

**THE LOUISIANA CIVIL RIGHTS MUSEUM ADVISORY BOARD
NEW ORLEANS JAZZ MUSEUM
400 ESPLANADE AVE. NEW ORLEANS, LA. 70116
TUESDAY, AUGUST 11, 2026**

1:00 PM

MEMBERS PRESENT: Blake Jones, Ernest Jones, Karl Connor, Priscilla Edwards, Paula Peer, Sidney Barthelemy, Loyce Pierce Wright.

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

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

LSM STAFF PRESENT: Rebecca Mackie, Blaze D'Amico, Cody Scallions, 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 1:19 p.m.
2. **Adoption of the Agenda** – Loyce Pierce Wright motioned to adopt the agenda. The motion was seconded by Karl Connor, and it was unanimously approved.
3. **Public Comments** – There were no comments from the public.
4. **Adoption of minutes** – Karl Connor motioned to adopt the meeting notes from June 9, 2026. The motion was seconded by Blake Jones, and it was unanimously approved.
5. **Chairman's Report** – Sidney Barthelemy reported that the International Association of Official Human Rights Agencies would hold its 77th Annual Conference in New Orleans from August 16–20, 2026. Approximately 100–150 attendees were expected to participate in a civil rights tour on August 18, concluding with a visit to the Louisiana Civil Rights Museum. He emphasized that the visit would provide an opportunity to showcase Louisiana's civil rights history and build relationships with human and civil rights organizations from across the country.

Jeff Anding provided an update on preparations for the visit, including coordination with the Convention Center. Staff plan to use the Riverside Room for educational presentations and refreshments. Funding for refreshments would be provided through the Louisiana Museum Foundation.

6. **Director's Report** – Becky Mackie presented a LCRM visitor attendance report comparing current-year attendance with the prior year, noting that attendance remained relatively flat year-over-year and pointed out the decrease which was attributable to the museum's temporary closure during Convention Center renovations.

Mackie also reported that the museum was awarded an Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) grant of approximately \$99,800 over two years to support educational programming, including virtual tours, video content, hands-on activities, and classroom materials. Approximately \$10,000 in matching funds will need to be raised, and Board members were encouraged to assist in identifying potential sponsors and donors.

Mackie noted that Board training and certificate completion will continue to be monitored and reported at future meetings. She also noted that updated Board binders were distributed to members at this meeting with updated Board rosters and other relevant information. Members who were not present will receive their binders at the next meeting.

7. **Bylaws/Committee/Members/Officers** – Ernest Jones discussed Board member attendance and quorum, noting that although the board was achieving a quorum by virtue of its Executive Committee being present at most meetings, the bylaws contain provisions addressing attendance, notification, and removal for noncompliance. He encouraged the Board to enforce the existing attendance requirements and utilize staff attendance records to address recurring issues.

Ernest Jones moved to enforce the existing Board attendance requirements outlined in the bylaws, including the applicable provisions regarding notice and removal for noncompliance. The motion was seconded by Karl Connor and passed unanimously.

Sidney Barthelemy requested that the Board attendance requirements outlined in the bylaws be highlighted as a reminder of each member's responsibility to make every effort to attend meetings and support the Board's ability to conduct business.

Loyce Pierce Wright recommended that formal correspondence regarding attendance requirements be sent jointly by the Board Chair and Bylaws Committee Chair. Karl Connor also encouraged filling existing Board vacancies with individuals who are committed to regular participation and possess expertise that would benefit the Board. He recommended that attendance concerns be addressed in a firm but considerate manner, recognizing the past participation of members who travel significant distances to attend meetings.

8. **Content Committee Report** – Loyce Pierce Wright reported that the Content Committee had no formal report. She raised concerns regarding the historical information presented on the Louisiana Civil Rights Museum's website, noting that the narrative should accurately reflect the museum's establishment through legislation authored by Senator Diana Bajoie before discussing the development of the Louisiana Civil Rights Trail and inaugural museum experience.

Wright also recommended that the website include the Louisiana Civil Rights Museum Advisory Board members to ensure that the museum's history and leadership are properly documented. Staff agreed to review the website content and make appropriate updates.

Sidney Barthelemy agreed with Loyce Wright and emphasized the importance of recognizing the legislation that established the Louisiana Civil Rights Museum, noting that its creation involved the Louisiana Legislature and was not solely an initiative of the Lieutenant Governor. He stated that accurately documenting the museum's legislative history strengthens the case for continued support and development of a permanent facility.

9. **Friends of the Louisiana Civil Rights Museum Report-** In the absence of Madelyn Bagneris, Ernest Jones reported that his most recent discussion with her concerned identifying potential sponsorships for the upcoming civil and human rights organization visit. He noted that several potential sponsors had been identified and outreach had begun.

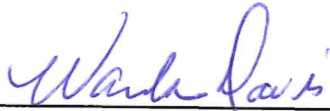
Sidney Barthelemy stated that he would follow up with Bagneris to determine whether there were any additional updates from the Friends of the Louisiana Civil Rights Museum to share with the Board.

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

11. **New Business** – Blake Jones announced the upcoming Shiloh Gardens Academy ribbon-cutting ceremony, scheduled for Thursday, August 20 at 10:00 a.m. at 533 St. Maurice Avenue. He noted that the new facility in the Lower Ninth Ward will serve approximately 50 pre-K students and shared that the project has been in development for several years.

12. **Adjourn** –The meeting was adjourned at 2:16 p.m.

Minutes Accepted



Wanda Davis, Secretary