccession of items. Courtney Kiel Leblanc seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**
10. **E.D. White** – Malcom Hodnett gave a brief report about the roof, traveling exhibit, and the walkway addition estimate of about \$250,000, which will probably be put out for bid in a couple of months.
11. **Louisiana Civil Rights Museum Advisory Board** – Karl Connor gave a brief report about the Pioneer Skies exhibit. The LCRM is working on funding for docent training, and funding for an education module for the Paige exhibit, and Freedom Schools. The VIP tour for the Ambassador La Côte d'Ivoire is happening on February 13th. Concerns about capital outlay and staffing that is needed to help move forward were noted.
12. **New Orleans Jazz Museum** – Greg Lambousy briefed the NOJM received a \$50,000 grant from the Bloomberg Foundation for ongoing programs. Louis Armstrong Foundation gave a \$75,000 grant for the music academy. Inca Cares has selected the Jazz Museum as the recipient of their annual gift, which will be presented at the House of Blues on February 4th. The Economy Hall exhibit is coming together. The upgrades to the sound studio are coming along nicely.
13. **Exhibits** – Patrick Burns reported that the Pioneer of Women's Carnival exhibit will be open Mother's Day week in The Presbytère. The friends of the Cabildo helped with a lot of work on the 1850 house which is near complete. Becky Mackie reported there are plans to make some refreshes to the Katrina Exhibit, especially to improve the Storm Theater. LMF is working on a fundraising campaign to support this exhibit refresh. Steven Maklansky presented on the Bienvenue Lafayette 200th Anniversary Exhibit which will open in the Cabildo on April 10th.
14. **Suzie Terrell called for a motion to adjust the agenda so the Louisiana Museum Foundation can give its report. Darryl Gissel seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**
15. **Friends of the Cabildo** – Jason Strada talked about the 1850 House with an anticipated reopening of next week. The Friends have purchased the Donna's Jazz Club sign and will donate the sign to be on display at the Jazz Museum.
16. **Louisiana Museum Foundation** – Kristin Shannon reported that the Rodrigue Exhibit is open on the 3rd Floor of the Cabildo. They had a very successful Founder's Ball. On the Lafayette Exhibit coming up, they will be partnering with French Quarter Fest for Lafayette to address the crowds and special remarks from the Lt. Governor. The Cabildo will be opened as a hospitality lounge with special access to the Lafayette exhibit. There will be opportunities for the Board members to be granted VIP access via wrist bands.
17. **Capitol Park and Regional Museums** – Cody Scallions reported that the Billy Cannon Exhibit is Open. The team is working to build relationships in the Baton Rouge Area utilizing a three-month plan of work. E.D. White work has a preconstruction meeting on Tuesday, 28 January. Riverboat Tours are still providing people to tour the Museums in the area as well.
18. **Old Business** – None.

19. New Business – Darryl Gissel motioned that the board ask the Lt Governor’s Office to allow the Board more administrative freedom to fill its residential and commercial leases (La. R.S. 25:349 and La. R.S. 25:350). Suzie Terrell seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
20. Adjourn – Suzie Terrell motioned to adjourn the meeting at 2:26 pm. Mary Coulon seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Minutes Accepted

Sandy Shilstone, Secretary