

**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, MARCH 24, 2025
12:00 PM**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jay Batt, R. Duncan Brown, Karl Connor, Mary Coulon, Benjamin Dupuy, Thelma French, Darryl Gissel, Julio Guichard, Malcolm Hodnett, Courtney Kiel LeBlanc, Wendy Lodrig, Nick Mueller, Kaitlyn Palmer, Suzanne Perlis, Sandra Shilstone.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Tiffany Adler, Phillip Albert, Bunnie Cannon, Florence Jumonville, Ken Pickering, Suzie Terrell.

LSM STAFF: Rebecca Mackie, Jeff Anding, Andrew Aranda, Damond Francois, Anise Fiello, Greg Lambousy, Yvonne Mack, Julia George Moore, Wayne Phillips, Cody Scallions, Tom Strider.

A quorum was present.

1. **Call to Order** – Wendy Lodrig called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.
 - a. **Swearing in of new Board Members** – Before adopting the agenda, Wendy Lodrig asked that Julia George Moore swear in the three new Board Members: R. Duncan Brown, Nick Mueller, and Kaitlyn Palmer.
2. **Adoption of the Agenda** – Jay Batt motioned to adopt the agenda. Courtney Kiel Leblanc seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
3. **Adoption of Minutes from the January 27, 2025 Meeting** – Karl Connor called for a motion to adopt the minutes. Darryl Gissel seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
4. **Chairman's Report** – Wendy Lodrig asked that all board members, staff and attendees introduce themselves and state their length of service to the board and committee assignments.
5. **Director's Report**
 - a. **Capital Projects** – Becky Mackie reported on work to on Madame John's Legacy which is nearing completion, the Katrina Exhibit Refresh design is wrapping up, state funding for the Historic Structure Report on Madame John's has been approved, residential vacancies in the Pontalba have been reduced from eight to five units in the past eight months, and the 1850 House received repairs including attic ventilation and plaster replacement. The new Wedell-Williams Museum roof and gutters will be funded by the FP&C Roof Program with no cost to the State Museum, the fire damaged media display at the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame that was damaged by fire will be replaced with an interactive wall.
 - b. **Public Programs** – Becky Mackie covered the educators meeting in February, a meet and greet in partnership with the French Quarter Museum, and an indigenous group that reviewed the colonial documents in the collection. Also, there were student groups and master classes hosted at the Jazz Museum. Additionally, a student art exhibit was hosted at the Civil Rights Museum.

- c. **Staffing Updates** – Becky Mackie introduced Anise Fiello, the new Director of Development.
- d. **Board Education** – All the board members received new binders, providing a variety of resources on open meeting laws, polices, accreditation, the bylaws, contact lists, etc. Becky Mackie covered several highlights from the binders to include government ethics, conflict of interests, personal financial disclosures, bylaws, committee policy, online training, and how amendments to the bylaws can be made.

6. Irby Finance

a. Commercial Updates and Motion

- i. 513 St. Ann / Little Toy Shop's lease addendum #2 extending their lease for an additional 5-year period through October 2029 plus the option to renew for two additional five year periods has been executed.
- ii. 535 St. Ann / Fives expansion lease addendum has been finalized by legal and is circulating for signatures, retroactive to February 1, 2025. In 2023, the tenant requested their lease be amended to a 20 year lease because of their application for historic tax credits on the original unit, 529 St. Ann. They requested the same for the new unit.
- iii. 517 St. Ann St. / Ma Sherie Amour has opted to execute their two-year lease extension, which was approved at the Irby/Finance and Executive Committee Meetings. The Irby Finance Committee authorized a five-year extension, should the tenant wish. **Thelma French motioned to approve the lease extension at the adjusted rate of \$6220 effective June 1, 2025, for either 2 or 5 years, at the tenant's discretion. Karl Connor seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.**
- iv. 533 St. Ann St. / Creole Delicacies has requested a lease renewal which was approved at the Irby/Finance and Executive Committees. **Jay Batt motioned to approve the lease renewal for an initial five-years with 2 five-year extensions starting at a base rent of \$6964. Darryl Gissel seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**
- v. 537 St. Ann St. is vacated and the advertising and tenant selection timeline was approved at the Irby/Finance and Executive Committees and should be ratified here. **Darryl Gissel motioned to approve the timeline. Thelma French seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

b. Residential Update and Motion

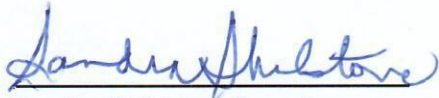
- i. 810 Chartres, Third Floor has a new tenant application at \$2,847 per month. **Malcolm Hodnett motioned to approve the lease. Courtney Keil LeBlanc seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

