**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE**

**LOUISIANA STATE MUSEUM**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Monday, December 8, 2014**

**12:30 PM – The Old U.S. Mint**

**New Orleans, Louisiana**

The meeting of the Board of Directors of the Louisiana State Museum was called to order by Chairman Michael M. Davis at 12:30 PM at The Old U.S. Mint in New Orleans. A quorum was present.

Members Present: Madlyn B. Bagneris; Robert A. Barnett; Myrna B. Bergeron; Michael M. Davis; Allen J. “AJ” Gibbs; Janet V. Haedicke, Ph.D.; Aleta Leckelt; Lawrence N. Powell, Ph.D.; Anne F. Redd; William J. Wilton, Jr.; Philip Woollam; and Diane K. Zink

Members Absent: Jerry F. Adams; Charles R. Davis; Rosemary Upshaw Ewing; Sharon Turcan Gahagan; Jeffrey Pipes Guice; Kevin Kelly;.; Thomas Frère Kramer, M.D; William J. Perret, M.D.; and Donna Winters

Also Present: Mark A Tullos, Jr., Director, Louisiana State Museum

**Adoption of Agenda**

Dr. Haedicke MOVED, seconded Mr. Barnett, to adopt the agenda. **Unanimously approved.**

**Minutes**

The minutes from the November 10, 2014 meeting were distributed in advance. Mr. Wilton MOVED, seconded by Mr. Woollam, to approve the November 10, 2014 LSM Board minutes. **Unanimously approved.**

**Chairman's Report**

Mr. M. Davis stated the following meeting dates:

* Next Collections Committee Meeting: February 4, 2015, 1:00 PM

Mr. M. Davis said he would like the Board to consider canceling the January Board meeting since the Battle of New Orleans festivities will just be ending and there is no pressing business. The Board concurred. Therefore, the dates for the next meetings will be:

* Next Irby/Finance Committee Meeting: February 9, 2015, 10:30 AM
* Next Board Meeting: February 9, 2015, 12:30 PM (lunch 12N)

There is a possibility that the Irby/Finance Committee may meet in January but any approved motions will be brought to the Executive Committee or full Board in February.

**Director’s Report**

Mr. Tullos said the preparation for the Battle of New Orleans (BONO) exhibit has been very substantial. He has been working with the Cusachs family on resolving collections loan issues.

Mr. Tullos asked Mr. Wheat to report on budget cut issues. Mr. Wheat said there was a $147,397 cut to the budget but has coincided with a lower insurance premium so LSM escaped any major cuts without trouble. The latest cut will be $70,000 for LSM. Mr. Tullos added that LSM is getting by on a small staff and to cut even further would have been very difficult. Facility Planning and their capital projects will take a big hit next year and LSM will probably be affected. However, Mr. Wheat has a very good relationship with Facility Planning.

Mr. Tullos will be submitting a finalized 5 year Strategic Plan at the February Board meeting and will be distributing it to the legislators as well.

The BONO exhibit opens in a few weeks. When you walk into the main entrance of the exhibition, you will see an important story about Louisiana's role in the Battle. LSM asked celebrity Bryan Batt to help us interpret the movie shoot *The Buccaneer*.

Mr. Tullos showed the short film narrated by Bryan Batt about the original movie *The Buccaneer*.

**Collections Committee Report**

Dr. Perret could not attend and is officially excused. Mr. M. Davis presented the report, which was sent out in advance of the Board meeting. In addition, Mamie Gasperecz and Morgan Pierce from the Hermann-Grima House were in attendance. Ms. Gasperecz said their museum has portraits in their collection of Mr. and Mrs. Gallier. The portrait of Mrs. Gallier is owned by the LSM. Mrs. Galllier's portrait frame was destroyed in a fire. In order to have a new frame made for Mrs. Gallier, they will use the model for Mr. Gallier's frame. They have a conservator ready to go. They will bring Mr. Gallier's frame to North Carolina for this purpose. There will be no cost to the LSM. They attended in order to thank the Board for their authorization to have this conservation work done.

Mr. M. Davis pointed out to the Board’s attention that one current LSM staff member and one former LSM staff member made donations to the collection, namely Karen Leathem and Whitney Babineaux, respectively.

Dr. Haedicke MOVED, seconded by Ms. Bagneris, to approve the Collections Committee Report. **Unanimously approved.**

Mr. Davis asked the Board to read the current loan policy. Any proposed changes would have to go through Administrative Rules legislation.

***Friends of the Cabildo* Report**

Dr. Charles Chamberlain gave the report.

Volunteer Hours – 245 hours with a value of $4,735.85 income.

There were 429 tour tickets sold for the month of November with a total income of $6,980.

