

Advisory Board of the Louisiana State Archives

MINUTES

February 13, 2025 | 1:00pm | Louisiana State Archives Gallery

I. Call to Order – The meeting was called to order at 1:03 pm

II. Roll Call

Present: Catherine Newsome, Ann Boltin, Melanie Montanaro, Dr. Robert René, Brandon Abadie, and Amanda Gross-Thies

Not Present: Amy Louviere, Doug Harrison, Faye Phillips

Others Present: Ashley D. Simmons,

III. Order of Business


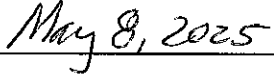
1. **Approval of Agenda** - On motion of Amanda Gross-Thies and seconded by Melanie Montanaro, the board approved the agenda. **Motion Passed.**
2. **Approval of Minutes** – On motion of Catherine Newsome, seconded by Amanda Gross-Thies the board approved the minutes. **Motion Passed**
3. **Update from the Louisiana State Archives – Melanie Montanaro**
 - a. The Archives roof is being replaced on the back portion of the building and could take up to 6 months.
 - b. Early voting ended on February 8th, there was a low turnout due to the Special Election. Early voting for the new amendments and Municipal Primary seats is scheduled for March 15 – 22nd.
 - c. Our exhibit “Beyond the Frame” is now open to the public.
 - d. The Gala is on track for April 5, 2025.
 - e. The Archives is hosting the Southeast Archives and Records Conference in October.
 - f. The Archives is in the process of hiring a full-time security person.
 - g. America 250 kicks off July 4, 2025.
4. **Update from Friends of the Louisiana State Archives –**
 - a. Dr. René informed the Board of a new partnership project between the FLSA and the Friends of the Old State Capitol. Linda Lightfoot approached the FLSA to collaborate on a Speaker series highlighting the various ethnic groups that settled in Louisiana. The central focus of the series will be identifying the groups, Why they came to Louisiana, and How did they get here. Dr. René and Amy Louviere were selected to represent the FLSA for the project's committee. They are still in the early planning stage, but expect the series to last two to three years. Ann Boltin advised a similar project was done several years ago and they could probably find some good materials from the Catholic Life TV episodes on YouTube.
5. **Other Programs/Discussion**
 - a. Ann Boltin and Dr. Lee Leumas presented information on the Catholic Religious Organizations Studying Slavery (CROSS). It is a nationwide project to document and allow

public access to records of enslaved people in the Catholic Archives. They are currently leading the pilot project in cooperation with seven Louisiana Dioceses to identify parishes and sacramental records of enslaved peoples prior to 1865. They have also created "Best Practices" to educate Bishops and Priests on how to address questions and work with the public regarding the Catholic Church's ownership of slaves. They hope to eventually partner with the Louisiana State Archives as the method of access for the public.

IV. Adjournment

On motion of Melanie Montanaro, and seconded by Brandan Abadie, the Board voted to adjourn at 1:54 pm. **Motion passed.**

The next meeting is scheduled for May 8, 2025 at 1:00pm.

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| Ann Boltin, Chairman | Date | |