

**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
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2026
11:30 AM**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Darryl Gissel, Florence Jumonville, R. Duncan Brown, Sandy Shilstone, Wendy Lodrig.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: Karl Connor, Malcolm Hodnett, Suzanne Perlis.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: None

LSM STAFF PRESENT: Becky Mackie, Blaze D'Amico, Cody Scallions, Jeff Anding, Julio Guichard, Nicole Coleman.

OTHERS PRESENT:

A quorum was present.

1. **Call to Order** – Wendy Lodrig called the meeting to order at 11:39 a.m.
2. **Adoption of the Agenda** – Wendy Lodrig presented the agenda. **Florence Jumonville motioned to adopt the agenda. The motion was seconded by Sandy Shilstone and passed unanimously.**
3. **Adoption of Minutes from December 8, 2025 Meeting-** Darryl Gissel motioned to adopt the minutes. **The motion was seconded by Florence Jumonville and passed unanimously.**
4. **Public Comments** – Wendy Lodrig informed the committee that going forward the agenda will allow public comment at the start of meeting. No public comments were made at this meeting.
5. **Chairman's Report -**
She announced that Kevin Kelly will join the full board at the next meeting and noted that committee assignments will be announced for the three new board members who expressed interest in various committees.
6. **Director's Report -** Becky Mackie shared trends reported in the 2025 American Alliance of Museums snapshot which show over half of museums have fewer visitors than in 2019, with a median of 81% of pre-pandemic attendance. She noted that tourism is improving, but museum attendance remains below pre-pandemic levels

a. Update on CEAs –

Julio Guichard reported that the original CEA with the Friends of Madam John's Legacy was cancelled due to insufficient fundraising and collaboration. Following discussions with the Lieutenant Governor, a compromise was reached to reinstate the CEA on a short-term basis through June 30 to allow the group time to demonstrate progress. The committee was asked to support the Lieutenant Governor's request, and the group is expected to present its plans and goals at the March 16 full board meeting.

Darryl Gissel moved to support the new CEA for the Friends of Madame John's Legacy. The motion was seconded by Sandy Shilstone, and it was unanimously approved. A recommendation to the motion was made to require the group to present their plans and provide additional details at the March board meeting.

7. **Irby/Finance** – Becky Mackie presented the balance sheet and income statement. Residential rental income is below expectations due to transition and marketing delays, while commercial rent is ahead of budget. Percentage sales revenue is under budget, with December calculations not available at the time the financials were closed, and with the busier tourism months still ahead.

Jeff Anding reported on an increase in social media activity, with Mardi Gras content performing best. The opening for the Young Men Illinois Club drew over 400 guests and received unprecedented media coverage across local broadcast and news outlets. Upcoming promotion includes the Galvez Exposition. Monthly ticket center results were also shared, and questions were welcomed.

Darryl Gissel motioned to approve the Irby Financial Statements. The motion was seconded by Florence Jumonville and unanimously approved.

The Irby Finance Committee approved a lease for 807 Decatur, 3rd floor, at \$2,362/month (~\$1.82/sq ft), below the \$2.00 target due to third-floor location and street noise. The tenant accepted the unit as-is, with no requested improvements.

Darryl Gissel moved to approve the lease at 807 Decatur 3rd floor at \$2,362 a month. The motion was seconded by Sandy Shilstone, and it was unanimously approved.

A motion was made to approve up to \$10,000 to hire an architect to prepare drawings for residential elevator installations to improve access to upper floors. **Sandy Shilstone moved to approve the architect drawing up to \$10,000. The motion was seconded by Florence Jumonville, and it was unanimously approved.**

Becky Mackie reported that, due to turnover, the Irby Finance Committee approved issuing Irby credit cards to Deputy Asst. Secretary Cody Scallions and Facility Manager Noah Bennett.

Suzanne Perlis motioned to approve the issuance of the two credit cards to Noah Bennett and Cody Scallions. The motion was seconded by Sandy Shilstone, and it was unanimously approved.

Wendy Lodrig moved to amend the agenda to hear the Collections Committee report next. The motion was seconded by Sandy and approved unanimously. The motion was later struck because the Collections Committee meeting is scheduled for next week.

8. **Governance Committee** - Duncan Brown was unavailable, so Becky Mackie provided the report. The Governance Committee will meet prior to the next board meeting. At the last board meeting, questions arose regarding the nomination process for the vice chair position. It was clarified that the committee's process of receiving nominations and voting to present one nominee for a vacant officer position to the board is compliant with the bylaws and Robert's Rules of Order. Historically, all nominees were brought forward, but the committee may choose to bring forward one or more candidates. To address perceptions of inconsistency, Duncan will recommend that the Governance Committee bring forward both nominees for a popular vote at the next board meeting. A procedural policy document may be drafted to formalize the nomination and candidate selection process for both the committee and the board. The Governance Committee will meet on the 9th to prepare for the full board meeting on March 16, 2026.
9. **Education Committee** - Suzanne Perlis reported that, due to illness in her family, the committee meeting was postponed. The meeting is now scheduled for Thursday, and an update will be provided at the full board meeting.

10. **Collections Committee** – Florence Jumonville reported that the committee has not met since the last executive and board meetings. A meeting is scheduled for next week, after which a full report will be provided for the board meeting.
11. **Architectural Preservations** - Malcolm Hodnett was unavailable, and no report was given.
12. **Louisiana Civil Rights Museum Advisory Board** - Karl Connor was unable to attend. Becky Mackie reported that at the last meeting, the committee's focus was on the Capital Outlay funding in HB2. The advisory board remains focused on securing a location for the permanent museum at the power plant.
13. **Old Business** – There was no old business.
14. **New Business** - There was no new business.
15. **Adjourn** – meeting adjourn 1:01 pm.

Minutes Accepted



Sandra Shilstone, Secretary