

**NOTES OF THE LOUISIANA CIVIL RIGHTS MUSEUM ADVISORY BOARD
NEW ORLEANS JAZZ MUSEUM AT THE OLD U.S. MINT
400 ESPLANADE AVENUE
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2025
1:00 PM**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Sidney Barthelemy, Karl Connor, Priscilla Edwards, Blake Jones, Ernest Jones, Paula Peer, Harry Rosenthal, Ed Ward, Dr. Terrance Vinson.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Madlyn Bagneris, Roland Belsome, Tyler Bruno, Wanda Davis, Senator Royce Duplessis, Thelma French, Reginald Owens, Brenda Williams, Loyce Wright, Emmanuel Smith.

LSM STAFF PRESENT: Rebecca Mackie, Cody Scallions, Nicole Coleman, Damond Francois.

ALSO PRESENT: Bobbie Hill, Juan Woolfolk, Angelique Roche.

A quorum was not present.

1. **Call to Order** – Sidney Barthelemy called the meeting to order 1:17pm.
2. **Adoption of the Agenda** – There is **NO Quorum** for this meeting (therefore no approval of Agenda or Minutes)
3. **Public Comments** – There were no comments from the public.
4. **Adoption of minutes** - There is **NO Quorum** for this meeting (therefore no approval of Agenda or Minutes)
5. **Chairman's Report** – Sidney Barthelemy reported no new updates and invited Karl Connor to provide a report on the docent training program.

Karl Connor shared that the first docent training session was held last Wednesday at the Jazz Museum, with six enthusiastic participants from the public. He thanked Nicole Coleman and Jeff Anding for helping to organize the session, which had been postponed several times. The training was conducted by Judy Boudreaux, conducted through the Friends of the Louisiana Civil Rights Museum, and received very positive feedback.

A second training session is planned for early December, allowing time for additional promotion. Participants have submitted their volunteer applications to the state, which Nicole has received. Once approved, scheduling will begin. Volunteers may also assist at the museum when tours are not scheduled. Karl noted the first training session was a success and that the next session could bring the total to about fourteen active docents, which would meet current needs.

Sidney Barthelemy added that he attended briefly to welcome the group and was impressed by their interest and by Karl's leadership during the session. He expressed hope that the program continues successfully in this direction.

Next Training Tentatively Scheduled: Early December

Becky Mackie raised a question regarding the volunteer program. She explained that the museum system is currently reviewing and formalizing its volunteer structure, which has previously operated in a loose and informal manner, largely through Friends of the Cabildo volunteers.

Becky noted that, according to guidance from the Office of Culture, Recreation, and Tourism, there are two categories of volunteers. The first are individual volunteers, who are directly engaged with the museum system and covered under its workers' compensation policy in case of injury. The second are organizational volunteers, such as those affiliated with Friends of the Cabildo, whose liability is covered by their organization's master policy.

She clarified that Friends of the Cabildo manages its own liability coverage and provides volunteers to the museum under that arrangement. Becky then asked for clarification regarding how the Friends of the Louisiana Civil Rights Museum handles volunteer coverage and whether their volunteers are treated as individual volunteers, given that the organization likely does not have a workers' compensation policy in place.

Karl Connor deferred to Ernest Jones regarding the matter but noted that he did not believe there was a policy in place. Ernest Jones confirmed that there is not and further explained that the Friends organization maintains a general liability policy and an officer and directors' policy, but no additional coverage beyond those.

Juan Woolfolk shared his experience with the docent training, describing it as straightforward and a great program. He noted that Judy did an excellent job explaining best practices and leading the group through several scenarios to prepare for potential challenges, which he found very beneficial. Juan expressed his enthusiasm for learning more about museums, emphasizing his passion for history and his excitement about being involved with the Louisiana Civil Rights Museum during its early stages. Juan concluded by reaffirming his excitement and gratitude for being part of the project.

Blake Jones added to the discussion, acknowledging Ernest Jones's historical presence. He referenced a photograph in the Times-Picayune showing Ernest Jones standing in front of the NOPD tank at the Desire Project during a critical moment when others were hesitant to confront it. Blake Jones noted that Federal Judge Fred Eby sided with him shortly thereafter, emphasizing the significance of Ernest Jones's actions.

Karl Connor provided an update on plans for a one-year commemoration event for the inaugural exhibit at the convention center. He reminded the group that the committee responsible for organizing the event includes himself, Chairman Sydney Bartholomew, Priscilla Edwards, and Ernest Jones. The proposed event is scheduled for October 25, two Saturdays from now, and will feature a welcome from the Lieutenant Governor, who has confirmed availability, followed by a panel discussion on the importance of civil rights museums today and the need for a permanent location to serve the entire state.

The tentative panel includes Sydney Bartholomew, Ernest Jones, who is reaching out to Freedom Rider Dodie Smith, and Senator Royce Duplessis, a longtime legislative supporter. The panel will be moderated by Sandy David Miller, vice president for consumer advocacy programs at Entergy, fulfilling a prior commitment from Entergy while also opening the opportunity to discuss additional funding. Karl encouraged suggestions or additions to the current plan, noting that there are two weeks to finalize details. Following the panel discussion, the event will transition into a speaker series, an idea suggested by Jeff, designed to create a lasting program beyond commemoration.

