

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE LOUISIANA STATE MUSEUM (LSM)
NEW ORLEANS JAZZ MUSEUM
400 ESPLANADE ST. NEW ORLEANS, LA. 70116
THURSDAY, JULY 23, 2026
12:30 PM**

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

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

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: NONE

LSM STAFF PRESENT: Becky Mackie, Blaze D'Amico, Ashley Voorhies, Jeff Anding, Nicole Coleman.

OTHERS PRESENT: NONE

A quorum was present.

1. **Call to Order** – Wendy Lodrig called the meeting to order at 12:37 pm.
2. **Adoption of the Agenda** – Sandy Shilstone motioned to adopt the agenda. The motion was seconded by Karl Connor and passed unanimously.
3. **Adoption of Minutes from the Meeting of June 25, 2026** – Florence Jumonville motioned to approve the minutes as amended, correcting the spelling of the Louisiana Historical Society President's last name in Item 14 (New Business) to Ticknor. The motion was seconded by Mary Coulon and passed unanimously.
4. **Public Comments** – NONE
5. **Chairman's Report** - Wendy Lodrig reported that the French Quarter Museum Association Museum Night was a success, with approximately 1,100 visitors to the Cabildo, Presbytère, and 1850 House. She thanked museum staff for their efforts and noted the event provided valuable exposure and marketing for the museums. Becky Mackie added that all participating museums experienced strong attendance and the association is discussing opportunities to improve logistics even more for future events.

Wendy also provided an update on the Architectural Preservation Committee, noting efforts to reactivate the committee. She further reported that the Board will be asked at the September meeting to approve the chairs of the standing committees in accordance with the bylaws.
6. **Director's Report** - Becky Mackie reported on several museum initiatives and projects, including the continuation of America 250 programming and an international visit by museum professionals through the Freedom 250 International Visitor Leadership Program. She also announced upcoming events, including Satchmo SummerFest and the Queen Sofía Institute's America and Spain Symposium, which will include activities at the Cabildo.

Becky provided an update on the Madame John's Legacy restoration project, reporting that preliminary utility designs are underway for building systems, accessibility improvements, and a

phased public reopening. She noted that the initial phase will focus on opening the ground floor for tours while additional funding is pursued for future restoration work. She also discussed the potential need for a historic structure report.

Becky further updated the Board on the museum's AAM reaccreditation response, noting that the comprehensive report is nearly complete.

7. **Education Committee** – Wendy Lodrig reported that the Education Committee is scheduled to meet on August 5.
8. **Irby/Finance** – Darryl Gissel reported that the Irby Finance Committee reviewed two third-floor residential vacancies. The Committee recommended offering one month of free rent, either as a one-time concession or prorated over twelve months, to assist with leasing 811 Decatur 3rd floor.

Sandy Shilstone moved to approve offering one month of free rent, either as a one-time concession or prorated over twelve months, for 811 Decatur third-floor. The motion was seconded by Mary Coulon and passed unanimously.

Irby Finance Committee recommended allocating \$33,000 from the Irby Trust to support the museum's digital marketing efforts. The recommendation was presented to the Committee for approval.

Mary Coulon moved to approve the allocation of \$33,000 from the Irby Trust to support the museum's digital marketing efforts, as recommended by the Irby Finance Committee. The motion was seconded by Karl Connor and passed unanimously.

Wendy Lodrig noted that a residential lease application for 811 Decatur Street was denied because it did not comply with the property's no-pets policy.

9. **Governance Committee** - Wendy Lodrig reported that the Governance Committee has not met since completing its bylaws review following the last Board elections. She also announced that R. Duncan Brown has stepped down as Committee Chair due to personal and professional commitments. A new chair has been identified and will be presented to the Board for approval at a future meeting.
10. **Collections Committee** – Florence Jumonville reported that the Collections Committee met on July 7 with a quorum present. The Committee recommended accepting several significant donations, including Mardi Gras-related materials from Arthur Hardy and a collection of historic wedding dresses from Bonnie Broel. The Committee also approved conservation projects funded through the Deaccession Fund, the Louisiana Museum Foundation, and donor support, including treatments for Audubon prints, historic furnishings, textiles, and Mardi Gras artifacts.

The Committee further approved incoming loans for upcoming exhibitions, including items for the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame and the Capitol Park Museum, and recommended extending the loan of Noel Rockmore's Portrait of Preservation Hall from the Ogden Museum through February 15, 2027. In addition, the Committee recommended the deaccession of items that do not support the museum's mission or Louisiana history, with proceeds from any auction sales designated for future conservation projects.

Florence Jumonville moved to approve the extension of the loan of Portrait of Preservation Hall by Noel Rockmore from the Ogden Museum of Southern Art through February 15, 2027. The motion was seconded by Sandy Shilstone and passed unanimously.

The Committee was informed that Tom Strider will be retiring and will continue working part-time through September during his transition. Becky Mackie also announced that Josh Shick will begin serving as the museum's new Director of Curatorial Services on August 1, 2026.

11. Architectural Preservations – No report.

12. Louisiana Civil Rights Museum Advisory Board - Karl Connor reported that the Louisiana Civil Rights Museum Advisory Board continues to strengthen its role as an educational and cultural resource while advancing future programming initiatives. He highlighted the museum's successful participation during Essence Festival, including the Calas Café program, which increased public engagement and was supported by Capital One, whose sponsorship provided free museum admission.

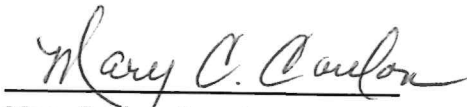
Connor also reported that the museum will host approximately 100 participants from the International Association of Official Human Rights Agencies Conference in August as part of a Civil Rights Trail tour. Additionally, he shared that the Northwest African American Museum in Seattle has expressed interest in borrowing the Charles F. Page exhibit, with further discussions pending. He concluded by noting that the Advisory Board will discuss recruiting new members to fill current vacancies at its next meeting on August 11.

13. Old Business – No old business

14. New Business – No new business

15. Adjourn – meeting adjourn 1:40 pm.

Minutes Accepted


Mary Coulon, Secretary