

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE OF THE  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS, LOUISIANA STATE MUSEUM (LSM)  
NEW ORLEANS JAZZ MUSEUM AT THE OLD US MINT  
400 ESPLANADE AVENUE  
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2025  
11:00AM**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Suzanne Perlis,

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Bunnie Canon, Lisa Ballay, Nick Mueller,

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Wendy Lodrig.

**LSM STAFF PRESENT:** Becky Mackie, Chris Cook, Cody Scallions, Claire Mulhollem, Kathryn Trevino, Lisa McLendon, Nicole Coleman.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Kristin Shannon

A quorum was not present; therefore, only meeting notes were recorded.

1. **Call to Order** – Suzanne Perlis called the meeting to order at 11:03 am.
2. **Adoption of the Agenda** – **There was no quorum, so the agenda could not be adopted.**
3. **Adoption of the Minutes** – **There was no quorum, so the minutes could not be adopted.**
4. **Review Committee Charter** – **There was no quorum, so the Committee Charter could not be adopted.**

Committee members and staff introduced themselves, highlighting their backgrounds and roles within the museum community.

5. **Chairman's Report** – Suzanne Perlis reported, since the last meeting, she met with:
  - Jason Stroda and Tamara Carboni from Friends of The Cabildo – discussed the goals of the new committee, coordination with the Education Committee, and how to provide support.
  - Chris Cook – reviewed his goals for the museum and ways the committee can assist.

**Long-term goals discussed:**

- Provide special experiences for student field trips (e.g., activity stations throughout exhibits).
- Offer pre-visits for teachers prior to major exhibits.
- Support the museum's small staff in serving as a statewide hub for programming.
- Report projects to the board well in advance (up to two years) to allow time for sponsorships and board support.
- Explore sponsorships for ongoing programs (e.g., transportation funds for field trips) in addition to exhibit-specific sponsorships.
- Coordinate with other Friends groups (e.g., Friends of the Cabildo) to support existing initiatives and avoid duplication.

Lisa McLendon noted that during the opening of the renovated venue at the New Orleans Jazz Museum, Billy Nungesser mentioned that funds may already be allocated at the state level for transportation of school children.

Wendy Lodrig suggested exploring sponsorships or grants for field trip snacks, such as small bottles of water or nutritious bars, potentially provided by companies like Aldi, to give students a snack either during or after the field trip.

- 6. Director's Report** – Becky Mackie shared with the committee and staff to help prepare for potential questions a double-sided review document titled "Education Role", which AAM will use during the November site visit for re-accreditation. It was noted that other staff, such as Jen for website content, should also be involved in the preparation.

Becky Mackie highlighted that AAM will review the museum's website resources, and the committee aims to expand educational content that is accessible to educators, families, and students. The committee also discussed supporting fundraising initiatives through media-driven assets. In addition, AAM will observe a program, and Chris Cook noted that Creative Aging is restarting and could be showcased during the visit.

Becky Mackie also mentioned that AAM will also review the exhibit spaces, with the understanding that some areas, such as the Presbytere, may be closed and exhibits temporarily moved for fire suppression work. Travel logistics for the two-day visit may include a drive to Baton Rouge with stops in Patterson or Thibodeaux on the way back.

- 7. Capitol Park** – **Cody Scallions** provided an update on programming at Capital Park, noting that events are scheduled through January and include monthly Lunchtime Lanyard programs, Discovery Days, and school group visits. Attendance is strong, with 860 participants already booked for October, leaving only a few open days.

Cody Scallions highlighted areas where assistance is needed. While the Friends group at Capital Park is active and engaged, they have limited funding. Support is particularly needed for smaller events, such as providing honorariums for speakers to attract higher-end presenters for the Lunchtime Lanyard programs, which are moving toward a hybrid virtual and in-person format.

Cody Scallions emphasized the importance of outreach and engagement. The Friends group produces a newsletter, and Capital Park also distributes its own, which can be used to promote events and involve more participants. Programming information can be shared in advance to coordinate with the LSM board for targeted support.

The main needs identified are fundraising support for programming—enough to cover supplies, beverages, and other necessities—and assistance with outreach to increase participation and community engagement at Capital Park.

- 8. Presbytere** – Chris Cook provided a detailed update on ongoing and upcoming educational programs. The Creative Aging program is returning with another series starting on the 15th. This series introduces an optional payment model (“pay what you will”) to raise funds for future classes. Student work from the previous series is on display in the Cabildo to help promote upcoming classes. To date, the program has held eight or nine sessions over three years, with a cap of 25 students per class, reserving some seats for partners at PACE who bring seniors to participate.

Work has also begun on the Library of Congress project, aimed at building teacher resources on the museum’s website to support the permanent exhibit *People in Power*. A contractor has been hired to assist with this project, and the first report is due this week. Additionally, Claire won a mini grant to represent the museum at the National Council for the Social Studies convention in Washington, D.C., presenting a poster on these projects and beginning networking for wider distribution.

The Traveling Trunk program, in support of America 250, is being developed to include 20 batches of tactile items and reproductions from the Louisiana State Museum Collection and the Colonial Documents Collection, with accompanying teacher guides. Dr. Jessica Blake, an LSU professor and area expert, is reviewing the selection of materials. The trunks will be seeded in parish libraries statewide through a partnership with the Louisiana State Library, allowing teachers to pick them up locally and minimizing shipping costs. The trunks are planned to be uniform in content and will be repurposed at the end of the program.

