

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE LOUISIANA STATE MUSEUM
NEW ORLEANS JAZZ MUSEUM at THE OLD U.S. MINT
400 ESPLANADE AVENUE
MONDAY, MARCH 13, 2023
10:30 A.M.**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Tiffany Adler, Phillip Albert, Jay Batt, Madlyn Bagneris, Ro Brown, Ruth Burke, Ben Dupuy, Julio Guichard, Malcolm Hodnett, Florence Jumonville, Wendy Lodrig, Suzanne Perlis, Ken Pickering, Sandy Shilstone, Suzie Terrell and Christopher Tidmore

MEMBER ABSENT: Lloyd Bourgeois. Thelma French, Brian King,

LSM STAFF PRESENT: Patrick Burns, Damond Francois, Rodneya Hart, Angelena Jones, Greg Lambousy, Yvonne Mack, Michael McKnight, Susan Maclay, Steven Maklansky and Tom Strider

OFFICE OF THE LT. GOVERNOR: Julia George Moore

A quorum was present. Executive action was taken.

I. Call to Order

Suzie Terrell called the meeting to order at 10:37 a.m.

II. Adoption of the Agenda

Suzie Terrell asked for a motion to adopt the agenda. Jay Batt seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

III. Adoption of the Minutes from the January 23, 2023 Meeting

Suzie Terrell asked for a motion to adopt the minutes from the January 23, 2023 meeting of the Board of Directors of the Louisiana State Museum. Ruth Burke motioned to adopt the minutes from the January 23 meeting with one change under section V. Governance Committee. She would like the motion to read as **it was moved by Ruth Burke and seconded by Christopher Tidmore to support the concept of merging with the Secretary of State's museums and to make changes to the governance structure as needed. It was moved by Ruth Burke with the change and seconded by Christopher Tidmore. The motion passed unanimously.**

- V. LSM Interim Director's Report:** Susan Maclay reported that the issues at Madame Johns Legacy and coordinating with the preservation consultant who had been engaged to review all of the issues with the work and to advise the Architecture Preservation Committee had consumed a great deal of staff time and attention and that Steven Maklansky had been instrumental in assisting her with this and she publicly acknowledged his role. She then reported that the performance audit was issued this morning and that the report would be emailed to the board members. She noted that the main findings are attributable to staffing levels being reduced by nearly half over what they had once been, that the budget has been flat for several years and that despite this, we are responsible for more properties. She noted that on the 16th, she and Julio Guichard would be meeting with the Secretary of State regarding the proposed governance changes and the proposed merger of the two museum systems.

V. **Chairman's Report**

Suzie Terrell reported due to a finding in the Legislative Audit report about the lack of a permanent Museum Director a committee was formed to submit a list of three (3) candidates to the Lt. Governor. Jay Batt is the Chair of the committee. She also reported that Ro Brown has offered the Board members to tour the Sports Hall of Fame museum in the near future. Dates will be discussed and the tour will be planned.

Vi. **Architectural Preservation Committee:**

Malcolm Hodnett reported that Larry Wilson of MCWB Architects submitted his final report on Madame Johns Legacy to the Architectural Preservation Committee on March 9, 2023. On page 7 of the report it outlines what the options are for restoring the building. Laurence Wilson agrees that the brick wall does need to come down. Malcolm Hodnett reported that this work should start in a few weeks. He stated that we are losing \$600 a day to do nothing because work is on hold. Malcolm Hodnett said the Board should decide which option to choose for the restoration Malcolm Hodnett then said he has four (4) motions that need to be approved:

Motion #1 – To accept the report presented by Laurence Wilson of MCWB. **It was so moved by Suzie Terrell and seconded by Jay Batt to accept the report presented by Laurence Wilson. The motion passed unanimously.**

Motion #2 – To authorize the Finance/Irby Committee to provide the funding from the W.R. Irby Trust at an amount not to exceed \$50,000 to enable Laurence Wilson of MCWB to serve as a Preservation Consultant through the end of the work being done at Madame John's Legacy. **It was so moved by Suzie Terrell and seconded by Phillip Albert. The motion passed unanimously.**

