

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE LOUISIANA STATE MUSEUM (LSM)
THE CABILDO
701 CHARTRES ST. NEW ORLEANS, LA. 70116
THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 2026
11:30 AM**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Darryl Gissel, Florence Jumonville, Karl Connor, Sandy Shilstone, Wendy Lodrig.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: R. Duncan Brown, Malcolm Hodnett, Suzanne Perlis.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: NONE

LSM STAFF PRESENT: Becky Mackie, Blaze D'Amico, Amanda Smith, Jeff Anding, Nicole Coleman.

OTHERS PRESENT: NONE

A quorum was present.

1. **Call to Order** – Wendy Lodrig called the meeting to order at 11:41 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 February 26, 2026 Meeting-** Darryl Gissel motioned to adopt the minutes. **The motion was seconded by Florence Jumonville and passed unanimously.**
4. **Public Comments** – NONE
5. **Chairman's Report** - Wendy Lodrig gave a brief Chairman's Report. She shared that she and Ben DuPuy were asked by the Legislative Auditor to review and comment again on findings from the 2021 and 2023 Legislative Audits.

She confirmed that selecting candidates for the director position and hiring a permanent director have been implemented, while governance structure is in progress with the establishment of a permanent board committee. The final recommendation, improving the relationship between OSM and LSM Board, is also in progress.

6. **Director's Report** - Becky Mackie provided updates on staffing, operations, governance, and legislation. She announced two new part-time receptionists to ensure weekday phone coverage and reduce the burden on other staff. With property management functions for the Lower Pontalba now under contract, job duties for the remaining functions that are retained by museum staff are being reassigned. Business Office functions have shifted to staff working out of the Capitol Park Museum location in Baton Rouge. Amanda Smith is recruiting for an accountant given Damond Francois' retirement. Cross-training staff for the various accounting functions is underway.

The AAM tabled their decision on reaccreditation and provided comments for the museum to respond to by August 2026. A determination will be made at their 2027 meeting based on updates they receive from us this August and in July of 2027. The museum remains accredited during the tabling period.

A brief legislative update was provided on HB 368, during which historic structures were discussed.

- 7. Irby/Finance** – Darryl Gissel reported positive progress following a meeting with the management team. He shared that rental activity has increased, with units actively being shown and potential tenants showing interest. He also mentioned efforts to address prior challenges, including exploring window configurations along Decatur Street to help reduce noise.

The group confirmed that the elevator project has been withdrawn for now, with no action required from Irby.

Wendy Lodrig emphasized the need to stay ahead of the Irby budget submission timeline, ensuring it is reviewed and approved before June 30, 2026.

- 8. Governance Committee** - Wendy Lodrig provided a governance update, noting that nominations have been requested for both the secretary and treasurer positions. She explained that Daryl, who previously filled a partial term as treasurer, is now eligible for nomination to serve a full two-year term, while the secretary position is currently vacant. She also welcomed Sandy Shilstone as the new vice chair.
- 9. Education Committee** - It was noted that the Education Committee, led by Suzanne Perlis, has no updates at this time, as they have not recently met. Their next meeting is scheduled for the following week.
- 10. Collections Committee** – Florence Jumonville provided a brief Collections Committee update. The committee approved new acquisitions for the permanent collection, re-acquisitioned items previously thought lost in the 1988 Cabildo fire, and deaccessioned items unrelated to Louisiana history. Conservation was completed on the King’s Velvet Coat with Louisiana Museum Foundation funding. A Preservation Hall painting loan to the Ogden Museum was also noted. A policy change was presented that would allow items found in the collection to go directly into the Permanent Collection rather than through the Demonstration Collection first.

Florence Jumonville motioned to add to Section K of the Collections Management Manual, following the explanation on researching items prior to deciding to retain or dispose of them per policy, “Found in Collections objects will be removed from the collections following procedures for deaccessioning. The Collections Committee will vote to recommend to the Board of Directors permanent accession or removal of Found in Collection items based on their appropriateness to the collections. Ratification by the Board is necessary for final disposition.” The motion was seconded by Sandy Shilstone and passed unanimously.

- 11. Architectural Preservations** – No report.
- 12. Louisiana Civil Rights Museum Advisory Board** - Karl Connor provided an update on coordination with state Facility Planning & Control to clarify site control options, including leases versus ownership. Board chair Sidney Barthelemy has engaged the Senate president to prioritize LSM funding and support a permanent site acquisition strategy. Senator Duplessis is following up with state officials to clarify next steps.

The short film for the Charles Page exhibit is in final production. A national group that visits civil rights museums will tour the inaugural exhibit on April 15, and a board or Friends representative will

speak to them. Ongoing wellness programs and fundraising efforts continue to support long-term sustainability.

- 13. Old Business** – The Galvez exhibit, and the delayed in transportation of significant paintings from the national museum in Mexico was noted. The staff were recognized for this high quality exhibit that includes Louisianas America 250 story.


Following a visit to the Jazz Museum during one of the Civil Rights Advisory Board meetings, the Director established a short-term residency at the Cabildo with the operator of Calas Café, a food vendor with relevant content. The vendor has successfully engaged tour groups, and there are plans to incorporate the operation into student field trips.

In connection with Calas Café, Sidney Barthelemy, chair of the Civil Rights Museum board, expressed strong interest in a future exhibit exploring the history of the cala. He shared personal recollections from his grandmother and others about selling Calas products to improve their livelihoods.

- 14. New Business** - There was no new business.

- 15. Adjourn** – meeting adjourn 12:54pm.

Minutes Accepted



Sandra Shilstone, Secretary