

Louisiana Historical Records Advisory Board

MINUTES

August 17, 2023 | 2:00pm | Louisiana State Archives

I. **Call to Order** – The meeting was called to order at 2:05 pm

II. **Roll Call**

Board Members: In-Person: Catherine Newsome, Angelique Bergeron
Virtual: Edward Benoit, Emilie Leumas, Freddi Evans, Michelle Riggs,
Zach Stein

Not present: Nancy Landry, Cheylon Woods, Debbie Hudnall, John Gallagher, Riley Berthelot

III. **Approval of Minutes**

The board approved the minutes from the meeting held on November 18, 2021. A motion was made by Angelique Bergeron to approve the minutes and Freddi Evans seconded the motion. **Motion Passed**

IV. **Order of Business**

- a. **Meeting Summary** – provided to board members to show the challenge in getting a quorum at past meetings
- b. **Legislative bills related to allow for virtual meetings** – Catherine proposed legislation to allow for virtual meeting accessibility for boards with membership requiring greater accessibility. Senator Hewitt, and others as well, had also proposed legislation along a similar vein, particularly as related to those with disabilities. Three main components to the final bill enacted: 1) those members of the public requiring access can request a virtual option, 2) board members with a disability serving on a board must be accommodated, and 3) some boards, that are statewide in scope but advisory in capacity, are allowed virtual options for all meetings (must have a physical anchor location, where someone can attend and participate in person, advertise the virtual component through required method). The last component applies to this board and will allow the LHRAB to meet regularly with greater chance of achieving a quorum, thus achieving greater productivity.
- c. **Board member terms** – board members appointed by the Secretary of State have terms concurrent with the Secretary of State and that term will end in January. A request for feedback from board members as to their willingness and interest in reappointment was made. Board members that are statutorily included on the board will simply be renewed.
- d. **Discussion topics for future**
 - i. Lee Leumas mentioned that the New Orleans Alliance for Response will be holding a training in May of 2024 and suggested that we should consider having a statewide Alliance for Response. She feels that New Orleans has a good model and that it would be in our best interest to have something like this organized.
 - ii. Michelle Riggs discussed a newer concern related to potential disasters in the devastating heat that we have all been experiencing and the dangers that poses. This is also a concern when records are oftentimes not stored in the best of conditions at the parish and local level. Ed Benoit is working with an IMLS grant related to climate change, including heat and power loss, among other things. He will be posting a data set soon of a full directory of institutions and asking for input related to corrections. They will also be convening an institute in the summer of 2025 with practitioners and researchers from the entire GLAM sphere to focus conversations on prioritizing research on climate change and cultural

institutions. Ed and Lee are both presenting at the International Council on Archives Congress in Abu Dhabi.

- iii. Ed digressed by asking about the 40th Anniversary of the Louisiana World's Fair in 1984 next year in 2024 and the Archives' plans for an exhibit. He has gotten inquiries about who to contact. Catherine shared information about our Facebook post and the attention it got and stated that Angi Cinquemano will be coordinating it. Freddi stated that artist John Scott was commissioned to work toward the First African American pavilion and would like to discuss some sort of acknowledgement/tribute and will reach out to Catherine and Angi separately. Lee suggested that we reach out to the Archdiocese of New Orleans for materials related to the Vatican pavilion.
- iv. Freddi asked about the status of the America 250 Commission and Catherine gave an update on the current membership and some appointees are only now getting seated. Officers must still be elected before the real work can begin. They have been meeting bi-monthly and Catherine will email the board with the next meeting date. Hope to have programming all across the state ramping up at the end of 2025/beginning of 2026.
- v. Freddi just received an invitation to the soft opening of the Louisiana Civil Rights Museum in New Orleans.

V. Next meeting is scheduled for November 2, 2023 at 2 pm, with a virtual component.

VI. Adjournment

With no further business, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Angelique Bergeron and seconded by Catherine Newsome. **Motion Passed.**

Meeting Adjourned at 2:42 pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for November 2, 2023 at 2:00pm.