- 6. Director's Report** – Becky Mackie reported that the Civil Rights Museum has reopened following renovations at the Convention Center. She shared that the team is developing fundraising materials to propose a partnership with a local bank to underwrite free admission on select convention days.

A preliminary meeting has been held, and the proposal is being finalized. If the bank declines, the materials can be repurposed for other potential sponsors.

Becky Mackie also noted that Jeff's team created a high-quality marketing piece for an upcoming exhibit at the Presbytère, serving as a model for future fundraising materials. These pieces will better communicate funding needs, donor benefits, and promotional reach to enhance sponsorship opportunities.

Karl Connor asked if the list of major conferences targeted for potential admission underwriting could be shared to help ensure docent coverage on those dates. Becky Mackie confirmed that the list would be sent once finalized and noted that some of the identified events include youth-focused conventions, such as a large volleyball competition, where the goal is to encourage student attendance.

Blake Jones added that the volleyball tournament presents a strong outreach opportunity, as many young participants have extended downtime between games. Sponsoring admission during such events could provide an ideal opportunity to engage and educate visiting students.

- 7. Friends of the Louisiana Civil Rights Museum Report-** Karl Connor reported that the museum partnered with Deep Wellness NOLA to develop a program supporting docents and visitors in managing the emotional impact of exhibits. The initiative includes reflective signage and plans for future public wellness events.

He also provided an update on the Boeing grant project, which includes enhancing the Charles F. Page exhibit with a short educational film produced by Angela Roche, who attended the meeting. The film aims to strengthen the exhibition and support its potential travel. The St. Louis Airport and Historic Society remain interested in hosting it, and Mr. Page's daughter is coordinating with the Seattle mayor to display the exhibit at the Seattle Airport during the World Cup next June.

The exhibit was previously run at New Orleans Airport and left there and went to Wedell-Williams Museum. The Inventors Museum in Maryland plans to create a life-size model and permanent exhibit for Mr. Page and is seeking collaboration. About 45 minutes of footage featuring Mr. Page's grandson, Joseph, will be included in the film.

Angelique Roche introduced herself as a Louisiana native and social justice producer with experience in law, media, and historical storytelling. She is pursuing a master's degree in library and information science focused on archival work and preservation. Roche described her work on the Charles F. Page film, which blends live action and animation to make the story accessible across generations. Filming included interviews with historians and Mr. Page's descendants in Alexandria, and the project is targeting a January premiere using a "draft board" animation style appealing to both younger and older audiences.

Karl Connor noted that the museum plans to resume scheduling senior visits now that it has reopened, coordinating times that work best for both visitors and staff. He also mentioned that by the end of the year, the Friends organization will have contributed more than the amount outlined in the CEA agreement, reflecting their strong partnership and support of the museum. He concluded by stating that efforts will continue to secure additional funding to sustain future initiatives.

- 8. Bylaws/Committee/Members/Officers –** Ernest Jones provided an update on the Bylaws Committee, which was appointed during the previous meeting and includes himself, Blake Jones,

and Wanda Davis. He noted that the committee has not yet met, as the chair has not called any meetings. However, the review of the Bylaws remains planned, and the committee expects to provide a report at the next meeting. He also mentioned that Wanda Davis has experienced some health challenges.

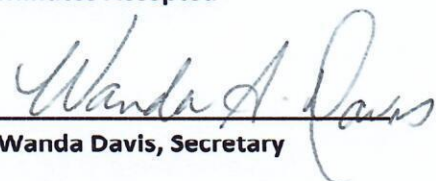
Becky Mackie offered assistance with coordinating schedules, suggesting that Nicole follow up by email to collect available dates for an upcoming meeting.

Ernest Jones responded that he would conduct a preliminary check of availability and noted that further discussion would be needed to finalize the scheduling details.

- 9. Content Committee Report** – Karl Connor noted that several new content ideas have been proposed since the last meeting, though the Content Committee has not yet met. He mentioned that Loyce remains the head of the committee and that he will contact her to schedule the next meeting. Suggested initiatives include identifying technology, media, storytelling, academic, and archival partners to develop new content. These efforts would either enhance the current exhibit's narrative or expand it to more comprehensively reflect the broader civil rights story.
- 10. Old Business** – Becky Mackie reviewed two open items from the previous meeting: the appointment of executive committee members and the secretary's acceptance of her nomination. Karl Connor confirmed that the secretary accepted the position during the last meeting by phone. Becky acknowledged the confirmation and noted that it would be recorded in the minutes.
- 11. New Business** – Becky Mackie informed the group that the Louisiana State Museum is currently undergoing the reaccreditation process. The site visit from the accrediting body is scheduled for November 11 in New Orleans and November 12 at several regional museums. She noted that a few individuals may be contacted to participate in interviews with the visiting surveyors and that those arrangements will be coordinated now that the dates have been finalized.

Becky Mackie announced that the Louisiana Museum Foundation's annual fundraiser, the Founders Ball, will be held on November 21 at the Cabildo.
- 12. Adjourn** – the meeting was adjourned at 2:19 p.m.

Minutes Accepted


Wanda Davis, Secretary