

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE LOUISIANA STATE MUSEUM (LSM)
NEW ORLEANS JAZZ MUSEUM AT THE OLD U.S. MINT
400 ESPLANADE AVENUE
THURSDAY, MAY 15, 2025
11:00 AM**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Darryl Gissel, Florence Jumonville, Karl Connor, Mary Coulon, Wendy Lodrig.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jay Batt, Malcolm Hodnett, Sandy Shilstone.

LSM STAFF PRESENT: Anise Fiello, Damond Francois, Jeff Anding, Julia George Moore, Nicole Coleman, Rebecca Mackie, Steven Maklansky, Yvonne Mack.

OTHERS PRESENT: Rhonda Findley, Lauren Stroah (Reporter), Camille Atkinson (CRT Intern).

The meeting started without a quorum. A quorum was present at 11:40 a.m.

1. **Call to Order** – Wendy Lodrig called the meeting to order at 11:14 a.m.
2. **Adoption of the Agenda** – After calling the meeting to order Wendy Lodrig requested a motion to amend and adopt the agenda to add "Irby Credit Card" under item "5. Director's Report" with an action item symbol. **Jay Batt motioned to adopt and amend the agenda as requested. Darryl Gissel seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**
3. **Adoption of Minutes from the March 17, 2025 meeting** – Florence Jumonville called for a motion to accept the minutes. **Sandy Shilstone seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**
4. **Chairman's Report**
 1. Wendy Lodrig congratulated staff on a successful opening of the Pioneers in Women Carnival Exhibit.
 2. The committee will be recommending amendments to the bylaws that would include two standing committees, the Governance Committee and the Education Committee. Wendy also discussed her previous meeting with Becky on having committee assignments, and making sure everyone is assigned to a committee that they are interested in. Committee assignments will be done at the upcoming Board Meeting.
 3. Transportation arrangements to and from Baton Rouge Monday May 19th, 2025, for the Borad Meeting.
5. **Director's Report**

Executive team Transition - Andrew Aranda is leaving the museum to pursue his pilot's license. Nicole Coleman is helping in the interim. Becky Mackie stated the new Assistant Manager of Maintenance, Edmund Hiser, needs to be assigned a credit card from the Irby Fund to pay for maintenance, as the previous Assistance Manager of Maintenance has departed. **Jay Batt motioned to issue Edmund Hiser an Irby Card. Darryl Gissel seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

6. **Irby/Finance**

Pontalba Exterior Door Painting – Becky Mackie updated the Committee on a project to paint the doors on the Pontalba. A painting contract that covered the residential doors is completed. Plans to address the exterior commercial doors is underway.

Commercial Updates – Becky Mackie provided an update on the vacancy at 537 St. Ann. There has been interest by several businesses, but the space did not meet the business model for many, and ultimately only one prospective tenant applied. Rhonda Findlay, who also leases 808 Chartres, would like to lease 537 St. Ann to expand her business in the French Quarter, and she was present at the Irby/Finance Committee, spoke about her business and answered questions. **Darryl Gissel motioned to accept Rhonda Findley's application and prepare for presentation and recommendation at the upcoming Board meeting. Florence Jumonville seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

Becky Mackie updated the Committee on pending legislation that references the Irby Finance Committee Comprehensive Usage Plan, the Irby Policy and Procedure Manual, and lease agreements. If passed, the proposed legislation will make it easier for the LSM Board and its committees to make policy changes without having to amend legislation at the State level.

Becky Mackie also discussed with the committee that the Presbytère will have a fire suppression system installed. Funding came from Facility Planning and Control, through the Lieutenant Governor's Facility Services/Operations Office. Additionally, several capital outlay requests were submitted this year, including bathrooms in the Presbytère that are not ADA compliant.

7. **Residential Updates** – Becky Mackie briefed the committee that there are five residential units vacant, all on the 3rd floor, and a couple of applicants expressing interest decided not to move forward last month. The current tenant at 535 St. Ann on the third floor of the Pontalba requested a rent reduction based upon his awareness of current rates offered to new tenants. He requested we reduce the per-square-foot rate from \$2.52 sq ft. to \$1.83. We agree that his rent is high relative to others with comparable apartments and recommend a compromise of \$2.05 sq ft. for his lease renewal on July 1st, 2025, which will bring his rent to \$3,128.00 a month. **Darryl Gissel motioned to approve the lease reduction to \$3,128.00 per month. Florence Jumonville seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

8. Louisiana Civil Rights Advisory Board

Karl Connor was not present, however Becky Mackie attended the latest Friends of the LA Civil Rights Museum meeting, so she spoke about the challenges they have faced raising donations to match the money the State has assigned to Priority 5 to fund a permanent location. Advisory Board Chair Brenda Williams requested to the Lt. Governor to rescind her resignation from the LA Civil Rights Museum Advisory Board. She would like to remain on the Advisory Board, but not retain the Chair position. The LA Civil Rights Advisory Board does not yet have a Chairperson.

9. Old Business

Katrina Exhibit Refresh Update – Becky Mackie discussed the status of the Katrina Exhibit. Hard copies of design renderings will also be provided at the next LSM Board Meeting on May 19th. The first room of the Katrina Exhibit will be reoriented with a new projection screen on the wall that is along St Ann Street

Ticketing Hub Update – Becky Mackie stated the Ticketing Hub at 507 St. Ann is moving along and will a projected July 1st start up.

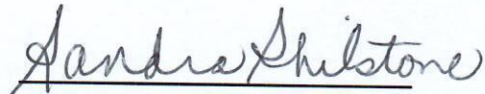
10. New Business

Legislative Update – Becky Mackie updated the board on HB210 and the information Julia George Moore made available to the Board to clarify the intent and language of the bill. HB210 would add political appointees: Governor, Senate President, and House Speaker (or their designees). Friends Organizations/Foundations with double representation would be reduced to one representative. Term limits would be eliminated. Current board members could stay through 2029, then staggered terms would be implemented through a lottery. Board quorum would change from a majority of members (11 of 21 currently appointed) to a fixed number of 10 members (with the total dropping to 20). The bill will also streamline Collections and Pontalba management processes.

Wendy Lodrig proposed that LSM work with Friends of the Cabildo to create a Museum Ambassador Program to have human engagement inside the museums to help visitors with any questions they may have about the exhibits.

11. Adjourn – After the last vote, a Committee Member had to depart due to a prior engagement, so there was no longer a quorum. Wendy Lodrig concluded the meeting at 1:10 p.m.

Minutes Accepted


Sandra Shilstone, Secretary