

**THE LOUISIANA CIVIL RIGHTS MUSEUM ADVISORY BOARD
NEW ORLEANS JAZZ MUSEUM
400 ESPLANADE AVE. NEW ORLEANS, LA. 70116
TUESDAY, JUNE 09, 2026
1:00 PM**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Blake Jones, Ernest Jones, Karl Connor, Madlyn Bagneris, Thelma French, Priscilla Edwards, Paula Peer, Brenda Williams, Loyce Pierce Wright.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Sidney Barthelemy, Roland Belsome, Harry Rosenthal, Ed Ward, Tyler Bruno, Reginald Owens, Emmanuel Smith, Dr. Terrance Vinson, Wanda Davis, Senator Royce Duplessis.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Wendy Lodrig

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

ALSO PRESENT:

A quorum of the Executive Committee was present.

1. **Call to Order** –Vice Chair Ernest Jones called the meeting to order in Chairman Sidney Barthelemy's absence and asked Nicole Coleman to conduct the roll call. Although a full board quorum was not present, it was noted that, pursuant to Section 4 of the bylaws, a majority of the Executive Committee was present, allowing the meeting to proceed as an Executive Committee meeting. Ernest Jones requested that the minutes reflect that all actions taken were under the Executive Committee's authority.

Madelyn Bagneris expressed concern about the attendance of some Advisory Board members and suggested confirming whether members who have not been regularly attending meetings wish to continue serving on the board. She recommended following up with those members regarding their continued interest and commitment.

2. **Adoption of the Agenda** – Madlyn Bagneris motioned to adopt the agenda. The motion was seconded by Thelma French, and it was unanimously approved.
3. **Public Comments** – There were no comments from the public.
4. **Adoption of minutes** – Madlyn Bagneris motioned to adopt the meeting notes from February 10, 2026. The motion was seconded by Thelma French, and unanimously approved.
5. **Chairman's Report** – Ernest Jones emphasized that the Louisiana Civil Rights Museum continues to build momentum but must remain focused on execution, sustainability, and securing a permanent home. He noted that obtaining site control remains the museum's highest priority because it is essential to unlocking future capital funding, philanthropic support, and long-term operational stability.

Ernest also highlighted the continued support of legislative partners and encouraged Advisory Board members to use their relationships with legislators and community leaders to advocate for the museum. He stressed the importance of securing additional public funding and maintaining

awareness of the museum's mission, noting that continued advocacy will be critical to advancing the permanent museum project.

During discussion of the Chairman's report, Becky Mackie provided an update on the museum's capital outlay request, explaining that \$25 million in Priority 5 funding is in HB2, with only \$49,000 of Priority 1 funds. She noted that additional Priority 1 funding is more than likely contingent upon site control in the next fiscal year. Becky also clarified that the museum's operating expenses continue to be funded through the Louisiana State Museum's general operating budget, which was not increased when daily operations commenced 2 and a half years ago.

Ernest Jones reminded members about the McCrory's historical marker dedication scheduled for later that afternoon and asked staff to clarify transportation arrangements for those wishing to attend. He noted the historical significance of the McCrory's sit-in, where Rudy Lombard, Cecil Carter, Lanny Goldfinch, and Oretha Castle Haley were arrested, leading to the landmark *Lombard v. Louisiana* decision that helped end segregation practices in New Orleans. He expressed appreciation for the installation of the historical marker recognizing the site's importance.

6. **Director's Report** – Becky Mackie announced that transportation would be provided to the McCrory's historical marker dedication, with state vehicles departing at 2:30 p.m. for the 3:00 p.m. ceremony.

In her report, Becky noted that the Lieutenant Governor approved the museum's capital outlay request and reaffirmed her willingness to assist in identifying potential permanent museum sites.

Becky also outlined plans for the ESSENCE Festival, announcing free admission to the Louisiana Civil Rights Museum. Planned activities include the America 250 Travel Trunk, display of the 1864 Emancipation Quill, and efforts to activate Calas Café through tastings and interpretation of the traditional New Orleans food. She explained that these initiatives are intended to enhance visitor engagement, highlight Louisiana's diverse history, and encourage more visitors to experience the museum's civil rights exhibits.

Chris Cook reported that the America 250 Travel Trunks were designed to represent the diversity of Spanish Colonial Louisiana through carefully selected reproduction artifacts that serve as entry points for telling multiple historical stories. He highlighted items such as an 18th-century sewing kit, which is used to share the story of Agnes Mathieu, an enslaved seamstress who earned enough money through her work to purchase her freedom, demonstrating how the trunks support engaging educational programming for both students and adults.

Ernest Jones commended staff for developing inclusive educational programming that reflects the diverse history of Louisiana and aligns with the Advisory Board's vision for the museum. He also emphasized that the current exhibition at the Convention Center represents only a portion of the museum's broader mission and should not be viewed as the permanent Louisiana Civil Rights Museum. Ernest stressed the importance of continuing to pursue a permanent museum facility that can fully present the comprehensive historical context and inclusive vision originally envisioned.

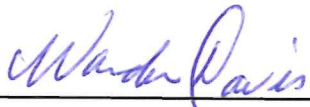
7. **Bylaws/Committee/Members/Officers** – Ernest Jones emphasized that all Advisory Board members should receive a personal copy of the board bylaws for reference. He asked staff to circulate a sign-in sheet to collect current email addresses so the bylaws could be distributed electronically and members could review them and provide recommendations for future amendments.

8. **Content Committee Report** – Loyce Pierce Wright requested that the Content Committee receive more information on proposed educational initiatives and interpretive materials. She noted that the committee would provide a full report on its review at the next Advisory Board meeting.
9. **Friends of the Louisiana Civil Rights Museum Report-** Madelyn Bagneris reported that the Friends group has continued meeting regularly to advance efforts to secure a permanent site for the Louisiana Civil Rights Museum. She noted that members have been actively exploring potential properties, including discussions with the owners of the Market Street Power Plant and reviewing state-owned properties that might be suitable for a property exchange.

Madelyn emphasized that securing a permanent site remains the organization's highest priority, explaining that an established location is essential to launching a capital campaign, expanding membership, and attracting donor support. She stressed that, despite the challenges, the Friends group continues to actively pursue opportunities that will move the museum project forward.

10. **Old Business** – There was no old business.
11. **New Business** – There was no new business.
12. **Adjourn** –The meeting was adjourned at 2:31 p.m.

Minutes Accepted



Wanda Davis, Secretary