

**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
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2025
10:00 AM**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Darryl Gissel, Florence Jumonville, Karl Connor, R. Duncan Brown, Suzanne Perlis, Wendy Lodrig.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: Malcolm Hodnett, Sandy Shilstone

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

LSM STAFF PRESENT: Becky Mackie, Cody Scallions, Damond Francois, Greg Lambousy, Jeff Anding, and Nicole Coleman.

OTHERS PRESENT: N/A

A quorum was present.

1. **Call to Order** – Wendy Lodrig called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m.
2. **Adoption of the Agenda** – Wendy Lodrig requested a motion to adopt the agenda. **Darryl Gissel motioned to adopt the agenda. The motion was seconded by Florence Jumonville and passed unanimously.**
3. **Prefunding State FACILITY planning and Control for the Jazz Museum's EDA grant –**

Wendy Lodrig provided background on the Irby-funded grant, originally awarded in 2024. At that time, she was in favor of pursuing the matching grant opportunity. She noted that circumstances have since changed, which is why the Executive Committee was convened in place of the Irby Committee. The purpose of the meeting was to allow Greg to present on the committee's current needs, followed by discussion and questions. Becky then introduced Greg to begin his presentation.

Becky Mackie reported that \$114,000 had previously been advanced to Facility Planning and Control (FP&C) for architectural and engineering plans for the grounds and stage improvements. The project has now gone out to bid, with \$855,000 in contracts to be reimbursed by the Economic Development Administration as expenses are paid.

She explained that under FP&C's current requirements, grant funds must be advanced and on deposit before contracts can be executed. While reimbursements are expected within the current fiscal year, retainage and punch list items could delay full repayment beyond June 30, 2026.

Becky requested approval to pre-fund the project, noting that \$750,000 had been set aside for CDs but not yet invested. She confirmed that sufficient cash is available to cover the request, though it will reduce investment earnings for the year.

Greg Lambousy reported that the construction documents are complete, and the project has gone out to bid following federal and state guidelines. The Landscape Architect Committee selected Bayou Irrigation as the contractor approximately two to three weeks ago. The project will begin one month after the contract is finalized and it is expected to take six months to complete.

He noted that scheduling is being coordinated around major events, including French Quarter Fest and Satchmo Fest. The gala will be relocated to the front of the building to allow construction to proceed on schedule. Greg emphasized the importance of completing the work before French Quarter Fest, given its economic significance, and confirmed that reimbursement of the advanced funds is expected within six months. He added that the project will provide visible progress for the museum system and the Lieutenant Governor's office.

Wendy Lodrig asked Greg Lambousy to provide an overview of the project scope, including changes to the physical building design as well as updates to the exterior.

Greg Lambousy provided an overview of the project scope. He explained that the work focuses primarily on the exterior and site, with one interior component. Exterior improvements include adding a permanent stage along the Barrack's Street side, regrading areas for proper drainage, installing honeycomb mesh to create level ground for grass, and replacing broken flagstones to remove trip hazards. A smokestack foundation outside the courtyard will be removed with approval from SHIPO and the Division of Archaeology, allowing for additional courtyard space.

The project also includes enhancements to the sculpture garden, incorporating two monumental sculptures and smaller pieces in a continuous layout. Interior work will add gas, electrical, and water hookups in the area currently occupied by OffBeat, preparing the space for a café with movable European-style tables and umbrellas. Greg noted that the timing aligns with OffBeat's transition out of the space, and the café will accommodate vendors rather than full cooking operations.

R. Duncan Brown asked whether everyone, from the Jazz Museum staff to Greg's team, was in agreement with the project plans and confirmed that there were no disagreements.

Suzanne Perlis asked about the typical reimbursement process once the work is completed.

Greg Lambousy noted that the federal reimbursement process is typically fast, taking about 30 days. Becky Mackie added that through the state's payment process, it may take approximately 45 days to pay a contractor, so the total turnaround to receive funds back is roughly two months. She also explained that invoices must go through the standard construction payout process, ensuring that reimbursement to Irby occurs promptly.

R. Duncan Brown asked whether there had been any criticism or pushbacks from government entities, internal stakeholders, or the public regarding the project changes.

Becky Mackie responded that while some federal grants had been put on hold or stopped in the past, this EDA grant was approved to move forward. She noted that state law changes may have been made to mitigate risk from potential federal funding freezes, but construction projects already underway, including this one, continued to completion. Becky added that she has successfully managed three prior EDA grants through reimbursement and closeout, and she does not anticipate any issues with this project.

Greg Lambousy added that the project team has coordinated with various associations in the French Quarters to minimize conflicts with programming. He noted that only a few events, such as the Gala and one during Mardi Gras, extend late into the evening, and the team strives to be respectful of these schedules.

R. Duncan Brown asked whether window work is included in the project scope.

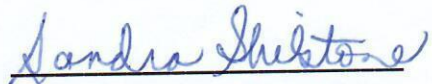
Greg Lambousy responded that it was not part of the current project. He noted that donors, including Herb Alpert, are interested in understanding the state's contribution and matching funds. Greg added that Cliff Melius has arranged for engineers to assess the windows, and deferred maintenance in several areas of the building is being addressed.

Becky Mackie explained that addressing the deferred maintenance, including water intrusion through masonry and rotten windows, is part of a capital outlay request submitted last year and included in the current submission. She noted that Cliff, who previously assisted with capital projects through the state parks, has transitioned to a new role at CRT as the Lieutenant Governor's primary capital projects coordinator. While the parks still provide some support, such as legal assistance for insurance claims, capital projects are now coordinated directly with Cliff, who regularly reviews the CRT project portfolio with the Lieutenant Governor. Becky added that one grant application is currently pending for some of this work, which could help catalyze state support for the remaining projects.

Wendy Lodrig asked for a motion to pre-fund the State Facility Planning and Control the EDA grant funds. **Darryl Gissel motioned pre-fund to State Facility Planning and Control the EDA grant funds. The motion was seconded by Suzanne Perlis and passed unanimously.**

4. Adjourn – Meeting adjourned at 10:24 AM

Minutes Accepted


Sandra Shilstone, Secretary