Old State Capitol Advisory Board minutes

Friday, June 9

Board members attending: Courtney Dampf, Leslie Hurst and Kay Long

Staff: Mary Durusau and Lauren Davis

Courtney Dampf welcomed members.

Mary Durusau reported on recent projects at the Old State Capitol. Because of additional funding in the FY22-23 budget, several large projects including:

* Complete upgrade to sound system in the House Chamber
* Lighting upgrades for the House stage
* Technology update in House Chamber to allow broadcast programs via Facebook or social media
* Brick repair to walkways and repairing the West steps. Handrails will also be installed
* New chairs have been ordered for the House Chamber

Courtney introduced Mukul Verma, owner of Throughline 3, who has been hired by the Old State Capitol Foundation to assist with creation of a strategic plan for the Old State Capitol. Mukul told the board he has been working on research on other museums and will be visiting the Civil Rights Museum in Jackson, Mississippi and possibly Memphis. He said he will be interviewing staff and other stakeholders throughout the process. We also expect that the Old Governor’s Mansion to be included in this process.

Lauren Davis gave a report on upcoming exhibits, which are planned for the next three years! She gave board members information on the upcoming exhibit on boarding schools for Native American children. It was part of the National Endowment for the Humanities on the Road program. That program was discontinued, but private funders stepped in to keep the exhibit available to museums.

Mary and Lauren shared the list of scholars who have been engaged in the planning process for the planned Reconstruction exhibit. We recently held a conference call with the scholars and have shared an outline and major themes to be covered in the exhibit. We hope to have comments from the scholars back by the end of the summer. Our target to install the exhibit is the end of 2024 and early 2025.

Fundraising is underway for Spirits of Louisiana, and Mary asked board members to reach out to friends who could be potential sponsors. The event raised $50,000 last year, and those are the funds the pay for exhibits and other museum enhancements.

There being no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned.