

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE LOUISIANA STATE MUSEUM (LSM)  
NEW ORLEANS JAZZ MUSEUM AT THE OLD U.S. MINT  
400 ESPLANADE AVENUE  
FRIDAY, APRIL 25, 2025  
11:30 AM**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Jay Batt, Darryl Gissel, Florence Jumonville, Wendy Lodrig, Sandy Shilstone.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Mary Coulon, Karl Connor, Malcolm Hodnett.

**LSM STAFF PRESENT:** Rebecca Mackie, Andrew Aranda.

A quorum was present.

1. **Call to Order** – Wendy Lodrig called the meeting to order at 11:36 a.m.
2. **Adoption of the Agenda** – After calling the meeting to order Wendy Lodrig requested a motion to amend and adopt the agenda to add “Update Signature Card” under item “4. Chairman’s Report” with an action item symbol. **Jay Batt motioned to adopt and amend the agenda as requested. Darryl Gissel seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**
3. **Adoption of Minutes from the March 17, 2020 meeting** – Florence Jumonville called for a motion to accept the minutes. **Sandy Shilstone seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**
4. **Chairman’s Report**

**Discussion about quorum and new standing committees** – Wendy Lodrig discussed some potential issues about quorum for the Irby/Finance committee and ways to help mitigate those issues in the future. Wendy also discussed creating two new committees: Education and Governance. There was further discussion amongst the Committee about the requirement to amend bylaws to add Education and Governance as standing committees. **Sandy Shilstone moved to amend the bylaws to create two new standing committees: a Governance Committee, which will replace and include the duties of the Nominating Committee, and an Education Committee, and for this amendment to be ratified at the next LSM Board Meeting. Darryl Gissel seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

**Update Signature Card** – Wendy Lodrig led a discussion to update the signature card for the Irby Trust Fund being held with Hancock Whitney Bank with Darryl Gissel as the new chair of the Irby/Finance Committee. Adding a backup for current signers was discussed. **Jay Batt motioned to add Darryl Gissel and Sandy Shilstone to the signature card for the Irby Trust Fund. Florence Jumonville seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

5. **Director’s Report**

**Irby Maintenance Card** – Becky Mackie stated the new Assistant Manager of Maintenance, Edmund Hiser, needs to be assigned a credit card from the Irby Fund to pay for maintenance, as the previous Assistance Manager of Maintenance has departed. **Jay Batt motioned to issue Edmund Hiser an Irby Card. Darryl Gissel seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

## 6. Irby/Finance

**Pontalba Exterior Door Painting** – Becky Mackie updated the Committee on a project to paint the doors on the Pontalba. A painting contract that covered the residential doors is completed. Plans to address the exterior commercial doors is underway.

**Commercial Updates** – Becky Mackie provided an update on the vacancy at 537 St. Ann. There has been interest by several businesses, but the space did not meet the business model for many, and ultimately only one prospective tenant applied. Rhonda Findlay, who also leases 808 Chartres, would like to lease 537 St. Ann to expand her business in the French Quarter, and she was present at the Irby/Finance Committee, spoke about her business and answered questions. **Darryl Gissel motioned to accept Rhonda's application for presentation at the next Irby Finance Committee meeting. Florence Jumonville seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

Becky Mackie updated the Committee on pending legislation that references the Irby Finance Committee Comprehensive Usage Plan, the Irby Policy and Procedure Manual, and lease agreements. If passed, the proposed legislation will make it easier for the LSM Board and its committees to make policy changes without having to amend legislation at the State level.

Becky Mackie also discussed with the committee that the Presbytère will have a fire suppression system installed. Funding came from Facility Planning and Control, through the Lieutenant Governor's Facility Services/Operations Office. Additionally, several capital outlay requests were submitted this year, including bathrooms in the Presbytère that are not ADA compliant.

**Residential Updates** – Becky Mackie briefed the committee that there are five residential units vacant, all on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, and a couple of applicants expressing interest decided not to move forward last month.

## 7. Louisiana Civil Rights Advisory Board

Karl Connor was not present, however Becky Mackie attended the latest Friends of the LA Civil Rights Museum meeting, so she spoke about the challenges they have faced raising donations to match the money the State has assigned to Priority 5 to fund a permanent location. Advisory Board Chair Brenda Williams requested to the Lt. Governor to rescind her resignation from the LA Civil Rights Museum Advisory Board. She would like to remain on the Advisory Board, but not retain the Chair position. The LA Civil Rights Advisory Board does not yet have a Chairperson.

## 8. Old Business

**Katrina Exhibit Refresh Update** – Becky Mackie discussed the status of the Katrina Exhibit. Hard copies of design renderings will also be provided at the next LSM Board Meeting on May 19<sup>th</sup>. The first room of the Katrina Exhibit will be reoriented with a new projection screen on the wall that is along St Ann Street

**Ticketing Hub Update** – Becky Mackie stated the Ticketing Hub at 507 St. Ann is moving along and will a projected July 1<sup>st</sup> start up.

## 9. New Business

**Legislative Update** – Becky Mackie updated the board on HB210 and the information Julia George Moore made available to the Board to clarify the intent and language of the bill. HB210 would add political appointees: Governor, Senate President, and House Speaker (or their designees). Friends Organizations/Foundations with double representation would be reduced to one representative. Term limits would be eliminated. Current board members could stay through 2029, then staggered terms would be implemented through a lottery. Board quorum would change from a majority of members (11 of 21 currently appointed) to a fixed number of 10 members (with the total dropping to 20). The bill will also streamline Collections and Pontalba management processes.

Wendy Lodrig proposed that LSM work with Friends of the Cabildo to create a Museum Ambassador Program to have human engagement inside the museums to help visitors with any questions they may have about the exhibits.

**10. Adjourn** – After the last vote, a Committee Member had to depart due to a prior engagement, so there was no longer a quorum. Wendy Lodrig concluded the meeting at 1:10 p.m.

## Minutes Accepted



Sandra Shilstone, Secretary