

**THE LOUISIANA CIVIL RIGHTS MUSEUM ADVISORY BOARD
NEW ORLEANS JAZZ MUSEUM
400 ESPLANADE AVE. NEW ORLEANS, LA. 70116
TUESDAY, APRIL 14, 2026
1:00 PM**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Sidney Barthelemy, Ernest Jones, Karl Connor, Thelma French, Priscilla Edwards, Paula Peer.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Madlyn Bagneris, Roland Belsome, Harry Rosenthal, Ed Ward, Tyler Bruno, Reginald Owens, Loyce Wright, Emmanuel Smith, Dr. Terrance Vinson, Wanda Davis, Senator Royce Duplessis, Brenda Williams.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

LSM STAFF PRESENT: Rebecca Mackie, Blaze D’Amico, Chris Cook, Jeff Anding, Nicole Coleman.

ALSO PRESENT:

A quorum of the Executive Committee was present.

1. **Call to Order** – Sidney Barthelemy called the meeting to order at 1:15 p.m.
2. **Adoption of the Agenda** – Karl Connor motioned to adopt the agenda. The motion was seconded by Ernest Jones, and it was unanimously approved.
3. **Public Comments** – There were no comments from the public.
4. **Adoption of minutes** – Thelma French motioned to adopt the meeting notes from February 10, 2026. The motion was seconded by Karl Connor, and it was unanimously approved.
5. **Chairman’s Report** – Sidney Barthelemy called the meeting to order, with Nicole Coleman being asked to conduct roll call and confirm a quorum. It was noted that, although a quorum was not present for the full board, per Section 4 of the bylaws, the Executive Committee shall have full authority to act for the Advisory Board at any scheduled meeting of the Advisory Board at which a quorum is not present, and a majority of the Executive Committee members were present.

Sidney Barthelemy emphasized that the Louisiana Civil Rights Museum is gaining momentum but must now focus on execution, with priority on securing site control for a permanent home.

The Market Street Power Plant continues to be explored as the museum’s permanent home, while alternative options or a property swap are also being considered. Securing site control is critical to unlocking pledged and matching funds.

At the same time, the museum is strengthening operations and public engagement by reactivating the docent program and expanding programming—particularly during Essence Festival through free admission, partnerships, and targeted events. Marketing efforts, including a new brochure, are being refined with board input.

The museum is also working to enhance its historical narrative by expanding coverage of key civil rights figures and building partnerships to support research, education, and content development.

6. **Director's Report** – Becky Mackie reported that the museum's AAM reaccreditation was tabled by AAM for one year. During the tabled period, the museum will provide additional information and clarification to the AAM. The tabling process is common and approximately one-third of all applicants go through this process.

A potential alternative meeting location was suggested for the next meeting scheduled June 9, 2026 at the Lieutenant Governor's office on Causeway, which offers ample parking and could improve accessibility.

7. **Bylaws/Committee/Members/Officers** – Ernest Jones discussed governance improvements, including clarifying bylaws, quorum definitions, and board membership. With 18 active members (out of 23 allowed), quorum is based on a majority of appointed members, though recent meetings have relied on executive committee participation.

He also supported creating a digital board binder with bylaws, legislative excerpts, and member information to improve onboarding and engagement. Additionally, the board considered holding meetings at more accessible locations, such as the lieutenant governor's offices, to increase attendance and participation while the Jazz Museum is under renovation.

8. **Content Committee Report** – No report was given.

9. **Friends of the Louisiana Civil Rights Museum Report**- No report was given.

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

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

12. **Adjourn** –The meeting was adjourned at 2:50 p.m.

Minutes Accepted

Wanda Davis, Secretary