Motion #3 – To authorize the Finance/Irby Committee to provide funding from the W.R. Irby Trust at an amount not to exceed \$30,000 to enable an Historic Structure Engineer to be engaged to review the pertinent work that has been done and the pertinent work being proposed at Madame John's Legacy. **It was so moved by Suzie Terrell, seconded by Ruth Burke and passed unanimously.**

Motion #4 – To authorize the Finance/Irby Committee to provide funding not to exceed \$100,000 for the engaging of an expert and other expert as needed to do all necessary to produce an Historic Structure report on Madame John's Legacy. **It was so moved by Suzie Terrell and seconded by Suzanne Perlis. The motion passed unanimously.**

Vii. **Irby/Finance Committee Report**

a. Discuss and Motion to adopt the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement re: Irby Apartment

Wendy Lodrig reported in the 2020 Louisiana Legislative Audit there was a finding for not maintaining a log of guests staying in the Pontalba apartment and that DCRT's use of the apartment had been questioned. It was determined that a CEA outlining the use of the apartment would address the issues raised in the audit. The agreement had been previously shared and it now needed to be approved. **Phillip Albert motioned and Ruth Burke seconded to approve the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement between the LSM Board and the Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism regarding use of the Irby Apartment. The motion passed unanimously.**

b. Discuss and Motion to approve new Lease Rent Rate effective January, 2023 for Ma Sherie, 517 St. Ann.

Wendy Lodrig reported that Ma Sherie had requested a new 1-year amendment to their lease with

a 3% rent increase. **Sandy Shilstone motioned and Madlyn Bagneris seconded to extend the lease for Ma Sherie 1 year with a 3% rent increase. The motion passed unanimously.**

c. Discuss and Motion to update Comprehensive Plan of Usage

Wendy Lodrig explained that the Irby/Finance Committee is in the process of updating the CPU.

d. Discuss and Motion to approve Addendum #4 for Monty's on the Square, 801 Decatur

Wendy Lodrig explained that Monty's on the Square would like to continue leasing the space at 801 Decatur St. They have invested \$140,000 in the property and would like a 5-year lease with 3 options to extend lease. Also, with the understanding that the rent will increase by 3% on October 1, 2023. **Christopher Tidmore motioned and Jay Batt seconded to extend the lease for Monty's on the Square for 5 years with a 3% rent increase. The motion passed unanimously.**

e. Update on Columns on the Square

Wendy Lodrig explained that back in 2021 The Columns was granted a lease and at the time they presented their plans for the space that included a menu similar to The Columns on St. Charles but recently it has been brought to the Administration attention that they are building an oyster bar which was not part of the original plan. **Discussion ensued. No action was taken.**

f. Discuss and Motion on Resolution to update Bank Signature Card at Whitney Bank

Wendy Lodrig explained that due to staff and board changes it was necessary to update who could sign Irby checks at Whitney Bank. **Madlyn Bagneris motioned and Florence Jumonville seconded to update the Bank Signature Card at Whitney bank to keep existing signers except for Melissa Steiner, who would be removed as no longer being on the board and to add Ken Pickering and Susan Maclay. The motion passed unanimously.**

g. Update and Motion to move maturing CDs to Checking Account at Whitney Bank

Wendy Lodrig explained that LSM had three CD's at Whitney bank that had matured that had been earning very poor interest and that the decision had been made to not roll them over but to move the funds into the checking account until a new investment strategy could be determined. **Phillip Albert motioned and Florence Jumonville seconded to affirm the decision to not toll over the three CD's that had matured at Whitney Bank and to put them into the checking account. The Motion passed unanimously.**

h. Discuss and Motion on Banking Institution Consultations

Wendy Lodrig explained that staff along with her and Suzie Terrell had met with 3 banking Institutions, Whitney Bank, Gulf Coast Bank and Red River Bank about the possibility of moving the Irby money from Whitney Bank. After several meetings and discussions, it was decided to choose Red River Bank. **Discussion ensued. Jay Batt motioned and Ro Brown seconded to allow Irby to move banking to Red River Bank and to include the same signers as Whitney Bank. The motion passed unanimously.**

i. Update on Irby Budget vs YTD Financials

Wendy Lodrig asked Michael McKnight to go over the financials. **Discussion ensued.**

j. Update Irby Apartment Guest Log (July 2022 through December 2022)

Michael McKnight explained that according to the log from July 2022 to December 2022 there were only 4 guests that stayed in the apartment – one was a raffle winner, IT staff from BR and a State Representative.

k. Update on Residential Building Improvements

Wendy Lodrig explained that so far \$13,700 has been spent by LSM Maintenance staff on improvements in the vacant apartments which includes 503 St. Ann, Monty's and Artistic Heritage's plumbing issues.