- c. **Financial Updates** – Becky Mackie reported that we are trending very well on rental income: 69% with 68% of the year behind us. In addition to \$150,000 that was budgeted for major repairs, an additional \$834,000 was added to address deferred maintenance. Finally, we anticipate reimbursing salary costs to the State from the Irby Fund at around \$700,000 which will be significantly below the budget for the year.
 - d. **Katrina Exhibit Refresh and Motion** – Becky Mackie reported that at the Irby/Financial and Executive Committee meetings, \$83,800 was approved from the Irby Trust for the Katrina Exhibit Refresh. **Thelma French motioned to approved the funds. Darryl Gissel seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**
- 7. **Nominating Committee** – Mary Coulon reported that the nominating committee met on Monday March 17th to review nominations for Treasurer and Chairman of the Irby/Finance Committee. Darryl Gissel was nominated by Wendy Lodrig. Suzanne Perlis was nominated by Suzie Terrell. Suzanne Perlis respectfully declined the nomination. Darryl Gissell accepted the nomination and was approved at both the Irby/Financial and Executive Committees. **Mary Coulon called for a motion to approve the nomination of Darryl Gissell to Treasurer/Irby Finance Chairman. Karl Connor seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**
- 8. **Collections Committee** – Tom Strider spoke in Florence Jumonville’s absence and provided the Collections Committee report on accessions, deaccessions, loans and conservation. **Jay Batt motioned to approve the proposed accession and deaccession of items. Ben Dupuy seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**
- 9. **E.D. White** – Malcom Hodnett gave a brief report about the roof replacement, which is finished and the repairs for the porch, which are next. All costs are being covered by the Friends of E.D. White group.
- 10. **Louisiana Civil Rights Museum Advisory Board** – Karl Connor gave a brief report about the visit from the Ambassador Toure from the Cote d’Ivoire on February 13th. Additionally, the Ambassador connected LACRM with a couple of Universities in the Ivory Coast looking to do some Scholarship and Exhibit exchanges, so they will be working on those. Karl also met with the chair of the Rockefeller Brothers Fund to discuss funding of a potential permanent site for the Civil Rights Museum. NFL player Nate Boyer also visited the LACRM and did an interview there during Super Bowl week.
- 11. **New Orleans Jazz Museum** – Greg Lambousy spoke about the press conference and unveiling of the renovations to the Performance Center. Danny Barker Fest was hosted at the Jazz Museum over the weekend. He also briefly spoke about Jazz Fest, French Quarter Fest, and Gallatin Fest.
- 12. **Exhibits** – Wayne Phillips spoke in Patrick Burns absence about the “Pioneers of Women’s Carnival” exhibit opening May 8th (Mother’s Day Weekend) which will run through Mardi Gras 2026. Becky Mackie also spoke about the *Bienvenue Lafayette!* exhibit and the arch panels to be installed on the front of the Cabildo.
- 13. **Capitol Park and Regional Museums** – Cody Scallions spoke about the Spanish Town Parade party a few weeks ago which brought nearly 1,000 visitors to the Capitol Park Museum and was mentioned on Forbes.com. Additionally, the Friends of Capitol Park Museum put together a sixteen-day summer education program that will run through movies, art, STEM, and other family activities at the Museum. Also, in May, the Cruisin Cajun Country Car Club will bring in about 40-50 cars to the

Wedell-Williams Aviation & Cypress Sawmill Museum in Patterson. The post-fire remediation at the Sports Hall of Fame is complete, and they are now moving in the remodeling phase.

14. **Friends of the Cabildo** – Jason Strada talked about the 1850 House reopening and all the work the docents and Museum staff did to help with the repairs, furniture moves, content updates, and reopening.
15. **Louisiana Museum Foundation** – Kristin Shannon reported that the LMF is a Gold Sponsor of French Quarter Fest. On the Lafayette Exhibit coming up, they will be partnering with French Quarter Fest for the Lafayette reenactor to address the crowds with 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 Board members to be granted VIP access via wristbands.
16. **Old Business** – None.
17. **New Business** – None.
18. **Adjourn** – Jay Batt motioned to adjourn the meeting at 1:35 p.m. Ben Dupuy seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Minutes Accepted



Sandra Shilstone, Secretary