Chris Cook also highlighted the creation of permanent in-gallery resource displays throughout the Presbytere, which provide worksheets, scavenger hunts, and activity guides for family visitors, supporting multiple grade levels without requiring teacher intervention. Usage is being tracked weekly to assess engagement.

Ongoing programming updates include botanical events, a virtual Second Thursday lecture series, and a recent roundtable at the Cabildo with representatives from several local museums to discuss collaboration and resource sharing. Field trip coordination is being refined to manage large groups in the Quarter’s historic spaces.

Looking ahead, proposals are in progress for the Galvez program, America 250’s America’s Field Trip, and the Traveling Trunks. Teacher training for the Traveling Trunks will occur in Baton Rouge in June 2026. Creative Aging funding is also being pursued, alongside the development of hybrid field trip presentations featuring teaching collections, including one on Katrina, which is pending renovations at the Presbyterian and STEM Gallery.

The committee continues to focus on expanding capacity via contractors, providing bespoke experiences at New Orleans sites, and increasing efficiency. Attendance trends for virtual programming show strong demand, with roughly equal participation from Louisiana residents and out-of-state registrants. Written materials for the Traveling Trunks will be multilingual, and program quality may vary depending on funding levels.

9. **Jazz Museum** – Lisa McLendon attending their first meeting, provided an overview of the museum’s educational and cultural programming. They described several ongoing programs, including Little Stompers, a six-week program for young children affiliated with the Second Line Collective, and a toddler-focused program that did not continue due to the need for interactive play.

International programming includes collaborations with Trempo and Jerome Basard, bringing European and French brass band musicians to New Orleans for cultural and musical exchanges, culminating in a Tuesday balcony show and seminars. Additional programming includes music camps, lectures, and field trips, often coordinated with other museum staff and partners.

Field trips largely serve students from out-of-town, with transportation supported by Title 1 funds. Depending on timing, students may eat on the museum grounds or nearby locations. Lisa McLendon highlighted interactive lectures with the archivist on French colonial documents, allowing students to view historical maps in small groups.

Special events include the River Festival, with children’s activities coordinated with the Louisiana Agricultural Center and other partners. Photography programs such as NOLA Through My Eyes teach students photography while exploring New Orleans culture, social groups, and architecture, often involving college students from Tulane and LSU.

Lisa McLendon emphasized collaboration with the Friends of the Cabildo, WWOZ, and the Louis Armstrong Foundation, with a focus on music and the city’s cultural heritage.

Wendy Lodrig asked for clarification on the museum’s funding, including what comes from the state, Irby, and foundations, and where gaps exist. The goal is for the board to understand financial needs and how to support programs strategically, without relying on individuals to cover costs.

Becky Mackie explained that the man-hours for educational programming are not covered by the state budget. The Jazz Museum relies on part-time contractors funded through grants to help execute programs. All programs are supported by private funding, grants, sponsorships, or public-private partnerships, rather than state dollars. Becky also mentioned that the staff is working to expand support for programs like Creative Aging. They are creating digital and printing materials to provide resources for fundraising and outreach.

Kristin Shannon explained that donations for educational programs are processed through the foundation into donor-advised funds. The foundation also helps with grant applications for the museum’s numerous programs. Unlike other support organizations, Friends of the Cabildo (FOC) can retain revenue from programs they charge for, while still supporting the museum’s mission through their CEA with the state.

Becky Mackie explained that the goal is to help friends groups, like FOC, grow their revenue so they can increase annual support for museum programs. Currently, FOC contributes around \$35,000 for various expenses, such as transporting exhibits, funding educational programs, or acquiring artifacts.

By expanding revenue sources, such as operating the museum ticketing center, FOC could potentially increase contributions to \$60,000 next year. All donations are tracked through fund accounting (e.g., Fund 455) and are used to directly cover program expenses, such as supplies for classes.

Wendy Lodrig emphasized that the committee is still in early stages and discussed evolving its purpose beyond reporting, with initial meetings focused on learning about ongoing activities.

Suzanne Perlis suggested rotating Friends group representatives into meetings to avoid overly long sessions.

Becky Mackie proposed using local representatives first (e.g., Baton Rouge educators and Friends group) to establish a process and set goals for these sessions before inviting more distant museums. This approach considers small teams at some sites and logistical constraints.

Wendy Lodrig noted the importance of balancing participation with board members' workloads and suggested integrating occasional committee sessions with full board meetings to reduce travel and time burdens. The discussion highlighted the goal of learning about activities to effectively report back to the board without duplicating efforts.

Lisa McLendon suggested exploring potential funding from a Library of Congress commission that supports historical and art museums. They will follow up via email with the relevant details.

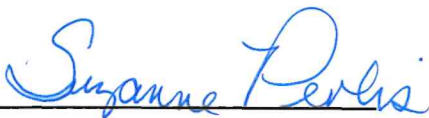
Chris Cook shared excitement about a grant from the Library of Congress, which connects them to the Teaching from Primary Sources network. The grant is administered through Middle Tennessee State University and is expected to be a potential recurring source of funding.

**10. Old Business – There was no old business.**

**11. New Business – There was no new business.**

**12. Adjourn - Meeting adjourned at 12:22 PM.**

**Minutes Accepted**



**Suzanne Perlis, Chair**