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, JUNE 25, 2026
11:30 AM

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

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

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: NONE

LSM STAFF PRESENT: Becky Mackie, Cody Scallions, Amanda Smith, Jeff Anding, Nicole Coleman.

OTHERS PRESENT: NONE

A quorum was present.

1. **Call to Order** – Wendy Lodrig called the meeting to order at 11:46 a.m.

2. **Adoption of the Agenda** – Wendy Lodrig presented the agenda. **Florence Jumonville motioned to adopt the agenda. The motion was seconded by Darryl Gissel and passed unanimously.**

3. **Adoption of Minutes from the Meeting of May 28, 2026 – Darryl Gissel motioned to adopt the minutes. The motion was seconded by Sandy Shilstone and passed unanimously.**

4. **Public Comments** – NONE

5. **Chairman's Report** - Wendy Lodrig reported that she had no items for the Chairman's Report and proceeded directly to the Director's Report.

6. **Director's Report** - Becky Mackie highlighted the successful opening of the *We the People* exhibit at Capitol Park Museum, describing it as a unifying America 250 exhibition that celebrates shared experiences across diverse communities. She also noted the upcoming Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame induction and ongoing efforts to renew its cooperative endeavor agreement with increased support for the state museum.

   Becky reported that the Cabildo's air conditioning system remains in critical condition and requires daily maintenance while the museum awaits funding for a permanent replacement. Temporary portable cooling units will be used as needed to protect collections. She also noted that the museum continues to meet loan agreement requirements by monitoring environmental conditions.

   Sandy Shilstone requested that the Architectural Preservation Committee be reconvened to address the growing number of facility and infrastructure issues. Becky Mackie agreed that the committee would be beneficial and noted that leadership is working to resume meetings.

   Becky also explained that facility needs are already being assessed through inspections conducted by the museum staff and the Lieutenant Governor's Office, with findings helping prioritize maintenance projects and support funding requests, including major infrastructure improvements for the New Orleans Jazz Museum.

7. **Irby/Finance –** Darryl Gissel reported that Five's has agreed to repay all outstanding percentage rent and related amounts and is expected to be fully current by the end of the month. He also shared that the tenant has revised its expansion plans by partnering with their new café at Preservation Hall to use its kitchen facilities, eliminating the need for an immediate kitchen expansion at Lower Pontalba. Instead, Five's will move forward with improvements to its front-of-house leased expansion space and begin utilizing it.

   Sandy Shilstone motioned to accept Five's new plan to open their expansion space without incurring the expense to build out the kitchen. The motion was seconded by Mary Coulon and passed unanimously.

   Darryl also reported that only two residential vacancies remain at Lower Pontalba. Based on McEnery's recommendation and limited interest in third floor units, the Irby Finance Committee supported slight rent reductions for the two remaining third-floor units to improve marketability while keeping rates near $2.00 per square foot.

   Suzanne Perlis moved to approve McEnery's recommendation to reduce the base rent for the two remaining vacant third-floor units at Lower Pontalba to $1.84 and $1.91 per square foot to improve marketability. The motion was seconded by Sandy Shilstone and passed unanimously.

   The tenant at 527 St. Ann (2nd Floor) requested a three-month rent abatement due to damage and repairs in the unit. After discussion, the Irby Finance Committee recommended offering a one-month rent abatement, with authority to negotiate up to six weeks if necessary to resolve the matter.

   Sandy Shilstone moved to approve a one-month rent abatement for the tenant at 527 St. Ann (2nd Floor), with authority for McEnery to negotiate up to six weeks if necessary. The motion was seconded by Suzanne Perlis and passed unanimously.

   The board considered a resolution authorizing four new Irby credit cards through Gulf Coast Bank to replace the existing Hancock Whitney cards. The cards will be issued to Rebecca Mackie, Cody Scallions, Noah Bennett, and Marian Ramos.

   Suzanne Perlis moved to approve four new Irby credit cards through Gulf Coast Bank for Rebecca Mackie, Cody Scallions, Noah Bennett, and Marian Ramos. The motion was seconded by Florence Jumonville and passed unanimously.

8. **Governance Committee -** Wendy Lodrig reported that the Governance Committee welcomed Mary Coulon as the newly elected Secretary.

   The board also discussed annual training compliance, with members expressing appreciation for the training tracker prepared by Nicole Coleman while acknowledging the challenges of completing required online training and financial disclosure forms. Members suggested that the Governance

Committee explore ways to simplify the process, such as group training sessions or alternative approaches to improve compliance and reduce frustration.

Wendy also noted that the Governance Committee's responsibilities include reviewing bylaws, overseeing board elections, and monitoring board training requirements.

9. **Education Committee -** Suzanne Perlis reiterated her vision for the Education Committee to move beyond planning and actively support fundraising by serving as advocates for museum programs and exhibits. She proposed providing committee and board members with advance notice of funding needs, along with talking points and background materials, so they can help identify potential sponsors, make introductions, and support fundraising efforts within their own networks.

   Becky Mackie noted that the museum's development office already maintains a list of funding opportunities and priority projects and works collaboratively to match grants and sponsorships with museum initiatives. Staff are working on collaterals for the committee members to use for several existing educational programs. She noted that one of the museum's upcoming funding needs is support for developing a comprehensive permanent exhibition plan for the Cabildo, which would provide the foundation for future grant applications, fundraising campaigns, and capital outlay requests.

10. **Collections Committee –** Florence Jumonville presented a request to accept a donation from Spain's Institute for History and Military Culture consisting of reproduction Gálvez-era uniforms, weaponry, equipment, and a reproduced flag. The donation is intended to support upcoming Spanish heritage events in New Orleans and the museum's interpretation of the Gálvez period.

    Staff recommended accepting the donation, noting that all items would be reviewed and managed according to museum collections standards. Committee members expressed support for the donation, contingent upon staff oversight of the items' care and conservation.

    Florence Jumonville moved to accept the permanent donation from Spain's Institute for History and Military Culture. The motion was seconded by Suzanne Perlis and passed unanimously.

11. **Architectural Preservations –** No report.

12. **Louisiana Civil Rights Museum Advisory Board -** Becky Mackie reported that the Louisiana Civil Rights Museum Advisory Board remains focused on securing a permanent location. Discussions continue with the developers of the Market Street Power Plant, including the possibility of a property exchange involving state-owned property. The Advisory Board is working to identify a permanent site so that existing capital outlay funding can advance to the next phase of development.

    Board members were encouraged to suggest additional properties that offer strong visibility, tourism access, and the potential to attract a diverse audience.

13. **Old Business –** Wendy Lodrig reminded board members about Museum Night on July 2, noting that the Louisiana Museum Foundation and French Quarter Museum Association have done an excellent job preparing promotional materials. She encouraged members to participate and help promote the

event, which will take place from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., with museum admission available until 7:00 p.m.

14. **New Business** – Suzanne Perlis thanked Becky Mackie for meeting with her and Bobby Ticknor, the new President of the Louisiana Historical Society. The meeting was described as productive and informative, and appreciation was expressed for Becky's time and collaboration in strengthening the relationship between the organizations.

15. **Adjourn** – meeting adjourn 1:06 pm.

Minutes Accepted

Mary C. Coulon

Mary Coulon, Secretary