

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE LOSUISIANA STATE MUSEUM
MONDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2022
10:30 AM**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Tiffany Adler, Jay Batt, Madlyn Bagneris, Lloyd Bourgeois, Ruth Burke, Thelma French, Julio Guichard, Malcolm Hodnett, Fairleigh Jackson, Florence Jumonville, Brian King, Wendy Lodrig, Ken Pickering, Melissa Steiner, Suzie Terrell and Christopher Tidmore.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Phillip Albert, Ro Brown, Storey Charbonnet and Suzanne Perlis.

LSM STAFF PRESENT: Anna Cahill, Damond Francois, Rodneya Hart, Angelena Jones, Greg Lambousy, Michael Leathem, Dariane Lewis, Susan Maclay Michael McKnight and Yvonne Mack.

A quorum was present.

I. Call to order

Suzie Terrell called the meeting to order at 10:35 a.m.

II. Adoption of the Agenda

Suzie Terrell asked for a motion to adopt the agenda with changes to the order of the items. To move item XI New Orleans Jazz Museum Improvisation Gala Report under the Architectural Committee report. Melissa Steiner seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

III. Adoption of the Minutes

Suzie Terrell made a motion to adopt the minutes from the Board of Directors of the Louisiana State Museum September 12, 2022 meeting. Wendy Lodrig seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

IV. LSM Interim Director's Report

Susan Maclay shared a PowerPoint presentation with the board where she discussed possibly bringing back the Sala Capitular in the Cabildo, progress at Madame Johns Legacy, future plans for the New Orleans Jazz Museum, a study trip to France involving a trip to the Pontalba chateau, and the eventual plan to turn the 1850 House Museum into the Museum of the Baroness de Pontalba.

V. Chairman's Report

a. Process for adding Items to the Agenda – Suzie Terrell asked members if they wanted to add an item to the agenda to please submit it in writing.

b. Consideration of changing the time for LSM board meetings – Suzie Terrell polled the members about continuing the 10:30 a.m. meeting times or going back to the 12-noon meeting time. There seemed to be a consensus to the keep the meetings at 10:30 a.m.

c. Calendar of Events – Suzie Terrell reported that Susan Maclay would come up with a plan to distribute a calendar of events to all board members.

d. Thank you to retiring Board Members – Suzie Terrell thanked Fairleigh Jackson and Melissa Steiner for their service on the board. Each member stood and gave departing remarks.

I. Irby/Finance Committee Report

a. Update and Motion – 517 St. Ann St. lease application – Award to Ma Sherie Amore – Wendy Lodrig asked for a motion to accept the lease application. Thelma French moved and Brian King seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

b. Update and Motion - 507 St. Ann St. lease - new timeline – Wendy Lodrig asked for a motion to start the application process again with a new timeline. Melissa Steiner moved and Malcolm Hodnett seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

c. Update - Pro-Image Sports notification (exercise 1st option to extend lease 4 years)

d. Update - 511 St. Ann St., 2nd floor - Tenant notification - vacating apartment December 2022.

Update - 527 St. Ann St., 3rd floor - Tenant notification - vacating apartment December 2022.

e. Update and Motion - 519 St. Ann St., 2nd floor Tenant is requesting work be done on the HVAC system, a new wall put in and the kitchen floor polished which will cost about \$5,200. Wendy Lodrig asked for a motion to accept the updates. Thelma French moved and Madlyn Bagneris seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

f. Update and Motion - 811 Decatur St., 2nd floor Tenant requested to paint his living room due to damages by Hurricane Ida. Wendy Lodrig asked for a motion to paint the living room. Melissa Steiner moved and Ruth Burke seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

g. Update and Motion - Approval of \$13,700 in expenses to be used on six vacant apartments – Wendy Lodrig asked for a motion to accept the proposal to repair the six vacant apartments. Melissa Steiner moved and Malcolm Hodnett seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

h. Update and Motion – Approval of EDA matching grant to Jazz Museum – Wendy Lodrig asked for a motion to approve the \$181,323.23 matching funds for the EDA grant. Thelma French moved and noted that the funds are restricted. Ruth Burke seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Wendy Lodrig requested an agenda item to be added to get an update from Greg Lambousy on the EDA grant

i. Update on request – Stanley’s and Monty’s – The AG's office has provided guidance on the proper way to extend these leases. Wendy Lodrig asked for a motion to extend the lease for Stanley’s and Monty’s but to also review the process regarding this matter. Melissa Steiner moved and Ruth Burke seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

VI. Louisiana Civil Rights Museum Advisory Board – Madlyn Bagneris reported that the Louisiana Civil Rights Museum will be opening in July 2023 at the New Orleans Ernest N. Morial Convention Center at 900 Convention Center Blvd, Hall A.3

VII. Governance Report – Ruth Burke reported that the committee had met and hoped to have recommendations to present at the next board meeting.