VIII. **Governance Committee** – Ruth Burke provided an update on the activities of the Governance Committee. She noted that a list of questions had been sent to the Lt. Governor from the Governance Committee regarding how the new structure and merger with the Secretary of

State's museums would work, and that the committee was awaiting a response. **Ruth Burke motioned and Ben Dupuy seconded that the Committee and Board would be allowed to see any wording on any new legislation regarding the new structure before it is enacted. The Motion passed unanimously.**

IX. **Louisiana Civil Rights Museum Advisory Board** – Madlyn Bagneris reported that the CEA with the Convention Center has been signed and that the Solomon Group contract has been signed. At this time it was hoped that the exhibit would be opening in July, 2023.

XI. **Collections Committee** – Florence Jumonville reported that the committee had a good meeting on March 1st. Mrs. Jumonville informed the board that there were 17 approved acquisitions for the permanent collection. Highlights includes a gown and photographs related to the Prophets of Persia, a manuscript collection devoted to Henry Plauche Dart, a 19th century oil portrait of former Governor Thomas Overton Moore (attributed to G.P.A. Healy) and a painting by Andrew LaMar Hopkins from his current exhibition at the Cabildo. **Florence Jumonville motioned and Christopher Tidmore seconded to accept the accession of items to permanent collection and proposed items to be deaccession and/or moved to the Study Collection. The Motion passed unanimously.**

XII. **New Orleans Jazz Museum**

Greg Lambousy reported that the New Orleans Pelicans partnered with the New Orleans Jazz museum on an event. The Universal Hip Hop Museum donated a vintage boombox to the museum. Balcony concerts continue every Tuesday at 5:00 p.m. The museum is preparing for the “My New Orleans” Danny Barker festival this weekend that they were also getting ready for French Quarter Festival.

XII. **Capitol Park and Regional Museums**

Rodneya Hart reported that the 225 festival was a success and that they had over 14,000 people attend. They are currently in the process of updating the tech and WIFI at Capitol Park. The 70th Anniversary of the Bus Boycott exhibition has opened. Capitol Park museum advertised in InRegister wedding issue and that it is rated as one of the Top 10 rental spaces in Baton Rouge. April 18 Capitol Park HBCU project is scheduled.

XII. **Friends of the Cabildo**

Jason Strada reported that they are working with the LSM's Education Department to create a document that can be used when there are no docents available. It will be printed in multiple languages.

XIV. **Louisiana Museum Foundation**

Kristin Shannon reported that the Foundation is currently working on the Hunt Slonem Founders Ball V. They have received their first \$50,000 sponsorship from Henry Shane. LMF and FOC are partnering on Staff Appreciation this year for LSM employees. They will have something planned for each day of Staff Appreciation week. She also reported that the Creole New Orleans catalogs were selling very well.

XV. **Old Business**

Suzie Terrell informed the board that they needed to amend the minutes from the Monday, December 12, 2022 minutes regarding the Collection's Committee report to include: The Committee met on September 16, 2022 to review and finalize the LSM's Collecting Statement and is recommending its approval by the Board. It was moved by Christopher Tidmore to approve the Collecting Statement of the Louisiana State Museum as presented. The motion was seconded by Florence Jumonville and unanimously approved. **Suzie Terrell motioned and Florence Jumonville seconded to amend the minutes from the December 12, 2022 minutes as noted. The motion passed unanimously.**

XVI. **New Business** – There was no new business at this time.

XVII. **Adjourn**

**Malcolm Hodnett motioned and Ben Dupuy seconded to end the meeting at 12:48 p.m.
The motion passed unanimously.**