The FOC has now raised over $4,500 for the Renalto Beluche Bust Conservation and educational programming. The FOC will also host a ceremony at the Cabildo on Monday, December 15 at

10 AM, which is Beluche’s 234th birthday. The LSM Board and general public are welcome to attend.

The FOC will be welcoming two-time Pulitzer Prize winning author and UVA Professor Dr. Alan Taylor for the first FOC symposium on January 10th at the Mint. Currently, over 50 people are signed up. The FOC expects this to be a yearly event. Other presenters will include Dr. Lawrence Powell (LSM Board member), Dr. Clarence Mohr of the University of South Alabama, Dr. Lo Faber of Loyola University, Joe Stoltz of the U.S. Military Academy and Shel Roumillat of Tulane University.

***Louisiana Museum Foundation* Report**

Ms. Redd, in her role as President of the Louisiana Museum Foundation, gave the report.

As expected, the Foundation’s 2013-2014 audit report was completed and turned in before Thanksgiving. It will be presented at the next LSM Board meeting when Ms. Maclay can be in attendance.

LA Musée will be at the printer this week, so be looking for it in your mailbox shortly.

The LMF has sold 225 tickets and raised $331,710 so far. This includes $251,710 in gala sponsorships and tickets, $45,000 in memberships and $35,000 in exhibition sponsorships, including a new $25,000 sponsorship from Chevron. Entergy will be looking at the LMF proposal in January.

Other major sponsorships include: $50,000 from Kay and Tim Favrot, $25,000 each from AT&T, HCA MidAmerica and the Patrick Family Foundation.

The invitation will go out this week. The LMF will be giving a replica of a button from the Hamilton coat to everyone who purchases at least two tickets and postmarks their purchase by December 31.

If anyone wishes to purchase tickets, contact Yvette Cuccia and she will let the Foundation’s office know to give you a call.

**LSM properties**

***Friends of E.D. White Historic House***

Ms. Leckelt said the Christmas party at E.D. White was celebrated. Also, the Friends group is paying $750 for set up of virtual tours. Ms. Leckelt spoke to someone at Hermann-Grima House and she will be trained to cook for cooking demonstrations.

In May, 2015 they hope to have a big screen TV put up for a mini Kentucky Derby event. If anyone would like to be a member of E.D. White, it is only $15.

***Wedell-Williams Aviation and Cypress Sawmill Museum* Report**

Mr. Wheat said they are still working on the ingress and egress for the museum in Patterson.

***Cabildo***

The Cabildo will close the week before January 9th to get the galleries ready for the exhibit. LSM staff will be cleaning the galleries and training the docents and security in anticipation of the opening.

***Capitol Park Museum***

The museum will close during the upcoming Spanish Town parade.

***Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame and Northwest Louisiana History Museum* Report**

Natchitoches is in the middle of the Christmas lights program. Mr. Tullos commended Branch Director Jennae Biddiscombe for building an audience there. The museum in Natchitoches is currently working on a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities and Northwestern University.

**Irby/Finance Committee Report**

Mr. Barnett gave the report.

Commercial proposal presentations were given for the commercial spaces at 808 Chartres Street and 521 St. Ann Street. Mr. Barnett asked Irby Manager Celestine Washington to give the staff recommendations to the Committee. Ms. Washington said that the space at 808 Chartres had no competition and the current tenant, *Violet's Clothing Boutique* submitted a proposal to remain in the space. They will pay a new monthly rent of $3,000 per month for a term of two years with 2, two-year options. Mr. Barnett MOVED, seconded by Mr. Woollam to accept *Violet’s* renewal as a commercial tenant at 808 Chartres Street. **Unanimously approved.**

The commercial space at 521 St. Ann space had two proposals. One is the current tenant *Photo Works LLC* and one was *Funrock’n*. They both presented to the Committee, and after some review, the Committee recommends that the current tenant, *Photo Works’*, lease be renewed. The monthly rent will be $4,581 for a term of two years with 2, two-year options. Ms. Bagneris MOVED, seconded by Ms. Leckelt, to accept *Photo Works’* lease renewal at 521 St. Ann Street. **Unanimously approved.**

Mr. Barnett said some commercial tenants are concerned with the scaffolding at the Lower Pontalba building and the slow movement on re-roofing the building. Staff and contractors have been trying to address the fencing and security issues. Ms. Lewis of *Violet’s Clothing Boutique* asked for a 50% abatement of rent and no overages from November, 2014 until the scaffolding moves from her space. However, the Committee felt that it is too early to make a definite determination on the low sales outcome that Ms. Lewis says has been occurring at the store.

A special meeting of the Irby/Finance Committee has been set for Thursday, January 15th to further review Ms. Lewis’ request to see if a rental abatement is in order. All Board members will be invited to attend.

**Old Business**

Ms. Bergeron asked about the water leak at the Lower Pontalba building and Ms. Wheat said the maintenance staff found it and fixed it. They had to dig up the sidewalk.

Adjournment at 1:40 PM.