VIII. Collections Committee – Fairleigh Jackson presented a PowerPoint to the board showing items to be deaccessioned, accessioned and loaned. Regarding deaccessions she explained there were 50 items in A1 and 29 items in A2, most items are for sale at auction. Fairleigh Jackson asked for a motion to accept the deaccessioning of the proposed items. Madlyn Bagneris moved and Ruth Burke seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Fairleigh Jackson asked for a motion to transfer 49 items to the Demonstration collection. Motion made by Christopher Tidmore and Florence Jumonville seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Fairleigh Jackson asked for a motion to remove three items from the Demonstration Collection . Christopher Tidmore moved and Florence Jumonville seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Fairleigh Jackson asked for a motion to approve the loan of the four items Christopher Tidmore moved and Florence Jumonville seconded. Motion passed unanimously

IX. Capitol Park and Regional Museums Report – Rodneya Hart reported that she had hired new staff members which included a curator, educator and a maintenance person. In February 2023 Ms. Hart mentioned that they will have a 225 (Baton Rouge area code) Day. She is also working on increasing the HBCU representation in Baton Rouge.

X. Architectural Preservation Committee Report

a. Madame John’s Legacy Update – Suzie Terrell read the following statement then gave the floor to Mr. Hodnett:

For the past several months, this Board and the Architectural Committee has had Madame John’s Legacy on its agenda.

It appears from all the noise going on that some do not realize that this board takes very seriously its responsibility to preserve the gems that are under our charge. A legacy is something that is passed down from one period of time to another period of time and the board of the Louisiana State Museum and the Lt, Governor are quite aware of the historical importance in preserving the legacy of Madame John’s as well as the other items in our collection.

This is not a “them” v. “them” or an “us” v. “them” – there should be one “us” “because everyone has good intentions and wants to see Madame John’s restored and opened to the public. It is an important institution for our state. But, the acrimony must stop, because we should all be working towards what is best for the restoration and renovation of Madame John’s. I have heard remarks about people and their motives or their qualifications or their ability and this should not be about specific personalities – some of what has been said to me and other members of this board has been downright slanderous and totally inappropriate.

I am asking that all of this bitterness end and remind you that we are all professionals here and that this board is voluntary with an important job to do and we will keep our charge to secure and preserve the architecture and artifacts of the state of Louisiana.

Malcolm Hodnett made a motion that the W.R. Irby Trust provide up to \$50,000 to hire a consultant to assess the situation at Madame John’s Legacy through the following resolution, which he read in full:

Whereas, per LA R.S. 25: 342 various responsibilities are assigned to the Office of State Museum/Louisiana State Museum (LSM) and the LSM Board of Directors, including the responsibility to provide various approvals and/or advisement on matters pertinent to the collections and buildings under the management of the OSM; and

Whereas, the Architectural Preservation Committee of the LSM Board of Directors is tasked with reviewing and advising on matters pertinent to the historic structures under the care of the LSM for the purpose of reporting and/or making recommendations to the LSM Board; and

Whereas, the work taking place at Madame John's Legacy, a property of the LSM, has become mired in controversy with opposing views over the direction of that work such that it has become infeasible for the Architectural Preservation Committee to present a fully informed recommendation to the Board regarding a course of action on the work; and

Whereas, it is in the best interest of the LSM board and public to enable the Architectural Preservation Committee to make a more fully informed recommendation to the board, with the goal of facilitating the movement of the work for the long-term structural viability of Madame John's Legacy and to see the work completed so that the building can be reopened as a museum and facility-use property, it has been determined that an unbiased, outside professional in historic preservation, with experience in historic museum properties, be engaged to provide a review, assessment and advisement to the Architectural Preservation Committee in a timely manner, for the Committee to present an informed recommendation to the board; and

Whereas, as part of the process of identifying and engaging an outside, unbiased qualified professional, it is noted that the committee will seek such an expert as frugally and prudently as possible and also wants it noted that this request should not be deemed as setting a precedent, but is being requested solely due to extraordinarily unusual circumstances; therefore,

Be it so moved that the Board approve committing up to \$50,000 from the W.R. Irby Trust for the purposes and associated costs of engaging an outside, unbiased architectural preservation professional with experience in historic museum properties to evaluate the validity of the various positions pertinent to the work at Madame John's Legacy; to advise the Board Architectural Preservation Committee on the pros and cons of the various opinions and recommended courses of action, and to assist the Committee in reaching an informed opinion to recommend to the board a position that will truly be in the best interest of: a) the long term viability of Madame John's Legacy as a historically significant property, b) its use as a museum for the edification and education of the public, c) its use as a tourist attraction, and d) its use as a revenue generator for the benefit of the Louisiana State Museum, all points of which are stated purposes of the mission of the LSM and the Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism in which the LSM is a part.

At this time Ms. Terrell opened the floor for public comments. Discussion ensued.

The motion was seconded by Ruth Burke seconded and was unanimously approved.

- XI. New Orleans Jazz Museum Improvisations Gala Fundraising Report** – Greg Lambousy reported that the Improvisation Gala was a success. Ticket sales were \$60K and in all the event raised over \$400K.

XII. Old Business – There was no old business.

XIII. New Business – Suzie Terrell informed the Board members that they would be receiving a travel survey so that a visit to the regional museums could be scheduled. Suzie Terrell informed the board that amendments to the bylaws would be presented at the next board meeting.

Christopher Tidmore mentioned that he witnessed something heroic and wanted to be sure it was documented for the record in the minutes. He continued by saying he witnessed Officer Angelo Smith save a man's life. The gentleman appeared to have overdosed and Officer Smith's quick reaction to the situation saved the man's life.

XIV. Adjournment – Madlyn Bagneris motioned to adjourn the meeting. Melissa Steiner seconded the motion and the meeting adjourned at 12:42 pm.