

**DRAFT MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE LOUISIANA STATE MUSEUM (LSM)
THE CABILDO
701 CHARTRES ST. NEW ORLEANS, LA. 70116
THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 2026
11:30 AM**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Darryl Gissel, Florence Jumonville, Sandy Shilstone, Suzanne Perlis, Wendy Lodrig.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: Karl Connor, R. Duncan Brown, Malcolm Hodnett.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: NONE

LSM STAFF PRESENT: Becky Mackie, Cody Scallions, David Kunian, Erin Patterson, Tom Strider, Blaze D'Amico, Amanda Smith, Jeff Anding, Ashley Voorhies, Nicole Coleman.

OTHERS PRESENT: NONE

A quorum was present.

1. **Call to Order** – Wendy Lodrig called the meeting to order at 11:45 a.m.
2. **Adoption of the Agenda** – Wendy Lodrig presented the agenda. **Florence Jumonville motioned to adopt the agenda. The motion was seconded by Suzanne Perlis and passed unanimously.**
3. **Adoption of Minutes from the Meeting of March 26, 2026** - **Florence Jumonville motioned to adopt the minutes. The motion was seconded by Suzanne Perlis and passed unanimously.**
4. **Public Comments** – NONE
5. **Chairman's Report** - Wendy Lodrig announced that Sandy Shilstone has been named the new Vice Chair and welcomed her to the role.
6. **Director's Report** - Becky Mackie provided updates on staffing, operations, governance, and legislation. She announced two new part-time receptionists to ensure weekday phone coverage and reduce the burden on other staff. With property management functions for the Lower Pontalba now under contract, job duties for the remaining functions that are retained by museum staff are being reassigned, in part to the new part-time receptionists. Many business office functions have shifted to staff working out of the Capitol Park Museum location in Baton Rouge. Amanda Smith is recruiting for an accountant given Damond Francois' retirement. Cross-training staff for the various accounting functions is underway.

The AAM tabled their decision on reaccreditation and provided comments for the museum to respond to by August 2026. A determination will be made at their 2027 meeting based on updates they receive from us this August and in July of 2027. The museum remains accredited during the tabling period.

A brief legislative update was provided on HB 368, during which historic structures were discussed.

7. **Irby/Finance** – Darryl Gissel announced a new residential tenant for 810 Chartres at \$2,688 per month (\$2.08 per square foot) and requested a motion to approve the lease.

Suzanne Perlis motioned to approve the residential lease for 810 Chartres for 13 months at a base rent of \$2,688/month. The motion was seconded by Sandy Shilstone and passed unanimously.

An additional residential unit is close to being leased, which would reduce total vacancies to two, noting satisfaction with the current property management progress.

He also shared that two commercial lease renewals will be brought to the board at the next meeting, and that bank account transitions are nearly complete, pending final paperwork

Becky Mackie reported strong Irby financial performance with net income at \$711,000.

Darryl Gissel motioned to accept the financials. The motion was seconded by Florence Jumonville and passed unanimously.

8. **Governance Committee** - Wendy Lodrig reported on behalf of Duncan Brown that the Governance Committee is currently reviewing candidates for the open Secretary position and Treasurer position for which Darryl Gissel is currently serving the remainder of the prior Treasurer's term. The committee has not yet met but has received nominations and will present its recommendations at the next board meeting.
9. **Education Committee** - Suzanne Perlis reported that the Education Committee met on April 1 and had a productive meeting, including a strong presentation on Jazz Museum educational programming. Members also reviewed the America 250 travel trunks, noting they were highly impressive with hands-on materials and lesson plans. She suggested making the trunks available at a future board meeting for wider viewing.

She added that the Education Committee is still new and in the process of identifying how it can best support staff, particularly through fundraising and other meaningful contributions.

10. **Collections Committee** – Florence Jumonville reported that the Collections Committee has not met since the last board meeting but will meet again in mid-May.

In the meantime, she presented an outgoing loan request to the Northeast Louisiana Delta African American Heritage Museum for items from the "Shake Your Hips: Louisiana Blues" exhibit, previously displayed at the Jazz Museum. The loan runs from May through January 2027, with the exhibit opening on Juneteenth.

Florence Jumonville motioned to approve the outgoing loan to the Northeast Louisiana Delta African American Heritage Museum. The motion was seconded by Darryl Gissel and passed unanimously.

The Confederate Memorial Hall Museum requested a long-term loan of a previously unclassified flag, identified as a Louisiana Secession flag.

Suzanne Perlis motioned to table the loan request to Memorial Hall Museum pending further review by the Collections Committee. The motion was seconded by Florence Jumonville and approved unanimously.

11. **Architectural Preservations** – No report.
12. **Louisiana Civil Rights Museum Advisory Board** - Becky Mackie reported that the Louisiana Civil Rights Museum board is assessing its plan for a permanent site after discussions with Facility Planning and Control (FP&C). While the group initially preferred a leased location inside the power plant, they learned that state funding for capital improvements in leased properties is not supported and may be restricted by pending legislation.
13. **Old Business** – There was no new business.
14. **New Business** - There was no new business.
15. **Adjourn** – meeting adjourn 12:33 pm.

Minutes Accepted


Sandra Shilstone, Secretary